History Corner

By: Meredith Eliassen

May 2018

San Francisco State’s first dormitory to go co-ed in 1968 was Merced Hall. One female resident said, “This is so nifty, being surrounded by a couple of hundred men! Wowie!”

Merced Hall was later named Mary Park Hall, becoming the first and, to date, only California State University building to be dedicated to honor a staff person. Many students referred to Mary Park, 1914–2002, as Mother Mary. Park was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She started working at San Francisco State in the Dining Center on the old Buchanan Street Campus in 1951 before transitioning to the Lake Merced campus in 1952 to serve food from a temporary shack. When the Commons opened, she helped maintain the Redwood Room where students dined and relaxed. When Mary Ward Hall opened in 1960, she became supervising custodian. When Verducci Hall opened in 1969, she became the head of custodial services for all three dormitories, serving and living along side about 1,500 students a year. She supervised students and staff that cleaned the dorms, often acting as a surrogate parent to residents. During the summers, the dormitories were like international hotels with Fulbright Scholars and students from around the world visiting for conferences.

Park stayed thirty years and was selected as the “Outstanding Staff Person” at San Francisco State in 1978. On October 26, 1981, Merced Hall was dedicated and named Mary Park Hall.
President’s Corner

Your all-volunteer Board has been working hard over the past several months—despite travel and medical dramas causing trouble—and I want to thank all of them for being constructive, active participants. We are always looking for more members who want to become involved in keeping our communication bonds open to each other and the university. Contact any of us if you would like to volunteer a little or a lot. And suggest membership to your other colleagues.

We have been discussing our responsibilities to the association, developing a written manual so newcomers to the Board have a guide to go by, and re-crafting the mission statement to more closely reflect what the association actually does. We realized, for example, that it does not include any reference to our successful travel grant program. We expect to finalize a draft in the near future and you will be voting on it at the November meeting. The text of the draft will appear in the September issue rather than in this one.

Thanks to your financial donations, the funds that support the travel grants have just crested an impressive $50,000! Full financial reports are provided at the November meeting but just contact me if you have questions. The Travel Grant Committee is completing their deliberations and there is a report elsewhere in this issue.

Also in this issue is a story about the excellent change coming to the CSU-Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association—it is now the Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association. Staff have always been welcome to join via our local association, but now staff at other campuses also have that opportunity. As I have noted frequently, this group is the primary voice to the CSU and the legislature regarding our benefits. If you are not already a member, considering joining them as well. We had heard that the President’s Executive group would be discussing an Emeritus Staff proposal this spring, but no news has been shared about it.

LaVonne Jacobsen, President

Casanova: The Life of a Libertine

By now you’ve realized that you missed this outstanding presentation by Professor James Kohn at the Friends of the Library event on May 9th.

We didn’t want you to miss the “modern day Casanova” as shown in costume worn by Professor Kohn. It was quite a picture and we’re sorry you missed it.


Faculty Travel Grant Winners Announced

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Retirement Association's 2018 Faculty Travel Awards. This year the Board of Directors approved awarding six grants. Recipients are:

Jennifer Arin, Lecturer, College of Liberal & Creative Arts. Supports travel to conduct research in the Abraham Lincoln Brigades Archive at New York University to complete her book project on the *Spanish Civil War and the World of Flamenco and Gypsy Culture*. Most of the book’s chapters have already been published.

Jason Gurdak, Associate Professor, Earth & Climate Sciences. He is the keynote speaker at the Resources for Future Generations in Vancouver, British Columbia. His topic is water constraints. In addition, he will be chairing a session and has a graduate student presenting.

David Matsumoto, Professor, Psychology. He is participating in a symposium and forum on the teaching of Cross-Cultural Psychology at the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology Biennial Conference at Guelph University in Ontario.

Philip Prinz, Professor, Special Education. He will be presenting a paper at a conference at the University of Padua on his research with bilingual deaf children age 8–14 developing competencies in natural signed language and a majority written language.

Dorothy Tsuruta, Professor, Africana Studies. She is presenting a paper on Black American Womanists at the International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Granada, Spain.

