

SILVER BULLETIN

Newsletter of CSU, Sacramento Emeritus Association

Spring - 2004

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Bess

As the signs of spring appear all around us, I hope that it reminds you that the time for our spring luncheon and business meeting is fast approaching. The form for submitting your reservation can be found elsewhere in the Bulletin. The event will feature remarks by Ric Brown, CSUS vice-president for Academic Affairs. His topic will focus on university planning for coping with the State's fiscal predicament, with special emphasis on its academic implications.

You will notice that the luncheon price is only \$10. This is due to a newly initiated sponsorship program which will enable us to subsidize our events as well as publication of the Silver Bulletin. For this event, we owe thanks to (Commonwealth Land and Title Company). To date we have commitments of \$1,000. Many thanks to Joe Gibson for proposing this and then following up with this very successful start.

Our business meeting will focus on three items: election of officer for 2004-2005, a dues increase and new benefits for emeriti.

Concerning elections, all incumbents have agreed to serve for another year. Bob Curry has agreed to serve as membership chair, replacing Jim Saum who resigned last June. Don Hinde, long time director of the University Union, has volunteered to serve as staff representative.

(continued on page 3)

OLDER DRIVER SAFETY: THE GAME IS AFOOT

Last year when an 83 year old man drove wildly into a Santa Monica street market, killed eleven people and injured scores more, the public concern, if not outrage, with "those old people behind the wheel" blossomed anew. Fortunately in the years since Senator Tom Hayden unleashed a kind of panic among the state's senior drivers with a bill to require in-car testing for all people over 75 who renewed their licenses, a task force of dedicated persons from a wide-range of government and private organizations has been investigating the complex issues of the older driver and senior pedestrian in California.

The facts the task force has marshaled and the proposals the group is generating has aided the media and the Legislature in responding more rationally to what is acknowledged as a significant and growing problem in California. The bare statistics portray the issue: From 2000 to 2025, the percentage of persons in the state over age 65 will almost double to about 22%. Within a decade from now the number of those 85 and up will increase by 50%. The number of licensed drivers over 65 will have grown from about 2.7 million to 4 million in the first two decades of the century. It is not news that driving ones own car is an essential part of the quality of life, especially in California. People are living longer and driving later in life. Aging depletes ones physical and mental capabilities which affects driving safety, but to lose the independence that driving gives becomes, almost literally, a danger to ones health, depression and illness are known consequences of that loss. How can Californians be kept longer in their cars but also more safely?

(continued on page 2)

The Association wishes to express its thanks to Commonwealth Land and Title Company and its Assistant Vice President Darell Inlow for their generous support of its programs.

**ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON
RESERVE THIS DATE:
APRIL 7, 2004
SPEAKER: RIC BROWN
SEE PAGE 7 FOR MORE DETAILS**

OLDER DRIVER SAFETY: THE GAME IS AFOOT, continued

The Older California Traffic Safety Task Force, of which the writer is a member representing the AARP, has been preparing a wide range of reports for later this year, and a few legislative proposals will also be forthcoming. It is no secret that “at risk” drivers exist at all ages, but that the youngest and the oldest are the leaders in accidents and fatalities. Finding who is “at risk” as a driver is an imperfect art. Family members, physicians, and law enforcement are and should be involved in this process, but the guidelines are imprecise and the difficulties many.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) get the main task and the most blame. One of the most interesting discoveries for me is learning that, nationwide, almost 95% of older drivers are “self-regulating.” They decide, largely on their own, that they should not drive at night, drive on the freeways, make left-hand turns, etc. Especially for the other 5%, plus drivers at any age, the DMV has developed a new screening test, the Three-Tier Driver Assessment System which will be presented for legislative approval. This will have a greater impact on drivers over age 70 because they must begin to appear in person more frequently to renew their licenses. Don’t fret, most of you will pass easily.

The first tier is almost like the current exam - eye exam and a multiple-choice test on driving rules - plus a closer “observation” of the applicant by the DMV examiner to determine, if possible, evidence of physical or behavioral disability that might be a problem. There will also be some basic questions about one’s birthday date, for example, to judge recall ability, a type of “cognitive screen.” There will be a new visual test to check “contrast sensitivity,” ability to read a road sign that gradually becomes dimmer. The great majority of applicants are expected to pass all these and get a renewed license. Even if one fails the first time, there is permission to return for another trial, especially if referred for a medical assessment or correction.

