



San Francisco State University *Retirement Association* Off Campus Bulletin

Summer 2016

President's Corner

Board of Directors

President

LaVonne Jacobsen

VP and Membership Director

Jim Kohn

Secretary

Dede Heiman

Treasurer

Jim Van Ness

Past President

Tom Spencer

Membership Directory/ Off-Campus Bulletin

Kay McGough

Special Events Coordinator

Zelinda Zingaro

Liaison to UWA

Donna Ryan

CSU ERFA Rep

Bob Cherny

Nominating Committee

Krish Krishnan

Travel Grant Committee

Dan McGough, Chair

Sheila McClear

Ann Shadwick

OCB Design and Layout

Nancy Noble

Webmaster

Dave Reddy

Scholarship Awards

Retirement Association announces
faculty Travel Grant awardees

The University Retirement Association is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2016 faculty travel grants. The grants committee found the pool of applicants so impressive that at the committee's request, the board of directors authorized the awarding of seven, rather than five, awards. The recipients, each of whom will receive \$500.00 are:

- Kelvin Billingsley, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Steve Choe, Associate Professor, School of Cinema
- Petra Dekens, Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Climate Sciences
- Jocelyn Clare R. Hermoso, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
- Jonathan H.X. Lee, Associate Professor, Department of Asian American Studies
- Laura Moorhead, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism
- Ronald Purser, Professor, Management/Ed.D. Program

The Retirement Association
congratulates these outstanding
faculty members.

Welcome to the summer issue of the Retirement Association's Off-Campus Bulletin. The focus of events this summer is on the campus – come and get acquainted with resources or programs that may be unfamiliar to you. Your Board has been working hard to award travel grants to faculty and participating in state-wide CSU-ERFA: *Emeritus & Retired Faculty Association* meetings – look for more information on these topics elsewhere in this issue.

In April, I attended a CSU-ERFA meeting for Presidents of CSU Retiree organizations in northern California. There were representatives from most campuses except Chico and East Bay – even from Humboldt. I learned a lot about successful fundraising techniques and member services. I also learned that we are the oldest, having been established in 1979 at the urging of Professor Ann Paterson, who also urged other campuses to do the same.

I have been working with Doug Hupke, Executive Director for Alumni and Constituent Relations in University Advancement to get help with our web site and to work on methods for telling retiring employees about our group. Doug arranged for Dave Reddy in University Communications to update our site to the new system and he is doing a great job. The updated web site will be ready by the time you read this – and the url has changed to: retire.sfsu.edu.

LaVonne Jacobsen, President

By: Robert Cherny

The CSU ERFA State Council Meeting on April 23 had some information likely to be of interest to many of you.

The Health Benefits Committee chair reported that a major change is coming in the way that CalPERS delivers your annual Health Plan Statement and Open Enrollment material. Beginning this year, 2016, the default will be online, so you must take positive action to continue to receive a paper copy. If you take no action, you will be only be able to view your 2016 Health Plan Statement online. More information is available at <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/active-members/health-benefits/eligibility-and-enrollment/online-health-plan-statements>. Requests to keep receiving your Open Enrollment materials by mail made after July 1, 2016, will not be effective until the following year.

A class-action lawsuit has been certified alleging that CalPERS failed to deliver promised benefits and imposed excessive rate increases for its Long Term Care Insurance. The class certified by the court is defined as follows: “California citizens who purchased LTC1 and LTC2 policies from CalPERS who were subjected to the 2012 rate increase adopted by CalPERS in October 2012.” If you are a member of the class, sometime in the next two months you should receive notice about the case and about “opting out” of the class-action lawsuit. The trial date is set for October 2017. More information and the judge’s opinion in certifying the class action is at <http://www.calpersclassactionlawsuit.com/litigation-update.html>.

The Spring issue of PERSpective contains information on how to report the death of a CalPERS beneficiary. The Health Benefits Committee suggest that you include this information with your estate planning materials so it is easily available to your executor or your personal representative. If you’re like me and have already recycled that issue of PERSpective, you can find it online, at <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/forms-publications/perspective-spring-2016.pdf>.