Jenna Wong, Assistant Professor, School of Engineering. She is attending the American Society of Civil Engineer’s ExCEED Workshop six day workshop on new ways of teaching courses and improving teaching in engineering. The conference is in West Point, New York.

SFSU researchers are seeking participants for a paid ($50) study that examines Gait and Mobility

What is the Purpose of the Study?
The ability to walk independently is a marker of successful aging. The overarching goal of this study is to examine walking patterns of people of different ages.

What Would I Be Asked to Do?
You would first complete a set of questionnaires online (or we can mail a hard copy). This would take about one hour to complete. You would then complete a study session on the main San Francisco State University campus (free parking would be provided). It would consist of a session lasting no more than two hours. During the study session you would complete tasks assessing your gait, fill out questionnaires about yourself, and complete short cognitive games. Participation is completely voluntary.

Will I Be Paid?
Yes. Participants will receive $50 in cash for completing the study.

Who Is Eligible?
To qualify for this study you must be in your 70's without major health problems. You must be able to walk unassisted and without pain while walking.

How Do I Sign Up for the Study?
To learn more, please contact us at 628.400.2677 or email carlketcham@gmail.com
Where We’ve Been & Plan to Go

Malta — Why Not?

By: Greg Antipa & Wendy Thieler

We thought about Hawaii, but our arrangements were held up due to the plane fares; our contact said call back after Labor Day. Our son then suggested Malta as a great place to retire too, so off we go. As luck would have it, we found a great self-catered apartment for eight days in Valletta and a recommended B&B in Gozo for two days. On the way there we spent a few days with friends in Brussels and a week in London on the return. Flights from Brussels to Malta and to London by Easy Jet.

Malta has been occupied for over seven thousand years by almost everybody. That’s a history in itself. Maltese is the language, definitely interesting, a combination of Italian, Sicilian, and Arabic with no doubt some Phoenician and Persian sprinkled in. Fortunately for us, as a British protectorate until 1984, they speak great English. Valletta is the Capital city, and like San Francisco has great hills as well as flat areas for walks. Engaging people, interesting architecture, a relaxed atmosphere, and reasonable prices. As a world heritage site there is great transportation including bus service, spectacular beaches, and sights everywhere. It’s crowded and full of traffic. On the way out, we asked the taxi driver about the traffic. Mind you, this is 10:30 on a weekday morning in October. He said: “400,000 people and 350,000 cars.” We survived because we decided not to drive, but to use the Hop-on Hop-off buses, and that did the trick. Basically, two day trips on the island of Malta, one for the south half of the island and one for the north half. They both left nearly at our apartment. On the island of Gozo, one bus does the whole island. The rewards, all great places to hop off.

For us, the unexpected surprises, and there were many since we don’t really do extensive pre-trip research, were the five archeological sites on the two islands. Yes, that’s right, five temples over 5000 years old, older than the Pyramids and Stonehenge. Also, the Knights of St. John were in charge for a couple of hundred years and they left quite a history that led up to the armaments of the island that seem to have played a big role in WWII.

What a treat. A laid back, wonderful, easygoing trip. We recommend Malta.

http://www.visitmalta.com/en/home

Valletta, the Capital of Malta

Greg Antipa in Malta
What We’ve Been Up To

Jim and Arline Van Ness just returned from a fantastic two-week trip to China with National Geographic Expeditions. Highlights included seeing the Forbidden City (Emperor’s Palace) and Tiananmen Square in Beijing, the Terra Cotta Warriors near Xi’an, Reed Flute Cave in Guilin, Dazu Grottoes religious rock carvings near Chongqing, the Three Gorges Dam near Yichang, and the Yu Garden in Shanghai; climbing a section of the Great Wall; cruising the Li River, and the Yangtze River through the Three Gorges; and riding in a rickshaw (bike taxi) a sampan (small, flat, rowed boat) and a 187 mph “bullet” train. We also spent most of a day at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in Dujiangyan, observing and feeding giant pandas and making panda cakes.
Report on the ERFSA Council Meeting, April 7, 2018

