

THE SILVER BULLETIN

Newsletter of CSU, Sacramento Emeritus Association

Spring 1997

From The President

Dear Colleagues:

This seems an appropriate time to share thoughts regarding the two years I have served as your President.

To obtain the best meeting and dining rooms in the Student Union, the Spring meeting of our Association has been scheduled for the week of Easter vacation; deliberations by the Board of Directors continue to take place on the same date. I assume this respite no longer has the value it did when we were regular faculty. To provide more opportunities for us to exchange ideas with active campus leaders, I anticipate the president of our organization will be given a seat (non voting) on the Academic Senate; by the time you read this the regular faculty will be voting to ratify the necessary constitutional changes recommended by the Senate's Executive Committee. At least once a year, President Gerth has been meeting with those of us interested in the current state of the University. For our annual luncheon, top administrators have been willing to discuss with us major campus issues (Jolene Koester, Vice President for Academic Affairs, will attend on March 27).

On the subject of constitutional changes, at our last business meeting you ratified revisions harmonizing our policy with our practice. A significant number of you voiced approval of verbally memorializing at our luncheon those of our colleagues who are no longer with us. Since our last gathering, we have lost the following members. Please inform me of the one or ones you wish to honor by a brief commentary. (Incidentally, you may be amused by the euphemism employed by the Faculty and Senate Affairs office to designate deceased faculty--"deleted from the campus phone directory.") Those who have passed on include: Jean Faurot (Philosophy), Joaquin Fernandez (Music), Joe Fury (Economics), Edith Gardner (Physical Education), Baxter Geeting (Speech Pathology/Communication Studies), Lynn Giese (Communication Studies), Christine Glenn (Academic Achievement), Palmer Graver (Education), Darrell Inabnit (Administrative Vice President), Dorothy Kurtz (Social Work), Charles Ladley (Criminal Justice), Rudolf Reichle (Biological Sciences), and Joseph Rue (Business Administration).

Among the issues we continue to face, the most important is the prospect of a declining membership unless we attract more newly retired faculty, who may not feel the same attachment to CSUS which we do. On the other hand, there are a number of participants in the quarterly faculty luncheon who are not members of our group; perhaps we should consider some form of linkage. Finally, despite noble efforts by Wilma Krebs, our representative to the state emeritus association (ERFA), there are some of us who would like a clearer distinction of the respective roles of the state and local chapters, major accomplishments, and battles being waged.

Your manifestation of interest in participating in the development of our organization by attending the open meeting of the Board of Directors is encouraging. I hope more of you will enhance our deliberations at 10:00 a.m., March 27, Council Chambers, Student Union.

In closing, I wish to express my admiration and appreciation of my fellow Directors, who are incredibly talented, thoughtful, responsive, and responsible. It's been pure pleasure!
Yours for another golden age at CSUS, Bob

Help!! Help!! Help!!

The Silver Bulletin can only be relevant to your interests if we get news about what's going on with you. Our retired faculty represent a growing group of people with a vast diversity of interests and experiences. Many of you, if not all, are doing exciting and interesting things. Please let the editor know about these things so that your friends and "former" colleagues can keep in touch.

Address your comments, letters, and news items to:

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Spring Luncheon March 27

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Defined Benefit vs. Defined Contribution Pension Plans---Could a change affect us?

PERS is a defined benefit (DB) retirement plan. The amount of the pension is based on salary and years of service, and set by contractual formula. PERS invests the money and the state makes employer contributions as required. Some, like Assemblyman Howard Kaloogian, recommend changing to a defined contribution (DC) system, with the state making a set contribution to a retirement account for each worker, who would then decide how to invest it. The individual takes the investment risk. No particular level of retirement benefit is guaranteed. Upon vesting, after a certain number of years, the account balance can be disbursed as a lump sum or an annuity. Kaloogian argues increased portability if the worker leaves state service. The state employer gets rid of the risk, and likely makes smaller contributions.

