



President's Corner

by Alan Wade

When one is faced with deadlines, clichés too often pop up. During a relaxed lunch with a venerable friend at the University Union restaurant the other day, I picked up a copy of *The State Hornet*. What a pleasure, I thought, to enjoy a truly bountiful buffet lunch (paid for, I must add, with the help of the Emeritus Association's 10 percent discount) and catch up on what's new at Sacramento State. I immediately turned to a feature article about a campus town hall meeting, headlined "Faculty concerned at town hall, Gonzalez still optimistic."

But here is where the cliché, "The more things change, the more they remain the same," came to me. Accompanying the article was not one, but four photographs with the descriptive statement "Juanita Barrena, biological studies professor, expresses her concerns to President Alexander Gonzalez at the town hall meeting Feb. 9 in Capistrano Hall." Or should it be, "What else is new?"

Yes, indeed, some things (like Juanita confronting a president with her accumulated wit and wisdom) go on, we hope, forever.

And yet, change is a part of the natural order, and our Association too is in for some significant changes as we enter our second 25 years of fellowship and service to our campus. The vigilant Steve Gregorich

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searched the University Archives for information about the beginnings of our emeritus group, discovering our birth date: 1985. We rushed him to write an article about our history once we realized that we are in our Silver Jubilee Year!

During our first 24 years, we have sponsored our annual fall dinner and spring lunch, morphed of late into a very popular Sunday brunch, and have continued to make modest annual financial contributions to a small number of campus activities. We have not reached out to the Sacramento community in a significant way and have lamented the fact that our group is not well known on the campus itself. Admittedly, we have allowed ourselves to fall into a comfort zone of business as usual. And then, we lament that we "get no respect."

Your Board of Directors has agreed on the need for some significant changes in the Emeritus Association's direction and focus. A kick-off for these changes will be next Fall's Silver Jubilee Celebration. That event is planned for Friday, Nov. 5 at the Alumni Center. After that, we ask you to join us as plans develop to increase our responsiveness to our members, enter into the cultural life of our community, raise more money and enhance our ability to give back to Sacramento State in this time of crisis.

Staying Connected

by Hortense Simmons, editor

Colleagues, you will find this issue of the Silver Bulletin chock-full of interesting and informative articles. The Board continues to keep you apprised of issues affecting us in retirement. Our president, Alan Wade, is vigilant in his coverage of legislative affairs, as is Dave Humphers in health care issues. Secretary and sitemaster, Steve Gregorich, in addition to his usual duties, has taken on the task of writing the history of our organization. In researching the archives to clarify an issue prior to our last board meeting, Steve uncovered much about our association that amazed us. In effect, he learned that our Association has existed for 25 years. You will see several references to plans for celebrating our Silver Jubilee in the fall.

I continue to be challenged in getting contributions from you. Imagine my disappointment in not receiving a single reply from those to whom I sent personal requests. As usual, Pete Shattuck does not disappoint in his "Only in America." Bob Donaldson offers reflections from his tenure as a former president of our association. To be sure, Gene Barnes, enjoying an active life in Monterey, is modeling for us how to relish an engaging retirement.

On 13 March, I will return to Ukraine for a 6-week assignment as Fulbright Senior Specialist. Please enjoy our spring Sunday brunch. I look forward to sharing with you the festivities of our Silver Jubilee in the fall.



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www.csus.edu/org/emmeritus

Especially for Enrollees in Calpers Long Term Care

by David F. Humphers

The 165,000 enrollees in the California Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), Long Term Care (LTC) program must make decisions before the significant premium hike takes place.

The PERS Board of Directors approved LTC premium hikes of 15 and 22 percent at the December 2009 meeting. The decision was based on the 2009 actuary's report that the current assets and premiums are not adequate to fund future benefits.

The premium rate increase will be effective July 1, 2010. At the same time, the PERS board approved a continuing annual premium rate increase of 5 percent beginning July 1, 2011, only for the policies with lifetime coverage and inflation protection (LTC 1). PERS staff reported that these new premium rates, along with a new investment strategy, are necessary to ensure the sustainability of the Long Term Care program.

Long Term Care Rate Increase Timeline

12/16/2009 ♦ PERS board approved the rate increase

3/7 to 3/19/2010 ♦ Rate increase letters mailed to enrollees

3/8 to 4/30/2010 ♦ Rate increase responses received from enrollees

7/1/2010 ♦ LTC administrator prepares bills 40 days before due date

The LTC administrator will inform each LTC enrollee by land mail of the effect of the rate increase on each policy. The plan administrator will begin mailing enrollees the second week in March.

