



San Francisco State University *Retirement Association* Off Campus Bulletin

Autumn 2016

President's Corner

Welcome to another fall! I don't know about you but, after 44 years in a university, my mind still celebrates the "fresh start" of a new academic year. I have been working part time for the past few years but I finally joined the ranks of the fully retired — and busier than ever. I celebrated with a wonderful trip to Iceland with my colleague Ann – look for her note about it elsewhere in this issue.

If you have access to the internet, check out retire.sfsu.edu on the web. The site was redesigned to University standards by Dave Reddy in University Communications and includes all the information that was on the former site, including photographs from events and copies of the Off-Campus Bulletin back to 2010. As a privacy precaution, I removed the member update page with addresses and telephone numbers that appears in each issue. We are always interested in seeing photos from our gatherings – if you have any to share, please send them to Kay McGough at krmcgough@comcast.net

November 15th will be the annual Thanksgiving luncheon and brief business meeting. I am sorry to



say two of our colleagues will be leaving the Board: Dede Heiman and Krish Krishnan. We will really miss their efforts on our behalf; both have family obligations that make it difficult to serve (although Dede's require spending part of each year in Hawaii!). Best wishes to both of them. I am pleased to announce two candidates for the vacancies for your consideration in advance of the meeting: Gary Penders and Richard Giardina. We deeply appreciate their willingness to serve you as Board members. The rest of the Board with expiring terms of office have agreed to run again and their names will appear on the election information distributed at the November meeting.

Recruitment remains our primary goal as a Board. If you know of retiring colleagues, be sure to let them know about the association.

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Travel Grant Recipients Reports for 2016

We thought you'd enjoy reading how the grants were used.

Report from Jonathan Lee

With support of the Retirement Association Travel Grant of \$500, I was able to defray some of the cost of attending two international conferences this summer. First, I participated in the North America Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA) conference at the University of Toronto, Canada on June 8-12, 2016. I served as discussant for the Taiwanese in North America panel, and presented a paper entitled "*Transpacific Ritual Performances and New Racialized Subjectivities Among Taiwanese American Mazu and Devotees.*" At this conference, I was able to network with NATSA members and organizers, and plan to work with them on a special issue of *History and Perspective: the Journal of the Chinese Historical Society of America* that I serve as editor-in-chief for. This special issue will focus on Taiwanese Americans and their communities. My paper will be revised as it is one of nine chapters in my in-progress manuscript. Second, I presented a paper entitled "Expanding Chinese American Studies through Chinese Americans: The History and Culture of a People" at the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas conference on July 5-10, 2016. At this conference, I met with an editor from Hong Kong University Press about my Taiwanese American Mazu manuscript, in addition to a Chinese in North America Diaspora manuscript. Both conferences were productive and I made several contacts with colleagues in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, who I will work with in the future.

Report from Steve Choe

I am extremely grateful for receiving support from the SFSU Retirement Association. I used the fund to attend the International Comparative Literature Association Conference in Vienna, Austria from July 21 to July 27, 2016. There I presented some work I completed very recently entitled "*One Between Two: Godard's Goodbye to Language (2014).*" In it I analyze Jean-Luc Godard's 3D digital video as proposing a model for non-human otherness. Drawing from close readings of the work, as well as writings by Rilke and Heidegger, this paper attempts to elucidate an ontological form that extends beyond our global, quantified notions of the human being, this preparing new ways of "embracing the other." The presentation was, I believe a success as I received some very provocative questions and comments. While in Vienna I established new and important contacts with scholars in the US, Europe, and Asia and I was happy to promote SFSU abroad.