Those still needing testing go to the second tier which involves a touch-screen computer to judge “information processing ability,” plus a survey of the person’s driving habits, for example, evidence of tickets for driving violations. If still failing after another effort at “remediation,” the third tier is a special in-car driving performance examination which could result in license renewal, special conditions being placed on the license, or a final denial of the license.

This is the bare bones of the proposed system, but it has been well received when explained to a number of older-driver audiences across the state. Obviously the money needed to implement the program, not the least the training of DMV personnel and the hiring of more people in an already enormous bureaucratic agency, present significant problems.

Many other features of the task force study are longer range and involve greater personal responsibility for all drivers. Planning for “life after driving” is being put forward as being as necessary as planning for retirement in general. What transportation resources do you have other than your own car? (Clearly public transportation and especially the lack of it is a big problem in California). Can family or friends drive you? Should you move closer to such help? The “self-assessment” process includes a range of health-related issues as well. Should you take a driver assessment course, for example the 55-Alive course offered by AARP, or a similar one by the Automobile Association (AAA)?

As you might guess, older male drivers are most frequently “in denial” about their skills and their possible loss or limitation of driving. Among other driver safety matters being urged by the task force are greater attention to improving road signs and other traffic and street markings for better visual perception by the older driver. Making cars safer for the older driver is also vital; seat belts across both shoulders, non-glare windshields, larger, better mirrors to see behind, and more accommodating steering wheels are just a few suggestions.

This short piece only skims the surface of what is being done not only here in California but in every state and in every industrial nation, indeed, international conferences on the issues are now frequent, and studies by university institutes, government agencies, medical associations, and senior advocacy groups proliferate. Two of many web sites that may be helpful are www.seniordrivers.org and www.aaafoundation.org. Also try the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration site at www.nhtsa.dot.gov. I realize that in making these points I am preaching to the choir, but the real burden rests with each of us. Encourage your children and friends to help judge your driving, and listen to them. Ask your doctors to be frank with you about problems that might affect driving. Please don’t wait until an accident alerts you, we are too fragile; that accident could be your last, for you and for others.

Jerry McDaniel

PRESIDENT'S CORNER, continued from page 1

We are proposing a dues increase to \$20 for Sacramento region members, with a reduced rate of \$10 for members who live out of area and are therefore unable to take advantage of the majority of benefits we expect to offer beginning next year. The increase is based upon the need to cover increased mailing costs and to cover the modest costs associated with our planned benefit package. We are also recommending establishment of a Life Membership option priced at \$250.

As the Board addressed this matter, we heard proposals ranging as high as \$50 (to enable us to be more generous to Friends of the Library and the Faculty Endowment.) After you have read the details to follow, please feel free to share your thoughts on the dues increase as well as any aspect of the benefits package or to suggest additional possibilities. (rbess@sbcglobal.net) or call me at 635-1405. Following is a summary of what you can expect for your dues next year.

- * Free admission to virtually all campus theater, dance and music performances.
- * One year complimentary membership in the CSUS Alumni Association.
- * One year complimentary membership in Capital Public Radio including quarterly newsletter.
- * Reduced price for single admissions or season tickets to athletic events.
- * Five dollar gift certificate for use toward purchase of Friends of Library Book Bin items.
- * Invitation to members only coffee/discussions with campus/community leaders.
- * Member directory (inclusion subject to individual approval)
- * Frequent e-mail bulletins
- * Monthly emeritus book discussions.
- * Silver Bulletin

This is just a start and I am optimistic that the list will change and grow from year to year.

Last month, President Gonzalez held the first of a series of "town hall" meetings related to the 2004-2005 budget. It was very well attended and he promised that there would be several more as the budget process moves along. I will try to alert members who receive e-mail about future sessions. The materials discussed at the February session can be found on the University web page (www.csus.edu/president/budget/).

Both streaming video and slide versions are available and anyone wishing to comment is invited to e-mail townhall@csus.edu. I am looking forward to the opportunity to visit with you on April 7. Come early and participate in the pre-luncheon social hour.

A Word from Bob Curry

Association President Bob Bess has been on the recruiting trail, his latest prize being the acquisition of Bob Curry (Economics) as Membership Chair. Bob sends us the following news:

"I'm unable to attend the Spring Luncheon and regrettably so and perhaps my reason for missing the event could be of some interest to our colleagues via our newsletter. I will be in Bangkok teaching a course on International Economic Change at Ramkhamhaeng University's Institute for International Studies. While I'm in Southeast Asia, I'm also scheduled to present a workshop on regional economic integration at the Center for North American Studies in Hanoi.

