



ALAN WADE

President's Corner

by Alan Wade

A new era has dawned for our semi-annual Silver Bulletin. In my second yearly term as President of the association, I am most fortunate to have found a willing successor as editor in Hortense Simmons. Thanks, Hortense, for your willingness and enthusiasm to serve, and for your impressive credentials. I can only echo her call to all of you for news items—what you are doing, even though it may seem mundane to you, is of interest to your retired faculty and staff colleagues.

You should have received our annual membership solicitation letter, mailed recently to more than 1200 emeritus and retired faculty and staff.

When you respond to that letter by sending your annual membership dues to Treasurer Les Gabriel, you will receive your membership card along with the list of perquisites which come with it.

Annual Fall Dinner November 2

Register today for the 2007 Fall Dinner, set for Friday, November 2 at Sacramento State's Alumni Center. Entertainment will be provided by a special ensemble from the Department of Music.

Dinner will be a buffet with carved prime rib, mahi mahi and cheese tortellini (for vegetarians), potato, vegetable, rolls and beverage. Wine will be provided with dinner. There will be a no host bar during the reception. The cost for the dinner will be \$30 including tax and gratuity.

No Host Reception at 6PM | Dinner at 7PM

Fill out and mail this form along with your check (made out to Sacramento State Emeritus Association, \$30 per person) to:

Lester Gabriel, Treasurer
817 Commons Drive
Sacramento, CA 95825-6655

Reservations must be received by October 27. If you are too late for that date, call Les Gabriel at (916) 564-3080 and pay at the door.

Reservation Form

Please make name tags for the following:

Your name: _____

Names of guests: _____

I remind you also of our Annual Fall Dinner, to be held on Friday, Nov. 2 at the Alumni Center on campus. Details of the dinner will be in the notice confirming your membership. The dinner program this year will reflect once more our commitment to the campus learning environment—Robin Fisher-Cozza will present an ensemble of her voice students for our musical enjoyment.

I remind you once more to look out for your own self-interest as a retiree by joining our statewide sister organization. (See Bob Bess' article for an update of some of the major concerns of CSU-ERFA, in which Bob and David Humphers of our Board of Directors play key roles.)

I know that many of you were present, as was I, at the October 16, 1967, campus appearance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Please note and attend the coming 40-year anniversary of that landmark event in our history.

We look forward to another year of good fellowship among retirees, as well as service to Sacramento State. The maintenance of a strong sense of community with the campus to which many of us devoted so much of our lives is the major goal of your Emeritus Association.

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Staying Connected

(Note from Editor Hortense Simmons: In an effort to encourage colleagues to not be shy in informing the Silver Bulletin about their activities in retirement, this new column will permit us to stay connected. Kindly write me and share the happenings in your lives, great or small. The legacies you have left Sac State are important; of no less importance are the lives you are currently enjoying, so please share. Contact me at hortense@csus.edu.)

Renee Golanty-Koel

Department of Teacher Education

I am busying myself with lots of activities. My husband Bert and I spend half of the week during summers in our house in Placerville where we own a small vineyard. We sell our grapes, and the wine is bottled under the Holly Hills Winery as Mourvedre, a light red wine. Most of the time, however, we are busy in San Francisco. Travel for us last year included visiting Croatia, Slovenia, and Hungary; this year we will go to Germany. In addition to writing fiction, I am teaching literature at the Osher Foundation Extended Learning program at San Francisco State and serve on the curriculum committee for Extended Learning. I chair the San Francisco Democratic Women in Action, a legislative lobbying group, as well as mentor middle school girls for American Association of University Women. I am truly enjoying my life in retirement.



Cecelia Gray

Professor and AVP for Academic Affairs

Some of you are aware that I retired in 2002. After participating in the FERP program for two years, I worked as Associate Director of WASC for one year. I am now quite excited that Lee Anderson and I are soon-to-be gift shop owners. Avid antique collectors for many years, we have located the perfect site for our collection of antiques from the Art Deco Period.

Our shop at 2747 Riverside Boulevard will open soon after Thanksgiving. In addition to housing antiques, it will contain a Museum of Dining and provide dinnerware, glassware, and barware from the '30s to the '60s. Also available will be XOX chocolates from San Francisco, as well as gifts for birthdays, holidays, weddings, anniversaries, and other special occasions.

Sandy Helland

University Media Services

Joy is the best word to describe working with faculty and staff for 34 years and learning about so many disciplines. Now I am having a great time taking advantage of opportunities to find out more about some of those fields of interest I did not have time to pursue while working at Sacramento State.