Report from Jocelyn Hermoso

I participated in the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), and the International Council for Social Welfare (ICSW) held in Seoul, Korea from June 27-30, 2016. The theme was "*Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People.*" I presented two papers under the sub-theme of Gender Equality. The first paper entitled, "*Sustaining Women's Role in Peace and Security in Mindanao: Analyzing the Philippines' National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325,*" builds on an earlier study on a policy evaluation framework for United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (Hermoso & Luca, 2016). Using this framework, I presented an analysis of how the Philippines has implemented UNSCR 1325 through its National Action Plan (NAP) looking at the ongoing peace process in Mindanao. I analyzed the Philippines' NAP in terms of the following criteria: 1. policy gains; 2. democracy gains; and 3. civil society gains. The second paper under the same sub-theme of Gender Equality was presented in a separate session which

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I also chaired. *Weaving the Threads of Peace: How Women Bring in a Gender Perspective to Peacemaking in Mindanao*, presented findings from study on how the mainstreaming of gender in the peace process and having more participation of women contributes to a more stable peace in Mindanao. Two focus groups were conducted. A feminist research analytic approach was used to analyze the focus group transcripts. Implications of the findings for social work practice in conflict-affected areas were discussed. As chair of this session on Gender Equality, I also summarized the main points of the seven presentations at this session. I presented a third paper under the sub-theme of Poverty. My paper focus on a *Participatory Evaluation of The CalWORKS Program By African-American Women Recipients: A Photovoice Project*, which presented a participatory action research (PAR) that evaluated the needs of African-American women on CalWORKS using Photovoice.. This paper will also be part of a chapter that my collaborator from GOALS for Women and I are writing for an upcoming anthology entitled, *Creating Social Change through Creativity: Anti-oppressive Arts-based Research Methodologies*. I also participated in the General Assembly of the IASSW. The GAs are held biennially during the world conference.

Report from Ronald Pursor

This is a brief report for the travel grant award that I received for attending three conferences this summer in the United Kingdom, Italy and Finland. I made two presentations at the *Translating Buddhism* conference which was convened at St. John's University in York, UK, June 30–July 2. This conference was attended primarily by Buddhist scholars in the field of religious studies, along with other disciplines from the Humanities. I was fortunate to make some very important contacts with Buddhist scholars and anthropologists whose work is important to my current research on the contemporary mindfulness movement. Following this conference, I co-chaired with Hugh Willmott, *City University of London, Fellow Cambridge University*, on “*Critical Perspectives on Corporate Mindfulness*” at the *European Group for Organization Studies* conference which was convened at the University of Naples, July 6–9. We had over 25 international scholars who presented papers on this topic. Many of those attending reported that this was the best academic conference experience of their careers. We were able to secure a special issue of the *Journal of Management, Spirituality and Religion*, for which I will be a guest editor. A number of the authors who presented in Naples will submit papers to this special issue. Finally, I was an invited keynote speaker for the “*Social and Embodied Aspects of Contemplative Practices*” conference convened at the University of Tampere in Finland, July 13–14. I was the kick-off keynote speaker and delivered a 60 minute prepared talk. The conference was intimate, with about 60–70 attendees, allowing for many conversations over lunches and dinners. I made a particularly interesting contact with R. John Williams, from Yale University, who has drawn extensively from my work on temporality and time studies, *see, for example, my co-edited book, 24/7: Time and Temporality in the Network Society, Stanford University Press, 2007.*

Overall, the UK–Europe trip was very enriching, both personally and professionally. I am very grateful for the Retirement Association travel grant award.

Library Treasures

Library Treasures

Our visit to the library brought together nine members of our association and reunited us all with our professional, warm and welcoming librarians Debbie Masters, Meredith Eliassen, Catharine Powell, Andrea Guidada, and Bianca Alper! What a fun time we had together viewing some of the unique offerings and learning about the automated retrieval system! There are opportunities here to do more visits to our library's treasures!



Where We've Been



The reconstructed turf house in Iceland on the same land that belonged to Erik the Red. Leif Erikson was born here.

Ann Shadwick has travelled to Iceland

For an extraordinary trip take the Grand Circle bus tour of Iceland with GJ Travel (Gudmundur Jonasson). Splurge on the VIP seats up front to have two seats to yourself. This tour will give you a greater view of the island and its varied ecosystems and culture than driving yourself. From the waterfalls and fjords on the westernmost point of Europe to the mountains and geothermal fields of the

north to the rugged deep eastern fjords and the lava fields, iceberg lagoons and farms of the south you see and visit it all. The history is amazing - see Parliament Hill where the Vikings established a law court and made joint decisions as early as the 10th century. Icelanders can trace their lineage back to the first Viking settlers. It is impossible to give a full view in one paragraph but if you want to see a daily account with photos send an email to: shadwick@sfsu.edu

Arline Van Ness has been reading.

