



# San Francisco State University

## *Retirement Association Off Campus Bulletin*

Winter 2014

SFSURA c/o Advancement Office 1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM 153, San Francisco, CA 94132  
Digital Version available at [www.sfsu.edu/~retire](http://www.sfsu.edu/~retire)

### President's Message by Tom Spencer

*“Believe It or Not...there’s a rumor that the University Club may be revived – sooner rather than later.”*

As we were preparing this issue of the Off-Campus Bulletin, OCB, I was reminded once again of all of the good work contributed over the years by board members on behalf of the Retirement Association (RA). As it states on our website: [www.sfsu.edu/~retire](http://www.sfsu.edu/~retire), “...we have done what we have done as Volunteers. We have no office, no paid staff, but lots of heroes in our ranks who have organized meetings, kept records, and given many hours of fellowship over 30 years.”

In addition to the regular activities of the officers, (holding monthly meetings, keeping official records and counting our nickels and dimes) our board members actively seek out new memberships, organize several special events each year, represent us at the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) state-wide meetings, plan for our two traditional general membership lunches (Thanksgiving and St. Patrick's Day), produce

our newsletter (*OCB*) three times a year, publish a Membership Directory every other year, (keeping track of new members, deceased members, address changes), review and award our \$500 Travel Grants to faculty and staff.

Thanks to the current Board members for all your hard work on behalf of the Association and especially for your positive attitudes and your enthusiasm. It is indeed a pleasure to work with such a group of dedicated individuals.



## 2014 Upcoming Events

### **Conservatory of Flowers**

This event has been cancelled because the Conservatory has experienced damage in some of their exhibit spaces which have been closed. This event will be scheduled at a later date.

### **St. Patrick's Day**

We will come together at the Basque Cultural Center on Friday, March 14th

*See attached flyer for more details and to make your reservation.*

### **Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park**

Presentation with National Park Ranger Betty Soskin. This is also a day when one or two of the original "Rosies" may be on hand to greet you. Optional lunch at Assemble Restaurant.

When: 11 AM, Friday, June 27<sup>TH</sup> Cost: \$20.00

Where: 1414 Harbour Way South, Oil House, Richmond CA 94804

### **Fall Events Ideas – Dates To Be Determined**

#### **Bay Trail Walk**

#### **Annual Meeting in November**

If you have a suggestion for something you'd like to do as a group – just let me know:  
zeezingaro@gmail.com

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## General Membership Meeting Report

At the General membership Meeting and Luncheon on November 19, 2013, the membership approved the following action items:

1. Ratified the Board of Directors' recommendation to raise the annual dues to \$30 and lifetime membership to \$200, effective January 1, 2014.
2. Elected three Members-at-Large to the Board of Directors: Mamdouh Abo-El-Ata to a second term and Robert Cherny and Zelinda Zingaro to their first terms.
3. Elected three members to the Nominating Committee: Dan Buttlair (Board Member), Helene Whitson (previous service on committee) and Jim Kohn (General Membership Seat).

# Donations

## Donations

Contributors to the Retirement Association Travel Grants Endowment Fund which helps fund travel/professional development for current faculty and staff:

Mamdouh Abo-El-Ata  
Daniel Buttlair  
Daniel McGough  
Gary Penders  
Eric Sinkkonen  
Laura Ware



## In Memoriam

**Dreher, Betty**, Long time RA member and wife of Psychology Professor Robert Dreher, died in San Francisco at 99.

**Forsythe, Pat**, Library Administrative Staff, 1980 – 2009, died January 29, 2014.

**Fraenkel, Jack**, Professor Emeritus of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education from 1966 to 2011.

**Gallagher, Evelyn**, widow of **Stan Gallagher** and long-time supporter of the Retirement Association.

**Kalkman, Richard G.**, Emeritus Professor of Classics, 1969 – 1992, died in San Bruno at 83.

**Zwillinger, Eugene Lionel**, Professor Emeritus of Counseling from 1964 to 1999, died January 8th, 2014 at 79.



# In Memoriam

Following are reports from three of the Travel Grant recipients for 2013. We thought you'd enjoy reading how the grants were used.