Recently, my husband Jerry and I took a Solano County Library Foundation-sponsored literary tour of Cambridge, Salem, Concord, the Berkshires and Hartford. We stayed in Salem (Hawthorne's House of Seven Gables) and in Stockbridge (Norman Rockwell's hometown). Our itinerary included visits to homes of literary luminaries such as Louisa May Alcott, Emily Dickenson, Edith Wharton, Herman Melville, and Mark Twain. While in Boston and Cambridge it was an easy stop to see JFK's Memorial Library and then take in a fabulous jazz performance by Kenny Werner and Betty Buckley at The Regatta Bar. We learned about the graciousness of the poet, Longfellow, and that many of the writers, thinkers and leaders of his time came together to relax and to talk of their ideas at his home. George Washington made his headquarters there the first 9 months of the Revolutionary War. Longfellow, a loving husband and father, a great friend, and someone who spoke out about the rights and welfare of women, slaves and immigrants, inspired people then and his writing continues to inspire me now.

Back at home life is quite satisfying gardening at our Carmichael Park Sutter Community Garden, enjoying music, especially Music Department programs, and keeping in touch with family, friends from Sacramento State, high school, KCRA, and our neighbors on Kiekebusch Court.



Peter H. Michael

College of Business Administration

I found a quite unexpected new career after Sac State retirement, or maybe it found me. Today, my wife Vicki and I operate Cooling Springs Farm, my family's historic Maryland homestead, as an Underground Railroad historic site and I publish Underground Railroad Free Press.

The Michael family founded the farm in 1768 at the foot of Catoclin Mountain, the first fold of the Appalachians. Six Michael generations lived here until 1974 when it passed out of family hands. When the farm came on the market in 2001, Vicki and I brought it back into the family and leased it to a cattle breeder.

We were comfortably ensconced in Sacramento's Curtis Park with deep roots in the community, close friends and local jobs, but, on a visit to Cooling Springs in 2004, decided to take the leap and move. It has been an exhilarating and refreshing ride ever since.

My ancestors operated Cooling Springs Farm as part of the Underground Railroad, using the farm's circa 1770s spring house as a safe-house. Cooling Springs Farm is believed to be the only safe-house in the nation still owned by the family which operated it in Underground Railroad times. We opened the farm to public tours and study and have had nearly 1,000 visitors since 2004. In 2006, I launched Underground Railroad Free Press, the nation's only independent publication reporting on the Underground Railroad. Visit CoolingSprings.org and urrFreePress.com for more.

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Travel Corner

By Peter Shattuck

“The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming!” Well, not exactly – but they’re not going away, either. That’s the most striking impression we brought from two weeks in the Russian Northwest this summer. In the islands of the White Sea, in Archangelsk and Petrozavodsk and St. Petersburg, Russian nationalism, power – and religion – appeared strongly resurgent and resilient. In the 1990s, some Western observers wrote off the former Soviet Union; one frequent comparison equated Russia’s economy with that of Denmark. But we saw evidence of economic prosperity, along with a startling degree of religious revival, that certainly belied the image of a weak and irrelevant nation.

Our trip began in the Svalbard Archipelago, a Norwegian possession where Russia has a major mining operation, and continued into northern Russia. On Solovetskiy Island, we visited the 16th century monastery, surrounded by its

fortified kremlin, now being painstakingly restored. During the Stalin era, the monastery had been turned into a prison; the current restoration, a daunting, lifetime process, clearly reflects the Putin government’s support for the Russian Orthodox Church. At the Valam Monastery, on an island in Lake Ladoga, more workers tackled restoration problems. On Kizhi Island, in Lake Onega, we saw a stunning building, an early 18th century wooden cathedral, topped with twenty-two onion-shaped domes, each covered with aspen-wood shingles which gleamed silver in the sunlight. As an achievement of human endeavor, it reminded me of the 12th-century mud mosque in Djenne, Mali. What marvels humans can create, whatever it may be that motivates them.

In each of these religious centers, we were told excitedly that a great event was impending. Next Sunday, on the Feast of the Transfiguration, Alexei, Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, along with President Putin, would arrive for a visit. It was abundantly clear that thousands of

Russians were equating, and celebrating, the Church and the State.

During World War II, United States Lend-Lease support made the frightening run through the White Sea to Archangelsk. Today, that port has more container-ship cranes than Oakland, and they seem constantly busy. Petrozavodsk, a provincial city, hummed with cultural and educational activity. We’d been to St. Petersburg sixteen years ago, just before it stopped being Leningrad. The changes are astonishing: pavement rather than potholes, clean and painted public buildings, and enough traffic to make the air of the Sacramento Valley look pristine.

The Economist reports that President Putin has surrounded himself with former KGB personnel. Students informed us of history classes in which they learned of the glorious days before Yeltsin. We’ve been to Denmark: Denmark is a wonderful country, but believe me, for better or for worse, Russia is no Denmark!

Staying Connected (cont.)

Sac State faculty emeriti are more than welcome to visit.