Arguments against include the following: Most DC plans do not include disability, coverage for survivors, or cost-of-living adjustments. Many retirees would take a lump-sum distribution and not provide adequately for retirement. Many lack the sophistication to invest wisely. Many are reluctant to take much risk, and may wind up with poor investment returns. DC retirees may lose out on all or part of their health benefits. Those who change jobs *within* the public sector already have pension portability. With five-year vesting, only those who leave before the end of year five lose the employer contribution. PERS already has supplemental DC plans such as deferred compensation and tax-sheltered annuities to augment defined benefits. But the feature of Kaloogian-type plans that worries retirees is that they would allow people to transfer from the DB plan to the DC plan at any time, taking the full present value of their contributions and the employer contributions. Short-term employees, including political appointees and highly-paid managers and professionals, would likely choose to do this, weakening the PERS system by draining funds which are needed for career employees and retirees. There could be a major loss of funding for PERS.

Close to home, CSU employees, under a Kaloogian bill which passed in 1996 (AB 3453, now Chap. 385), can now choose an optional defined contribution plan, although this is subject to collective bargaining. Kaloogian's broader bill, AB 3252, which would have applied to all state and public agency employees, was opposed by virtually all state employee and retiree groups and failed to pass.

PS: You may have noticed that some proposals to "reform" the Social Security system embody the notion of a defined contribution plan, with individual accounts, and the final benefit dependent on the wisdom or luck of each worker's investment choices. -Wilma Krebs

Sports News

The article in the Fall Silver Bulletin about Ernie Isaac's (History) exploit-4,400 miles across the continent on his bicycle-prompts Bob Eisner to report on his racewalking achievements of the recent past. Racewalking (called simply "gehen," or "to go," in German) is a popular sport in Europe, recently catching on in the U.S. Bob (Foreign Languages) participated in August in the National Masters' Track and Field Championships, and after several third and fourth places in previous years, this time "walked away" with a bronze medal (third) in the five kilometer event and a big gold medal in the 20K! Bob is also reigning state champion in both the 1,500 meters and the 5K in the state meet held in Sacramento in June. He says that retirement is great, as it gives him the opportunity to get no older, but faster.



In other sports news, Bob Donaldson, our president, arranged with Judith Davidson, our new Director of Athletics, for a special day for Emeritus Faculty to attend and enjoy the women's basketball game between CSUS and Long Beach State. A loyal and noisy group turned out for this inaugural event at the newly refurbished Memorial Auditorium (the new home of CSUS basketball for both men's and women's teams), and helped carry the Hornets to a well-deserved victory. For great entertainment next year, get the schedule for Hornet basketball and come out for the games in what is surely one of the nation's classiest college basketball venues.

Besides the important place that the Auditorium occupies in Sacramento history, it offers wonderfully comfortable seats with armrests!

The Bird Man of CSUS

Miklos Udvardy (Biological Sciences) responded to your editor's call in the Fall issue for information about continued faculty research and scholarly activities. To note that he is keeping busy is a masterpiece of understatement. Among many other items, he is a reviewer for Finnish, Hungarian, and Croatian ornithological literature for the Ornithological Reviews and other scientific periodicals, is preparing a paper on the migrations of the Pintail Duck with a former student, and is revising "Biogeographical Provinces of the World," his 1975 map, as requested by the World Conservation Union. Among his publications are "Three Months on a Coral Island (Laysan)"; an annotated bibliography of Laysan Island; "The World Network of Biosphere Reserves. A world map in color"; and an article on Seabirds, Islands, and Threats-Studies and Plans in (continues on next page)



Pacific Seabirds 23(1): 20-21. The Silver *Bulletin* extends the congratulations of all of us to Professor Udvardy, who has remained as productive in retirement as he was while an active member of the faculty.

Ed. Note: We know that many others among you carry on with your scientific and scholarly activities. Please let us hear from you!