They will be informed of options available for modifying the policy coverage and will have until April 30 to inform the LTC administrator of their decisions.

The December 2009 decision to approve the rate hike followed more than a year of "closed sessions" where the PERS board and staff discussed the future of the Long Term Care program. The Long Term Care Advisory Committee, an important source of information for enrollees, was disbanded two or three years ago. Lack of transparency regarding the future of the LTC program and the year of "closed sessions" fed rumors that PERS might sell the LTC program. The only certainty is that current regulations prohibit the sale of an insurance program because it is financially unsustainable.

A large group of concerned PERS members lined up to speak on LTC at the December 2009 public session. The Retired Public Employees Association health benefits director reminded the board that LTC enrollees were "initially promised no premium increases ever... but this premium hike will be the third rate increase."

The California State Employees Association (CSEA) representative proposed an LTC-CSEA partnership in an effort to help save the program. A month has passed, and the CSEA has received no response to the offer.

All speakers at the December meeting were concerned about the big premium increase, and almost all asked the board to revive the LTC Advisory Committee because it serves as an important source of information for LTC enrollees.

Information about long term care is posted on the CSU-ERFA website. Click on the link: <http://csuerfa.org/services.html>



Reflections from a Past Emeritus Association President

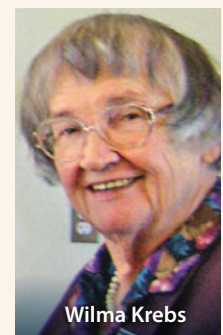
by Bob Donaldson, History

Our second president, Wilma Krebs, should be credited as our founding mother. Conscientious, skillful and considerate, Wilma nurtured the Association during its early years. Appointed chair of the Government Affairs Committee by the state organization, she served with distinction for almost two decades. Attending a state board meeting with her, I noted she was generally regarded as the authority on governmental relations. For about six years, I experienced her thoroughness and graciousness as a member of her committee. I propose some form of acknowledgement of her invaluable leadership.

During my presidency, 1995-1997, the most noteworthy achievement was securing Alan Wade as editor of the SilverBulletin. Our previous editor, Peggy Cavaghan, created the appropriate name for our publication in 1996. Other reforms included a considerable increase in the donation to the Friends of the Library, the recognition by the Academic Senate of an ex-officio seat for our Association and the breaking of the tradition of a one-year limit for president to two or more terms in sequence, setting a precedent for such capable leaders as Jerry Tobey, Bob Bess, and Alan Wade. In particular, Bob Bess provided revolutionary upgrading of the Association.

Three improvements have enhanced the quality of our organization: the decision to invite staff and surviving spouses to membership; the raising of dues; and the conversion of our annual banquet to include music supplied by the Department of Music, in addition to affording colleagues an opportunity to mix and mingle.

Here's to the enduring vitality of the Emeritus Association!



Staying Active in Monterey

by Gene Barnes, Physics and Astronomy

After retiring in 1993 and moving to Monterey, I joined the Friends of the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA), bought a Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and began photographing the sun, the moon and several of the largest planets. Some of my pictures have appeared in *Astronomy* magazine and in the MIRA newsletter. Since 1996, I've traveled to the Caribbean, France and China to view and photograph total solar eclipses.

