



ROBERT BESS

President's Corner

by Bob Bess

I come from a family that has always chosen to keep funerals and memorials very simple, essentially for family and the

very closest of friends. After experiencing the several events, social and ceremonial, following the passing of our friend, Bill Sullivan, I have changed my point of view. It gave so many of us the opportunity to be reminded of Bill's special qualities and to learn particulars that we might have missed over the years.

The culmination of this was his campus memorial service on February 18. As I stated at that time, he was a role model for many years. These experiences have reminded me how important it is to care about others and act accordingly. I hope that you have had similar feelings and that Bill changed your life for the better. Participation in the Dean's Fund Bill established upon his retirement might be a good way to reinforce our memories. For more information, call (916) 278-6502.

CALPERS Update

The vast majority of Californians have no idea what CALPERS has done for all of us over many years. Certainly, our benefits are special. They have contributed significantly to the ability of the State to employ and hold generally competent and honest staff, not to mention fine faculty to support institutions which have been characterized as the fuel that drives our economic machine.

Few people, even beneficiaries, realize or remember that PERS has helped to bail out the State on a number of occasions. Even fewer know that there have been many years when there was little or no need for participating entities to make their contributions. If this fact were addressed in statements about the currently projected rising cost, folks would not be nearly as likely to accept the assertion that change is needed. Following my retirement, I participated in defined contribution programs in Minnesota and Colorado. These states contributed nearly ten percent to my accounts during years when my income was substantial. The return is substantially short of what PERS has accomplished.

Moreover, once those States make their fixed contribution, defined by law and collective bargaining contracts, they have no opportunity to benefit during times when there is a surplus. They just keep paying the fixed amount, year after year. We may not be directly impacted by the changes proposed by the Governor and I am not sure how to stop him. We do care, however and we ought to take every opportunity to educate others about the issues and then encourage them to spread the word. Given the cost of the proposed election and the tangible service that PERS has provided to the State and other participating organizations, it is difficult to find a rationale for what is underway. It is not too difficult to hypothesize about who the real winners would be if this proposal is implemented—surely not the people of the state of California!

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President's Corner

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Association Benefits

I have received many favorable comments about our efforts to develop and expand our benefits program for members. Most of them have been prospective rather than based upon actual

experience using these benefits. We want to strengthen and expand the program; that requires feedback, positive and negative. Please share your experiences. What benefits have you used? Were you pleased? Have you run into any difficulties taking advantage of our benefits? You can share your experiences with Board members in person or via letter or e-mail. In addition, let us know what you would like to see added. And, please do use your contacts to obtain items that we can use as door prizes or include in membership packets. Don't forget that we have an account with the Trust Foundation where we are accumulating funds to augment our own giving program.

Bear Valley Music Festival

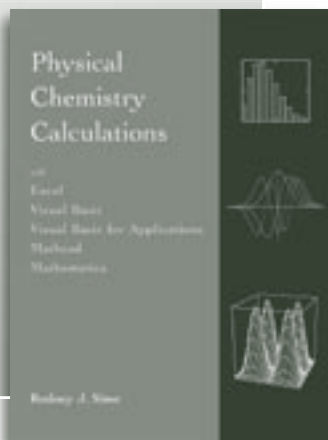
Last year, I was able to take advantage of my association with the Bear Valley Music Festival to obtain complimentary tickets to a Festival Concert. I expect to be able to do that again this year. If you are interested and do not use e-mail, please use any other means available to let me know of your interest. If you wish to be placed on the Festival mailing list, let me know.

While you are reading this, I will be in the midst of my twelfth visit to South Africa. Being there is always a

multifaceted delight, particularly with regard to people. This time the high point of my visit will be the wedding of one of the three graduate students I sponsored in the mid-nineties. It will be held in

Life After Retirement?

Rod Sime (Chemistry) has exploited the possibilities. After he retired in 1992, he pursued a life-long dream to nurture his latent artistic abilities by obtaining a CSUS bachelor's degree in art. More recently, he has completed and published a text in physical chemistry, *Physical Chemistry Calculations* (Pearson-Benjamin Cummings, publishers, 2005). He still finds time for poker, golf, and an occasional ski trip. ■



the rural village of his soon-to-be wife. Because of its great distance from home in Pretoria, there will be a second reception the following day for those who cannot afford the long and somewhat costly journey to the wedding site. Nice idea! Once more, I want all of you to know that I am always ready to lend a hand if you should consider a visit there. If the timing is right, I might even sign on as your personal guide.

