



"I'm All Right, Jack"

Alan Wade, association president

Don't expect a state budget to be passed until November, just after the election.

This is an off-year election, which tempts one to say "who cares?" However, its outcome could well affect the ability of California public retirees to stay afloat during our remaining "Golden Years." Further, California, one of the world's richest economies, is on track to making us the first Third World American state of the 21st century. Is there anything we can do?

An impediment to clear thinking on our part is that we are doing so well. Our homes are paid for, we have great health care at little cost, travel where and when we will. We live like this on monthly PERS payments, sometimes coupled with other income streams, that are generally above the average for all 492,000 PERS annuitants—the modest sum of \$2188 per month. Some are even in the select "\$100,000 Club." As the Brits might say, "I'm all right, Jack."

Is it possible that our own affluence has allowed us to slip into a sort of "genteel passivity," rendering us oblivious to the ugly nation-wide scape goating of public employees and retirees, holding us to blame for California's budget deficit and our pensions and

health care hostage to budget negotiations? How future generations of Californians can maintain decent public services will become an interesting question. The anti-tax mantra has allowed our social safety net to disappear and public employees are blamed. (Do we actually want our public safety personnel working until age 60 or later??)

Neither gubernatorial candidate will be able to push an agenda through the legislature. Most real action on key issues in the next few years will take place through the deeply flawed initiative process. Whitman will push for Draconian reforms, such as the "McCauley Pension Recovery Act" that failed to make the ballot in June, but is waiting in the wings. It would levy a special tax on all public pensions, including a confiscatory levy on cumulative pensions over \$50,000 per year. She threatens to fire 40,000 state employees. Brown may press for less harsh but perhaps even needed reforms.

What to do? Check out the propositions carefully. Vote for those that offer a small step toward systemic reform of our paralyzed state government. The current issue of CSU-ERFA's "Reporter" contains a useful guide. And above all—pay attention, because the pension you save could be your own.

Editor's Corner

Steve Gregorich

I dedicate this issue to the previous *Silver Bulletin* editor Hortense Simmons. Hortense has been taken ill and has resigned. I worked closely with Hortense as she gathered articles and photos from the members and crafted her own unique and artful pieces. I enjoyed working with her very much and will miss the comradeship we shared. Hortense served as *Silver Bulletin* editor from 2007 to 2010. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia and sends her best regards to all of you.

All of the articles in the *Silver Bulletin* are special, but in this issue there is one that is even more special than usual. "The Legacy of Wilma Krebs" by Bob Curry illuminates the lifetime contributions of the colleague we will be honoring at our Silver Jubilee dinner.

This is the last issue that will be mailed to street addresses. Hereafter, the *Bulletin* will be sent via email. If you are not receiving e-mail from us, send your request to jansteve1@directcon.net.

If you must receive the *Bulletin* by mail, we do not want to leave you out. Please call me at (530) 621-4505 to give your name and address for the special mailing.



HORTENSE SIMMONS

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sara5204@pacbell.net

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pfhstry@saclink.csus.edu

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The Legacy of Wilma Krebs

Bob Curry, economics emeritus

When Wilma Krebs joined Sacramento State's economics department in 1966, we "hit the academic trifecta." Wilma was an exceptional teacher, a consistent contributor to the discipline of economics and an important source of wisdom for the department's governance process.

Wilma remained an integral part of the department's life for the next 17 years. She retired from full-time teaching in 1983, but continued in the classroom through the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) until 1990.



Wilma was born in Vancouver, Canada, and her academic life began at the University of British Columbia. After earning a bachelor's degree in economics, she went on to earn her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, where she focused on public finance and fiscal theory and policy. She studied under the direction of eminent economist Dr. George Break. She joined the Sacramento State faculty after teaching for several years at the University of California, Los Angeles.

During the quarter of a century Wilma and I taught together in the economics department, I came to recognize four admirable traits that characterize her life.

The first was her dedication to the academic discipline that she shared with her fellow economists, and her admirable devotion to teaching serious, thoughtful and important aspects of public finance and fiscal policy. Wilma was instrumental in developing the department's courses in these areas as well as a course on California State and Local Finance. She helped to educate and train a number of students who went on to work for various agencies of the State of California, including the Legislative Analyst's Office and the State Department of Finance. She was an extremely popular teacher whose classes were always well attended and highly praised.