While in Bangkok I'll spend some time with our colleague Bob Phillips from the Geography Department. I'm finding a tremendous array of things to do since retirement, including teaching Asian Economic Development at the University of Hawaii at Manoa during each of the past seven summer sessions.

Stay well and my best to all,

Bob Curry, (Emeritus, Economics)

FRIENDS of the CSUS LIBRARY AWARD FALL GRANTS

Twice a year, the Friends of the CSUS Library solicit applications for grants from university libraries for materials and projects that are not likely to be funded under present budgetary constraints. In February, Grant Applications submitted by George Paganellis, curator of the Tsakopolous Hellenic Collection, Roz Van Auker, reference librarian, Ben Amata, reference librarian, Joe Shou, reference librarian, and Fang Gu, Head of Library Media Center for CSUS Asian Library Exchange were successful. The Friends awarded \$2700 to the librarians for the purchase of films and children's literature for the Hellenic Collection, the completion of a set of George Washington's Revolutionary War Papers, and a set of quick reference works to furnish an information center being created in a new Library Commons space in the Library. In addition the Friends agreed to donate 1500 books to the CSUS Asian Libraries Exchange to help in the establishment of a new library at the Macao University of Science and Technology.

The next group of grant applications is due June 30, 2004. The Friends and the University Library are grateful to the Emeritus Association for its continuing support of the Library.

Friends Book Group

Louellyn Cohan Lower, President of the Friends of the Library, sends the following schedule for the Friends of the Library/Emeritus Association Book Group. The group meets at 6:30 P.M., second Thursday of every month, in the Emeritus Faculty Room (4026F, CSUS Library).

April 8: David McCullough. John Adams
 May 13: Alice Munro. Love of a Good Woman
 June 10: Walter Isaacson.
 July 8: V.S. Naipaul. Half a Life: A Novel
 August 12: Joan Didion. Where I was From.
 September 9: Jeffrey Eugenides. Middlesex.
 October 14: Anne Fadiman.
 The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down.
 November 11: Rohinton Mistry. Family Matters.

This list and other information regarding Emeritus Services and the Book Group appears on the Emeritus Service Website:

<http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?> Page ID=97 or contact Mary Reddick at mreddick@csus.edu (916) 278-4045 or Louellyn Lower [lcohan@saclink.csus.edu\(916\)456-5879](mailto:lcohan@saclink.csus.edu(916)456-5879).

Widows/Widowers Welcome

Jean Good, Ph.D., widow of Bob (psychology), writes that she enjoyed the Fall Association banquet, and especially liked the new setting for the event - the CSUS Alumni Association building. She tells us that she continues to miss Bob terribly (as do the rest of us!), and asks if widows are eligible for membership in the association. "If so, I would be most happy to pay dues and thus receive (the Silver Bulletin). I have sufficient friends among the Emeriti to come as guest to any event that interests me."

Yes, Jean, we warmly welcome you and others with a similar attachment to CSUS and the activities of our Association.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Eisner, Foreign Languages - 2004

Hank Elespuru, Athletics - 2004

Robert Schinske, Biological Sciences - 2004

Fred Westphal, Music - 2003

Merritt Winans, Psychology - 2004

Note to Colleagues: If you would like to make brief comments in remembrance of the deceased at our annual Spring Luncheon, please phone Bob Bess or Alan Wade. (See list of officers below mailing page)

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

Pointing out that the recently-passed bill will cost at least 395 billion in its first decade, a report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities states "It would be one thing if this high cost was attached to a sound and vital piece of legislation that had been carefully designed to deliver as much benefit as possible to the nation's elderly and disabled citizens, Sadly, it does not." (From a report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (available at www.cbpp.org). This item appeared in *THE WASHINGTON SPECTATOR*, on January 15, 2004, which featured an article by Henry J. Aaron entitled "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly."

FEATURED SPEAKER RIC BROWN

Ric Brown, CSUS Vice President to Academic Affairs, will be the featured speaker at the Spring Luncheon on April 5.

He will speak on the academic implications of the current fiscal situation, and will present an overview of the long range academic plans for the university.

He plans to leave an appropriate amount of time for the anticipated questions of those attending.