Note: Sacramento State’s University Library has the best collection of Underground Railroad materials on the west coast. See the May, 2007, issue of Underground Railroad Free Press at the web site.



Photo by Kris Davidson Photography

Hortense Simmons

Department of English

Retirees should not play dodgeball—at least not on a ship. I learned this valuable lesson as a lifelong learner aboard the MV Explorer during a 9-week summer voyage to Latin America (June 17-August 21, 2007). The voyage was sponsored by University of Virginia’s Semester at Sea Program—I taught in the program during Fall Semester 2000 when University of Pittsburgh was host university. When the Sea Olympics were announced, I knew I would participate and chose to team-up with another lifelong learner for an event I thought I had a chance to win—the Iron Chef contest—and should have quit while I was ahead. After all, we won. But no, when another person was needed for the 4-member dodgeball team, I volunteered. Not having played the game since I was nine, I was not prepared for the speed and daring with which the Yellow Sea team played (strapping 19-20 year olds, all over 6-feet). Because my three teammates were smart to not dodge, I was the lone David facing four

Goliaths. Attempting to dodge a ball thrown by curly-haired Goliath of Southern California, I fell on my rear end, bracing the fall with my right wrist and cracking it in two places. Lucky for me, the ship’s doctor’s specialty was orthopedics. I sported my cast for four weeks before having it replaced by a splint. Now I see my Kaiser physical therapist weekly and am learning that the healing process will be slow. But after all, I played for the cause and definitely won’t do it again. Somehow my adventures in Acapulco, Panama, Ecuador (Galapagos), Chile, Peru (Machu Picchu), Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Guatemala do not figure as prominently in my mind as that dodgeball game. I wonder why?

In Memoriam

Columbus Edwin Tootle, *Business Administration*, August 27, 2007

Clyde Enroth, *English*, August 7, 2007

Earline Ames, *Education and Academic Affairs*, August 5, 2007

Allan Hinderstein, *University Media Services*, June 3, 2007

Paul Huber, *Communication Studies*, May 1, 2007

William A. Mitchell, *AAC/EOP*, May, 2007

Jack Jossi, *Athletics*, April 28, 2007

Willard Mead Thompson, *Business Administration*, Feb. 7, 2007

Earl Kymala, *Mathematics*, Jan. 10, 2007

For further details, please check our website: www.csus.edu/org/emeritus.

CSU-ERFA Legislative Update

By Robert Bess



The first half of the legislative session has concluded, to resume in January. Meanwhile, two special sessions are underway dealing with health care and water issues. From the retiree point of view, things have been relatively quiet and moderately productive. It remains to be seen whether the Governor will sign bills of interest to us. I am anticipating that in most cases he will. The deadline is October 20.

The issue receiving the most attention thus far is health care. Legislation was introduced early in the session. A single payer universal program received favorable consideration in both houses, but it is being held pending negotiations between legislative leadership and the Governor. There will probably be some sort of program to increase access to affordable health insurance in the near term. This is likely to be just a start. As the sense of crisis grows and presidential candidates keep the topic in the spotlight, we can expect further action over the next few years. CalPERS has increased its efforts on the quality/cost-containment front and the Legislature and Administration seem favorably disposed to provide the tools it needs to increase transparency and access. AB 554 will enable CalPERS to manage investments for any public agency requesting its service to pre-fund retiree health benefits. AB 1296 will enable CalPERS to obtain claims payment data and contract payment amounts.

Most State annuitants and all active State members are eligible for enrollment in a Vision Care program to be paid for by each employee/annuitant. SB 235 extends this to CSU an-

nuitants, previously excluded. Procedures and implementation of the program are pending.

While the Legislature is on hiatus (or concluding its special sessions), two significant activities are underway. The Governor's Post-employment Benefits Commission has been meeting regularly and must submit its report by January. All indications are that the main focus will be on the cost and means of funding annuitant health care. The Commission has gathered extensive data suggesting that the magnitude of unfunded liability for future health benefits is far less than current political "noise" would suggest.

Former Assembly member Keith Richman is seeking to obtain sufficient signatures to try once again to substantially weaken public employee pensions. Several experienced observers have suggested that its features are so bad that even obtaining sufficient signatures will be problematic. Test polls indicate that it could be defeated, but the cost would be substantial. To keep apprised of this and other matters of continuing interest, you can visit our web site (csus.edu/org/emeritus) or that of CSU-ERFA (csu-erfa.org).

If you have questions or comments about any of the foregoing or any legislative matter, please feel to contact me at (rbess@sbcglobal.net).

Bookmark this site: www.csus.edu/org/emeritus/association.htm

Just a reminder to you to consult our SilverLink website which is chock-full of news, current and archival, which campus emeriti will surely find informative. We are fortunate to have among our ranks former College of Education Dean Steve Gregorich who developed the site and commits his time unselfishly to keeping it updated.

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