The second trait was something I particularly appreciated about Wilma: during the years I served as the department's chair, she was always willing to "pitch in" and serve on committees, direct student research projects and become involved in various aspects of shared governance—a principle to which she remains truly committed in the department and beyond.

The third trait was the way she carried this willingness and her commitment to Sacramento State and the CSU into her retirement years through her work on the Emeritus Association Board and CSU-ERFA, where she was a diligent member of the executive committee. Her continuing commitment to the CSU was not surprising, because during her active faculty years, she was a member and officer in the CSEA Academic Society, which became the California Faculty Association (CFA). Wilma was a force in the CFA, representing faculty in numerous grievance cases and serving as a strong policy advocate for her faculty

colleagues. She earned their admiration and respect, and they responded by electing her president of the inaugural CFA chapter at Sacramento State in 1990.

The fourth admirable aspect was her extraordinary capacity for friendship in her professional, personal and home life. Wilma's colleagues recall that she was instrumental in the formation of the Emeritus Association, putting together a group of board members who were not only her colleagues but also among her close friends. Together, they managed to hold the fledgling association together, often because of decisions made at emergency meetings that they held at her home. Wilma served as board President during 1986-87 and again in 1991-92, and remained active on the board for six more years after that.



Wilma's enduring capacity for friendship is a "gift" that she shares with her husband, Bob Krebs. During their years at Sacramento State, each experienced deep and long-lasting friendships not only with colleagues but also with students. Bob was always willing to hire highly qualified

international affairs graduate students to work under his direction at the Library. The students were children of working-class families from countries that included Thailand and mainland China. Not only did these students work for Bob, he and Wilma became their virtual host family. I was reminded of the Krebs family's warm relationships with students from abroad when decades later while teaching in Bangkok I met a Sacramento State graduate from Thailand who worked for Bob and befriended the Krebs. After more than 20 years away from Sacramento State, the former student began our conversation with the question, "How are Bob and Wilma Krebs doing?"

I came to know Wilma as a warm, sensitive and caring person. After I was elected department chair, Wilma often would stop by my office to let me know that in her view I was "doing a good job." That meant a great deal to me! In addition to sharing a personal friendship, we also had the same interest in public policy. When it came to her work in public policy arenas, I was always impressed by Wilma's work ethic as a tireless and effective legislative advocate for the CSU-ERFA, particularly on policy issues ranging from accessible health care to rational state tax policies.

Wilma advocated the development of a sustained and targeted state taxation regime that would protect higher education. She was convinced that a sensible tax policy was necessary if the State was to honor its commitment to the "people's university system" in ways consistent with the promises of the Master Plan. In addition to her academic and public policy activities, Wilma always had time for worthwhile activities and associations. She was a long-time member and president of a local League of Women Voters chapter.

The success she achieved in all of her endeavors was enhanced by her ability to form lasting friendships at Sacramento State, the CSU, within the economics profession, as part of "the community," and, of course, most profoundly within her family. Wilma is currently residing in an assisted living facility in Santa



WILMA KREBS

Rosa, California where her care is being overseen by her daughter. She has been and remains an extraordinary person who has every right to reflect upon her years as an academic and public policy advocate and conclude that hers is an eminently useful, engaged and admirable life.

IN MEMORIAM

- George Rich, Anthropology. Jan. 8, 1945 - Sept. 4, 2010
- Louis Bronson, Social Work. Feb. 5, 1928 - Aug. 16, 2010
- Kirsten Amundsen, Government. Aug. 16, 2010
- Ethel Livingston, Healthcare. July 2, 1920 - July 30, 2010
- Ray Endres, Education. Aug. 14, 2010
- Rochelle Markis-Foster, campus services. Dec. 12, 1958 - July 28, 2010
- George Marrah, Business. Jan. 5, 1915 - July 24, 2010
- Addison Sommerville, Psychology. Aug. 6, 1927 - June 21, 2010
- Kenneth Hirsch, Communication Studies. June 15, 1932 - June 16, 2010
- Francis Bautista, Education. May 9, 2010
- Reiko Matsushita, Payroll. 1922 - May 2, 2010
- Nancy Yousif, (wife of Salah Yousif, Engineering) Apr. 14, 2010
- Myren Krom, Mathematics. Mar. 14, 2010
- Bob Mattos, athletics. Sept. 28, 1941 - Mar. 14, 2010
- Mary Bacharach, Education. Mar. 6, 2010
- Richard Koch, Education. July 5, 1937 - Feb. 23, 2010
- Margaret Hjelstrom, health center. June 1, 1920 - Jan. 3, 2010
- Evelyn Reddick, (wife of Harvey Reddick, acad. vp) Aug. 29, 1919 - Jan. 20, 2010
- Gay Kornweibel, (wife of Dick Kornweibel, History) Dec. 28, 1942 - Jan. 16, 2010
- Robert Foreman, Philosophy. Jan. 11, 2010
- James Vaughter, dir. facilities planning. May 22, 1918 - Jan. 9, 2010