MUSIC FROM BEAR VALLEY

Bob Bess

Association President Bob Bess, whose post retirement service activities include the Presidency of College Town and the Board of the Capital Public Radio Endowment, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Music from Bear Valley, marking the first time that this 36 year summer festival has had representation from the Sacramento region. High on his priority list for the festival is raising local consciousness about this very special event and encouraging friends and colleagues to visit and find out for themselves what a special treat it is.

Last summer, the Bear Valley Music Festival was voted the number one summer event in the Central Sierras. Although classical music is emphasized, the Festival also features jazz, bluegrass, pop and art events. The setting in the high Sierra adds immeasurably to this very special musical experience. Daily open rehearsals provide a special bonus.

Bear Valley is just two and one half hours away. There is a wide variety of accommodations available as well as many reasonably priced restaurants. Many visitors to the Festival precede the performance with a picnic.

The setting is magnificent. If you want to learn more you can go to www.bearvalleymusic.org. When the schedule becomes available, copies will be placed in the Library Emeritus Room. You can also ask Bob to send a copy to you.

This year's festival runs from July 31 to August 15. Highlights include three piano performances by Clyburn Gold Medalist Olga Kern, including a recital and two concertos with the 65 piece festival orchestra, Mozart's "Magic Flute," two pops concerts, and an opening night gala performance by The Fifth Dimension.

There is also a bit of jazz and bluegrass. A different winery is featured each night along with good brews from the local Snowshoe Brewing Company. Bob is always ready to provide more information about the festival and related matters. Do not hesitate to contact him if you are among those not yet familiar with the Festival and its environs.

CAN WE SEND E-MAILS TO YOU?

Bob Bess

As you know, the Silver Bulletin is published just two times each year. That's all we can afford. However, there are often items of interest which we would like to pass along to you between editions. As many of you know, our President, Bob Bess, is developing a member e-mail directory. Thus far, he has addresses for about forty percent of members. If you have an e-mail address, please send a simple message to Bob at: rbess@sbcglobal.net so that he can add your address to the member list. Be assured that the list will be used solely for Association related matters.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The **Silver Bulletin** will be much more interesting (and maybe more fun) if more members will send news items (about you and your colleagues) to the Editor: Alan Wade 2916 - 25th Street - Sacramento, CA 95818 **PHOTOS** from trips etc. can be included and will be used if space permits. Black and white photos are best. Photos will be returned upon request.

ATTENTION: Articles for the Fall 2004 issue of the Silver Bulletin should be in the editor's hands by **no later than September 30, 2004.**

"STILL LOOKING....."

In the Fall issue of the Bulletin, we published an impassioned plea for someone to serve as a helper-apprentice, and eventual successor, to Wilma Krebs in her role as lobbyist for CSUS-ERFA. We hereby repeat that request—we are close to desperate. This is an essential public service job that can only be filled by one of our Sacramento-based colleagues. We know that you are all busy, but this job gives you a chance not only to protect your own vital benefits, but to extend that your efforts in service of all retired faculty in the CSU.

The CSU-Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (called ERFA) subsidizes our local Emeritus Assn., and wants as many as possible to be members of our state organization, In numbers there is strength!

If you are not already a member, PLEASE JOIN NOW!

LOWER AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY IN PERIL

Alan D. Wade, President - Save the American River Assn., Inc.

Because of sharply reduced revenues available to local government, the usual maintenance and operations budget for the "Crown Jewel" of the Sacramento County Parks system faces even further cuts that might well make the Parkway undesirable for use. Currently, the 23 mile long, 5000 acre American River Parkway provides recreation and relaxation to millions of visitors each year, more than enter the gates of California's national parks.

Those who live along or near the Parkway will be especially affected by loss of trash collection and general maintenance services, dilution or elimination of Park Ranger patrols, and perhaps a corresponding decline in property values. The multitudes who use this precious resource will be affected by increasing illegal camping and general lawlessness.

The current Parkway budget, already low by national standards, represents less than one percent of the total budget of Sacramento County. Currently pegged at a little above 4 million, the Parkway budget could be reduced to as little as \$600,000 in order to meet the projected shortfall.

All who know and love the Parkway, and perhaps especially retired faculty who live near and/or otherwise enjoy its unique amenities, should immediately contact their County Supervisor or City Council member to let them know that they will not tolerate its neglect and destruction.

