



San Francisco State University *Gater Retiree Gazette*



President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

The annual *US News* rankings of colleges and universities are out. In reporting on those rankings, the *New York Times* on September 19th reported that *US News* had adjusted its methodology to put more emphasis on social mobility as measured by graduation rates for low-income students and first-generation college students. *US News* also dropped several factors that had favored wealthy colleges. As a result, SF State jumped 55 places, to tie for 178 out of 435, i.e., above 60 percent of all those ranked.

What does it mean? I've always been very skeptical of these rankings. As the *NYT* story indicates, the rankings depend on the methodology, and the methodology may favor some schools. Furthermore, as was revealed by a Columbia faculty member a year or so ago, some universities have sufficiently figured out the methodology so that they can cook their data to look better. And some universities refuse to play the game, so they don't appear in the list.

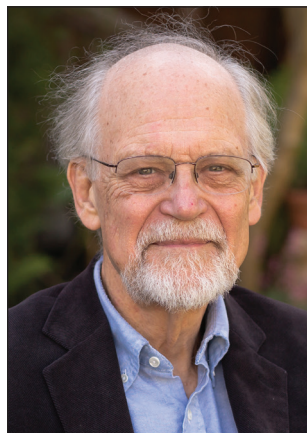
The *NYT* article did pull out the social mobility factor and present those rankings separately: CSU Long Beach is 1st, CSU Fullerton is 2nd, CSU San Bernardino is 4th, and SF State and CSU Fresno tie for 8th. None of the top 25 universities in the overall rankings make it into the top 25 for social mobility nor do any of the UC campuses.

Those data regarding social mobility make clear what all of us have always

known, that the CSU defines its mission differently than do the R1 (major research) and Power Five (major TV revenue from sports) universities. Ranking universities with such different missions by the same methodology does not produce a meaningful result. That said, some of the other categories in that report may, like social mobility, produce some meaningful comparisons. The online version of the *NYT* for September 19 has a link to much of the data.

In other matters, please look carefully throughout this issue of the GRG. There's a notice about the upcoming election of officers for the Retirement Association—please consider volunteering, information about our annual fall luncheon—please RSVP, and an appeal to pay your dues, if you've not already done so.

Bob Cherny,
President



October 2023

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SFSURA % Advancement Office
1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM153
San Francisco, CA 94132
Digital Version: www.sfsu.edu/~retire

SFSU Retirement Association: Annual Thanksgiving Meeting & Luncheon

Friday November 17, 2023

11:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Basque Cultural Center
599 Railroad Avenue
South San Francisco
\$40.00 Per Person



Luncheon Entree Selections:

- Thanksgiving Turkey Luncheon
 - Chicken Chasseur
- Eggplant Parmesan — Vegetarian

RSVP by November 8th to: zeezingaro@gmail.com or call 415.602.8433

Make checks payable to SFSU-RA

Mail to: Zelinda Zingaro, 3056 Compass Lane, Roseville CA 95747

Your Information:

Name: _____

Luncheon Choice: _____

Guest Name: _____

Luncheon Choice: _____

As usual, we will be holding the annual membership meeting and electing Officers and Board Members for 2024. If you might be interested in helping the Retirement Association, contact Bob Cherny, President, at robt.cherny@gmail.com



Retirement Association Travel Grants Recipients' Reports

Each year, the Retirement Association awards five travel grants of \$1,000 each to faculty and staff members as a way to assist them with their professional development and research. During 2021–2022, because of Covid, all travel was limited and we made no awards. This year, we made up for that omission by awarding ten such grants. The following are reports from four of the recipients. Other reports appeared in the July issue.

Fernando F S Carvalho, Assistant Professor of Design

The Retirement Association travel grant allowed me to accompany a team of design students attending the Biodesign Challenge, an international competition of solutions that combine biotechnology and design to help build a more sustainable, equitable future. The competition took place in New York City—at the MoMA, and at Parsons School of Design, where the students attended various lectures, presentations, and networking events. Their project: AquaKai, a filter that uses chitosan, the second most prevalent biopolymer on our planet, to free tap water from microplastic residues—featured in an exhibition alongside 40 other projects from all over the world. This was the very first time that SFSU participated in the Biodesign Challenge.