TOO MUCH FUN

Tim Comstock, dean of students emeritus

I left Sacramento State in late 1995 after 19 years on campus. I was dean of students for a decade (1977-1987) and served in a variety of other administrative roles thereafter. The years as dean were my favorite as they enabled me to work with a host of very talented and dedicated professionals such as Don Hinde, Sue Snively, Ralph Alvarez, Shirley Uplinger, Joe Aiello, Elena Caro, Harriet Taniguchi, Larry Glasmire, Tom Edwards, Tom Griffith and Hazel Johnson, among others.

The position also placed me in charge of intercollegiate athletics for several years where I built great relationships with another wonderful cast of people such as Roy Clemons, Irene Shea, Barbara Bartee, Dick Sperbeck, Bob Mattos, Cal Boyes, Hank Elespuru, John Smith, Harvey Rolloff, Mike Clemons and Gary Quattrin.

A decade as liaison to the Associated Students allowed me to forge lasting friendships with erstwhile student leaders such as Joe Gibson, Roger Westrup, Bob Raymer, Kevin and Karen Stevens, John and Ruth Scribner, Doug Curley, Brian Blomster, Jan Haag and many others. Watching them grow, graduate and become key contributors to the community was one of the major joys of the dean's job.

After Sac State, I spent a few years at the Health and Human Services Agency with Sandy Smoley who served as agency secretary. She was, and is, one of our community's great and genuinely fun, human beings.

I then spent four years as executive director of the California Dental Association—a great gig by any measure. I could give you 1,000 words on that assignment, but this is neither the time nor place.

Retirement came several years ago and offered the hope of polishing a once-decent golf game, writing more articles and maybe even a book or two. The golf "polishing" went a glimmering as arthritis began to assume control over my back, left shoulder and both hands. What remains of a long-held single digit handicap is a shipwreck that friends pity and one-time opponents view with glee. I still play once a month when my ailments allow, but only with my kids and friends who don't laugh out loud at what passes for a swing.

With golf confined to the far back seat, writing moved up the list of things to do lest I become a mute shut-in at a very young age.

I have loved writing for nearly all of my adult life—a fact that would stun a cadre of primary and secondary English teachers who labored mightily to haul my writing performance up to a level close to mediocrity.

Ted Hornback helped me with an article that landed in *Sports Illustrated* 25 years ago. Bob Olmstead was a tireless editor of my book on the Sutter Club. That was my first book, and it took me 18 months to write. The next book, *An Honorable Heritage*, was a commemorative history of 125 years of the Sacramento YMCA. Another local history followed and a series of articles on local institutions and events.

Finally, the requirements of research and assuring accuracy began to feel more like work than fun. Over the years I had become an inveterate reader of mysteries—using them to offset the more demanding histories I plowed through on a regular basis, as well as the hundreds, if not thousands, of stultifying work-related memos I'd read (and written) over the course of a long career.

It dawned on me that I could (or so I thought) actually write a mystery as good as some of those I'd read. That led to *Reunion in Carmel*. It may or may not be as good as some I've read—but it's all mine. It required no research, no accuracy, just imagination and another fine editor.

Jan Haag, who edited the *State Hornet* about 30 years ago, has been a friend since her days on campus. She now chairs the English Department at Sacramento Community College and is a fine writer. She read my first draft, made 29 suggestions, then re-read it after I incorporated 28 of them. She's not a fan of the mystery genre, but she did the job out of the goodness of her heart. Her comments made my story much better than it had been. I can't thank her enough.

I'm having a great time with the book. I had a signing event at a pipe store in early August. Then we had the Avid Reader event on August 29, and one in Carmel on September 4 at the Carmel Bay Company. I've sold a few dozen copies at Burr's Fountain on Folsom Boulevard and am scheduling another event at Jamie's Bar & Grill on Broadway in mid-September.