## Report from Jennifer Miller

Between November 3rd and November 7th, 2013, I traveled to San Diego and attended the Coastal and Estuarine Research Foundation Conference. The registration was \$500 which I would not have been able to cover without the generous award from the San Francisco State University Retirement Association. The conference is biannual and receives thousands of attendees. I was selected to present an oral talk on novel findings of invertebrate communities in the San Francisco Estuary. This presentation was by far given to the largest audience I have spoken to, and I received excellent feedback afterwards. During the rest of the conference I attended sessions and symposia for 4 full days, learning a great deal about many different new field, laboratory and analytical techniques that I am planning to implement in our lab back at the Romberg Tiburon Center.

I'm very grateful for the Retirement Association's assistance with my attendance to the conference.

Sincerely, Jennifer Miller

## Report from Joy Viveros

SF State Fellowship Advisor

This year's National Association of Fellowship Advisors biannual conference, "*Supporting the Scholar in the Scholarship Process*" in Atlanta, Georgia, July 24-27, 2013 provided me with a range of valuable resources and opportunities.

The conference provided an opportunity to attend a three and a half hour session in which participants reviewed and rated fellowship applications for the Truman, and then gained insight on the actual outcomes of these applications – i.e., which were selected or not selected as Truman finalists and why. This experience alone would have made my attendance at the conference worthwhile, as I gained a more nuanced understanding of what the Truman committee is looking for in terms of leadership and public service, how it weights the applicant's written materials in relation to supporting letters of recommendation and the institutional nomination, and the relationship between the findings of the 'reading committee' and the 'interview committee'.

During the conference, I also had the opportunity to learn more about (a) what particular foundations like to see in nomination and recommendation letters, (b) which programs will accept 'appeals' from nominating institutions requesting that they reconsider the files of non-selected candidates, and (c) which will provide feedback on applicant files not selected for advancement.

And of course, I had the opportunity to renew relationships with colleagues from across the country.

Your support of my participation in this invaluable professional development opportunity is most appreciated – and in fact helped make it possible. Thank you so much.

## Report from Patricia Michel

I have completed my travel to the annual Point and Click (PNC) User Group Meeting that was held in Boston, Massachusetts on May 28, 2013. The meeting proved to be very useful in terms of learning about new features that will be introduced in the upcoming version of Point and Click. It is always helpful to have a “heads up” of what new features/changes/challenges will be forthcoming! One topic that was discussed at length was the upcoming change from ICD9 coding to ICD10, effective as of October 1, 2014. This change will affect all health facilities throughout the nation. Point and Click is already developing ways to make this transition for us as easy as possible but it will take much planning on the part of each site in terms of IT work to be done as well as training of staff.

I was also able to speak with other Student Health Service personnel to share experiences with the PNC software. Many of us face the same challenges so it is good to hear how others have resolved or worked around them. There were over 50 universities represented with about 150 attendees.

Thank you again for awarding me this travel grant!



## Some Humor About the Weather & an Admiral

Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Wal-Mart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their “Older Person Friendly” policies. One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. “Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang up job, but your being late so often is quite bothersome.” “Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it.”

“Well good, you are a team player. That’s what I like to hear. It’s odd though your coming in late. I know you’re retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say if you came in late there?”

They said, “Good morning Admiral, can I get your coffee, sir?”



# Library Benefits

## Library Benefits for Retired Faculty & Staff

The Library welcomes retired staff, emeritus faculty and non-emeritus faculty to continue using the Library's collections and most services after full retirement. The Library receives student records automatically each semester but we do not have access to employee information unless you sign up in person - even active staff and faculty. Interested individuals should show identification and sign up at the Book Checkout & Pickup Counter on the 1st Floor of the main Library.

The Library provides a Special Borrower card with a barcode on the back to people who do not have an active OneCard. Retirees will need to have something that verifies their former status at the University or be a member of one of the following: Friends of the Library, SF State Alumni Association, Extended Learning Student or OLLI student.

Retirees may borrow books for 28 days and renew them; Emeritus faculty may borrow them for one semester and renew them. If you register as retired staff or faculty, you may also use the Interlibrary Lending services: LINK+ and Illiad, and media listening/viewing. Registered users may also use some of the computers in the Research Commons for up to 2 hours/day. Only Emeritus faculty and Extended Learning students may access electronic resources from home (remote access).

