



San Francisco State University *Gater Retiree Gazette*



What's Inside

- Page 2  President's Corner & Board of Directors
- Page 3  SFSU Science & Engineering Tour
- Page 4  SF State and the City Hall Swim 1960
- Page 5  What Have We Been Up To
- Page 6  Remembrances
- Page 7  Travel Grants



**GOLDEN GATE
BIRD ALLIANCE**

FOG, FLORA AND FAUNA Golden Gate Bird Alliance — Bay Area & Beyond

By chance, in August, I attended a free online Zoom presentation at a convenient evening hour: 7–8 PM hosted by the Golden Gate Bird Alliance (GGBA). I had signed up for their email newsletter and was glad to discover such a rich offering among the usual flood of messages in my inbox. The program focused on the Bay Area's Ocean Beach, Fog, Flora and Fauna.

The Golden Gate Bird Alliance provides a wide range of monthly and annual opportunities: free online one-hour seminars led by environmental professionals, a speaker series, monthly field trips, an extensive travel program that reaches beyond the Bay Area, and volunteer projects supporting habitat restoration throughout our region.

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP: Golden Gate Bird Alliance website:
<https://goldengatebirdalliance.org/> There's more to it than the birds!

Irene Donner, SF State Emeritus,
SFSU Retirement Association

October 2025

Fall 2025 & Spring 2026

Upcoming Events

Legion of Honor—Manet & Morisot

Thursday, October 30th at 10 AM

Jim Kohn, who is a regular docent at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco will provide a tour of the new exhibition Manet & Morisot. The exhibit explores the two artists' friendship and artistic exchange.

For more information go to:

<https://www.famsf.org/exhibitions/manet-morisot>

Please RSVP to: Zelinda Zingaro at

415.602.8433. Text best.

\$10 per person, payable on the day of tour directly to Jim Kohn.

Friday, November 14th at 11:30 AM

Retirement Association Annual Fall

Luncheon, Business Meeting, and Election of Officers. Plan to attend and hear what President Lynn Mahoney has in her update during this challenging time. More details forthcoming in a separate GRG BLAST.

Board of Directors Meetings:

Monday, December 15, 2025

First meeting after elections;

Approve appointments to committees/
other positions; plan calendar for 2026

Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Details forthcoming—look for a BLAST with details!

SFSURA — New Members

Holly Harris

21 Castle Rock Drive

Mill Valley, CA 94941

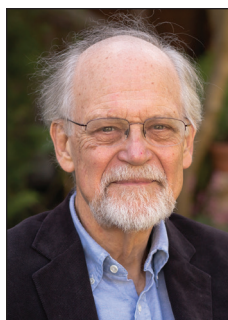
Phone: 650.520.8122

Email: hharris@sfsu.edu

Karen Hossfeld

Email: Kelpgal@gmail.com

Phone: 415.269.4234



President's Letter

Dear SF State Retirees,

I was on campus this morning, September 19, for the Retirement Association's tour of the new Science and Engineering Innovation Center. It's a very impressive building. Most of us will recall our classrooms as consisting of several rows of single-seat desks, all facing the front of the room, with a table and lectern at the front, and a blackboard behind the table and lectern. In history classrooms, there was also a rack of pull-down maps. These 21st-century classrooms are so completely different—computers at student workstations, seating around tables, and, for many of them, connecting labs so that students can go directly from lecture to lab to put the lecture into practice.

Half-way through tour, I was beginning to identify with the fossils in the case along one of the hallways.

Along the way, one of our group asked our guide, a member of the chemistry faculty, about student success in applying to graduate programs. He reported that many of the graduate programs across the country are cutting back their admissions because of the current uncertainty over federal funding for research. This is trickle-down economics at its worst.

Our Annual Fall Luncheon & Business Meeting is coming up on November 14th. I hope to see many of you there. We are hopeful that President Mahoney will again be able to join us.

I've been closing several of my recent messages by encouraging you all to donate to the University—to your department, your college, the library, or whatever you find most meaningful. The University is experiencing a very difficult time financially, and tax time is coming, so give serious thought to creating a few deductions for yourselves. (I'm guessing that none of you are in sufficiently high tax brackets to benefit from the recent huge tax cuts, and that you may benefit instead from making some deductible contributions.)



Bob Cherny,
President

Board of Directors

President

Bob Cherny

VP & Membership Chair

Russell Kilday-Hicks

Membership Coordinator

Irene Donner

Secretary

Sheila McClear

Treasurer

John O'Shaughnessy

Past President

Richard Giardina

Members At Large

Greg Antipa

Nathan Avani

Mike Goldman

Elogeanne Grossman

Jim Kelley

Jim Kohn

Dan McGough

Kay McGough

Judah Rosenwald

Donna Ryan

Jim Van Ness

Don Zingale

Publications & Special Events Coordinator

Zelinda Zingaro

GRG Design & Layout

Nancy Noble

SFSURA c/o Advancement Office

1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM153

San Francisco, CA 94132

Digital Version: www.sfsu.edu/~retire



From: Herb Meiberger

Woofers got a degree in
fetching with a minor
in tug of war!