While reviews have been strong, I have no illusions about my book becoming a best seller. It's just too hard to break into the business as a no-name author. On the other hand, the steady stream of encouragement has set me on the road to more mystery writing. I've got six Sherlock Holmes stories half-polished and am developing a sequel to *Reunion in Carmel* in the little spare time I have.

I am really having too much fun. Hell, I barely miss my golf game, and I get to write off my trips to Carmel. As I close this, I hope all my old colleagues are happy and healthy. If you get a chance, drop a note: tcomstock@comcast.net.



A History of the Emeritus Association

Bob Donaldson, history emeritus

Once upon a time there was no one who qualified for the occasionally prestigious title “emeritus.” Indeed most of us at Sacramento State never thought about it since we lived in the “golden age” (the first 40 years). Compared to today, morale was high and retirements low. By 1984, members of the statewide Academic Senate, concerned about life hereafter, urged each campus to establish an emeritus association. Facilitated by Sacramento State president Don Gerth, a local organization was formed on September 16, 1985, with Jim Bradfield (education) elected president and Wilma Krebs (economics), vice president and president elect.

Considerable controversy arose regarding who should be numbered among the “chosen.” Initially, only a few (professors, associate professors and equivalent administrators and librarians—all with 10 full-time years of service) gained admission. Such a restriction of honor proved unacceptable to the many (all faculty, including assistant professors and lecturers, plus equivalent administrators, librarians and staff with five full-time years of work and spouses of deceased members) who now qualify as emeriti. Curiously, in light of this democratization, with 160 members, we have 40 fewer than 15 years ago.

An umbrella organization emerged entitled the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA). In 2006 the title of our association was officially changed to the “Sacramento State Emeritus Association.” Those questioning admission of staff should be assured by President Gerth’s letter to staff dated 9/9/1988 and our board minutes dated 9/6/2001. It is worthy of note that all our board members volunteer with no pay and no staff.

Since ERFA’s birth, Sacramento State has naturally represented it in the halls of state government. For the first 22 years, Wilma lobbied and acquainted the academic community on issues of interest.

During the past 15 years, we have sought relations with other academic bodies. A permanent non-voting seat in the Academic Senate keeps us well informed and sometimes involved in current politics. Staff membership permits us access to the Staff Council. The Alumni Association maintains a seat on our board. Our newsletters reach a significant audience besides our colleagues; our website, the SilverLink, which incorporates the *Silver Bulletin*, keeps us up to date on a multitude of activities. Appropriately, both silvers should be recognized at our celebration.

Seemingly blessed with blue skies, a surprising cloud appeared on October 15, 2007, when the executive board betrayed tradition by authorizing the treasurer to purchase a CD for \$5,000. Heretofore, funds exceeding expenses and a reserve of \$2,000-\$3,000 had been donated to beneficiaries (e.g. Friends of the Library, Faculty Endowment Fund and Departments of Music and Theater and Dance). On February 10, 2009, despite an account balance of more than \$17,000, the board voted, with no rationale, to increase fees to \$30. On August 24, 2009, donations totaled \$2,000. No additional donations have been recorded (*the board’s responses to these questions are in the box to the right*).

Honoree for the Silver Anniversary, Wilma Krebs, heads my pantheon of heroines and heroes. In the fateful year 1991, the Association appeared to be dead; half of dues paying members had not renewed,

cash reserves were negligible and we had no executive board. Our saviour, Wilma, resurrected the association declaring we would live on, recruiting an outstanding slate of officers, headed by herself, and reversing the flow of members with its attendant increase in funds. Our opportunity to obtain long-term health care through PERS is generally acknowledged to be the result of her endeavors.

Twelve of her followers earn accolades for carrying on her good work:

During the Association’s most difficult years, the multitalented Jim Saum (Education) served as vice president, president, membership chairman and editor of the newsletter. Perhaps the board might consider the means Jim employed to regain members who had not renewed, retain existing ones and recruit new ones.

As treasurer for seven years, Jim Jolly (Business) provided crucial expertise, especially in the crisis of 1991.

