

San Francisco State University Retirement Association *Off Campus Bulletin*

*SFSURA c/o Advancement Office 1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM153, San Francisco, CA 94132
Digital Version available at www.sfsu.edu/~retire*

Fall 2014

President's Message

by Tom Spencer

I will keep this president's message brief so that you can get on with the reading of this new issue of our Off-Campus Bulletin. Past issues and many photographs can be found on our website at www.sfsu.edu/~retire. Past issues of Campus Memo and the CSU-ERFA Newsletter can be accessed there as well. Check out the Association's website if you haven't already.

I am completing my 2nd term (2010-2014) as President of the Retirement Association this month. Actually it has been a longer time than that as I assumed the Presidency when Lana Thomson became ill and had to resign. So even though I didn't aspire to the office, I have found these past 4+ years to be challenging and gratifying ones. I especially have enjoyed working with the Board. I would imagine that no other group of faculty/staff members over the past 35 years could have been a more dedicated and positive Board than this one. A personal thanks to each of you Board members for all of your good work on behalf of our Association. You won't exactly get rid of me. By virtue of my past office and the requirements of our by-laws, I get to remain on the Board in the Past President's seat for the foreseeable future.

As one of my last acts as President, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to come and join us at our Annual Fall Luncheon on November 18th at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco (see enclosed flyer). This luncheon (celebrating Thanksgiving) is a long standing tradition for the Association and serves not only as an enjoyable social function but also as a brief general membership business meeting as required by our by-laws. And we do have some business to complete with regard to the by-laws and election of officers.

So come join us everyone. Fill out your reservation form now before you put this Bulletin down (due by November 11th). We usually have an attendance of about 60. Let us see if we can beat that number. EASY parking, EASY access, GOOD food, GOOD price, and Good company. That is hard to beat!

SEE YOU ALL THERE? I hope so. Thanks everyone.

Tom



2015 Upcoming Event

Have you ever been to the tower? Ever driven to the bottom and gazed up to wonder what its like up there?

You will have a chance in January or February. Watch for more information about "The Insiders Tour of Coit Tower"

This special event will be led by one of our own with lots of unique insight into the history of the tower.



The history, the art and the view.

Senior trying to set a password:

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password

USER: "Cabbage"

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters

USER: "Boiled cabbage"

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character

USER: "1 boiled cabbage:"

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: "50bloodyboiledcabbages"

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character.

USER: "50 BLOODY boiled cabbages"

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively

USER: "50BloodyBoiledCabbagesShoverUpYourButtIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!"

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

USER: "ReallyMad50BloodyBoiledCabbagsShovedUpYourButtIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow!"

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.

Tour of Levi Stadium “Home of the San Francisco 49ers”

Many members of the San Francisco Retirement Association and the University Women’s Association gathered together to tour the brand new 49ers Levi Stadium on August 17, 2014.

We were taken to many of the public areas, general seating areas, private boxes, and got to stand on the 50 yard line for an “up close” view of the field.

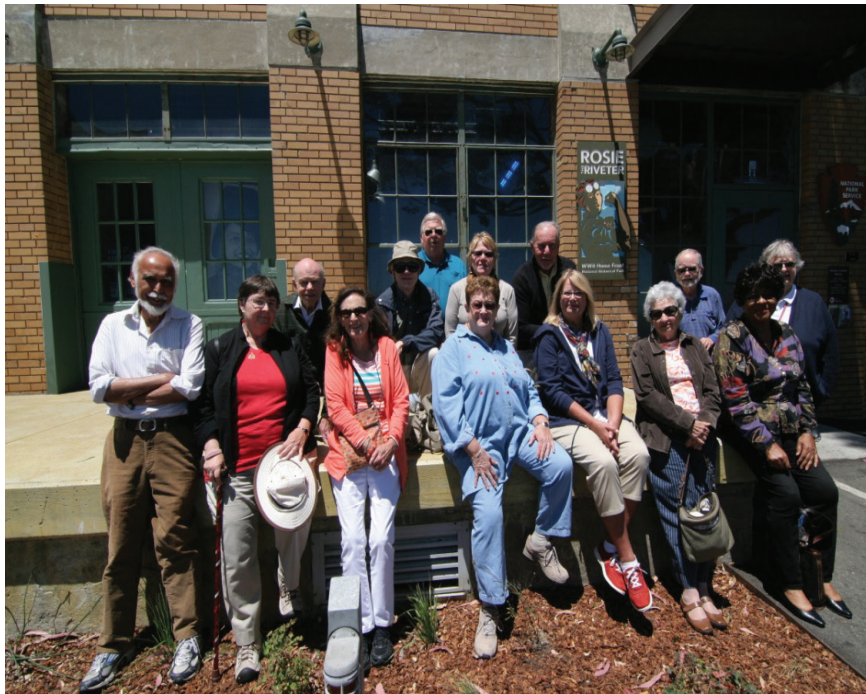
Construction crews were still busy making those “last minute” installations and repairs before the opening day. Go Niners!



Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park

On Friday, June 27th - about twenty-five of our members and friends met at the Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park, Richmond. Most gathered in small groups for enjoyable lunches at Assemble and others at Salute! prior to our docent talk and touring of the exhibits.

Our docent talk was provided by Ranger Betty Soskin. Ranger Soskin is the National Park Service’s oldest Ranger – she’s an incredible example to all of us to maintain a youthful attitude, a sense of humor, and to keep moving! You can learn more about her by Googling her name as she has quite a legacy in the Bay Area that you may find interesting. She was not officially a “Rosie” but worked during WWII as a clerk for the Boilermakers Union A-36, the all-black union auxiliary that



was created to represent black steelworkers who were denied representation by the main union.

With the excellent turnout, your Board of Directors provided an earmarked donation of \$200. to the Rosie the Riveter Trust.

From the Library San Francisco Bay Area Television Archive

SFBATA is part of the J. Paul Leonard Library's Special Collections Unit, located in the new J. Paul Leonard Library. Established in 1982 by Helene Whitson, this unique moving image collection presents sixty years of social history and cultural revolution in the San Francisco Bay Area. Over 4000 hours of local newsfilm, documentaries and other programs have been donated to the J. Paul Leonard Library by broadcasters, production companies and private individuals, to be preserved as an academic resource. For brief descriptions of the collections that have been donated, and how they are being preserved and made available to students and the public, go to:

<http://www.library.sfsu.edu/about/collections/sfbatv/index.php>

One video in the collection that may be of special interest to us S.F. State old-timers is a documentary, Success Story: San Francisco State College, which KGO-TV granted permission to make publicly available to view online. Filmed at SF State's new Lake Merced Campus during the college dedication week in October 1954, this 30 minute program includes an address from college President J. Paul Leonard. A voice over introduction reminded live audiences tuning into this telecast: "Ladies and gentlemen you are viewing the future of America, possibly of this world." You'll see and hear from such luminaries as Fenton McKenna, Jules Irving, John Tegnell, Leo Cain, Alexander Nepote, and George Outland. To watch the video, go to:

<https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv/bundles/187042>

The Gator Lives

Last spring, new SFSU President Les Wong floated the idea of finding a new mascot to represent the SF State spirit. He was subsequently impressed with the passionate loyalty many students and alumni expressed for "Al E. Gator". In late August, the President announced that "the Gator lives". The campus is adopting a proposal from the new Director of Athletics, Charles Guthrie, to save the Gator but update the look. So the mascot mark has been updated and modernized to remind all that the Gators are a force to be reckoned with.



The Potter's Wheel: John Magnani & San Francisco State's Dedication Week

By: Meredith Eliassen

John Magnani (1907–1960) was a professor of ceramics at San Francisco State between 1949 and 1960. Magnani was co-founder of the Designer–Craftsmen of California and his aesthetic sensitivity and warm humanity touched generations of local artists. He was also founder of Ceramic House, known for its designs of commercial dinnerware. Exhibitions of his own work were held at the Museum of Modern Art, the California Legion of Honor, and the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum. Magnani's wife, known on campus as Margery Livingston (1920–1997), was the granddaughter of David Livingston a co-founder of Livingston Brothers Department Store in San Francisco. Livingston directed the W.P.A. Weaving Project during the Great Depression before teaching textiles and serving as Chair of San Francisco State's Art Department. Magnani and Livingston operated a weaving and ceramics shop at 1502 Grant Avenue.