She recommends this “good read”: *The Lost Book of Moses*, by Chanan Tigay, SFSU Assistant Professor of Creative Writing. One man’s search to find the oldest Bible scrolls or the biggest fake took him to eight countries on four continents, spanned four years and all the while the clue that eventually helps him solve the mystery lay in the Adolf Sutro Collection in the SFSU Library. A real page tuner – you won’t be able to put this down.

Memorable Moments in Administration

By: Larry Ianni

I recall that many faculty used to visit in the Provost’s office when they were contemplating retirement. Near the end of the spring semester one year, I was surprised to have one of the campus’s highly respected senior professors stop in to tell me that he was retiring. It being my usual practice to familiarize myself with a persons personal file when they had made an appointment, I said, “Charley, you shouldn’t do that. You’re 60 years old. That means you will get 2% per year of service times your salary in the year of your highest salary. *Note: this benefit is now under attack by politicians determined to return educators to second-class citizenry.* “If you work to age 63, you will have 2.5% per year of service.

Charley waived a hand dismissively. “I’ve already been down to the Personnel Office. *Note: an archaic term now replaced by one more suitable for a society where there are greater or lesser levels of privilege among human beings.* They did the calculation for me. It will mean \$400 less a month in my retirement. But don’t you understand. I can’t stand you people for three more years.” I thought it was fortunate that Charley could afford to let peace of mind overrule practicality and wished him well.

I was surprised when, the next fall, I encountered Charley as I walked across campus on the first day of classes. “What are you doing here?” I asked, genuinely puzzled. “Well,” Charley shrugged, “I had a lot of time on my hands so when the department called and said a temp slot was available, I decided to take it.” Since I knew what the standard contract for temporary faculty paid, I said, “So you’re here working for assistant professor’s salary rather than your full professor’s salary.” Charley smiled wryly, “Something to do.” So now I knew. Boredom is even worse than a group of irritating administrators.

New and Proposed Campus Buildings

Construction began in August 2015 on a new building on campus: The Mashouf Wellness Center will be the first major facility to be built at SF State in more than a decade. It is located at the southwest corner of campus, between Font Blvd. and Lake Merced Blvd., across Font from Mary Ward Hall. Funding for construction of the \$86.5 million facility comes from student fees and private donations, including leadership support from SF State alumnus Manny Mashouf, founder of Bebe Stores, who with his family made the largest individual donation in SF State's history. SF State's Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) endorsed honoring Mr. Mashouf for his generosity.

This two-story student activity center will feature an indoor elevated jogging track, fitness and weight areas, pools, a spa and sauna, a climbing wall, racquetball/squash courts, multi-use courts, fitness studios, locker rooms, and a large multi-use space, which will host indoor soccer and other sports as well as student events such as lectures and dances.

The state-of-the-art recreational complex will incorporate the latest advances in sustainable building technologies that increase building lifespan and reduce operating costs through energy, water and maintenance savings. When completed in early 2018, it is expected to earn a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Platinum rating -- the highest designation for sustainable construction.

The next major development being planned is the Creative Arts and Holloway Mixed Use Project, which is starting the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) phase. This project will put part of University Park South, the apartments on the south side of campus that were purchased from Park Merced for student housing, to new uses. The project has two components:

1. The "Tapia Triangle": (Tapia Dr. on the north and east, and Font Blvd. on the southwest) apartments will be torn down and replaced by a new Creative Arts Building that will include an 800 seat concert hall and new quarters for the Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts (BECA) department.
2. One block of apartments on the south side of Holloway Avenue across from the Administration Building, between Cardenas and Varela Avenues, will also be torn down and replaced with new apartment-style student housing and neighborhood serving retail and student support services including bike storage, study rooms, a copy center, and retail dining.

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.