Guy West Bridge To Be Altered

Impending construction of a new campus perimeter road will cause alteration of the campus landmark Guy West bridge, and will most likely result in the disruption of the daily transportation patterns for hundreds of bicyclists and pedestrians who use the bridge as a major thoroughfare.

Included in the governor's budget is an item of \$7.5 million for a road along the levy on the east side of the campus. CSUS submitted plans for the road under the terms of Proposition 203, "The Public Education Facilities Act of 1996," passed by the voters, with the help of many of you who worked on the phone banks, last March with the promise that it would be used to support projects relevant to the state's many educational needs. New classroom buildings and other needed projects directly relevant to the educational mission will be constructed on other campuses in our system. The amount allocated to CSUS for the road represents only about 2% of total funds to be appropriated for all campuses in the system under the bonds provided by the act.

Claiming that there have been an unacceptable number of accidents involving bicycles and pedestrians (approximately three per year nonfatal accidents over the past decade), the CSUS administration opted for the road in lieu of other campus needs. The CSUS Foundation in January 1996, allocated \$25,000 to the political effort to obtain passage of Proposition 203. No other proposals were submitted to the trustees by our campus.

From sketchy plans currently available, it would appear that the project would require major remodeling of the Guy West Bridge, including raising the bicycle/pedestrian entry by about 17 feet to accommodate expected increased truck traffic through the campus. Last word received indicated that existing handicapped parking would be reduced by seven spots and regular student/faculty parking by 35 spots for construction of the new bridge off-ramp.

Hearings on all aspects of the CSU budget will be held in Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 and Senate Subcommittee No. 1 in late March and early April.

Travel Notes

Do you recall reading about the Mongolian yurts in the fifth grade? Recent visitors to the Pacific Northwest this year have been surprised to discover that the yurts have invaded North America. Constructed of solid wood, with electricity and glass windows, American yurts are springing up in State parks north and west of Portland, Oregon. They are clean and efficient and so popular they must be reserved months ahead of need through the Oregon State System of Parks in Portland. Don't worry, rental prices are reasonable and the smelly goat skin models remain in Asia.

Thursday and Saturday issues of the Sacramento Bee and the San Francisco Chronicle have lively articles, ads, and current information regarding travel opportunities, bed and breakfast sites, and hotel and camping suggestions together with ocean cruise and train and bus trips in abundance. Local travel agencies are busy these days. If you show any interest at all, you will be deluged with attractive brochures for every continent. The advice is good: Get out of this valley while you are still able to do so. There will be plenty of time later to reminisce in your rocking chair. Go now!

Brief reports of your spring and summer travels are always welcome in this publication. Pass the word! A free and helpful booklet, "97 Travel Tips for Mature Travelers," is available at DeLuxe World Travel, P.O. Box 3004, Lowell, MA 01853-9832.
- Orville Nordberg

Nominees For Next Year

At your Emeritus Association's luncheon and business meeting to be held midday Thursday, March 27, officers will be elected for the 1997-98 academic year. Kindly agreeing to stand for election are Jerry McDaniel as president, and Peggy Cavaghan as secretary for next year. Bob Donaldson will stay on the Executive Board, but as past president. All three have served us well as officers for two or more years.

Your nominating Committee will also present Duane Anderson for vice-president and Floyd Mullinix for treasurer. Although such was not discussed explicitly, the choice of Duane and Floyd suggests a move toward including as officers high quality people who devoted major time serving the university in functions other than classroom teaching; Duane as Admissions Officer and Floyd as Associate Vice-President. (Each of these two persons identifies himself primarily with the faculty and student bodies as a whole, past and present.)