Finally, the Health Benefits Committee reported on scams in which someone claiming to be from CalPERS either calls or comes to your door and requests personal information, including financial information. CalPERS never does this. If this happens to you, inform CalPERS.



Friends of the Leonard Library

The Friends of the Leonard Library Booksale Room needs volunteers. Keep in contact with students and friends. Know what’s happening on campus. Help maintain library acquisitions, programs and improvements in facilities all of which benefit our students! Contact Dede Heiman, 415.338.2408 or fol@sfsu.edu



San Francisco State's History Corner

By: Meredith Eliassen

Camp Leonard and the Quest for Outdoor Education

Camp Leonard started as a small 9.2-acre camp in the high Sierra that carried on San Francisco State's core mission of educating future teachers. Biology professor Edna M. Fisher had earlier pioneered in fieldwork instruction when she took small groups of students to do field work at Bixby Canyon (south of Carmel, California) on primitive camp-out field trips in 1948 and 1949 setting the stage for deeper approaches to outdoor education. San Francisco State President J. Paul Leonard negotiated a long-term lease with the U.S. Forest Service in 1949 for land adjoining the north fork of the Yuba River in order to maintain a camp for the training of recreation leaders.

Twenty-nine students enrolled in a two-week camp with no formal facilities in 1949 that included Recreation 193 "Field Work in Camping" and Rec. 124/122. The Camp Leadership Program for Recreation Leaders, School Teachers, and Camp Counselors was offered June 10-August 4, 1950. The Recreation Department and Division of Education handled the administration of the camp. Charles B. Cranford was the first Camp Director and Victor York and student Robert Sweeney served as additional staff.

The Children's Camp was added to program in 1951. Frederic Burk Foundation for Education took over fiscal control of the facility in 1955. The Frederic Burk School initiated a week of school camping in 1958. In 1959, curriculum started to be expanded to include course offerings from more divisions including Education, Recreation, and Psychology. Biology professor Dr. J. Russell Gabel (an expert on tarantulas in Coalinga) taught first three-unit course in biology (Biology 198) related to natural history in 1961. Psychology professor Daniel Feder sought authorization to explore development of Camp Leonard as a biological field station in 1966.

Education professor William M. Hammerman was an expert in teaching science and conservation education in outdoor environments and started his position as Coordinator of Outdoor Education at San Francisco State in 1960 where he spent twelve seasons as Director of Camp Leonard. Hammerman drafted a proposal for Camp Leonard as an outdoor laboratory that could offer winter camps, Peace Corp training (for the Liberia Project and Philippines), disadvantaged youth camps, and biology courses and field trips as well as courses in art, education, geography, geology, psychology, and recreation in 1967. Process of transitioning Camp Leonard from "summer children's camp" to a "College-wide field campus" started in 1970. Today the San Francisco State's Sierra Nevada Field Campus continues a long tradition on this site of promoting the appreciation of the biological diversity, geosciences, hydrology, astronomy, art through education and research.

Photographs are likely taken by Phiz Mezey, circa 1966. Courtesy of the University Archives.



BACK TO CAMPUS!

SUSTAINABLE STATE!



THURSDAY,
JULY 14
10AM - 12 NOON

Learn about campus sustainability initiatives, beautification projects and more from Caitlin Steele, Director of Sustainability & Energy.

LIBRARY TREASURES!



FRIDAY
JULY 29
9AM - 12 NOON

Led by Meredith Eliassen, Catherine Powell, and Jeff Rosen - Learn about the J Paul Leonard Library's University Archives & Collections and the Labor Archives & Research Center

Facebook AN INTRODUCTION IN A LAB CLASS!



THURSDAY
AUGUST 11
10:30 - 12 NOON

Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family! Join Lavonne Jacobsen on an introductory tour of how to use Facebook!