SFSU SEIC Tour

By Zelinda Zingaro

SFSU Science & Engineering Innovation Center Tour

A nice group of ten hardy souls met up on campus on Friday, September 19th for a tour of the new Science & Engineering Center! What an inspiring facility! President Cherny has commented on his experience in his letter above and I would add a few comments here.

The spaces are beautifully designed to take advantage of natural light whenever possible. Teaching spaces all respond to emerging changes in pedagogy, giving students the greatest opportunity to collaboratively work in small groups. There is an abundance of the latest technical equipment. Several prominent sponsors' names include Agilent, Genentech, Gilead, and the Valley Foundation among others. I think one of the most interesting spaces was the Seismic Lab which should become not only an important teaching and research space but should also extend to collaboration with private and government agencies and partners external to the university.

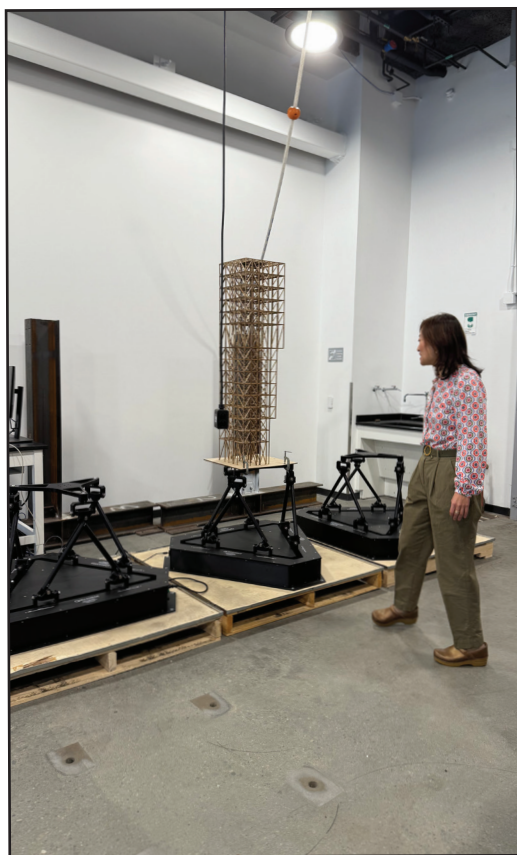
A special thank you to our guides, faculty members YiYi Wang and Eric Greene. Thank you also to Caroline Alcantara and Dean Carmen Domingo for taking the time to help us organize this tour.

It is always fun to go back to campus and see the changes. We will return!



Above:

*Left to Right:
Russell Kilday-Hicks,
Robert Cherny, Michael
Goldman, Arline and
Jim Van Ness, Yenbo
Wu, Zelinda Zingaro,
Jim Gomes, Elogeanne
Grossman with Dr.
Carmen Domingo, Dean
of the College of Science
& Engineering*



*Left: Earthquake Lab
Shake Tables in
Earthquake Lab
with Dr. YiYi Wang*



SEIC - Science & Engineering and Innovation Center

SF State and the City Hall Swim

By Bob Cherry

SF State & the *City Hall Swim*, 1960

Throughout the 1950s, the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) held sub-committee hearings across the country. The usual format was to subpoena several local people, accuse them of being part of the “Communist conspiracy,” grill them, and splash their names and photos across the local press. After holding several such hearings in San Francisco in the 1950s, HUAC announced one, to focus on local teachers, in 1959. In response, Art Bierman, Philosophy, and Herb Williams, Anthropology, organized San Franciscans for Academic Freedom and Education (SAFE), and soon involved other SF State faculty members, including Mark Linenthal, Leonard Wolf, English, and Don Garrity, Sociology. Bierman later recalled that he tried to recruit faculty members he considered “courageous and willing to stick their necks out.” SAFE found broad support throughout the Bay Area. In response, HUAC cancelled that hearing.

Later, however, HUAC announced three days of hearings for May 1960, to be held in the Supervisors’ Chamber of City Hall. SAFE and others mobilized, including recruiting significant numbers of students, most from San Francisco State College and UC Berkeley.

Though the hearings were announced as open to the public, HUAC issued enough passes to patriotic organizations to fill nearly all the seats. Those with passes were admitted first, largely filling the room.

On May 12, first day of the hearings, HUAC opponents held a protest meeting at Union Square. A thousand people, mostly students, heard from speakers who included Assemblyman Phillip Burton. They then marched to City Hall where they were told there was insufficient room for them to enter the Supervisors’ Chambers.

