**President’s Corner**

Announcing a new name for the newsletter: the Gater Retiree Gazette. The Board has been thinking about a more scintillating name for our newsletter for some time. In shorthand, we refer to it as the OCB but that doesn’t ring any bells, does it? Off-Campus Bulletin doesn’t reflect an ongoing interest in campus activities. After a spirited discussion — and some joking — “gater geezers?” — we settled on Gater Retiree Gazette.

I thoroughly enjoyed our most recent luncheon, in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, at the Basque Cultural Center. I heard that the corned beef and cabbage was better than ever — an example of perfect mixing of cultures? If you have not attended one of these lunches, you should consider it. We have established them as primarily social events with just a few moments of speakers or business and just enjoy each other’s company. Your next opportunity is in November — plan on it. As an aside, we continue to choose the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco because they keep the costs down, have parking, and are easy to work with. Carpooling can be arranged if you need it – just ask! Board member phone numbers are in the directory.

We were pleased to have Jason Porth, Executive Director, University Corporation, and Alison Sanders, the President’s Chief of Staff, as our guests at the lunch. We invite administrative guests because it is important to inform them of our contributions to the University and the vitality of retired staff and faculty. We learned about exciting plans for building on campus and have two more allies in our pursuit of campus privileges for retired staff. At the time of writing this, however, the proposed Emeritus Staff policy is not scheduled for the President’s Council agenda until July.

LaVonne Jacobsen
President

“Oh, my it was really good”......
Gloria Tseng

---

**Board of Directors**

**President**
LaVonne Jacobsen

**VP and Membership Director**
Jim Kohn

**Treasurer**
Jim Van Ness

**Past President**
Tom Spencer

**Nominating Committee**
Richard Giardina, Chair

**Member At Large**
Gary Penders

**Membership Directory/ Gater Retiree Gazette**
Kay McGough

**Special Events Coordinator**
Zelinda Zingaro

**Liaison to UWA**
Donna Ryan

**CSU ERFA Rep**
Bob Cherny

**Travel Grant Committee**
Sheila McClear, Chair
Dan McGough
Ann Shadwick

**GRG Design & Layout**
Nancy Noble

May 2017

SFSURA c/o Advancement Office
1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM153
San Francisco, CA 94132
Digital Version: www.sfsu.edu/~retire
Travel Grants

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Retirement Association’s 2017 Staff Travel Grant awards. Because two applicants requested less than the maximum $500 grant, the Travel Grant Committee recommended, and the Board of Directors approved, the award of six, rather than five grants. Recipients are:

Amanda Bent, Administrative Support Coordinator, Undergraduate Programs/Web, Department of English Language & Literature: Supports her participation in the Hive Global Leaders Program, a competitive admission, 3-day workshop on leadership and innovation that will enable her to “implement sustainable changes for the good of our students.”

Sharon Bliss, Associate Director, Fine Arts Gallery: Supports her attendance at the 2017 California-Pacific Triennial Arts Exhibition, which will present a curated selection of work by artists from 11 countries across the Pacific Rim. She will “explore the possibility of similar presentations at SFSU in the Fine Arts Gallery.”

Glendie Domingo-Lipar, Community Partnerships & Campus Outreach Specialist, Institute for Civic and Community Engagement: Supports attendance at the Western Regional Conference for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), for which she has submitted a proposal to present on “the need for departments within Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to combine their institutional knowledge and energy” for the benefit of students.

Arthur Farkas, Technical Director, School of Cinema: Supports participation in a technology-centered conference titled “The University Project” in order to foster greater contact between SFSU and other CSU Cinema, Film and TV Departments and better understand what technological investments have best advanced the educational aspirations of students and faculty.

Michele French, Broadcast engineer, BECA. Supports her attendance at the annual SMPTE (Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, of which she is a member) Technical Conference and Symposium. “It is incumbent on me to keep with the rapid changes in media technology, work that is urgent now as BECA is involved in design-development of the new Creative Arts Replacement Building, and French, BECA’s only Broadcast Engineer, will help design the TV studio facilities.

Norma Salcedo, AB 540 Dream Coordinator, Dean of Students Office. Supports her participation in the NASPA Western Regional Conference, for which she has submitted two program proposals: a student panel on “Supporting Undocumented Student Success in California,” and “Building Your Own Dream Team,” a presentation discussing “the importance of collaborations across Student Affairs and academic departments” to support the success of undocumented students.

The Retirement Association congratulates these fine staff members.

Humor

Health Care 101

Members of the medical community are unable to reach consensus on what to do with America’s health insurance situation. Here’s some of their thoughts on this important issue.

Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

Meanwhile, Obstetricians felt certain everyone was laboring under a misconception, while the Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted.