2016 Events

RSVP for the events you want to attend by contacting: Zelinda Zingaro via email: zeezingaro@gmail.com or address: 19164 Christensen Ct., Castro Valley, CA 94546

Make Checks Payable to: "SFSURA"

July 14th - Sustainable State!
\$10 due by July 7th

July 29th - Library Treasures!
\$10 due by July 17

August 11th - Facebook Class!
\$10 due by August 4

November 15th - Annual Fall Luncheon!
\$35 due by November 1

Please indicate your menu choice:

- * Roast Turkey & Trimmings
- * Grilled Prawns
- * Cobb Salad

ALL ARE WELCOME, BRING A GUEST!

SFSURA Fall Luncheon & Annual Meeting
Tuesday, November 15 - 11:30 AM
Basque Cultural Center
599 Railroad Avenue,
South San Francisco CA 94080

Where We've Been & Plan to Go

Athur Asa Berger

Two years ago I spent a month as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Minsk, Belarus and this year I spent three weeks lecturing on media pop culture, etc., in Iran at the University of Iran. I also gave lectures in a couple of other cities in Iran. In May I lectured at a conference on advertising in Rio and tried to avoid the mosquitoes.

I recently published the fourth edition of my book *Media and Communication*

Research Methods, the fifth edition of *Media Analysis Techniques*, a book *Media, Myth and Society* and my memoir, *Writing Myself Into Existence*, published by a small poetry press, the Neopoeisis Press. Plus a half dozen other books.



Athur Asa Berger
Professor Emeritus,
Broadcast and Electronic
Communication Arts



Humor

A Special Sharing

The old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles, and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink; his wife took a sip, and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously they were thinking, "That poor old couple – all they can afford is one meal for the two of them."

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said they were just fine – they were used to sharing everything. People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said, "No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything." Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkins, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bit of food and asked, "What is it you are waiting for?"

She answered – The Teeth.

A Story of Retirement

A few years ago, my wife and I moved into a retirement development on Florida's southeastern coast. We are living in a very exclusive development. Our biggest retirement concern was time management. What were we going to do all day? No longer. Let me assure you, passing the time is not a problem.

Our days are eaten up by simple, daily activities. Just getting out of our car takes 15 minutes. Trying to find where we parked takes 20 minutes. It takes a half-hour in the check-out line at Wal-Mart, and one hour to return the item the next day.

Let me take you through a typical day: We get up at 5:00 AM, have a quick breakfast and join the early morning *Walk-and-Fart Club*. There are 30 of us, and rain or shine, we walk around the streets, all talking at once. Every development has some late risers who stay in bed until 6:00 AM. After a nimble walk, avoiding irate drivers out to make us road kill, we go back home, shower and change for the next activity. My wife goes to the pool for her underwater Pilates class, followed by gasping for breath and CPR. Before we know it, it's time for lunch. Food shopping is a problem for short seniors or "bottom feeders" as we call them, because they can't reach the items on the upper shelves. There are many foods that they've never tasted. After shopping, most seniors can't remember where they parked their cars and wander the parking lot for hours while their food defrosts. We sometimes go to Costco to partake of the many tasty samples dispensed by ladies in white hair nets. All free! We are usually back home by 2:00 PM. to get ready for dinner. People start lining up for the early bird about 3:00 PM, but we get there about 3:45 PM, because we are late eaters. Dinners are very popular because of the large portions they serve. We can take home enough food for the next day's lunch and dinner, including extra bread, crackers, and packets of mustard, relish, ketchup and Splenda.

Lastly, it's important to choose a development with an impressive name. Italian names are very popular in Florida. "They convey world travelers, wealth and uppity sophistication. Where would you rather live: Murray's Condos or the Lakes of the Venice? There's no difference—they're both owned by Murray, who happens to be a "cheap son-of-a-gun".

Is this your daily schedule? If not, and you are actively doing things like traveling, volunteering, writing, etc. Please let the members of our organization know what you are up to, in a short paragraph or so, *with or without pictures in .jpeg format*, for publication in our next OCB. Email Kay McGough at krmcgough@comcast.net.