I encourage you to check out the Library's several special collections; open to everyone Monday – Friday, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM and by appointment. The adjoining gallery has excellent exhibits. During Spring 2014 semester, we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the gift of the de Bellis Collection with programs, concerts and exhibits on Frank V. de Bellis and his Music of the Italian Masters radio program.

Bay Area Television Archive

Frank V. de Bellis Collection

Labor Archives & Research Center

University Archives & Special Collections

Archer Collection of Historic Children's Materials

SF State Strike Collection

For more information, please contact me at  
lavonne@sfsu.edu  
or leave a message  
on my campus phone: 415.338.6953

LaVonne Jacobsen





# Annual St Patrick's Luncheon



## Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon Friday, March 14, 2014

Social Hour: 11:30 AM — Luncheon: 12:15 PM

**Menu:** *Choose One*

- Corned Beef & Cabbage
- Chicken Chasseur
- Vegetarian Plate
- Chef's Special Salad "butter and red leaf lettuce with grilled chicken and croutons" & Soup "soup of the day".
- Dessert & Coffee included



Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco, CA

Cost: \$30 per person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide names in your party and each person's luncheon choice as we need this for nametags and to give the restaurant correct counts.

Name	Luncheon Menu Item Choice
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Mail your check, payable to the SFSU Retirement Association, with the lower portion of this flyer: by Monday, March 10th to:

Yolanda Thompson  
156 Lunado Court, San Francisco, CA 94127  
415.334.1130



# Special Opportunities



## Senior Clipper Card [www.clippercard.com](http://www.clippercard.com)

Now it's even easier to get discounts on SF Munciple Railway, samTrans, AC Transit, CALTrain, Ferries and BART. Apply by mail or email for a Senior Clipper Card.

Adults 65 and over are eligible for a free Senior Clipper card. With a Senior Clipper card, you can receive discounts on monthly passes, ride books, tickets, cash value fares and transfers.

You will need one of the following to demonstrate your eligibility for a Senior Clipper card: *Clipper never asks for your Social Security number.*

- Birth Certificate or Passport
- State-Issued Identification Card or Driver's License
- Permanent Resident Card: 'Green Card'
- Matricula Consular/Consular Identification Card
- SF City ID Card
- Military Identification Card with Date of Birth
- Medical Benefit Card with Date of Birth

To apply for a card, download and complete the application found at [www.clippercard.com](http://www.clippercard.com). Be sure to identify which form of eligibility you are submitting and provide the document's number. You must send a copy of your eligibility document with your application. Only send photocopies. Do not send original documents.

You can submit your application by mail, email or fax. To get a card immediately, you can apply in person at a Clipper Customer Service Center or participating transit partner location.

Clipper Customer Service will mail your card directly to the address you provide on your application. Cards typically arrive within seven days.

Senior Clipper cards are automatically registered when they are issued. If your card is ever lost or stolen, contact Clipper Customer Service to obtain a new card and restore your balance. If you wish to set up an online account to manage your card, call Clipper Customer Service at 877.878.8883, or go to [www.clippercard.com](http://www.clippercard.com) for more information.

Early Powerbrokers: Olive Thompson Cowell, *by Meredith Eliassen*

San Francisco State's first president, Frederic Lester Burk brought Olive Thompson, 1886 – 1984, to San Francisco State in 1919 to supervise the teaching of social sciences at the Normal School, and she went on to play a definitive role in establishing the International Relations Department. Thompson earned her A.B. at Barnard College at Columbia University, her M.A. from University of California, and left San Francisco State in 1930 to do advanced studies at Geneva School of International Studies, University of California, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Harvard University.

Cowell got caught in Germany as World War I started and was aware of the slaughter happening in the trenches, and this is when she became interested in international world peace becoming a pacifist who was part of the academic peace movement. She married Irish-born author and poet Henry Clayton Blackwood Cowell (1866–1954) in 1926. Cowell was one of the first to teach international relations in the United States while at San Francisco State. In 1927, she taught Social Sciences 109: International Relations that was described in the Bulletin as, “The study of international relations at the present time and the teaching of internationalism to children.” By the following year, the course was Social Sciences 142: International Relations became much more sophisticated, described in the Bulletin as: “Nationalism, imperialism, militarism, and other forces directing international relations; economic factors involved; international organization; the problem of teaching internationalism.”