The next day, May 13, began similarly, with HUAC’s chosen audience admitted first and throngs of students left outside. The sheriff, responsible for security in City Hall, told students that some would be admitted after the noon recess. When they were not, they began singing and shouting to be admitted. Told to disperse, they practiced the non-violent resistance that civil-rights demonstrators were then using in the South. Shortly after 1:00 PM, police turned a firehose on the demonstrators, soaking them and cascading water down the wide, marble steps from outside the Supervisors’ Chamber to the main floor. Helmeted police clubbed non-resisting demonstrators and dragged them down the water-slickened steps, out the doors, and into waiting paddy wagons. Sixty-four were arrested.

All charges against the students were soon dismissed. Mayor George Christopher announced that HUAC was no longer allowed to use city buildings.

HUAC then released a film and report, *Operation Abolition*, claiming the “riots” were created by Communist agitators. The film was filled with distortions and outright falsehoods.



Summer 2025 Trip to Alaska

By Zelinda Zingaro

My husband and I joined our niece and her husband on a 10-day Viking cruise to Seward Alaska. We've had this on our bucket list for years and this turned out to be the perfect time with the best traveling companions! The Viking Venus left from Vancouver, which gave us the opportunity to visit friends who live there. We found Vancouver to fulfill its reputation as a beautiful city with great food and friends!



Departing Vancouver was beautiful. We traveled the Inside Passage with stops in Ketchikan, Wrangell, Icy Strait Point, Haines, Sitka, and Valdez to our final port of call, Seward. We saw glaciers and had the privilege of witnessing multiple calvings from the Hubbard Glacier. The calving sounds like a rifle shot when it starts but then you can hear and see the ice breaking off and dropping into the water. Really a highlight of the cruise!

Once we disembarked from the Viking Venus in Seward we joined another tour that we had booked separately. It included going to Denali on the Wilderness Express Dome train, returning to Anchorage on the Alaska RR Dome



Jim Gomes and Zelinda Zingaro

car. In the observation car you really get a sense of the vastness of this part of Alaska and how easy it is to live an isolated life there. The State of Alaska has the railroad system well organized with upwards of 30 trains per day on the same rails – all with minimal delays. The Lower 48 could learn from their example!

I loved our dogsled experience with Mitch Seavey's Dogsled Tours. The summer camp for the dogs is near Seward and of course does not have snow. But they have created a tourist attraction that helps their local economy and keeps the dogs in shape during the warmer months of the year. It was a great opportunity to be up-close-and-personal with the dogs and go for a ride through the woods on a cart that the dogs pull. It gives the dogs regular exercise and training for the next Iditarod Race. It was great fun! The pride and relationship between the lead trainer and the dogs is beautiful to see. The just-weaned puppies are delightful! Mama dog was eyeing us closely as we played with her pups. Now that snow is falling further north, the dogs have been transferred to their winter home and will begin training in the snow.



Allen Russell (Al) Willard, Director of Academic Services in Academic Affairs, hired 1968 and retired 1996, died in Mill Valley August 5 at 87. Al Willard was an active member of Academic Administration serving in positions with the Dean of Faculty Affairs and later with the Provost. John Gemello shares his remembrance of Al when John was Provost: “Al worked quietly. Few faculty and even fewer students knew Al. But, when the class schedule came out on time with classrooms assigned, that was Al. When a temporary library appeared out of nowhere so that the old library could be remodeled, that was Al. So often, if something good happened on campus, that was Al. He was always behind the scenes, and he was always incredibly humble, skilled and reliable he was the “go to guy” for San Francisco State. And, he was ALWAYS a good person and a better friend. That was Al.”

Memorial Saturday, October 18 – 11:30 AM – Piazza Diangelos, 22 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941. RSVP to Sierra Willard — sierrasky0218@yahoo.com

Henrietta Schwartz, Emerita Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Dean of the College of Education. Appointed 1981 and emerita since 2003, died August 13 in Pleasant Hill at 96. **Full obituary at:**

https://campusmemo.sfsu.edu/2025/October-6-2025?utm_id=inMemoriamHenriettaSchwartz#accordion-collapse-accordion-7771-26



Frank M. Verducci, Professor Emeritus in Kinesiology (Ed.D. from Stanford), appointed 1963 and emeritus since 2010, died on June 30 in Cupertino at 92. Frank played both soccer and basketball as a student at SFSU where he became a member of the United States All-American Soccer team. As a Professor of Physical Education at SFSU, he was the assistant basketball coach for seven years, head coach for two years, and also served as Department Chair and Director of the Graduate Program in Kinesiology. Frank became a highly sought-after consultant, writing the Physical Performance Entrance Exam for the U.S. Air Force Academy and the San Francisco Police and Fire Departments. **Full obituary at:**

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/frank-verducci-obituary?id=58874283>

David Alan Olsher, Emeritus Associate Professor of English from 2004 to 2025, and a leading teacher, researcher, and author in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), died in San Francisco at 69.

