



# San Francisco State University *Retirement Association* Off Campus Bulletin

Summer  
2015

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## *San Francisco State University 2015 Graduation*



For the first time ever, the University used the AT&T baseball park for its graduation. The choice was made so that there would be room for all undergraduate and graduate students and their families in one place. Lt. Governor (and former San Francisco Mayor) Gavin Newsom gave the commencement address with a theme for graduates that included, "Take account. Life can either happen to you or for you." and "You've got to step up. You've got to step in. Don't be a bystander."

California State University honored three individuals with honorary degrees. Four-time Academy Award-nominated actress and SF State alumna, Annette Bening, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree. Lawrence Ferlinghetti, writer, editor, painter, free speech champion and co-founder of City Lights Bookstore, was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Fire Arts degree. Lawyer, scholar, activist and former New College of California President, Peter Gabel, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. By all accounts, it was a beautiful and exciting day.

## President's Corner

By LaVonne Jacobsen

For a few years, the Board has been seeking possible benefits for retired staff commensurate with those for emeritus faculty. You may not be aware that only Emeritus faculty can request free parking passes, retain their email addresses, and have bookstore discounts. A subcommittee of the Board, comprised of Jim Kohn, Zelinda Zingaro, Sheila McClear, Donna Ryan and myself, is charged with continuing the discussion with the University and will meet with key people in Human Resources in June. We also aim to improve our ability to contact retiring staff so that those with an interest in continuing their connection to the University will have an avenue to do so. I hope to report positive outcomes from these discussions in a future issue of the Off-Campus Bulletin.

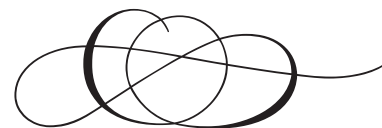
I'm pleased to report that an updated biennial directory will be published in the near future after we finish updating the membership roster. If you are not a life member and haven't paid dues for 2015, please do so as soon as possible. Information on sending in dues is provided elsewhere in this issue.

I had the pleasure of attending the second Coit Tower Tour led by History Professor and member Bob Cherny. I won't repeat all that was reported in the last Off-Campus Bulletin but it was a fascinating tour and we were fortunate to have a beautiful, sunny day. I don't know that this tour will be repeated soon, but several other interesting events are in the planning by Zelinda Zingaro. If you have some ideas to be considered, please feel free to leave me a message at 415-338-6953 or send an e-mail to zeezingaro@gmail.com if you have access to e-mail.

In this issue of the OCB we are initiating a new section for our members. We hope you'll enjoy the first segment that appears in this OCB with contributions made by several members of our Board of Directors. It's entitled "What our members are up to". What would you like people to know about your recent activities? This section depends on you dropping us a line - and photo if you have one - of something you've been doing, places you've been, new grandchildren in your

family, etc. We understand that most of us don't have time to write a long essay - although we want those, too, if you have something more to say. If you don't use email, send a note to LaVonne Jacobsen at 146 Lisbon Street, San Francisco CA 94112. Email your input to krmcgough@comcast.net. If you send photos, please submit them in a .jpeg format.

We want to feature many of our members in upcoming editions.



## San Francisco State's History Corner

By Meredith Eliassen

In the Fall 2015 OCB, "The History Corner" will profile San Francisco State's pioneering African-American faculty and administrator, Robert A. Thornton: scientist, musician, humanist.

If you have any stories to share, please contact Meredith Eliassen at [eliasen@sfsu.edu](mailto:eliasen@sfsu.edu)



## Where We've Been & Plan to Go

**Robert Cherny**, retired in 2012 from the Department of History. Bob Cherny presented a paper in January as part of the Australia-US Transnational and Comparative Labour History Conference of Sydney.



**James Kohn**, retired in 2013 from the Department of English. This Spring Jim Kohn has been having fun teaching a course called “All About Yiddish” at the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco. It was a description of the cultural history of the Yiddish language, complete with videos, guest appearances by Yiddish speakers, and even a performance by the Red Hot Chachkas, a local klezmer band.