In 1933, the International Relations Club was established at San Francisco State to encourage student engagement in conversations on race and nationalism that was changing the world. Cowell established the International Relations major, based upon a model at University of California, in 1936 to create in students an understanding of world affairs for those interested in culture, education, journalism and foreign service. All majors in International Relations had to get a minor in a foreign language. International Relations became a department in 1950, and became part of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences in 1964. Today it is part of the College of Liberal and Creative Arts.

Cowell's husband, known as “Harry,” Cowell was a friend of Jack London and participated in San Francisco's literary circles during the early 1900s, and served as a tennis coach for the Physical Education Department between 1933 and 1939. Olive outlived her stepson, Henry, an internationally known composer who died in 1966. She was generous with her students, often helping them financially when the need arose.



## What Are the SFSURA Members Doing?

**Larry Foster** checks in to let us know that he is working, *part-time*, and to keep out of mischief (lol) at Stanford in three different venues – the Athletic Department where Stanford has won more national sports championship since 1980 than any other university in the country; The Charles Schwab Business Center providing orientation sessions for top business executives from countries all over the world who come to the campus for a week to two weeks for special updating seminars; and The Hoover Institution “think tank” where scholars from all of the world come to do research, give lectures, and provide advice to the administration in Washington, and to foreign countries upon request.

I am also continuing to travel a lot and in October spent three weeks in Southeast Asia that included most of the countries in that area of the world. In sum, I am having a blast in retirement and wish to send greetings to all of my many friends at SFSU. [fostelar@gmail.com](mailto:fostelar@gmail.com)



## ERFA Report State Board Meeting, *Bob Cherny*,

As many of you know, SFSURA is affiliated with the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association, *ERFA*. However, membership in the two is separate — one can belong to one and not the other, although many of you belong to both. ERFA has an executive secretary, housed in a university office at CSU Northridge, and the ERFA state council, consisting of representatives from all the affiliated campus groups, meets once each semester. I was recently appointed as the SFSURA representative to ERFA, and I attended my first ERFA state council meeting on October 26, at San José State University library.

Preceding the board meeting, there was an informal meeting of presidents/representatives of the northern campuses, mostly for the purpose of sharing information about the various campus organizations, which are not, but any means, cut from the same cloth. Of those present, SFSURA as the most members by far. Some are separately organized with 501-C-7 status, but most are not. We are not. Dues vary from zero to \$30 annually and \$300 for lifetime members. *The zero-dues organizations subsist on the rebate that they receive from the state organization plus other fund-raising and have no provision for members other than emeritus and retired faculty members.* Among the eleven northern campuses represented, three are given office space by the university, three have secretarial assistance, and four have assistance with mailings. Most of the other northern campuses, with much smaller numbers of members than we have, have monthly or quarterly luncheons, some of them simple brown-bag lunches in a meeting room on campus. Most meet off-campus due to the problems with parking. All have newsletters, although some issue them only online.

The following information is gleaned from the various committee reports to the council.

CalPERS seems to be contemplating a “preemptive capitulation” to requests for the release of information on pensioners. The name and amount of pension for those whose pension is more than \$100,000 annually are already available online. ERFA took the

position that we oppose the release of anything more than name, amount of pension, and agency.

There was discussion of a proposed constitutional initiative called the Pension Reform Initiative of 2014. Members are advised not to sign the petitions.

A new Master Plan is being proposed. The biggest danger the CSU may face is the likelihood that the community colleges, under their new chancellor, will make a major push to offer baccalaureate degrees, as is already the case in some states. The Academic Senate CSU is already on record that the only public institutions authorized to award baccalaureate degrees should be the CSU and UC. Don Gerth, who began his career on our campus but served as president at both Dominguez Hills and Sacramento, not only assisted Glenn Dumke on the original Master Plan but is also the author of recent history of the CSU. Don pointed out that such a proposal seriously violates the original Master Plan principle of differentiation of functions, *which has the corollary of differentiation of funding*. Several people encouraged him to write an op-ed on the issue. If this moves forward, we may want to talk with our legislators about it.