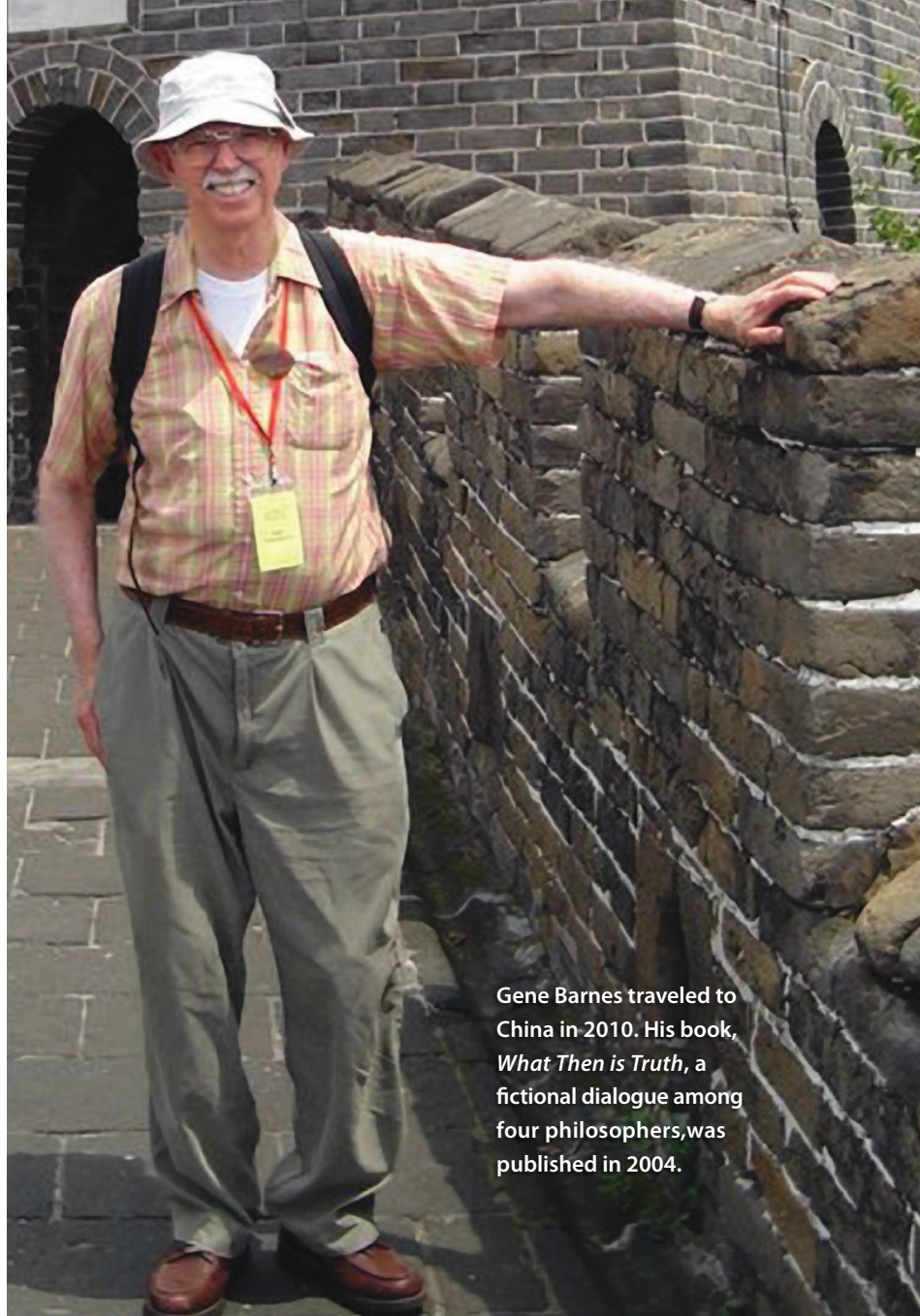
My book, *What Then Is Truth*, a fictional dialogue among four philosophers, was published in 2004. I am currently working on a second book on the subject of ethics.

In 2008, I endowed the Feynman Award for Student Research for the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Sac State. The award will be given annually for the best student research project completed in the previous year; it was designated to honor the memory of the late Richard P. Feynman, a Nobel Laureate in physics. I presented the first award in October 2009 to physics graduate Robert Barchfeld.

Recently, I served for two years as a board member of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, and for five years as Treasurer of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the United Nations Association—a support group for the UN that has sponsored land mine removal activities in Kosovo and Afghanistan, and hosts an international film festival annually.

Some of you may remember that I was a frequent participant in the annual Faculty-Staff Tennis Tournament organized and run for a number of years by Murray Work of the Psychology Department. I still play tennis two or three times a week at Carmel Valley Ranch. I am happy to report that in 2005, my partner Jerry Luster and I achieved a ranking of 13th in the Northern California Division of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), in the 70 years-and-over men's doubles.

My wife, Susan, and I enjoy living in the Monterey Bay area. Susan's activities include quilting, gardening and writing. We share the hobbies of reading and hiking.



Gene Barnes traveled to China in 2010. His book, *What Then is Truth*, a fictional dialogue among four philosophers, was published in 2004.