Magnani created a focal point for an episode of the television program *Success Story* that aired on KGO-TV on October 12, 1954 that was produced to celebrate San Francisco State College's Dedication Week in October 1954. He spoke about student work, and the narrator observed, "The potter's wheel is man's oldest power tool." The program's establishing and closing shot was of a potter's wheel which was used as an analogy for what San Francisco State provided students: fundamental intellectual tools for living. During the program President J. Paul Leonard explained how San Francisco State, in the business of education, has been a "success story," and how the College provides practical training and is a successful business enterprise. The cost of the Lake Merced Campus physical plant was \$12 million and its annual budget in 1954 was \$3.5 million. Leonard next provided some statistics: regular students – 7350; summer session students – 7,000; and extension students – 2500; faculty – 350; staff – 200. Leonard explained that one-third of the student population is liberal arts, one-third of the student population seeks teaching credential, and one-third of the students seek professional occupational training. Leonard asserted that SFSC offered, "Unusually fine counseling" so that students received a well-balanced curriculum and are placed in the proper courses. Evening courses allowed students to get a degree while they work. Leonard concluded that curriculum provided the tools with which to work and the liberal arts needed to know how to use those tools and the program returned to the theme of a potter's wheel.

After Magnani's death, Livingston donated the John Magnani Memorial Collection comprised of pieces considered at the time to be outstanding craftsmanship by the members of the Designer Craftsmen of California to Fine Arts Collection of the J. Paul Leonard Library. The Magnanis were very active in the San Francisco Bay Area arts and crafts community. Some of the items from the John Magnani Memorial Collection are currently displayed in a case adjacent to the First Floor elevator lobby in the Library, and include the Spiny Planter, milky blue glaze by Earl Curtis; a Small Vase featuring geometric design by Ellen English, the Large Bowl on a pedestal base in brown tones by Roy Walker, and a Small Covered Jar, earthen, black glaze by Eileen Reynolds Curtis. *Success Story: San Francisco State College (1954) can be viewed on DIVA: <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv/bundles/187042>*

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

Charles Shapiro Thomas D. Spencer L. William Perttula
Elinor Charleston Laura Ware

SFSU Retirement Association Faculty Travel Awards

The SFSURA is again pleased to grant these awards each year.

The following are reports from the awardees for 2014.

John Logan, Associate Professor, Labor Studies

At the 2014 LERA (Labor and Employment Relations Association) Conference, I presented two papers. One paper, “Union Financial Reporting and Accountability: A Comparison of the Bush and Administrations,” was selected for the “Best Papers Panel” and will be published in the journal, *Advances in Industrial and Labor Relations*. The second paper, “The Movement to Eliminate Labor’s Political Voice: Pop. 32 and Paycheck Protection Legislation,” was selected for the competitive paper’s panel. This paper will be published as part of a collection on labor law and the future of collective bargaining on Oxford University Press, which will come out later this year. While at the conference, I was able to attend the executive committee meeting of the International Interest Group section (of which I am a member) and helped plan international and comparative panels for next year’s conference.

Stephen Kane, Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy

I was able to attend the conference “Habitable Worlds Across Time and Space” that was held in Baltimore from April 28 – May 1, 2014. At this meeting I was able to present the results of my recent peer-reviewed article entitled “Habitable Zone Dependence on Stellar Parameter Uncertainties.” This received a very positive response and I was approached by numerous attendees of the meeting for further information regarding my research.

Furthermore, I was able to meet with various colleagues regarding new research programs which will explore the frequency of Venus analogs using data from the NASA Kepler mission. This project will be led here from SFSU and will be an important contribution to our understanding the nature of Earth-size planets orbiting other stars.

Diane D. Allen, PhD, PT, Professor, Physical Therapy

The purpose of my travel was to attend the 2014 Cooperative Meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) and Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) in Dallas, Texas, from May 28 to May 31. Researchers and clinicians gathered to present research and

clinical insights regarding their work with people who have multiple sclerosis (MS). For this meeting, I was a co-author on two abstracts: one presented as a poster and one presented as a platform presentation.

Networking with people from New Jersey, Kansas, Missouri, and Georgia was potentially even more valuable than the opportunity to present our work. One of my doctoral students attended the meeting also, and several researchers there offered to share data with her as she prepares a proposal for her dissertation.

Several of the presentations throughout the rest of the conference were particularly valuable to my teaching of evidence-based practice and neurorehabilitation. The emphasis on the value of physical activity and exercise for people with multiple sclerosis was illuminating.