Pathologists yelled, “Over my dead body!” while the Pediatricians said, “Oh, grow up!”

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and the Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow.

The Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would “put a whole new face on the matter.”

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn’t have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the assholes in Washington.
Bob Cherny’s book, *Victor Arnautoff and the Politics of Art*, published in late March, is a biography of San Francisco’s most prominent muralist in the 1930s, a time when federal funding produced more public murals than any time before or since. In the book, Bob focuses on the relations between politics and Arnautoff’s art.

Arnautoff’s extant murals are at the Old Cathedral of the Holy Virgin on Fulton Street, the former Palo Alto Clinic, Coit Tower, the Chapel at the Presidio of San Francisco, George Washington High School, the San Francisco Art Institute, the South San Francisco and Pacific Grove post offices, and the post office in Linden, TX. Arnautoff’s mural for the Richmond, CA post office was recently discovered rolled up and crated in the basement and is now waiting for restoration under the care of the Richmond Museum of History.

Bob has recently been speaking at locations where Arnautoff’s murals are still extant, including South San Francisco, Pacific Grove, and Palo Alto. His next presentation, on July 11, will focus on Arnautoff’s works in San Francisco. For more information, go to http://www.sfhistory.org.

Next fall, the exhibition gallery on the fourth floor of the S.F. State library will feature works by Arnautoff.

Here’s information on his lecture on Arnautoff: July 11, 7:30 pm, Theodore Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello Blvd. It is the regular monthly meeting of the SF Museum and Historical Society. There is a charge for non-members: $10 per person or $5 for seniors, students, K-12 teachers, and persons with disabilities.

Retirement Association member Elizabeth “Betty” Parent was inducted into the Alaska Women’s Hall of Fame in May, 2017. A native of Alaska, she was honored for her achievements in educational leadership, mentorship, and advocacy for Native peoples. She was the first Alaska Native woman to earn a PhD, one of a very few Alaska Native students to successfully gain degrees from both Harvard and Stanford University, and the first Alaska Native woman to obtain tenure as a full professor, at San Francisco State University. Beyond the formal recognitions, most meaningful are the hundreds of young people who were mentored by Parent in their academic, social and cultural development.

Dr. Parent retired from SFSU as Professor Emerita in American Indian Studies in 2001. Upon her retirement, San Francisco State established the Elizabeth Parent Achievement Award in her honor. The award is bestowed annually to deserving students who exhibit academic success and leadership in American Indian communities.
Where We’ve Been & Plan to Go

McGoughs in Holland

April was a special month for us as we embarked on our first vacation in several years. Kay has had two new bionic knees installed and some repaired hammertoes dealt with to make the many miles of walking possible.

We travelled with Vantage Deluxe World Travel and started with a direct flight from SFO to Amsterdam, and after a few extra days, we boarded the brand new Vantage ship, the River Voyager. It took us to other parts of the city for a canal cruise and sightseeing. Then on to Enkhuizen, Arnhem, Kinderdijk, Rotterdam. Keukenhof Gardens, Veere, Middleburg, Ghent, Bruges, Belgium, Antwerp and finally several days in Brussels, before heading home. Two of the several hundred photos we took are included here, however, the taste of the gourmet food, Belgium chocolate and Belgian waffles can’t be enjoyed in this newsletter, unless you travel to this part of the world yourselves. We highly recommend it.

The following article is prepared by Dan McGough, who with his wife Kay, toured the recycling facility described below. This tour, and others, will be offered to members during the 2017 – 2018 school year and will be advertised in the August Gator Retiree Gazette. We’d love your ideas of where you’d like to tour and visit.

The South San Francisco Scavenger Company, Inc., has an 80 year history of providing solid waste disposal for South San Francisco, Brisbane and Millbrae. Within the recent past they have planned and constructed an anaerobic composting facility on their premises in South San Francisco.

Green waste, food scraps and other compostable material is collected and transported to this facility for processing. The sophisticated system is completely automatic and runs 24/7. Only loading and unloading the compostable material is heavy labor intensive. In addition to the material destined to support agriculture, methane gas is collected, compressed and used to fuel their collection trucks. Compost material goes to finishing facilities near the Napa and Salinas regions for use as soil amendment in their agricultural areas.
The ERFA meeting last month included a report on membership which shows a steady decline over the past four years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2,471</td>
<td>2,453</td>
<td>2,394</td>
<td>2,375</td>
<td>2,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>2,460</td>
<td>2,415</td>
<td>2,397</td>
<td>2,328</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ERFA’s high point for membership was 2,700 in 2007.

The report notes that "Opening membership to additional non-faculty CSU retirees has been discussed."