Dan Curtis-Cummins, Lecturer of Composition and Postsecondary Reading

This past year at SFSU has been a culmination of my work developing a Community Service Learning curriculum for the “Stretch” First-year Writing course, the first ever of its kind. Community Service Learning is important for First Year Composition courses to challenge the idea that learning is confined to the classroom or that literacy is measured by one specific standard. Through partnerships with spoken word organizations, reading tutors, and preschool teaching aides, the workshops I will present at two upcoming conferences showcase the impact of my curriculum through written student reflections. I argue that more First Year composition courses can draw from early learning models based on identity and experience, visual learning and rhetoric, “play” and kinesthetic learning activities, and other models of critical “multiliteracies” that help us unlearn standardized, rote processes of “schooling,” and make learning fun again.

Jae H. Paik, Professor of Psychology

My colleagues, students, and I have presented three research projects at the International School Psychology Association, ISPA, Conference: July, 2023; Bologna, Italy. Two presentations, a paper and a poster, were based on service-learning projects in which our undergraduates provided socio-emotional support to elementary students during the COVID-19 pandemic, both locally and internationally. The third presentation, a paper, was based on our newest community partnerships with the Department of Education in South Korea, examining the impact of emotional expressivity on academic performance. My colleagues and I will continue our community-based research and fieldwork, providing a meaningful experience for all stakeholders.

Zubaida Qamar, Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics

Thank you for awarding this travel grant to support my travel to the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior's Annual Conference in Washington, DC. This conference allowed me to enhance my professional development and reconnect with collaborators that I have been working with on Zoom for the last 3 years but have never met in person. We had several posters from our studies. I was also able to present my talk on the benefits of engagement in the organization. I was able to guide my graduate student who presented her first poster at a national conference.

Diego Rivera's Pan-American Unity Mural



In 1939, San Francisco's civic leaders created an ambitious international exposition on Treasure Island, to celebrate completion of the two great bridges and to announce to the world that San Francisco was positioning itself to be the nation's gateway to the Pacific. The exposition had the bad fortune to open in the year when Europe went to war. The exposition had a financially disappointing year, so the organizers decided to try again in 1940 with new features. Timothy Pflueger, one of the city's leading and most creative architects, was primarily responsible for creating *Art in Action*, in which sixty-eight artists, most from the city, created art in public view. Pflueger was also the chief planner for the new campus of what is now City College of San Francisco, and he intended that some of the art works created during *Art in Action* would be permanently placed on the campus that he was designing.

To draw the maximum attention to *Art in Action*, Pflueger recruited Diego Rivera to create a mural. Rivera was, at the time, arguably the best known muralist in the world. His work, and that of other Mexican muralists in the 1920s and early 1930s had significantly affected the work of American artists, especially those who participated in the federal art projects created in the 1930s to provide commissions for artists during the Great Depression.

Rivera and a diverse team of assistants created a giant mural, 22 x 74 feet, in which he presented a sweeping synthesis of the art, religion, history, politics, and technology of the Americas; he also commented on current events.

The left side of the mural depicts the indigenous people of MesoAmerica, emphasizing their spiritual practices, and a contemporary Mexican sculptor carving Quetzalcoatl, the plumed serpent god,

representing the continuity of Mexican spirituality. The right side depicts the development of technology in the United States. Rivera described the central section this way: "In the center—there is a large figure on one side it has the neck of Quetzalcoatl and elements from the Mexican Goddess of Earth and the God of Water. On the other side the figure is made of the machine which makes fenders and parts for airplanes. On one side of this figure there is the northern culture, on the other the southern art, the art of the emotions. From the South comes the plumed serpent, from the North the conveyor belt."

In the lower left, Rivera depicted those he called "the great liberators: Washington, Jefferson, Hidalgo, Morelos, Bolivar, Lincoln, and John Brown." Opposite them he presented Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini as three villains. To the left of the dictators, a fist arises from an American flag to restrain a hand with a swastika holding a knife. Below them are the victims of the wars then raging.

Pan-American Unity was Rivera's last project outside of Mexico. It has been called the most important work of art ever created in San Francisco, and one of the most important works of public art in the US. Pflueger intended that it would be placed in the library he was planning for City College. Then the war intervened, and all non-essential construction came to a halt. Pflueger died soon after. The library was never built. Rivera's mural was broken down, put into crates, and placed in storage until 1961, when it was reassembled and placed in the lobby of the theater building at City College. It has recently been restored and is on loan to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art until a suitable location at City College is constructed.

Image above from City College Library Website

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Marcus Hall Achieves LEED Gold Certification

A year ago, members of the Retirement Association toured new construction on campus, including Marcus Hall, which houses the Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts Department. The first new academic building on campus in 25 years, it is named after alumni George Marcus and Judy Marcus, who donated the largest gift ever to the University.

Marcus Hall has earned LEED Gold certification. LEED – *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, is the most widely used green building rating system, emphasizing design and construction that improve environmental and human health.

