



ROBERT BESS

## President's Corner

by Bob Bess

This column is to be my final one as President of the Association. As I announced at our spring meeting last year, I

do not wish to be remembered as Papa Bob, President for Life. My decision to make this my final year as President was based solely on my conviction that the best organizations are those that are in a continuing process of renewal. This means regular infusions of new leadership and routine consideration of means to make the organization more meaningful to its members. According to our governing document, the President continues to serve as an Officer, in the role of immediate past president. I intend to continue to devote substantial time to the Association in this new role.

This is a time to say thank you to all of you have given so generously of your time as well as several members of the University community who have demonstrated in tangible ways that they value our organization and see it as an essential part of the life of the University. Special thanks to Wilma Krebs and David Humphers. Wilma has served us and all system retired faculty and staff as CSU-ERFA Legislative Committee chair. In that role, Wilma has been an ex-officio member of our Board. Wilma has decided to resign from her statewide role. However, should proposed by-law changes be adopted, she has expressed a willingness to continue to serve as an at-large Board member. David Humphers will complete his term as Secretary

at the end of this year and I am delighted that he will be working with me as CSU-ERFA restructures the manner in which it deals with the Sacramento scene, particularly with regard to legislation and PERS. I will be assuming the CSU-ERFA position of Director of Legislative Affairs. In addition to assistance from Wilma, particularly during a period of transition, and David, I will be seeking assistance from others in the region to ensure that we are able to monitor all governmental matters which have implications for current and future retirees. I will share more information about this new activity via e-mail as the details are worked-out.

The past several years have witnessed dramatic changes in the life of our Association, many of these changes came as a direct consequence of the conviction of University leadership that we are important. At the risk of overlooking some who have given their support, I want to single out several persons who have made decisions or recommendations that have strengthened us financially and programmatically: My thanks to President Alex Gonzalez and Vice Presidents Carole Hayashino and Matt Altier. Thanks as well to the Deans, Chairs and others who have so generously supported our growing benefits program. Finally, special thanks to our friend Geri Welch for taking the initiative which has enabled us to improve the quality of the Silver Bulletin.

As I write this column, I am pleased that four months remains in my term as President. During the time remaining, I intend to continue efforts to add to our benefits program and to assist my successor as he

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Thanks to Joe Gibson  
of Coldwell Banker,  
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sponsoring this issue  
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## Spring Business Meeting Scheduled

As is our practice, our April 21 spring Luncheon will include our annual business meeting. The main items of business will be election of officers and revisions to our Constitution and By-laws. The following members have either agreed to stand for re-election or to replace outgoing officers:

President, Alan Wade replacing Bob Bess. Bob will continue to serve ex-officio as immediate past president.

Secretary, Steve Gregorich, replacing David Humphers.

Peter Shattuck, Vice-president and Lester Gabriel, Treasurer have agreed to continue.

Other vacancies including staff representative and alumni representative will be appointed by the Board in the near future. In addition to this slate of officers and ex-officio members, the Board intends to include in its proposed By-law amendments a provision for several additional “at-large” members. If you are interested in serving please get in touch with Association President Bess.

Our Constitution and By-laws were last amended in 1996. Last fall the Board discussed a number of revisions. Most of these revisions are minor changes intended to clarify and to make the document consistent with practice. The most substantive change to be proposed is to grant authority to the Board to appoint as many as five additional members to the Board. The purpose of this change is to create a pool of individuals beyond the officers who are familiar with the workings of the Association, and thus be prepared to assume greater responsibility in the future. By the time you read this, the proposed revisions will be available for review on our web site ([www.csus.edu/org/emeritus](http://www.csus.edu/org/emeritus)). If you do not have access to the site, you may request that a copy be mailed to you. Call Bob Bess at 635-1405. ■

## Peter Shattuck's Travel Corner

When the folks at Chanticleer, the San Francisco men's singing group, asked if we'd like to join them for their February concerts in Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, the first thing I did was to check the weather report. Average high: 30°F. Average low: 15°F. Average days of precipitation: 14. But we went anyway, and we're glad we did. Although we contended with below average temperatures and frequent snow showers, the old cities looked wonderful, the concerts sounded terrific, and the people we met had very quickly caught up with the 21st century.

We began the Baltic tour in Tallinn, Estonia, where the 15th century Old Town largely escaped damage in World War II. It's a good city for walking, less than a mile from end to end—or tower to tower—and only a few hundred feet of elevation. From the highest point there spreads out a display of -snow-covered roofs punctuated by church spires and a few splashes of red tile. After an extensive walking tour, our California bodies welcomed

the warmth of a most informative history museum.

A sold-out house gave Chanticleer a glowing welcome. The program ranged from Renaissance to jazz to gospel; the audience demanded three encores, following the third with wild rumble of foot-stomping along with unison applause. During intermission, I was assigned to sample local opinion; the first man I approached explained that he was in Estonia on business from San Francisco, where he frequently heard Chanticleer. I did manage to acquire numerous positive responses from Estonians.