Jim was also in Guizhou, China in April, and will be travelling to exotic places like Kansas City and Bentonville, Arkansas this summer, then on a tour in southern Spain and Morocco in the Fall. If you'd like to catch up with him at the Fromm, he will be teaching a course about Pierre Bonnard, in connection with the exhibition at the Fine Arts Museums in January.



**Jim and Arline Van Ness.** Jim retired in 2006 from Internal Audit and Arline retired in 1988 from Housing. They traveled in January to Costa Rica for a ten day tour. It featured lots of flora and fauna, volcanoes, and tram rides and hikes across suspension bridges through rain forests.



**Dan and Kay McGough;** Dan retired in 2001, Creative Arts. Dan and Kay travelled to Africa—Kenya and Tanzania, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2014. The flight started in San Francisco with a stop in Amsterdam and then on to Nairobi. They spent a few days checking out the city and surrounding areas with the tour group of 14 via a comfortable and air-conditioned bus. Then they were divided into three groups and headed out for 11 days of travelling in a Toyota jeep, over many miles of dirt roads. The joy was seeing thousands of wild animals, absorbing the culture and its people, and, being surrounded by fantastic scenery everywhere they looked. Dan tried throwing a Masai spear and Kay tried dancing with a Grandma (oldest member) of a Masai tribe. That was pretty funny to the rest of their tour group. It was an adventure of a lifetime.



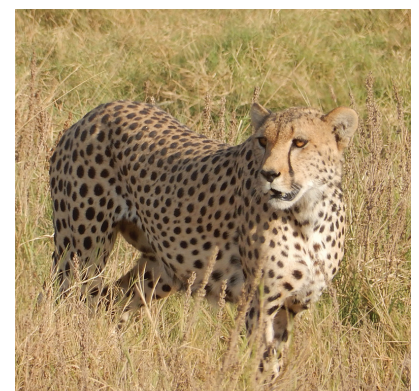
*Robert Cherny and colleagues at the conference.*



*Jim Kohn and Maio, a lady from Guizhou Province in China.*



*Of the many critters they observed, this is a Jesus Christ lizard, so-called because it can “walk on water”.*

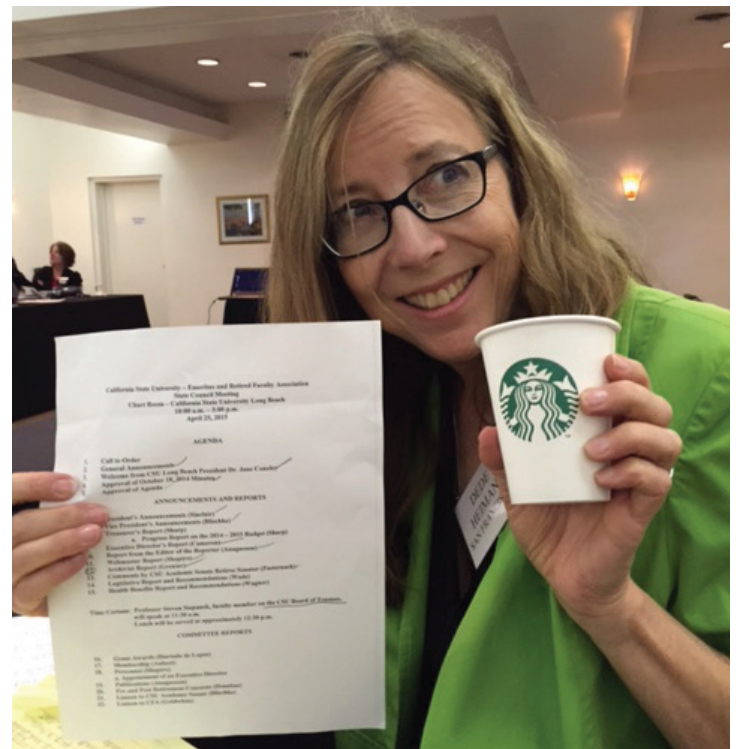


*A rare sighting of a cheetah in Amboseli National Park, Kenya*

I volunteered to go to the ERFA Statewide Council Meeting on April 21 as a substitute for our representative, Bob Cherny. No need for heavy doses of coffee with this group. That's me in the attached photo with a coffee cup and the ERFA agenda. The topics brought out a very lively discussion among the group.