By effectively recording board and general meetings, the secretaries have made this story possible. Serving for seven of the early years, Elgie Fuson (Library), noted for her colleague-ship, enthusiastically performed her duties. Succeeding Elgie, Peggy Cavaghan (FACS) maintained her high-quality work; Peggy wittily named the newsletter “*Silver Bulletin*.”

Conscientious and highly knowledgeable about University politics, Peter Shattuck (History), has been vice president for 10 years (longer than any other local office holder). Enthusiastically, he accepts a variety of tasks. We especially appreciate his talents as sommelier and raconteur (most frequent writer for the *Silver Bulletin*).

During the past decade, Alan Wade (Social Work) and Hortense Simmons (English) have kept us up to date on news and views

Response to Questions Raised in the History Article

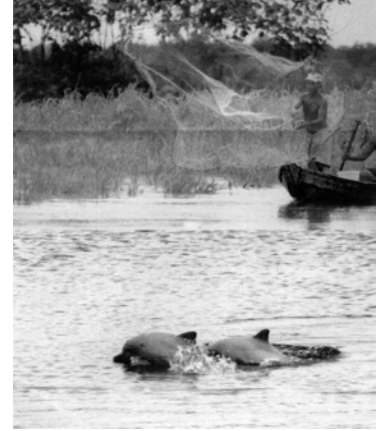
Dues are the only source of income for the Emeritus Association while donations to the campus, publication of the *Silver Bulletin* and costs for events are the only expenses. Each year, the amount of money in our checking account has an extreme high point (just following the collection of yearly dues) and an extreme low point (just following donations, publications and events.)

A few years after lifetime memberships were introduced in 2003, those one-time funds were held back as a prudent reserve. The reserve grew over the next two years with gradual additions of lifetime memberships. The overage was monitored and due to be adjusted by awarding more campus donations than usual, thus creating a high and low point in the reserve account with a cycle of about seven years.

When it was realized this year would be our 25th anniversary, the board held all 2010 donation decisions so that they could be announced at the Silver Jubilee dinner. At its regular August 2010 meeting, the board voted to award \$10,000 to campus programs/scholarships, an amount about double the average yearly donations for the past three years. In the history article, our total funds were reported at the exact, combined high points of the checking account for this year, and the reserve fund for the past seven years — EA Board.



Peter Shattuck's Travel Corner



Two recent books – *The Lost City of Z* and *Fordlandia* – have called attention to the immensity and wonders of the River Amazon. I read these books, one about the fatal 1914 expedition of the mad Colonel Percy Fawcett, and the other about Henry Ford's arrogantly confident, badly bungled, and doomed to fail effort to establish a rubber plantation, with more than usual interest after traveling 2200 miles down the Amazon from Iquitos in Peru to Belem, Brazil, at the river's mouth. Here are some recollections of some high points, and one very low point, of the trip.

Most memorable is the river itself. In April, near the end of the rainy season, the pale, grey-brown water extends far beyond the nominal banks, spreading deep into the jungle. Twice a day, we clambered into Zodiacs and meandered up flooded channels, around islands – one with a huge purple-flowered tree towering above the rest – and into the all-powerful current. Dolphins, some gray and some pink, surfaced near our inflatables, and competed with local fishermen. Children in tiny dugout canoes maneuvered as if they had been born on the water. In the trees, we saw monkeys, sloths, iguanas, and a few tree boas; birds, brightly colored and dark, big and small, butterflies – and mosquitos.

In the fifteenth century, millions of people lived along the river. After centuries of European control their numbers have dwindled, but we did visit some villages. In one, a generator ran for four hours a day to power the televisions. "What do you watch?" "News, sports, and novelas (soap operas)." The government supports schools, but there may be three or four staggered sessions in a day, with students delivered from a wide area by small floating school buses.

We spent a day in Leticia, Colombia. I expected to see drug lords driving around in gold Cadillacs, but encountered instead

herds of people on shrunk-en motorcycles, making every step off the sidewalk an adventure. We spent a day in Manaus, the capital of the 19th-20th century rubber boom. There we visited the 1890s Opera House, a monument to excess, with what Elizabeth described as "a hideously garish mosaic dome." They built it in anticipation of Caruso, but he never arrived. Rubber has faded, but the city is booming again, a free port attracting dozens of international corporations – Kawasaki, Harley-Davidson, Procter and Gamble – to build factories.