By: Bob Cherny

Henry Reichman, CSU East Bay emeritus, is First Vice-President of AAUP and Chair of Committee A, Academic Freedom and Tenure. He discussed four principles that AAUP developed after the last presidential election. Hank also discussed current threats to faculty in the sciences and cited AAUP’s recent report, National Security, the Assault on Science, and Academic Freedom. Find them at: https://www.aaup.org/article/facing-reality-trump-regime-WsltMWaZPOQ and https://www.aaup.org/report/national-security-assault-science-and-academic-freedom

In closing, Hank quoted Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity Washington College, Nancy Pelosi’s alma mater, at: https://www.aaup.org/NR/rdonlyres/5E4DA45C-8C0A-40FB-AEF6-8D85C4614795/0/MeiklejohnAward.pdf

The council decided on the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association: CSU ERFSA, for the organization's new name.

ERFSA's expenditures exceeded income the past few years because more members are dying than new ones joining. The executive committee is working on the problem.

Recruiting more members is important for political clout with the legislature, Board of Trustees, and CalPERS. ERFSA represents us to all those bodies, and ERFSA's ability to be persuasive depends partly on its numbers. If you belong only to our campus organization, please consider joining ERFSA. Dues are modest. To join, go to: http://csuerfa.org/membership.html

Health and Benefits:

- This year will again bring the need to verify dependents to CalPERS; be prepared.
- If you get medication through OptumRX and have a complaint, be certain to file with CalPERS as well as OptumRX.
- The new shingles vaccine is more effective than the one in use before last year.

Information on the next round of ERFSA Grant Awards is at http://csuerfa.org/pdf/2018 Grants Program Flyer.pdf


In case you missed it, the most recent issue of The Reporter had an article on the implications for retirees of the new tax law. You can read it and more at: http://csuerfa.org/pdf/Reporter-Mar-2018.pdf

Finally, we seem to be doing very well when compared with other CSU local retirees' associations in terms of numbers, the quality and number of our programs, and this newsletter.

Donations

Contributors to the Retirement Association Travel Grants Endowment Fund to help fund travel/professional development for current faculty and staff.

Ann Shadwick
Gail Whitaker
Miriam Perlson-Cohn
Lin Bushart Ivory
We always make an effort to acknowledge the lives of those who retired from the University but have passed since the previous issue of the newsletter. Thanks to Bob Cherny, there is also a brief obituary when information was available. Sadly, in this issue we have an unusual number of those remembrances. May they rest in peace.

**Evelyn Lenore Gardner Ballard de Ghetaldi**, Medical Director Emerita, passed away at age 98 on December 28, 2017. She received her bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State College in 1941, Phi Beta Kappa as alumna, and her MD from Stanford in 1946, Alpha Omega Alpha, Medical Honorary. She was one of only two women in the graduating class, Stanford's female quota at the time. In 1946, she was hired to run the Student Health Service at San Francisco State where she later taught classes. She became emerita in 1977. Ballard served on the boards of the Friends of the Library, where she led a major revision of the constitution and bylaws, and the California State Retired Public Employees Association. She served two terms on the San Mateo County Grand Jury including one term as Chair. As national president of Camp Fire Girls in 1975, she led efforts to extend membership to boys.

**John P. DeCecco**, Emeritus Professor of Psychology from 1960 to 2003, and founder of SF State’s Sexuality Studies Program and of what is now the Center for Research and Education in Sexuality, died at 92.

**Newman Fisher**, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, died on May 5, at 3:14 (pi!) PM. He received his BA, 1950, and MA, 1951, from UC Berkeley and joined the San Francisco State College Mathematics Department in 1957. He earned his PhD from the University of Idaho in 1962 and was honored by that university in 2013, on the fiftieth anniversary of that PhD program, from which Newman was one of the first three graduates. He was chair of the Mathematics Department for more than twenty years, 1968–1975 and 1982–1997, and also served for several years as Associate Dean of the College of Science and Engineering. During his tenure as chair, the Math Department developed what is now the Computer Science program. He became emeritus in 2002. Throughout his career at SF State, he served on a number of university committees, and he continued to serve after retiring, including as president of the SF State Retirement Association in 2003–2008. He was also instrumental in developing funding for the SF State Jewish Studies program.