Philip Siegelman, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science. Appointed 1966, Emeritus since 1993. Died May 9 in Richmond at 98.

Lynn Ludlow, Lecturer in Journalism 1967 to 1987, *Golden Gator* editor as student in 1953, and reporter and editor for SF Examiner & SF Chronicle, died July 28 in San Francisco at 91. **Full obituary at:**

<https://journalism.sfsu.edu/news/honoring-lynn-ludlow-1933-2025>

Remembrances

Note: We encourage members to submit Remembrances, up to 200 words, for their colleagues.

2025 SFSU–RA Travel Grant

Report from Mihaela Mihailova, SFSU School of Cinema

The travel grant supported my participation in the 36th Annual Society for Animation Studies Conference, which took place in London July 7–11, 2025. I presented a twenty-minute talk titled, *Sustaining Animation (Studies) in the Age of AI*. In this presentation, I examined what is at stake—formally and ideologically—in emerging animation practices for which AI is not only a means of production but also a self-reflexive mode of critical engagement with the outcomes and implications of moving image cultures' algorithmic turn. I argued that AI tools can be generative for animation artists and animation scholars through the questions they raise about intentionality, creative control, labor automation, and the value of craft in the algorithmic age. To conclude, I proposed a critical framework for thinking through the challenges that AI-generated content poses to existing theories of animated performance, embodiment, and liveness and demonstrates AI's potential to (re)generate longstanding animation studies debates on authorship, labor rights, and the role of technology in the creative process. This talk will form the basis of a chapter in a book manuscript I'm currently working on, tentatively titled, *Delimited Animation: Generative AI in the Animation Industry*. I am deeply grateful to the Retirement Association for supporting my work! The full conference schedule can be found online at: <https://sas2025.cargo.site/schedule>

Donate to the SFSU Retirement Association

The San Francisco State University Retirement Association welcomes contributions to support the Travel Grants program. We invite donations to this very worthwhile program. Donations are tax deductible.

NEW! Donations can now be made online by debit and credit cards or by check.

Online payments here: <https://give.sfsu.edu/SFSURET>

If donating by check, make a check payable to the SFSU Retirement Association and on the memo line indicate it is for the Travel Grants Endowment Fund. Send your check to our treasurer at the address below:

John O'Shaughnessy • 11 Hillsdale Place • San Mateo, CA 94403

Continued from Page 4

In response, the Northern California American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) created *Operation Correction*, a film narrated by Ernest Besig, later a lecturer in political science at SF State.

Operation Abolition drew harsh criticism from the *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, the National Council of Churches, and the ACLU. The events at City Hall and the HUAC film led to renewed calls for the abolition of HUAC, and, in 1974, Congressman Phillip Burton led the successful effort to abolish HUAC. For Bay Area college and university campuses, the mobilization of college and university students and faculty against HUAC and the "City Hall Swim" marked the beginning of the tumultuous Sixties.

For more information, see Joshua Paddison, *Summers of Worry, Summers of Defiance: San Franciscans for Academic Freedom and Education and Bay Area Opposition to HUAC, 1959-1960*, *California History* 78 (1999): 188-201, which began as a term paper in Bill Issel's graduate seminar at SF State. See also the Arthur K. Bierman papers and oral history at the Labor Archives. Photos and film can be found at:

[https://www.foundsf.org/The_House_Un-American_Activities_Committee_\(HUAC\)_Hearing_and_Riot_of_1960](https://www.foundsf.org/The_House_Un-American_Activities_Committee_(HUAC)_Hearing_and_Riot_of_1960)



SFSU Retirement Association
c/o Development Office
1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM 153
San Francisco, CA 94132
www.sfsu.edu/~retire
email: retire@sfsu.edu



Please Send Us Your Email Address

If you've received this GRG through the US Postal Service, that means we don't know your email address. If you have one, please let us know. We sometimes have information to share that we'd like to get to you quickly. If we don't have your email address, we won't be able to share such information as, for example, an upcoming event with a short timeline to reserve a spot.

What Have YOU Been Up To?

Now it's your opportunity to share some news of your travels and activities with our members. Please send your account to Irene Donner at: iredonner@gmail.com. If you have photos, please send them as separate jpg files. We eagerly look forward to your participation. It will appear in the next GRG.

What's the Blast?

When the SFSU Retirement Association has timely information between the Gator Retiree Gazette mailings, you will receive a GRG Blast email. Keep an eye out for these from time to time.