Please be with us at the luncheon April 22. If transportation is a problem, please call any Board member. I am sure that we can arrange assistance. Peace. ■

PERSONAL NOTES

Bob Phillips (Geography), whose Mekong tours we have previously noted, writes:

"When in America I live, quite literally, on the family homestead in western Oregon. I was born and lived here through high school, when I discovered the way out; now, in retirement, I have found my way back."



ALAN WADE

Note from the Editor

Surprise! The Silver Bulletin has a new look, courtesy of Geri Welch and Claire Harding of University Publications & Design. This edition is brief—next fall's will include more features on eight pages instead of four. We want your comments! Send them to Alan Wade, Editor: 2916 25th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 (e-mail listed on front page).

COMING THIS FALL:

- David Humphers on "My Republican Father..."
 - Peter Shattuck's travels
 - Wilma Krebs on the assault on PERS
- Articles for the Fall, 2005 Silver Bulletin should be turned in by Sept. 1, 2005.

April 22 Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting

Mark this date on your calendar and complete the reservation form (back page) now! The no-host reception at 11:30 a.m., preceding lunch, provides a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends and gossip with those you see regularly. Our guest speaker will be former Assemblyman Phil Isenberg, who always has important things to say. Our meal will be an Italian Buffet with a variety of choices for vegetarians and meat eaters alike. We have some great door prizes. Following Mr. Isenberg's remarks and Q and A, we will have our annual business meeting. The Board will present a slate of officers including nomi-

Friends Italian Buffet Door Prizes

reservation form on back page

Remaining members of the current Board have agreed to serve for another year, in order to support the solid implantation of our new benefits program. Bob Bess will serve for one more year. If you have additional nominations, they should be made from the floor. If you have ideas about Board Candidates for 2006–7, it is not too late to suggest them to any current board member. Our goal is to involve new leadership in advance in order to assist their preparation for service.

As is our custom, we will take a few moments to recall those who have died 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 Association. Parking permits are essential. You may obtain a temporary permit from the Center receptionist if you don't have one. ■

Book Group

The Emeritus Association/Friends of the CSUS Library Book Group continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. However, the group has decided to meet occasionally in the homes of members of the group rather than exclusively in the Emeritus Room of the University Library. Contact Louellyn Lower, lcohan@saclink.csus.edu, (916) 456-5879; or Mary Reddick, mreddick@csus.edu, (916) 278-4045 for location of meeting. The reading schedule for 2005 is as follows:

April 14: *The Namesake*, by Jhumpa Lahiri

May 12: *What's The Matter with Kansas*, by Thomas Frank

June 9: *The Great Fire*, by Shirley Hazzard

July 14: *The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature*, by Steven Pinker

August 11: *Anil's Ghost*, by Michael Ondaatje

September 8: *Waiting for Snow in Havana*, by Carol Eire

October 13: *The Known World*, by Edward Jones

November 10: *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror*, by Bernard Lewis

This list and other information regarding Emeritus Services and the book group appear on the Emeritus Service Website: <http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=97>

Major American River Watershed Conference

Watch for further announcements concerning this conference, to be held on campus April 21–23. Scientific papers will be presented on the first two days, with Saturday morning's session (April 23) free and open to the public. Contact Tim Horner, Geology, or Continuing Education on campus for more information. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Homer Ibser, Physics, October 28, 2004

Ennis McDaniel, Counseling/Student Health, February 14, 2005

Eugene Sahs, Social Work, December 21, 2004

Sol Spector, Social Work, November 23, 2004

William Sullivan, Dean, Arts and Letters, December 10, 2004

Emeritus Association Luncheon & Business Meeting

No host reception at 11:30 a.m.
Buffet Italian Luncheon at 12:30 p.m.
Includes a variety of entrees (including vegetarian),
rolls and butter, dessert and beverage. Price \$17.50. Wine for purchase.
Remarks by former Assemblyman Phil Isenberg

**Friday
April 22, 2005
CSUS Alumni
Center**

RESERVATION FORM

Name (including guests) _____

Street Address / P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Return form with payment to James Jolly, Treasurer, 4618 Crestridge Rd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Make checks payable to CSUS Emeritus Association. **Reservations must be received by April 18.** If you are late, phone Jim at (916) 966-2244.

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Silver BULLETIN

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