**Bernard “Bernie” Goldstein**, Professor Emeritus of Biology, passed away on April 27. He enrolled as a freshman at SF State in 1953, but Army service in Korea interrupted his studies. He returned to earn his BA in 1962 and MA in 1964 in Biology at SF State, and then his PhD in 1968 in Zoology from UC Davis. In 1968, he joined the Biology faculty, where he specialized in Reproductive Physiology, Human Sexuality, and Evolutionary Biology. He gained wide recognition for his teaching skills and humor, especially for his groundbreaking class in Human Sexuality, which remains the cornerstone of the Human Sexuality Studies Program, which he helped to create. His *Human Sexuality*, McGraw Hill, 1976, went through five editions. Bernie held many positions in academic governance, including chair of the Academic Senates at SF State and the CSU. He was the longest serving CSU Faculty Trustee ever. Bernie then became Provost at Sonoma State University, where he served for five years, retiring in 2003, nine years after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s. His many honors included Outstanding Educator of America, 1972, 1975, SF State Alumnus of the Year, 1986, the CSU Students Association’s Trustee of the Year, 1996, SF State President’s Medal, 2003, Doctor of Humane Letters, (honorary), by the CSU Board of Trustees at the request of the Sonoma faculty in 2003, and Champion of Sexual Literacy in 2006 from SF State’s National Sexuality Resource Center.

**Mohammed Kowsar**, Professor Emeritus of Theatre Arts, died January 14 from a fall while in Tehran. He was born in 1944 in Quetta, Pakistan, to Iranian parents. His father
was a diplomat, and Mohammad grew up in Karachi, Stockholm, Rome, Geneva, and San Francisco. He received his BA in International Relations from San Francisco State College in 1966, MFA in Directing from the University of Hawaii in 1969, and PhD from Cornell University, 1973. Kowsar taught at the University of Tehran but left due to his outspoken criticism of the forces taking over Iran at the time of the revolution. He joined the SF State Theater faculty in 1988. He was known for his impassioned style of lecturing and directing plays and his encyclopedic knowledge of theater history. In addition to a long list of articles in scholarly journals, Kowsar was the author of *The Critical Panopticon: Essays in the Theatre and Contemporary Aesthetics*, Peter Lang, 1991 and *Analytics of Schizophrenia: A Deleuze-Guattarian Consideration of Büchner's Danton's Death and Weiss's Marat/Sade*, Toronto, 1984.

**Robert S. Michalske**, Librarian Emeritus, passed away on August 22, 2017. His BS was from the University of San Francisco, 1958 and his MSLS from the University of Southern California, 1963. He joined the library faculty in 1975 and served as Head of Cataloging Services. He became emeritus in 2001.

**Harvey Peskin**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, passed away on April 21. He received his BS, 1952, in Psychology from City College of New York and his PhD, 1959, in Clinical Psychology from UC Berkeley. He joined the SF State psychology faculty in 1958 and became emeritus in 1994. In addition to teaching at SF State, he maintained a private practice in Berkeley and taught courses on trauma and dehumanization for several years at the Wright Institute. He also served as clinical professor of psychology at UC San Francisco, president and faculty member of the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California, visiting scholar at the Institute of Human Development, UC Berkeley, and on the boards of Survivors International and the Holocaust Oral History Project. He was author or co-author of a very long list of articles in professional journals and chapters in anthologies. The International Psychoanalytical Association awarded him its 2013 Hayman Prize for *Published Work Pertaining to Traumatized Children and Adults* and the 2015 Elise M. Hayman Award for the *Study of the Holocaust and Genocide*. Shortly before his death, he submitted his last paper, *Who Has the Right to Mourn? Relational Deference and the Ranking of Grief*, to *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*.