**Pavlina Latkova, PhD. Associate Professor,
Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism**

I gave three oral presentations; “Americans Traveling to Cuba: The Forbidden Communist Fruit” at the 3rd interdisciplinary Tourism Conference, June 3-8, 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The second presentation at the 10th Annual International Conference on Tourism, June 9-12, 2014 in Athens, Greece. Study” was an oral presentation entitled “Image of Cuba as a Travel Destination: An Exploratory Study”. Peer review of this paper resulted in an invitation to present in the round table series where I delivered a presentation entitled “Round Table Discussion on Global Tourism Trends and National Policies: Case Study of Cuban – American Relations.”

**Rawinder N. M. Sehgal, Ph.D. Associate Professor,
Department of Biology**

With funding from the SFSU Retirement Association, I was able to attend the 13th International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA XIII) in Mexico City. I was there from August 11th through the 16th. I gave 25-minute talk in the symposium “Impacts of climate change on parasitism” on Thursday August 14th.

My presentation was very well received, and I made many new contacts for potential collaborations. Largely due to my presentation, I was invited to attend the Veterinary Parasitology Meeting at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in November of 2014. Professor Erika Braga has invited me, all expenses paid, to work with some of her students and give a presentation at that meeting.

In addition, I attended several sessions that gave me new insights that will help me in my research. I study the impacts of global climate change and deforestation on the transmission of avian malaria. Since many of the talks at the meeting were about human malaria, I was able to learn about important genes that will be relevant to my research program.



My Earliest Memories of SF State

By Jim Kohn, Professor Emeritus, English Department

This is intended to be the first of a series of short articles in which members of the SFSURA recall their earliest memories of their encounters with SF State and articles (and photos) of recent adventures throughout the world. Each of us can remember when we first saw the campus, and what motivated us to stay here. Special trips (sometimes with family or friends) are etched in our memories forever. We welcome your stories to share with our members.



It was one of those foggy, damp evenings we often get in May, when the marine layer sweeps in to chill the campus. We teenagers all piled out of our car pool, blinked and gazed at the low-lying buildings in the fog.

What kind of place IS this, I remember asking myself.

We had started out in warm, sleepy Castro Valley, a high school French class on a field trip to see a play produced in French, Jean Genet's play "Les Bonnes" (The Maids) done entirely in French. We bounced into the Little Theater, and sat down to watch.

What kind of place is this, in the middle of nowhere, which has the daring to produce a play in French for a college audience? The best part for us was that we could actually understand the words, since the dialogue was simple enough even for us high-schoolers.

Then we got rewarded with a special treat, a trip to a coffee shop in North Beach, where we ordered – ooh – Cappuccino, and pretended we were all Beatniks. What an experience in urban sophistication for us 16-year olds!

My next encounter with SF State was when I was in college at Berkeley, and my girl-friend told me she had to cancel our date, because she was busy preparing for a College Model UN debate that her team from SF State was having with –umm – Harvard.

What kind of place is this that they have a debate team that's good enough to be in the same room with that of Harvard? Take a look at the trophy case outside the Communication Studies debate office, and you'll see that it is indeed a school with a national reputation in debating. Not only did the school have a College Model UN team, but the International Relations Department, which sponsored the team, was one of the few such departments in the state. The current Foreign Minister of Iran (!)

was a student here at about that time, I believe. I wonder if he got his training in the International Relations Department.

What kind of a school is it that attracts people from Iran, from Africa, from all over the world? When I entered State as a graduate student in English in 1965, I would sit down at one of the tables in the Redwood Room, in the old student union, and debate politics with students from Africa, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and even New York.

What kind of place is that that attracts people from all over the world to come to the fog-enshrouded left coast to study at a place that still called itself a college in the 1960s?

To be honest, I really didn't know what I was doing here in grad school. I had applied as an emergency step to stay in school and work toward some graduate degree – unclassified standing, I think it was called. What kind of place is it that would let you take the time to figure out what you wanted to study in grad school before having to declare your degree goal?



I got involved in the applied linguistics part of the English Department. That meant taking courses in linguistics, and applying the materials to teaching English to people from all over the world. As soon as I found myself in front of the class for the first time, I knew what I wanted to do with my career. Then I joined a group of other grad students who were working under contract to the Peace Corps, studying Liberian languages, and teaching them to Peace Corps volunteers in training. At the same time, I was teaching English in the American Language Institute, an on-campus intensive program for English learners who were admitted to colleges in the U.S. Between these two jobs, I could support myself through grad school without borrowing money from anyone.

What kind of place is this, that it provides the opportunity for people to work and go to school at the same time, where the work experience is directly relevant to the degree training?