Those who know the Parkway could well ask: how on earth can the Parkway be closed? How can you keep folks from entering a 5000 acre, 23 linear mile greenway along the American River?

And therein lies one major problem: the budget cuts proposed will, by reducing maintenance and Ranger services, render the Parkway more or less undesirable as a quiet place to pursue biking, strolling, dog-walking, fishing, or to just plain escape from the relative madness of our daily lives.

On Tuesday, March 9, hundreds of Parkway (and all county parks) supporters turned out at a budget "Workshop" before the County Board of Supervisors in unanimous agreement that this vital artery in Sacramento's body politic not to be allowed to decay. The Parkway budget is 4.4 million dollars, or less than 1/4 of one percent of the entire county budget.

It is linked with such important services as animal control, human rights, the arts, and the Cooperative Extension program under the general budget category called, ironically, "Quality of Life." All of these programs are slated for decimation. Query: What is wrong with ensuring a high quality of life for our citizens? What is wrong with a political entity which puts quality of life close to the bottom of its budget priorities?

In fact, what is wrong with a wealthy county, the seat of government of the 6th largest economy in the world, which can't afford to keep up its park and recreation facilities? Here is what you should do, if you love and enjoy the Parkway, if your home is near it and your property values will be affected adversely by its deterioration, or if you are just plain embarrassed at the thought of being a silent observer to the stupid civic crime of allowing a priceless natural resource to decay: Write, call fax or e-mail your County Supervisor, listed below.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

700 H STREET - ROOM 2450 - SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

web site: www.co.sacramento.ca.us

MAYOR HEATHER FARGO

730 I STREET

SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

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dickinsonr@saccounty.net

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District 3: Muriel Johnson 874-5471

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District 4: Roger Niello 874-5491

niellor@saccounty.net

District 5: Don Nottoli 874-5465

nottolid@saccounty.net

EMERITUS ROOM IN THE CSUS LIBRARY

The Emeritus Faculty Room is located in Room 4026f of the University Library, and is available for use to all CSUS Emeriti faculty during library hours. The room has a PC and printer, a table with a lap top connection, good lighting, comfortable chairs and sofa, and a telephone.

It is pleasantly decorated in soothing colors with a selection of historical CSUS posters on the walls. In short, the Emeritus Faculty Room is a very good place to read, to relax, to bypass the competition for computer access of other places in the library, to talk privately with a friend, to find respite from your research or to meditate.

The Emeritus Room is also the meeting place of the Emeritus Association/Friends of the CSUS Library Book Group which meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Please contact Dr. Mary Reddick at: mreddick@csus.edu - (916) 278-4045. In Library 4025 to get a personal key to the Emeritus Faculty Room, and/or to schedule computer or library database instruction, or for further information about the Emeritus / Friends of the CSUS Library Book Group

JOIN SARA TODAY!

Join SARA, (Save the American River Assn.), the 43 year old advocacy organization under whose auspices the Parkway was established, or join one of the two other Parkway organizations in the Coalition to Save the Parkway; ARNHA & ARPF.

American River Natural History Assn. and the
American River Parkway Foundation

Contact SARA by going to the SARA website: www.sarariverwatch.org or by calling one of these numbers: Alan Wade, SARA President: 455-7083 or Wanda Denson, Admin. Assistant: 383-1298 for information, or e-mail: riverwatch@comcast.net

Please keep checking the county website as well, for budget hearings that may ultimately affect the Parkway. The American River Parkway is too valuable a resource to allow to deteriorate and increase the crime rate for Sacramento.

RESERVATION FORM

Emeritus Association Spring Luncheon - Wednesday, April 7, 2004 - Alumni Center

Reception beginning at 11:30 a.m. (no host bar) Lunch at 12:30 P.M. / Remarks by Ric Brown

Lunch includes rolls and butter, beverage and dessert. Price will be \$10.00

Please indicate choice of entree and number of persons for each

Pasta Salad _____ **Chinese chicken salad** _____

Name: _____

Street Address/P.O. Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Return this form with payment which may also include your 2004-2005 dues. **Make checks payable to: CSUS Emeritus Association and mail to James Jolly, Treasurer, 4618 Crestridge Road, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.**

PLEASE REPLY BY MARCH 31, 2004

Emeritus Association #117480
c/o Bob Bess
2034 Promontory Point Lane
Gold River, CA 95670

***Emeritus Association Board of Directors
California State University, Sacramento***

2004-2005

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