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.

Lynn Bonfield

Robert Cherny

Robert & Suzanne Craig

Michael Josselyn

William Perrttula

Raymond Pstrong

Ronald Trauner

Laura Ware

Allen Willard

The Unintended Consequences

The Unintended Consequences

By: Greg Antipa

This is one of those “It seemed like a good idea at the time.” But, I get ahead of myself.

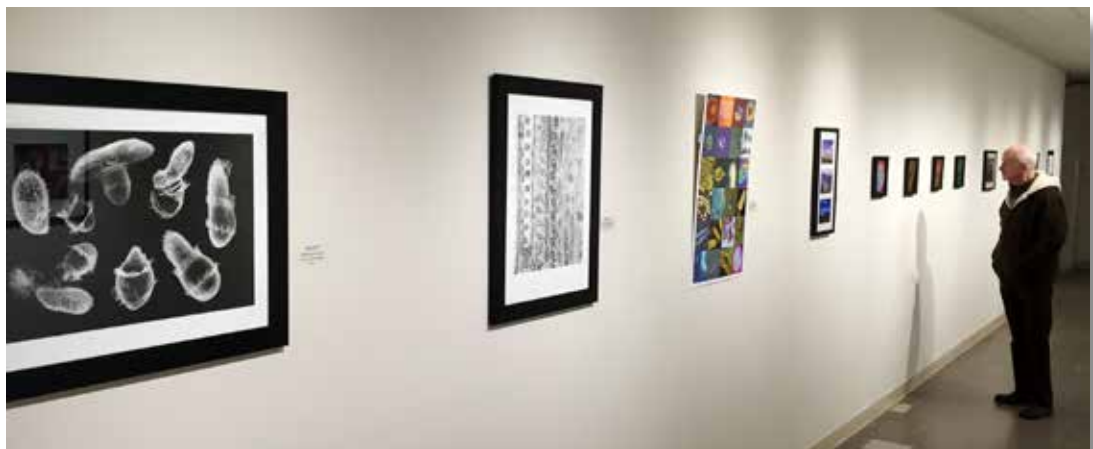
It all started out one sunny day in April of 2012 when my brother Ron gave me a call. We have always shared an interest in photography, and he said “Hey, there’s a new group in Mill Valley that’s offering a beginners class in digital photography, how about we take the class together?” So we got started, and one thing led to another and eventually a higher level class. Ron is a truly fine portrait photographer, and he was getting some great shots, and I was doing OK. They do say digital photography and quilting will keep your mind sharp, so I labored on.

Then the plot thickens. One of my artist friends in Pacifica was egging me to do more, a little artistic competition; I noted that the Pacifica Fog Fest had what seemed like a little tame exhibition. For ten dollars you could submit a picture in two of four categories (People; Flora, Fauna, & Landscape; Black & White; Scenic Pacifica). This sounded perfect, the prints to submit were small, the deadlines reasonable, anyone could enter, the competition low key, and you might even win a couple bucks. “Ron, let’s do it!”

You should have heard the excuses. “Only two pictures, come on.” Ron had literally tons of great pictures and for him, I thought it was a No-Brainer. But, to be honest, he is a working stiff and I’m not. So, that is how this got started, and now the rest of the story.

I made two category submissions, one to People and one to Black and White. In truth, I knew that if it worked, it wasn’t really fair of me, but one of my submissions was a montage of micrographs I made almost 50 years ago for a publication with Harry Wessenberg. Yes, an SFSU/UofI publication. They are dramatic if you are in to that kind of stuff, as I am. You can get a glimpse of this, “The Big Gulp” in the attached photo. As it turned out, both my picture of my friend Peter, the chess champion, and The Big Gulp won 1st place and The Big Gulp won best of show. Recognition, cash in the mail, and appreciation from family members. Had Ron submitted, the outcome would have been different.