The noted historian John Hemming served as a lecturer on the ship. In his major books about the Amazon, he writes with a calm, scholarly tone – until his indignation at the Portuguese, or Dutch, or Spanish, or French treatment of the natives boils over into heated condemnation. He was wonderful to listen to as he talked about his nearly sixty years of Amazon exploration, including numerous first contacts with native tribes.

Then there was Rosalie, as I will call her (since that was her name), the worst traveling companion we have ever encountered. Seventyish, fashionably blonde and dieted (with "work done"), utterly self-centered, constantly demanding special services, she elbowed her way to the front of each Zodiac she boarded. More than once, her outright racism caused a fellow passenger to get up and leave the shared dinner table.

What stays with me the most is the river. Adjectives: immense, inexorable, all-nourishing, all-devouring, terrifying, vast, magnificent – and I haven't even mentioned the piranhas.

A History of the Emeritus Association continued

through their exemplary editorship of the *Silver Bulletin*. Alan's less than enthusiastic acceptance of my request that he take the job marked a turning point. Not only did he succeed in making it more informative, thought provoking and entertaining, but he also set the pattern upon which Hortense improved.

Probably most of us are unaware that Dave Humphers (Social Work), who succeeded Wilma as representative to ERFA, devoted himself to chairing effectively the ERFA committee dealing with health benefits; he shares with her acclaim for increasing them. Particularly noteworthy, he gathered evidence that squashed heavy-handed tactics by a local health insurance provider.

For the last half of our quarter century's existence, Jerry Tobey (History), Bob Bess (Student Affairs) and Alan Wade have presided. By recruiting and retaining an experienced and cohesive executive board, Jerry established the foundation to the success we experience today. Increasing our campus wide role, eligible staff became members.

Most innovative of presidents, Bob Bess introduced us to affluence. Relatively lavish banquets, including fine wines at every table, accompanied by entertainment supplied by music and theater and dance departments, enhanced enjoyment of sharing thoughts with old friends. Credit Les Gabriel (Engineering) with engineering our

mutually beneficial relationship with these departments. Numerous door prizes rewarded the fortunate ones. Special benefits accrued to us (discounts for emeritus special events, including the annual dinner, the University Center Restaurant and athletic, art and music productions on campus). Bob's legacy remains vibrant.

Given his outstanding leadership of the Sacramento State Academic Senate, great expectations accompanied Alan's election as president; he has not disappointed us. No one has been more dedicated, evidenced by 14 years of continuous service.

Because of these achievements, supported both by board and non-board members, one anticipates our Association will live happily ever after.

Editor's Note: The author, Bob Donaldson (History), served as president of the board for two years. Among his accomplishments were: acquiring non-voting representation for the Association on the Sacramento State Academic Senate, a considerable increase in donations to Friends of the Library and securing Alan Wade as editor of the Silver Bulletin. Bob also served as chair of the Academic Senate in its second year; chair of the History Department for two three-year terms; college ombudsman responsible for the entire campus (faculty, students, administrators and staff); and two three-year terms as state academic senator.

A Note from Norway

Rod Sime, chemistry

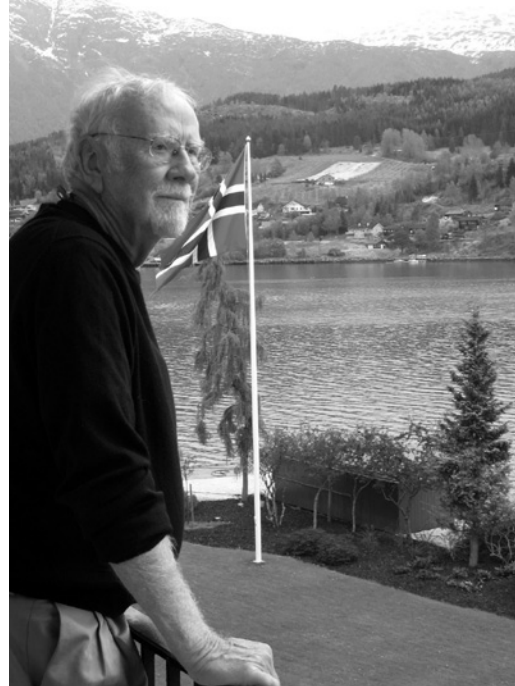
In May, Ruth and I flew from Sacramento to Oslo, relieved that the Iceland volcano had settled down in time for our trip. After a couple of days in Oslo we traveled to Bergen by means of a “Norway in a Nutshell” tour, which included the famous Flam railway, a rather complicated trip that involved train, boat and bus. We learned later that as seniors we could have booked the individual segments at a 50 percent discount – and it’s not that complicated because there is almost perfect correspondence between trains, buses and boats: you hop off a boat and onto a train or bus. Subsequently, we did our own booking and saved a bundle, which in Norway isn’t trivial because the prices of everything are exceedingly high. Incidentally, nearly all Norwegians speak American English, perhaps because most of their sitcoms are American with the original sound and Norwegian subtitles.