LaVonne Jacobsen
Ralph Larson

Sheila McClear

Kay and Dan McGough
Ann Shadwick

Test Yourself for Dementia

It is now possible to test yourself, or someone you know, for dementia through SAGE, the “Self-Administered Gerocognitive Exam,” found on the web site of the Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center. The center urges people to take the test and show the results to their primary care physician to establish a baseline score. It can then be taken again every few years to track any changes in performance.

Dementia is usually considered difficult to perceive in yourself because the changes are gradual. More than 1,500,000 people have downloaded the test, which comes in four different versions. They are each considered equivalent; it doesn’t matter which one you take.

The test can be found at:

<https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/brain-spine-neuro/memory-disorders/sage>

Are You Hearing Well?

A hearing test you can take over the phone. Approximately 36 million Americans have significant hearing loss, yet most have never had their hearing test. Untreated hearing loss can lead to a serious decline in your quality of life, causing social isolation, problems on the job and frequent embarrassment.

The National Hearing Test is a simple, affordable, and scientifically validated screening that can be taken over the phone. To take the test or find more information about it, go to <https://www.nationalhearingtest.org>.

Medicare Reimbursement from CalPERS

From CSU-ERFA News & View

As you may know, CalPERS automatically reimburses the basic Medicare Part B monthly premium (which is \$121.80 for 2016) for its retirees who are in Medicare. What you may not know is that 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 will depend on how much excess money is available from the monthly health insurance contribution made by the CSU for CSU retirees. This will vary depending on how many of your dependents, if any, are enrolled in CalPERS basic or supplemental health plans.

If you think you may be eligible for reimbursement for all or part of your IRMMA, you have to notify CalPERS in writing. Include in your letter to CalPERS a copy of your annual letter from the Social Security Administration describing your benefits for the coming calendar year. This will include the amount of your IRMMA. *The letter for 2016 was sent to Social Security recipients in late November 2015.* You’ll have to write to CalPERS each December. Mail your request to:

CalPERS Health Account Services, Medicare Administration
P.O. Box 942714, Sacramento, CA 94229-2714

Within a few weeks you should receive a response from CalPERS, which indicates the amount of additional Part B reimbursement you will receive for 2016. Note that it can take from 30 to 90 days before the additional reimbursement begins to appear in your retirement check or deposit. The reimbursement will cover the entire year, so you may also see a lump sum payment for the prior months.

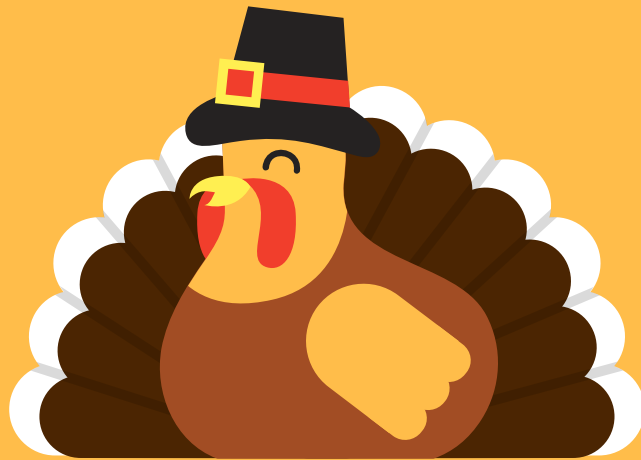
2016 SFSU-RA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 15

11:30 am No-Host Bar 12 Noon Meeting & Luncheon

BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER

599 Railroad Ave, South San Francisco CA



Select your entree:

Roast Turkey & Trimmings

Grilled Prawns

Cobb Salad

Name

Entree Choice

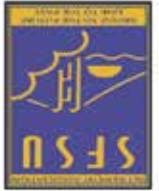
\$35 per person (pay to SFSU-RA) by November 1st

Mail to: Zelinda Zingaro, 19164 Christensen Court,

Castro Valley, CA 94546



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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 page 8 of this bulletin for examples.

• Name: _____

• Department retired from and when: _____

• Brief description of your adventures: _____

• A photo as a jpeg.