The meeting highlights:

- Active professors and staff were asked to contribute to prefunding healthcare and encouraged to check with their bargaining unit. This secures retirement benefits.
- David Wagner presented the health care report. He urged Anthem users to sign up for credit protection regarding the recent hack into Anthem accounts. Spousal benefits have changed. If the covered spouse dies, the surviving spouse's continuing healthcare is still in "flux" and not clearly stated.
- Professor Stepaneck, the CSU Faculty Trustee, replaced Chancellor Timothy White as the main speaker. Prof. Stepaneck reported that new hires were not hired at a salary as decent as tenure track hires were in the past. He added impressive statistics: 1 in 20 degree holders in the US have a CSU degree and 1 in 10 employees in CA have a CSU degree. Also, Hispanics are the largest student group at 35% and Caucasians the second largest at 27%. CSU Bond management is now under direct control of CSU Trustees and no longer the CA State Dept of Finance. The CSU can save from decreased interest payments because the CSU has a better financial rating than the State of California.
- There are two future State Council meeting dates: October 17, 2015 at CSU Fullerton and April 23, 2016 at San Jose State.



*Dede Heiman attended as the  
SFSURA Representative*

## Travel Grant Awards

The San Francisco State University Retirement Association is pleased to announce its 2015 Staff Travel Grants. We received 16 applications from a variety of departments, all with outstanding requests for assistance. The reports of the awardees will appear in future editions of the OCB.

**Holly Chirko (Logan)** Department of Biology, Health Equity Institute and SF BUILD—*National Institute of Health funded project.*

**Amber Johnson**, Undergraduate Laboratory Manager, Department of Biology

**Xiaosu Li**, Director, Multi Media Center/Foreign Language Laboratory, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature.

**Jay Ward**, Associate Director, Office of International Programs

### Special Note:

**Jenna French**, Disability Specialist, Disability Programs and Resource Center was also awarded a Travel Grant but was unable to accept.



## CalPERS News

*From the CSU-ERFA Reporter, March 2015*

### Changing Your State Or Federal Tax Withholding?

CalPERS now offers the ability to change your state or federal withholding amounts online, through MyCalPERS. Paper transactions that used to take months can now be done online and be implemented relatively quickly.

Medicare Part B Reimbursement. As you may know, CalPERS reimburses the basic Medicare Part B monthly premium (\$104.90 for 2015) for its retirees who are in Medicare. If you are subject to the Income-Related Monthly Medicare Adjustment (the IRMMA) because your annual total adjusted income exceeds certain limits, you may be eligible to have part or all of the IRMMA reimbursed by CalPERS as well. The amount of additional reimbursement varies. If you fall into this category, notify CalPERS in writing at: CalPERS Health Account Services, Medicare Administration, P.O. Box 942714, Sacramento, CA 94229-2714. Include a copy of your annual letter from the Social Security Administration describing your benefits for the coming calendar year, including the amount of your IRMMA. You should hear back within a few weeks.




The Federal Government has an online website devoted to helping you keep you and your computer and smart phone free from fraud, scams and malicious software (malware). It has useful, plain English articles. For instance:

Phishing Scams—When internet fraudsters impersonate a business to trick you into giving out your personal information; how to identify and deal with phishing scams:  
<http://www.onguardonline.gov/phishing>

Spam—unwanted commercial email—how to reduce the amount you and everyone else gets:  
<http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0038-spam>

Hacked Email — what to do after, *or better yet – before*, you're email is hacked:  
<http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0376-hacked-email>

How to secure your computer by avoiding, detecting, and getting rid of malware:  
<http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0011-malware>