Also at the March 27th luncheon meeting, additional nominations for offices (other than past president) will be solicited from the floor. As always, the membership will openly express its appreciation for the fine work previously done by its offi-

cers-especially for Jim Jolly, who is stepping aside as treasurer in order to facilitate rotation within the office. The Nominating Committee, composed of David Lucas, Orville Nordberg and Jim Saum, is proud of all the above persons!
- David Lucas

Obituaries -- Joe Furey

After a courageous five-year battle against cancer, our former colleague Joe Furey died on January 22. Following teaching assignments at the University of Maryland (where he earned the Ph.D.) and Indiana, Joe came to CSUS in 1967 when he joined the ranks of the Department of Economics. He retired in 1993. Many of us remember Joe as a leading campus activist. He was instrumental in the formative years of United Professors of California, maintained a principled and consistent position in defending faculty and student rights against administrators, and could regularly be seen on campus passing out leaflets protesting the military, government actions domestically and abroad, and various organizations and individuals (the Nazis, David Duke, et al) who promoted antidemocratic, anti-worker ideology and activities. He was indefatigable in his dedicated struggle against racism and other social injustices, and became a leading civil rights activist in both his home state of Maryland and in northern California.

Joe carried his political commitment into the classroom. His students were challenged to think critically about ideas which they had been trained to hold, learned to support their conjectures through logic, historical information, and data rather than rely on perceived authority. He exposed them to neglected thinkers of the past, always with an eye toward developing a better and more critical understanding of the dominant intellectuals of the present. And his approach to the study of economics and related fields of inquiry was never to produce mere clever ideas that had no bearing on the reality surrounding those ideas, but to assist in a better understanding of society and to prod students into applying those ideas to try to improve the lot of the majority of the world's population-to fight social injustice.

With Joe's death, we have lost a colleague who represented a view of the educational process and its objectives that is increasingly relegated to a minority position. A generation of students benefited from his teaching, his counsel, his guidance, his example. He will be missed.

For those wishing to commemorate Joe's life, the Department of Economics has established a Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Joe and all our deceased colleagues. Checks may be made out to "Department of Economics Scholarship Fund," and sent to Chair, Department of Economics, California State University, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819.

- John Henry

Jean Faurot

The last two or three years before I retired in July 1988 and the first three or four years after I retired, while I was walking across campus, or by the J Street entrance, I would frequently encounter the same man, Professor of Philosophy Emeritus Jean Faurot.

He was slim and short (I suspect less than five feet in height), graying, his shriveled left hand held slightly apart from his side and slightly to the front, shaking. He always bore a mildly but not overly pleasant expression; never laughing and never scowling. We would say hello, and then each immediately pass on to our separate destinations. His destination was always the University library. He was just then completing his approximately one hour daily walk from his residence somewhere near McKinley Park, or beginning his one-hour walk home.

Jean had begun his adult life long before I began mine, as a preacher at various spots in the American Midwest. This touches me because my own life was from the outset greatly influenced by preachers in the great American Midwest. Like many of us he went back to school, finished an advanced degree (I think it was a doctorate, but who cares?), and became one of the early figures in a department at Sac State. In his case, and appropriately so, our Department of Philosophy.

Personally, I knew Jean best as an early and consistent participant in the Birdwatchers (bag lunch interdepartment informal faculty discussion group on our campus in the 1950s and '60s). While his Philosophy Department colleagues Ian McGreal and John Linnell and philosopher-at-large Norm Rudy would join the rest of us, all making bold pronouncements about scientific integrity, about moral outrage, about intellectual elitism, Jean would patiently listen and occasionally offer a quiet comment or two.

Jean was a philosopher of the old school; a scholar of the old school. He knew about the recent fads in philosophy or whatever discipline, but he knew the classical traditions in philosophy and other disciplines. He would listen patiently to all the ruckus and softly offer occasionally a questioning thought or two. He was dedicated to the classical secular scholarly values which he believed remain with us no matter how much this or that individual may doubt and deny. But he never thrust them on us.