Marcus Hall achieved LEED Gold Certification for strategies and solutions that addressed sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. The building was constructed with recycled, renewable, and durable materials and was planned to maximize energy performance, balance heat gain and loss, induce natural ventilation, and modulate solar exposure. The landscape design minimizes maintenance and water use by including native, drought-tolerant and well-adapted plantings.



Remembrances



The Remembrances column of the Gater Retiree Gazette has benefited greatly in recent years from the research and write-ups by Bob Cherny. Bob is now retiring from this role as he has graciously volunteered to lead the Retirement Association as our President. If any of our readers would like to take over the writing of Remembrances and see your authorship in print, please contact Bob at robt.cherny@gmail.com; he'll be glad to share the resources he's used to document the accomplishments of those SF State employees who recently passed away.



Sarane T. Bowen, Professor emeritus of Biology. Appointed 1956, emerita since 1989. Died July 12.

Arthur Chandler, Professor emeritus of Humanities. Appointed 1968. Emeritus since 2010. Died October 2.

Olive James, University Librarian emerita. Appointed 1987, emerita since 1992. Died August 20.

Martha Klinonomos, Professor emerita of Modern Greek Studies, Comparative Literature, Literature in English and Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies. Appointed in 1996, emerita since Spring 2023. Died September 9 in New York at 64.

Norman Wallen, Professor emeritus of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education. Appointed 1966, emeritus since 1992. Passed away August 17 in Flagstaff, Arizona at 93.

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 Kay McGough, 3742 Brunswick Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080, or email her at krmcgoo@comcast.net. You can also FAX her at 650.878.4728. 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.

Diego Rivera continued from Page 4

You can view it without charge. Just enter the Roberts Family Gallery from Howard Street. If you enter the main SFMOMA entrance on Third Street, don't go to the counters to pay, but instead go to the right and down the steps to the Roberts Family Gallery.

For more information, go to <https://www.sfmoma.org/exhibition/pan-american-unity/>

If ten or so of you would like to visit the mural some morning, it may be possible to arrange a tour by Will Maynez, who probably knows more about the mural than any other living person. Will is emeritus from City College. To indicate your interest in such a group, contact Bob Cherny at robt.cherny@gmail.com and indicate a range of dates when you could take part.

Diego Rivera

Continued

Dues Now Due for 2023

For the last two years, because of the COVID pandemic and the Association's relative inactivity, we did not attempt to collect annual membership fees. Now that COVID restrictions are ending and we have resumed our activities, we are asking our members who are not lifetime members to resume paying the \$30 annual dues or \$200 lifetime dues to support the GRG newsletter and our other activities.

If you have any questions about your dues status, you may contact Membership Director Irene Donner at 650.348.4856 or by email at: iredonner@gmail.com.

In addition, 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 Irene Donner, *address below*, or, preferably, send an email to iredonner@gmail.com, so we can keep our membership records current.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

City: State: Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Is it OK to share your contact information with other RA members? Yes No

Would you prefer to receive the Gator Retiree Gazette by email? Yes No

Would you be willing to help organize Retirement Association functions and/or serve on the Board of Directors? Yes No

Amount enclosed: \$30 for Annual dues for 2023

\$200 Life Membership

Please make check payable to SFSU Retirement Association and mail to: Irene Donner, 814 N. Delaware St. #403, San Mateo, CA 94401-1529

If you wish to donate to our travel grant program to help fund travel/professional development grants to faculty and staff, please write a separate check, payable to SFSURA Travel Grant Endowment, and mail it to Jim Van Ness, 922 Evergreen Way, Millbrae, CA 94030. Donations are tax-deductible charitable contributions since the SFSU Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under IRC section 501 (c)(3).

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.



Michelangelo to Asawa

Drawing the Line: Michelangelo to Asawa Current Exhibition at the Palace of the Legion of Honor

Featuring rarely seen works by artists over five centuries, this exhibition of drawings explores the expressive possibilities of the outline. Drawn from the museum's collection of works on paper, the exhibition ranges from simple line drawings by Michelangelo and Andy Warhol to fluid figure studies by Pablo Picasso and San Francisco's own Ruth Asawa.

One of the museum's most treasured works, Paul Gauguin's large-scale portrait: *L'Arlésienne Madame Ginoux, 1888* is on display for the first time in more than ten years.

The exhibition is now open and will close after February 25, 2024.



Gauguin, *L'Arlésienne Madame Ginoux*,
from WikiMedia Commons



Ruth Asawa Website: Self Portrait



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