	<p><b>Jack Byers</b>            Professor Emeritus and Chair, Theatre Arts, and Associate and Acting Dean of Creative Arts, 1966 to 1992, died at 83 in Palm Springs.</p>	<p><b>Stuart Hyde</b>            Professor Emeritus and Chair, Broadcast Communication Arts, and Associate Dean of Creative Arts, 1958 to 1993, died at 91 in San Leandro.</p>
<p><b>Florence Haimes</b>            Emeritus Professor of Chemistry from 1947 to 1987, died in San Francisco at 97.</p>	<p><b>Marvin Weinberger</b>            Professor Emeritus in Political Science from 1960 to 1991, died at 84 in San Francisco.</p>	<p><b>Lucille Winnett</b>            Widow of William Winnett, Professor in Education.</p>
<p><b>Stanford L. Johnson</b>            Emeritus Professor of Marketing from 1964 to 1988, died in 2014</p>		

# 2015 Dues Reminder

## 2015 DUES REMINDER

..... and Other Information

Unless you are a life member, or have already paid your \$30.00 annual dues for 2015, your dues payment is 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. "13" means 2013). 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 Membership Director Jim Kohn at 415.821.7475 or by email at: [jjkohn@comcast.net](mailto:jjkohn@comcast.net). In accordance with our By-Laws, 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 Membership Director Jim Kohn, address below, or send an email to [jjkohn@comcast.net](mailto:jjkohn@comcast.net), so we can keep our membership records current. If you would like to receive SFSU's weekly Campus Memo by email, please complete the form below and provide your email address to Jim Kohn. 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 Kohn. If you wish to make a donation to our Travel Grants Endowment Fund, to fund future travel/professional development grants to faculty and staff, please write a separate check and mail with the below form.

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 Annual dues for 2015  \$200 Life Membership

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

Please make check/s payable to: SFSU Retirement Association

Mail to: Jim Kohn, 23 Topaz Way, San Francisco, CA 94131

‘Lexophillies’ is a word used to describe those that have a love for punning wordplay, such as “you can tune a piano, but you can’t tuna fish” or “to write with a broken pencil is pointless”. A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophile is supposedly held every year in an undisclosed location. This year’s winning submission is posted at the very end.

...When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

...A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

...When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

...The batteries were given out free of charge.

...A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

...A will is a dead giveaway.

...With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

...A boiled egg is hard to beat.

...When you’ve seen one shopping center you’ve seen a mall.

...Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year old was resisting a rest.

...Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He’s all right now.

...A bicycle can’t stand alone; it’s just two tired.

...When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

...The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

...He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

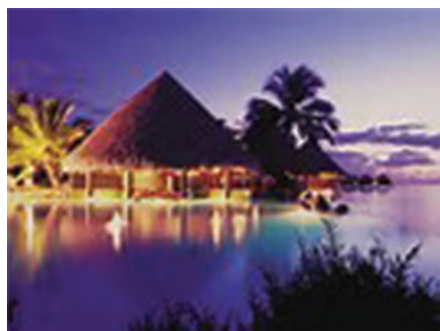
...When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she’d dye.

...Acupuncture is a jab well done. That’s the point of it.

...And the cream of the twisted crop:

...Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

## CRUISE TAHITI, JANUARY 2016



The University Women’s Association is returning for the third time to the beautiful islands of French Polynesia. To date, on their previous 20 cruises, the UWA has raised nearly \$55,000 in scholarship funds for SFSU students. The 10-day cruise begins and ends in Papeete, Tahiti, departing on January 25, 2016, aboard Oceania Cruise’s Marina. Oceania is considered by many to be the best value in up-scale cruising. The trip is open to all—UWA membership is not required. For a detailed flyer with information about ports, prices, incentives, and reservations, contact Lin Ivory at [linivory@comcast.net](mailto:linivory@comcast.net). The Women’s Association Scholarship fund was established many years ago when Gloria Spencer was UWA President, and the fund is now named in her honor: The Gloria Spencer UWA Scholarship Endowment Fund.





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



# What Are We Up To

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](mailto:krmcgough@comcast.net). You can also FAX her at 650.878.4728. We eagerly look forward to your participation. It will appear in the OCB Fall 2015.

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Department retired from and when: \_\_\_\_\_
- Brief description of your adventures: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- A photo as a jpeg.
- Refer to Page 3 to see what "others" have been up to.