I knew that my great-grandfather Nils Torsteinson Seim was the first to emigrate from his area, the village of Seimsdal, near Årdal, at the far end of the Sognefjord. I knew that Nils and his wife sailed on the ship Juno to New York in 1844, continued over the Great Lakes to Milwaukee, and then walked to their homestead near Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. Nils Americanized his name (he thought!) by changing the spelling to Sime. For the next 34 years, he farmed and produced six children, one of whom was John Sime, my grandfather. Both Nils and John are buried in McFarland, Wisconsin, near Madison. I also knew that a granite monument and plaque had been erected to commemorate Nils’s daring (or maybe they were just happy to be rid of him). I wanted to find these landmarks, and after a couple of days in Bergen, a delightful city, we traveled to Årdal by means of Express Boat (a catamaran) and bus. After booking a room at a pension, we inquired with the owner about Nils Seim and Seimsdal, and he quickly put us in touch with Oddvar Natvig, a professional local historian, and Egil Jørgen Lund, a photographer. They were quite excited about meeting us and both claimed to be descendants of Nils, which would make them cousins I suppose. They spent the rest of the day driving us to Seimsdal, pointing out the Nils Seim plaque and his original home, a wooden structure that is still

standing. Seimsdal is too small to have a church or graveyard of its own, but in Årdal we found that the graveyard is richly populated with Seims.

After returning to Bergen for a couple of days, we traveled by bus and boat to the resort town of Ulvik, located at the end of the Hardangerfjord. It was here that my mother’s father, Gjert Solheim, sold his farm around 1900 and emigrated to a homestead in southern Wisconsin. We located his original farm in Ulvik and learned that the present owner’s name is also Solheim. It seems to be a custom in Norway to adopt the name of one’s real estate, making it tricky to trace one’s genealogy. Both of my grandparents had eight children, most married and had many more, so that growing up in Madison I had 46 first cousins. Although I was an only child, I was certainly not a lonely child.

I think it’s interesting, but in the end not so important to look for one’s roots. I’m more concerned about the wellbeing of my grandchildren than the story of my grandparents. Had I been born in Norway, my grandchildren would have complete health care from the day they were born, their parents would have generous parenting leaves and their schooling would be free from age three through high school and university. No wonder that the people we saw on the streets of Oslo, Bergen, Ulvik and Seimsdal looked contented. Of course it is true that oil has made the country rather wealthy, but it also seems true that Norwegians have provided sensibly for their community and planned for its future.



Rod in Ulvik, Norway on May 10, 2010.



Gerri’s Staff Corner

Gerri Welch, staff representative

Faculty *and Staff* Emeritus Association. Are you one of the retired staff still surprised to see that the Emeritus Association now includes all retired Sac State staff as well as faculty? The number of retired staff joining the association is steadily increasing as staff see how hard the Association works to keep our campus community together after retirement.

There’s more. You may know the Emeritus Association has social events, usually featuring Sac State student entertainment, at least twice a year. But, did you also know that the Association belongs to a statewide advocacy network that strives to protect the retirement benefits and pension plans for all of us? We know how hard we worked to earn those benefits, but we also know there are growing demands and threats for changes as the state continues to struggle through economic hardship. The Emeritus Association makes sure

our voices are heard. Your membership helps to strengthen that role.

There are other membership benefits as well. You’ll find a complete description on the emeritus website. You can get savings and discounts and other perks that help you stretch your retirement income. A portion of the membership fee (\$20 per year for staff) also goes to support student scholarship funds and campus organizations such as the Library.

Still not sure if you want to join? Then you should plan to attend a fun and festive event for all retirees, whether or not they are members of the association, coming in November. It’s the 25th anniversary celebration of the founding of the association, and it will take place November 5 at 6 p.m. That event, as well as most activities of the association, will be held at the Alumni Center on campus. It’s an opportunity to renew old friendships and acquaintances and learn more about what the emeritus association can offer you. I’ll see you there!