In Memoriam

Mary Ernie Bacharach
March 6, 2010

Bob Mattos
Football Coach ♦ March 14, 2010

Richard Allen Koch
Education ♦ February 23, 2010

Evelyn Grace Reddick
(widow of Harvey Reddick, Academic VP)
January 20, 2010

Gay Kornweibel
Office of Water Programs ♦ January 16, 2010

Robert Foreman
Philosophy ♦ January 11, 2010

James Victor Vaughter
Facilities Planning ♦ January 9, 2010

Margaret Roe Hjelstrom
Student Health Center ♦ January 3, 2010

Paul Dempsey
Psychology ♦ December 17, 2009

Gordon R. Partridge
Engineering ♦ November 5, 2009

Armando A. Ayala
Education ♦ October 26, 2009

Shawky Sukkary
English ♦ June 27, 2009



History of The Sacramento State Emeritus Association: Part I

by Steve Gregorich, Secretary

The Emeritus Association recommended policy that described the qualifications, appointment procedures, privileges and involvement of emeriti faculty on the Sacramento State campus

THE FOUNDING. The Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) took up the matter of emeritus status in 1978 and again in 1981. On Aug. 24, 1984, the final report of the ad hoc committee was sent to the Academic Senates of all CSU campuses.

On our campus, an informal group of retired faculty was inspired by the CSU Senate’s recommendations. They perceived the report and the enthusiastic responses to it as a sign of coming of age for the young, fledgling CSU campuses. They wanted to see the emeriti at Sacramento State involved in the reformation.

The retirees invited the campus president, Don Gerth, to explore the feasibility of a campus emeritus “Group.” The president responded in a memorandum on Oct. 1, 1984, naming the associate provost for faculty and staff affairs responsible for “working with your group on a regular basis in terms of logistical support. This will include such things as maintaining complete membership lists and maintaining a capability for mailing and the like.” In the memorandum, the president also named the vice president for university affairs and his colleagues “...responsible for working with the retired faculty group in terms of program and the general development... they will be of assistance in matters such as getting particular programs going, support for events and the like.”

James Bradfield (chair emeritus of Behavioral Sciences, School of Education) informed the retirees of a meeting held between six retired faculty, the president and the vice provost, concluding that an “... organization of retired California State University, Sacramento faculty... would... have merit for both us and the University and is entirely feasible. Bradfield also announced an organizational meeting for everyone on Feb. 25, 1985, to discuss the functions and structure for an association and establishing a steering committee to draft “...some sort of constitution.”

In July of 1985, the first “*CSUS Emeritus News*” was published. It contained an article written by retiree Orville Nordberg (dean emeritus, School of Education) describing how the organization had come about and announced Sept. 16, 1985 as the date of the first emeritus membership meeting to adopt the constitution and by-laws and to elect officers. The publication also contained an open letter to the emeriti from the President Gerth.

Dear Colleagues:

I should like to extend to you my warmest congratulations on formation of the California State University, Sacramento emeritus faculty organization.

Putting together a group such as yours does much more, of course, than bring together colleagues who have shared years and effort and who wish to keep up longstanding friendships. In a very real sense, your new organization presents the University with a valuable resource, as well. As CSUS emeriti, you represent a collection of skills and experience that any organization would cherish. Let me assure you that it will not go unnoticed at this University.

You have already made invaluable contributions to the life of the University, but the story certainly doesn’t end there. As emeriti, you are members of the University community and I look forward to your counsel and assistance in the years ahead.

My very best wishes.

Donald R. Gerth



President Donald R. Gerth

At the first membership meeting, the constitution and by-laws were adopted, giving the organization the title “Emeritus Association of California State University, Sacramento” and the first slate of officers was elected. Forty-two retired faculty signed the founding document, and by the end of the following academic year, the association numbered 98 dues-paying members, about 50 percent of the available emeriti faculty at that time.

ERFA Legislative Committee Report

by Alan Wade

Our legislature is currently pre-occupied with fundraising. When it decides to focus once more on the public business, issues other than public pension reform abound. Eventually, around tomato harvest time in Sacramento, our leaders will get down to the ugly task of fixing the \$19 billion deficit. Can we expect other than California's inevitable descent into the financial abyss, meaning insolvency for the world's sixth largest economy? In a few months, we'll know more than we do now.

Meanwhile, given the primacy of other issues, it seems that serious legislative efforts at public pension reform will not generate much steam. Instead, the arena for such efforts shifts to the ballot initiative.