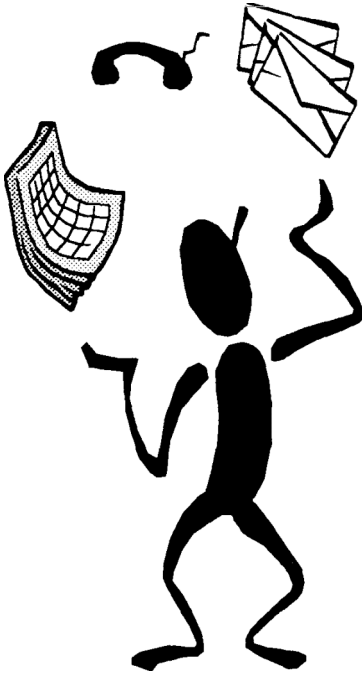
Sometime in the autumn of 1996 I read in the Bee about the death of Jean Faurot while living near a relative somewhere in the Pacific Northwest.

The passing of Jean Faurot was the passing on an institution. - David Lucas

50th Anniversary Plans Build

Just a little more than five months from now, California State University, Sacramento will reach an important milestone: 50 years of service to the Sacramento region and the citizens of California.

With a tribute to the tremendous accomplishments of the past and a look forward to the 21st century, the theme for the anniversary year is *Five Decades of Achievement: Golden Tradition, Golden Promise*.



A calendar packed with special events and activities is taking shape for the celebration, which kicks off September 24 with a campus celebration in the newly renovated Library Quad. May 16, 1998 will mark the grand finale, with a gala celebration at Memorial Auditorium.

In between, dozens of events will focus on Sacramento State's golden past, through reunions, oral histories and photo exhibits; its golden traditions, through lecture series, sports and the performing arts; and its golden promise, through successful completion of

the 50th Anniversary \$50 Million Fundraising Campaign.

Some of the special activities which will take place include:

- a poster created from a new

painting of the campus by emeritus art professor Robert Else;

- a collection of campus photos by prominent local photographers;

- an original composition commissioned for the 50th Anniversary featuring California

themes, by CSUS composer Leo Eylar;

- reprinting of *The History of Sacramento Valley*, a seminal work by the late CSUS historian Joseph McGowan;
- exhibits of works by CSUS artists at the Crocker Art Museum and at area galleries;
- 50 area restaurants to be organized by Sacramento restaurateur Randy Paragary, a CSUS alumnus, for special tribute dinners before the May 16, 1998 party;
- extensive CSUS oral histories to be presented to the University's Archives; and
- establishment of the Stephen and Charlotte Walker Tribute Rose Garden.

Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna Jr., '66, B.A., Social Science, and Sacramento Bee columnist Gloria Glycer, '52, B.A., English, are cochairs of the Anniversary's Town and Gown Committee. Serna is

professor of government at CSUS. A campus Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee is coordinating many of the activities. Les Gabriel, emeritus professor (Engineering), is coordinating special activities for retired faculty, in conjunction with the Emeritus Faculty Association.

Each of the seven CSUS academic schools will be in the spotlight for one month during the 1997-98 academic year. The school months are:

Health and Human Services, September; Arts and Letters, October, Engineering, November, Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies, December; Natural Sciences and Mathematics, February; Business Administration, March; and Education, April.

The Committee is seeking early photographs, yearbooks and other University related memorabilia that can be used during the 1997-98 academic year. Material provided may be returned to owners or donated to the University Archives. For more information about the 50th Anniversary Celebration, contact the Office of University Affairs, (916) 278-6156, or 2786989.



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Spring 1997 Emeritus Luncheon Reservation Form

The annual Spring get-together for Emeritus Faculty will be held on Thursday, March 27 from 11:30 to 1:30 in the Sequoia Room of the University Union. Jolene Koester, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, will be the featured speaker. The cost of the luncheon is \$7.50. Please return the attached form to James Jolly, our treasurer, as indicated. If you are newly retired and wish to join our association, please include an additional \$5.00 for your annual dues."

Name

Baked Lasagna Turkey Club
With Meat Sauce Sandwich

Send reservations with checks made out to: James Jolly, Treasurer-CSUS Emeritus Association, to 510 Elmhurst Circle, Sacramento, CA 95825, by March 20.