But what about those unintended consequences? After a few weeks of strutting around with a puffed chest, the evil email floats into antipa@sfsu. Didn’t you read the fine print? WHAT FINE PRINT? Yes, YOU get the opportunity to share your work at the Sanchez Art Center in a fine art exhibition. What fine art? No, not some fine art, since you won three categories, we need to see thirty-nine feet of your best art! Whoo, the anxiety starts. In the back of my head there was the slim possibility that I might have to do something, but who thought three first places? Certainly not me. Anxiety to the hilt. I had no f...ing fine art! So, finally, the back-up position. More science stuff and sabbatical snapshots. SFSU comes to the rescue, a body of work, I believe well received, and a second retirement.



Scenes from an Academic Novel

By: Manfred Wolf

My brilliant Scandinavian friend Merete used to say that American life frequently reduces itself to genre. I understood that life imitates art though felt that “genre” was, in this context, too specific a word. But the other day I thought about an incident in my life that came right out of a mid-twentieth century academic novel. Actually, it took place in the Eighties, in Iowa City, where I spoke at a conference on literary translation.

One of the conference-organizers, a professor at the University of Iowa, invited the star performer and me to come to a small party at his house. The only other guest turned out to be the wife’s cousin, an animated middle-aged woman.

Our host, small, dark-haired, goateed, bore an uncanny resemblance to Haile Selassie, the Emperor of Ethiopia. He had a British accent, which seems to be mandatory for at least one faculty member in any self-respecting American English Department. His wife was warm, welcoming, a bit shy.

The celebrity was an old acquaintance of mine. Francois was tall, heavy-set, about fifty. Currently at the University of Lausanne, he had given the plenary address to our conference, arguing that translation was a kind of political statement—and therefore translators had more power than they knew. For this dubious proposition he was wildly applauded. Now, relaxed, expansive, he thrust his considerable girth towards the youngish woman next to him. He was talking fast, his lightly accented English pleasing, but he rapidity of his speech made it sound like a sales pitch. “No, no, if you want some version of truth regarding this affair, turn to ‘Mon Diplo’, not ‘Le Monde’, certainly not ‘LeFigaro.’”

The young woman was rapt. Now attempting to speak French, she turned sideways to face him. On the couch next to this pair I was left staring at the host who with each drink seemed to become more wispy-British, while his wife was beaming and drinking, though not drunk. She put on a record. Soon “the evening breeze . . . caressed the trees. . .”

“Manfred,” she asked, do you want to dance?” I did. We did. Under the host’s benign gaze I put my arms firmly around his wife, and we swayed to the music of the Fifties. The couple on the couch was now kissing as if their life depended on it. When the husband got up to go to the bathroom the wife gave me a pleasingly soulful look. Looking back, it wasn’t only this scene that was so typical for the academic novel, the drinking, the flirtation at a party, but also, more specifically, the hunger of the women, who longed for excitement and could get it only through men.

The evening ended innocently enough. Francois was still talking but his alcohol intake had debilitated him. A cab was called, and I remember pushing him with all my strength into the back seat, while the driver said, “You guys must be from the University.” around his wife, and we swayed to the music of the Fifties. The couple on the couch was now kissing as if their life depended on it.

When the husband got up to go to the bathroom the wife gave me a pleasingly soulful look. Looking back, it wasn’t only this scene that was so typical for the academic novel, the drinking, the flirtation at a party, but also, more specifically, the hunger of the women, who longed for excitement and could get it only through men. The evening ended innocently enough. Francois was still talking but his alcohol intake had debilitated him. A cab was called, and I remember pushing him with all my strength into the back seat, while the driver said, “You guys must be from the University.”





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. You can also FAX her at 650.878.4728. We eagerly look forward to your participation. It will appear in the next OCB. See pages 2, 3 and 6 of this bulletin for examples.

• Name: _____

• Department retired from and when: _____

• Brief description of your adventures: _____

- A photo as a jpeg.
- Refer to Pages 6 & 7 to see what "others" have been up to.