If those campuses opposed to opening membership beyond faculty cannot be persuaded to do the right thing because it is the right thing, perhaps they can be persuaded to do the right thing because it is financially necessary. I look forward to next year's council meetings when this will be discussed further.

Statewide Advocate for CSU Retirees — ERFA

By: Bob Cherny

The California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) was established in 1985 at a time when retiree rights and privileges were being threatened. Our organization at SF State was established earlier and is independent from ERFA, but we are also a chapter of ERFA, which means that ERFA remits to us part of the dues our members pay to ERFA. Although ERFA’s name speaks only to faculty, retired staff members who belong to a campus retiree organization are welcome to join. Dues are assessed on a sliding scale from $5 to $10 per month – deducted from your pension.

Why join? ERFA’s publication, the CSU-ERFA Reporter, will keep you informed on important developments in benefits, statewide and nationally. ERFA is affiliated with the Retired Public Employees Association, the leading advocacy group for retired state employees, which enhances our voice on legislative matters of concern to us. ERFA has its own legislative affairs committee, whose chair keeps close watch on legislative developments that might affect CSU retirees. ERFA’s committee on retiree health benefits keeps a similarly close watch on developments at CalPERS that might affect retirees’ health benefits, and that committee regularly reports in the CSU-ERFA Reporter on what to expect regarding changes. ERFA representatives attend all meetings of the statewide Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees, where they voice our concerns as appropriate and keep us informed about decisions at those bodies.

Sample articles from the March issue of the CSU-ERFA Reporter:
- Health Benefits: The New Administration, Optum RxTransition
- CFA Report: Lower Tuition Costs?
- Stopping Unwanted Phone Calls
- Pre- and Post-Retirement: CalPERS and Private Equity
- Reimbursing Your IRMMA Payment
- Medicare and End of Life Care in California
- CSU-ERFA Foundation Awards & Research Grants
- Low Retirement Savings

More information at: http://www.csuerfa.org/membership
**Understanding the CalPERS COLA**

By: Mark Shapiro, CSU–ERFA Webmaster

The CalPERS cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA), if any, appears in your May benefit check. The rules governing the amount of the COLA are a bit arcane. For CSU retirees and most state employees, the maximum COLA that can be awarded in any year is 2%. So if the cost of living as measured by the average increase in the CPI-U (the national urban consumer price index) for the previous year is 2% or more, your benefit check will increase by 2% provided that you retired in the second previous year or earlier.

The calculation is more interesting if the average increase in the CPI-U is less than 2.0%. If the previous year’s average CPI-U increase is between 1.0% and 2.0% then your COLA will be at least this amount, but could be more. In this case your COLA depends on the year you retired and the difference between the compounded average inflation rate from the year after you retired through last year and the compounded COLA you actually have received through last year. If that difference is greater than last year’s average CPI-U index but less than or equal to 2.0%, that will be your COLA for the current year. If the difference is more than 2.0%, your COLA will be limited to 2.0%.

If last year’s average increase in the CPIU is less than 1%, your COLA will be zero unless the difference between the compounded average CPI-U from the year after you retired through last year and your actual compounded COLA through last year is 1% or more. If that number is between 1.0% and 2.0%, that will be your COLA. If that number is greater than 2.0%, then your COLA will be limited to 2%.

These calculations lead to the result we saw last year (2016) when those who retired in 2004 or earlier received a 2.0% COLA, those who retired in 2005 received a 1.555% COLA, and those who retired between 2006 and 2014 received no COLA. Those who retired in 2015 were not yet eligible for a COLA.

For 2017, the COLAs are as follows, with the year of retirement first:

- Retired 2004 and earlier, 2%
- 2005: 1.26%
- 2006: 1.61%
- 2007-2009: 1.38%
- 2010: 1.68%
- 2011-14: 1.68%
- 2015: 1.26%
- 2016: not eligible as yet.

Note that in years when you don’t receive a COLA the increase in the average CPI-U for the previous year will be factored into later adjustments.

---

**Donations**

We appreciate the donations made by the following contributors to the Retirement Association Travel Grants Endowment Fund to help fund travel/professional development for current faculty and staff.

VirginiaAnn Shadwick  Daniel & Kay McGough  Donna Ryan  Lana Thomson
Now it’s your opportunity to share some news of your travels and plans with our members. Please complete the form and send to Kay McGough, 3742 Brunswick Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080 or email her at krmcgough@comcast.net. You can also FAX her at 650.878.4728. We eagerly look forward to your participation. It will appear in the next GRG. See pages 4 and 5 of this gazette for examples.

- Name: __________________________________________

- Department retired from and when: __________________________

- Brief description of your adventures: ______________________________________

- A photo as a jpeg.

- Photo