Eighty (yes, 80!) ballot proposals have been certified for signature collection by the Secretary of State. Eleven more await title and summary in the Office of the Attorney General. Five, none thus far pension-related, will be on the June 2010 ballot. Of those circulating for signature, two are aimed at limiting public

pensions, and one would levy new taxes on pensions, escalating to near-confiscatory levels on higher-bracket recipients. Each of these measures requires 694,354 signatures to qualify for the November ballot. It is our understanding that financial support for gathering these signatures is uncertain and perhaps waning.

Still, complacency about these initiatives or the possibility of public support should they qualify is inadvisable. Your ever-vigilant ERFA Legislative Committee will keep you informed. If you wish to know more, check out the websites of both the attorney general and the secretary of state. Brief summaries of all the initiatives are available, as well as the full text of most. Those of particular interest to us are the following (secretary of state's designations): 09-0075 and 09-0080.

Meanwhile, what can we do?

JUST SAY NO to the strident advocates out there hustling for your signatures on any ballot initiative!

Register for the Spring 2010 Champagne & Chamber Music Brunch

Sunday, April 25, 2010 at the Alumni Center • 11:00 AM

Please fill out and mail this form with your payment to: Gene Knepprath, 2620 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

Checks should be made payable to: Sacramento State Emeritus Association

Register by Monday, April 19. If late, call Gene Knepprath at (916) 457-3793 to arrange to pay at the door.

Your Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-mail (*important*) _____

Phone _____

Faculty Staff Name of Department _____

Check one if you want the membership discount:

I have paid 2010 dues I am a life member I want to be a new member I want to renew membership for 2010.

Please check your membership card. If it says "2010," you have already paid!

If applicable, check one of the dues options:

Faculty \$30 Faculty Life \$300 Faculty out of area 75 mi. or more \$10

Staff \$20 Staff Life \$150 Staff out of area 75 mi. or more \$10

We will make name tags for you and your guests. Please list guest names below:

\$35 for 2010 member and \$35 for one companion* _____

\$45 each for non-members _____

Your 2010 membership dues _____

Event Donation** _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

* If you pay dues for 2010, the cost for you and one companion is \$35 each. Non-members pay \$45 each.

** We count on donations to pay for complementary wines, door prizes and the entertainment.

Steve Gregorich, Secretary
Sacramento State Emeritus Association
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Placerville, CA 95667

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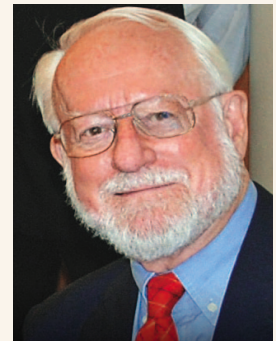
by Peter Shattuck

Elizabeth and I have had our share of exotic trips—Antarctica, Siberia, even Galt—but a recent short visit to Little Rock, Arkansas, brought its own variety of delight. We went to Little Rock for the wedding of our grandson, Peter Shattuck II, and Rabia Altaf, the daughter of Pakistani immigrants.

Peter and Rabia met over the Internet. College students—he at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock and she at San Francisco State—they each visited a site for people interested in English grammar. Two years ago, he visited her in the Bay Area, and they decided that they were indeed a couple. Despite the objections of Rabia's parents, they planned a wedding on his parents' 25th anniversary.

The night before the wedding, the party gathered around a large round table in an Italian restaurant in Little Rock. Peter, descendant of generations of New England Yankees; Rabia, descendant of far more generations of Pakistanis; Peter's mother, who brought some degree of Navajo into the family; the maid of honor, Anna, from Winnipeg and Bangladesh; and her love Alex, from Anglo heritage and the U.S. Navy. The women of the wedding party sported newly applied henna

The women of the wedding party sported newly applied henna decoration on their hands and arms, decorations applied at a small henna shop. In a mall. In Little Rock. Arkansas.



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The next day, we made a short trip to the Clinton Presidential Library, a fine piece of public history. Then off to the 19th century county courthouse, where a justice of the peace performed the marriage ceremony in front of numerous pictures of old white men. Peter and Rabia and Peter's mother and sister were all resplendent in clothing from South Asia, with his costume topped by a rather unsteady turban.

Off next to a different Italian restaurant, where the proprietor, from Venice, plied us with pasta and prosecco. And the next day, slightly stunned, we came back to Sacramento. However much of a cliché the phrase may be, I must inevitably end this account with "Only in America!" What a wonderful trip!