**David Wentura**, Professor Emeritus of Design and Industry, passed away on February 20. His PhD was from the California Institute of Asia Studies, 1974, and his EdD from the University of San Francisco, 1984. He joined the faculty in 1964 and became emeritus in 1992. When Wentura joined DAI, the department was transitioning from an Industrial Arts Teacher Education Program to a curriculum focused on Interdisciplinary-Based Technology and Design. He taught interdisciplinary core courses along with the single subject teacher education program. His co-edited reader, *The Individual and the University*, was used in the introductory core course *Colloquium* for twenty years. He served on the All University Interdisciplinary Council, Asilomar Planning Committee, New School Committee, and Teacher Education Committee.

**Thurston Womack**, Professor Emeritus of English, died on October 27, 2017. He was 97. Womack saw combat in the South Pacific during WWII, then earned his BA from Humboldt State College, MA from Stanford University, and PhD from Columbia University, 1957, in Linguistics. Womack joined the English faculty in 1954. He helped to establish the American Language Institute, *ALI* and the MA program in Teaching English as a Second or Other Language, *TEFL*. He served as English Department Chair, 1981–1985, and as head of *ALI* until he retired in 1990. His *A Linguistic Approach to English* was published in 1959, and a Japanese edition, with Shin-Ichi Miura, was published in 1967. He held Fulbright Fellowships in Japan and India. The *obituary for Womack* in the last newsletter was accidentally truncated.
**SFSU Photographic Timeline Project**

The SFSU Photographic Timeline Collection is a collaborative effort between the University Archives, the Associated Students, and DIVA: Digital Information Virtual Archive, to surface images of student life and activities at San Francisco State. Andrew Roderick (Academic Technology) had an idea to identify resources related to Free Speech at San Francisco State, which coincided with a request from Jackie Foley, ASI Board President, to compile a photographic timeline for San Francisco State history. We hope to identify images of student life and activities to explore conversations and behavior unique to San Francisco State within broader societal contexts. The goal of this project is to create a student-centered timeline of activities. For more information check out our website: https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/timelineproject

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**Humor**

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, ‘When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah!’ The teacher asked, ‘What if Jonah went to hell?’ The little girl replied, ‘Then you ask him.’

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child’s work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, ‘I’m drawing God.’ The teacher paused and said, ‘But no one knows what God looks like.’ Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, ‘They will in a minute.’

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, ‘Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?’ Her mother replied, ‘Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.’ The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, ‘Mummy, how come ALL of grandma’s hairs are white?’

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. ‘Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, ‘There’s Jennifer, she’s a lawyer,’ or ‘That’s Michael, He’s a doctor.’ A small voice at the back of the room rang out, ‘And there’s the teacher, she’s dead.’

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, ‘Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.’ ‘Yes,’ the class said. ‘Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn’t run into my feet?’ A little fellow shouted, ‘Cause your feet ain’t empty.’

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: ‘Take only ONE God is watching.’ Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, ‘Take all you want, God is watching the apples....’
WESTERN Europe MOSAIC
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A MEDLEY OF DELIGHTS. Historic cities on the shores of Western Europe are just the beginning of this voyage’s delights, which also include calls on three of the idyllic Canary Islands. The ship’s itinerary begins in Barcelona, ends in Lisbon, and includes several historic and scenic ports in Spain, Gibraltar, the Canary Islands, and Tangier. Oceania Cruises are considered by many to be the best value in up-scale cruising, elegance without pretence. The cuisine is simply unrivaled at sea.

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This is the 23rd SFSU Women’s Association (UWA) scholarship cruise. Previous cruises have generated more than $56,000 for SFSU students since 1992. For every 16 people who sign up, Oceania will contribute the equivalent dollar amount of one cruise fare to the Gloria Spencer UWA Scholarship Endowment Fund. You need not be a UWA member to participate, and everyone is welcome.

SPECIAL OFFERS AND PROMOTIONAL AMENITIES

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For more information call Arline VanNess at 650-873-4035 or check out our website http://uwa.sfsu.edu. We hope you will choose to join us for this wonderful cruise.
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 GRG. See pages 4 & 5 of this gazette for examples.

• Name: 

• Department retired from and when: 

• Brief description of your adventures: 

• A photo as a jpeg.

Photo