The CalPERS long-term care insurance program seems stable just now, given the bullish stock market, but it is still likely that participants will be asked to convert their plans yet once again either to pay more for the same coverage or to pay the same for lower benefits.

Diane Guerin, the chair of the Academic Senate CSU, gave a lengthy and interesting report on ASCSU activities:

- ASCSU is working on legislation to clarify the succession of the faculty trustee. Several times, recently, the governor has delayed appointing the faculty trustee for long periods of time, so that there have been a number of trustee meetings when there has been no faculty trustee.
- ASCSU is launching a website to recognize outstanding faculty members as identified by individual campuses. There has been no such statewide effort to recognize outstanding CSU faculty members since the Wang awards came to an end in 2008.
- Chancellor White seems to be a good ambassador for the CSU, and he frequently speaks on the importance of a quality education and of student outcomes, rather than just time to graduation. Guerin said that she did not intend any comparisons, but everyone present drew the obvious one.
- ASCSU is requesting a taskforce on tuition and fees; half of CSU students pay no tuition, only fees, but all UC students pay some tuition. CFA is adamantly opposed to any increase in tuition.

The CFA liaison was not present and did not present a written report.

ERFA has allocated \$6,000 for grants up to \$500 to ERFA members to support research. Deadline for applying is December 16, 2013. More information is available on the ERFA website.

Although ERFA membership is open only to emeritus and retired faculty members, ERFA membership is also open to all people who are members of ERFA's campus affiliates. In our case, that includes staff members and spouses of retired faculty and staff members. FERP members are, of course, eligible, because the prerequisite for FERPing is to retire. Recommendation: campus organizations should approach all FERP participants to join.

# 2014 Dues Reminder



## 2014 Dues Reminder & Other Information

Unless you are a life member, your \$30 annual dues for 2014 are now due. Your dues paying status is shown on the top line of the mailing label. "Life" indicates you are a lifetime member; a number indicates the last calendar year you paid annual dues (e.g. "12" means 2012). We are very much in need of your support to make our programs and activities a success. If you have any questions about your dues status, you may contact Treasurer Jim Van Ness at (650) 873-4035 or by email at: [jvannessl@comcast.net](mailto:jvannessl@comcast.net). In accordance with our Bylaws, those who have not paid for two years will be dropped from our membership rolls.

If you have recently changed your address, phone number, or email address, please provide the new information on the below form and mail to Jim Van Ness, or send an email to [jvannessl@comcast.net](mailto:jvannessl@comcast.net), so we can keep our membership records current.

If you would like to receive SFSU's weekly *CampusMemo* by email, please complete the form below and provide your email address to Jim Van Ness – by mail, *address below*, or send an email to: [jvannessl@comcast.net](mailto:jvannessl@comcast.net)

We now distribute our newsletter, the *Off-Campus Bulletin*, by email to those for whom we have an email address. If you would prefer an email instead of the printed version, please complete the form below and provide your email address to Jim Van Ness – by mail, *address below*, or send an email to: [jvannessl@comcast.net](mailto:jvannessl@comcast.net)

If you wish to make a donation to our Endowment Fund to fund future travel/professional development grants to faculty and staff, please write a separate check and mail with the form below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive SFSU's weekly *CampusMemo* by email? Yes  No

Would you prefer to receive the *Off-Campus Bulletin* by email? Yes  No

I would be willing to help organize functions and/or serve on the Board of Directors?  
Yes  No

Amount enclosed: \$30.00 Annual dues for 2014  \$200 Life Membership

Contribution to Endowment Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Please write separate check*

Please make check(s) payable to: SFSU Retirement Association and mail to:  
Jim Van Ness, 922 Evergreen Way, Millbrae, CA 94030

SFSU Retirement Association  
 c/o Development Office  
 1600 Holloway Avenue  
 ADM153  
 San Francisco, CA 94132  
 www.sfsu.edu/~retire  
 email: retire@sfsu.edu



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*“Remember to send in your reservations  
 for our luncheon on March 14th  
 & the Field Trip in June”*