Eight days, three cities, three concerts—plus a rehearsal of the Estonian Men's Chorus. They were working on a composition, completed two days earlier, scored for men's chorus, cello, and wine glasses. No, not thrown—a wet finger around the rim. An eerie and fascinating sound, and a thoroughly professional rehearsal.

This was a quick tour, and I'm left with a lot of fleeting impressions. First, for all their age, the cities are clearly caught up in the modernities of globalization. (On our first night in Tallinn, the phone rang at 3 am to inform us that our pizza had arrived; we had not ordered pizza.) Everyone talks on cell phones everywhere except in the concert halls. Cars—lots of Volvos—race in two directions on one-lane streets. The daily snow showers softened what must be rough edges. In Riga especially, amazing reconstruction has brought medieval buildings up

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Donald Hinde**, Director, University Union, October 2005

**Robert Livezey**, Biological Sciences, December 2005

**Norbert Mietus**, Business, January 2006

**Sima Spector**, widow of Sol Spector, Social Work, February 2006

**Perry Weddle**, Philosophy, January 2006

For up-to-date information, visit the In Memoriam section of the Emeritus Association website, [www.csus.edu/org/emeritus](http://www.csus.edu/org/emeritus).

## President's Corner

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prepares to assume the role this summer.

Finally, I would like to ask a favor. Please take a few moments to let me know your views on the direction we are going as an organization, the extent to which you have taken advantage of benefits and thoughts you may have to help shape our future. If you are not a member, it would be good to hear from you concerning why you have chosen not to join.

It has been a great journey! ■

## April 21 Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting

Mark this date on your calendar and complete the enclosed reservation form before it slips your mind. The no-host reception at 11:30 preceding lunch, provides a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old (excuse me) friends and gossip with those you see regularly as well. Instead of a guest speaker, we will be entertained by a student jazz group from the University. Our meal will be a barbecue buffet with a vegetarian option. Door prizes will be awarded. Following lunch we will have our annual

business meeting.

As is our custom, we will take a few moments to recall those who have left us during the past year. If you wish to make brief remarks, the opportunity will be offered. If you know of any deaths that might not have come to our attention, please pass them along to Editor Alan Wade.

Once again, we will gather at the Alumni Center thanks to the generosity of the University and the Alumni

## Travel Corner

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out of the rubble.

The Museum of Latvia's Occupation in Riga gave us a sobering look at the years from 1940 to 1992. People there celebrate the end of the Soviet era and the restoration of independence. But these nations can hardly be seen as

post-Soviet paradises. We saw evidence of poverty, and we heard about conflicts between original populations and Russian newcomers. Still for us, the rich musical traditions, the impressive architecture, and the welcoming people made this, once more, a good trip. ■

### SPRING LUNCHEON

#### Emeritus Association Luncheon & Business Meeting

Friday April 21, 2006—Alumni Center  
No host reception and musical entertainment at 11:30 a.m.  
Barbecue Buffet Luncheon\* at 12:30 p.m.

\*a vegetarian option will be available upon request  
(see reservation form)

Association. Although it is fairly quiet on Friday afternoons, parking permits are essential. If you do not have an emeritus permit, you may obtain a temporary permit from the Center receptionist. ■

### RESERVATION FORM

Name (including guests) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address / P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer a vegetarian entree

My Guest prefers a vegetarian entree

Return form with check to the order of the Sacramento State Emeritus Assn. in the amount of \$24 pp to Lester Gabriel, Treasurer, 817 Commons Drive, Sacramento 95825-6655. **Reservations must be received by April 16.** If you are late, phone Les at (916) 584-3080.

## Bear Valley Music Festival

The thirty-eighth annual Bear Valley Music Festival will take place from July 29 to August 13. Although the emphasis is on classical music, the overall program is varied and offers something for most musical tastes. In the past, Bob Bess has been able to obtain a limited number of complimentary tickets for Association members. In addition, I anticipate that we will be able to negotiate group rates for other events. Watch your e-mail for details. If you are not already on the Festival mailing list, let me know and I will see that you are added. The Brochure mailing usually occurs around the first of May.

If you do not have e-mail access, let Bob know of your interest and he will see that you are informed of any special Festival offers either by phone or mail. ■

## Fiesta Bowl and the Midwestern Football Disease

Priscilla Alexander (Social Work) sends us a revealing account of her visit to a New Year's Bowl game involving her favorite Buckeyes of Ohio State. Check out the Emeritus website through the "What in the World Have You Been Doing" section for the confessions of a true Big Ten football fan.



ALAN WADE

### Note from the Editor

The late Sol Spector and Sima were one of many husband-wife teams who have had a powerful influence on our campus and on the Sacramento community. For some thoughts on their impact, check out the Emeritus Website.

—Alan Wade

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