My teachers in the English Department inspired me, so I decided that I wanted to be one of them. I was accepted in a doctoral program at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, and taught full-time at New York University. But as I was finishing the degree, I learned that there was an opportunity to join the faculty in the English Department at SF State. They were about to put me on the tenure-track at NYU, but I decided to return to SF State, where I knew I would be in good hands.

To make a long story short, I taught in the English Department at State for 38 years, from 1975 to 2013, and enjoyed the experience a great deal. I was Chair of the Department for three years, spent 12 years in the Academic Senate, and was Chair for a year, took a sabbatical year in China, helped edit the college literary magazine, and on and on, you get the picture.

What kind of place is this that can afford a person so much gratification, and what Gov. Jerry Brown once called “psychic salary”?

My kind of place.



Board of Directors

Agenda Items for General Membership Meeting – November 18, 2014

Ratification of By-Laws Changes

The Board of Directors presents the following changes to the by-laws for ratification by the membership at the fall business meeting. The changes follow practices at ERFA and other non-profit associations and enable the Association to ensure that treasurers have the appropriate accounting background.

ARTICLE IV. Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The president, vice president, and secretary shall be elected by the membership at its annual meeting in the Fall. The treasurer shall be appointed by the board of directors at the first meeting following the election. There shall be provision for a nominating committee. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, and by **Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised**.

ARTICLE IV. Section 5. The treasurer has a fiduciary responsibility to the membership and the board of directors. The treasurer shall oversee: the funds of the Association; the collection of members' dues and other payments; the establishment of proper accounting procedures for the handling of the Association's dues; shall report the financial condition of the Association at all meetings of the board of directors, at the annual business meeting and at other times as called upon by the president; and shall ensure that accurate records are kept of all members. *The treasurer shall serve a term of three years and may be reappointed to an unlimited number of subsequent terms.*

ARTICLE VIII. *The Board shall appoint a nominating committee of three active individual members at least three months prior to the annual fall business meeting.* ~~A nominating committee of three members including the chair shall be elected by the membership. One member shall be a director, one shall have served on the previous nominating committee and one of the three shall be from the general membership. The committee shall nominate one candidate for each vacant office of the board of directors and candidates for the next nominating committee. The committee shall present the slate at the annual fall business meeting. The membership shall be notified of the slate of nominees prior to the annual fall business meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor before the election at the annual Fall business meeting, additional nominations shall be permitted provided the nominees have given consent.~~

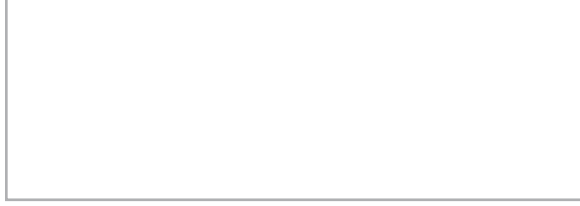
Key to Changes: Strikethrough means deleted language, italics mean newly added language.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

December 2014 – November 2016

Office	Nominee	Approve for Term
OFFICERS		
President	LaVonne Jacobsen	1 st term
Vice President/Membership	Jim Kohn	1 st term
Secretary		1 st term
Past-President	Tom Spencer	No election
Treasurer		To be appointed
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (TO BE ELECTED)		
At large	Dollye Parker-Harmon	1 st term
At large	Krish (V.V.) Krishnan	1 st term
Publications	Kay McGough	2 nd term
UWA Liaison	Donna Ryan	1 st term
At large		1 st term
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE CONTINUING (NO ELECTION REQUIRED)		
Travel Grants	Mamdouh Abo-El-Ata	2 nd term
ERFA Representative	Bob Cherny	1 st term
Events	Zelinda Zingaro	1 st term

Please RSVP for the November 18th Luncheon & General Meeting



Board of Directors Officers

Tom Spencer, President

Julian Randolph, VP and Membership Director

LaVonne Jacobsen, Secretary

Jim Van Ness, Treasurer

Past President

Newman Fisher, Past President

Members at Large

Mamdouh Abo-El-Aza

Dan Buttaie

Iza Goodfield, UWA Rep

Jim Korn

Volanda Thompson, Annual Events Coordinator

Zelinda Zingaro, Special Events Coordinator

Nominating Committee

Helene Whitson

Travel Grant Committee

Dan Buttaie, Chair

Mamdouh Abo-El-Aza

Julian Randolph

Membership Director/Off-Campus Bulletin

Kay McGough

Webmaster

John Stenson



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