Why You Should Join the Emeritus Association

You should join the Emeritus Association because it:

- safeguards our retirement and medical benefits through its affiliation with the state-wide retirement organization, CSU-ERFA. In these times of budgetary uncertainty, this is vital work.
- originated the Sacramento State campus policies for the rights and privileges of emeritus that are still in force today.
- works cooperatively with campus administrators to obtain privileges for retired faculty and staff such as complimentary parking stickers, SacLink accounts, 10 percent reduced costs for campus dining and more.
- provides scholarships and funds to deserving campus programs through yearly donations.
- sponsors lunches, dinners, a speaker series in cooperation with the Friends of the Library and is developing other venues of activities for retirees.
- has official representation on the Sacramento State Faculty Senate.
- maintains contact information on all faculty and staff retirees and provides an online listing of e-mail addresses that is accessible to its members (the campus no longer provides a printed or online directory of retirees).

When you join the association you will:

- strengthen the association's ability, and CSU-ERFA's ability, to safeguard your retirement and health care benefits.
- receive a membership card at, or shortly after, the fall dinner that will identify you as a Sacramento State emeritus and give you access to all the benefits our Association negotiates for its members.
- receive a code that gives you online access to the names and e-mail addresses of all Emeritus Association members. (Note: The campus no longer publishes contact information for retired faculty or staff.)
- be included in the online contact list.
- qualify for a \$10 deduction for yourself, and \$10 deduction for one guest, at the Silver Jubilee fall dinner on November 5, 2010, and the Spring Champagne Brunch in April 2011.
- receive the emeritus association eZine that keeps you informed.

Membership is open to retired and part-time retired faculty and staff of Sacramento State. Dues are \$30 per year for faculty and \$20 per year for staff. Lifetime memberships are \$300 for faculty and \$150 for staff. Those who live at least 75 miles out of the area qualify for a distance membership of \$10 per year. We encourage all retired faculty and staff to also join CSU-ERFA.

Register for the Fall 2010 Silver Jubilee Dinner

Friday, November 5, 2010 at the Alumni Center • 6 p.m.

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

Checks should be made payable to: The University Foundation at Sacramento State. The donation portion of your check is tax deductible.

Register by Saturday, Oct. 30. If late, call Gene Kneprath 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 2011 dues I am a life member I want to be a new member I want to renew membership for 2011.

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:

\$40 for 2011 member and \$40 for one companion* _____

\$50 each for non-members _____

Your 2011 membership dues _____

Donation for Sacramento State Programs** _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

* If you pay dues for 2011, the cost for you and one companion is \$40 each. Non-members pay \$50 each.

** Your donation will benefit deserving Sacramento State programs and scholarships such as the library, the arts, and the Faculty Endowment for Student Scholarships.



SACRAMENTO STATE

Emeritus Association
c/o The Office of University Advancement
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6026
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DESHAU RAE

Library Author Lecture Series

Geri Welch

Diverse topics—ranging from “Remaking California” to “Black Politics After the Civil Rights Movement” to “Vietnamese Food and Culture” will be explored during Sacramento State’s Friends of the Library Author Lecture Series for 2010-2011.

Leading off the series will be Jeff Lustig, emeritus professor of Government at Sacramento State and editor of *Remaking California: Reclaiming the Public Good* (Heyday Books). Called “essential reading for all Californians,” Lustig’s book contains contributions from leading writers and scholars, including Kevin Starr, Dan Walters and former Senator Barry Keene, on the state of California today. Lustig, founding chair of the California Studies Association, will discuss his book at 3 p.m., Wednesday, September 22 in the University Library Gallery.

Known as the “most beloved American short story writer,” Raymond Carver’s works continue to influence writers, decades after his death in 1988. *Raymond Carver: A Writer’s Life* by Carol Sklenicka (Scribner 2009) was named by *The New York Times Book Review* as one of the 10 best books in 2009. Sklenicka will discuss her work, and Carver’s own ties to Sac State, where he studied and published his first collection of poetry, at 3 p.m., Tuesday, November 9, in the University Library Gallery.

In honor of African-American history month in February, David Covin, emeritus professor of Government and Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State, will discuss his book,

Black Politics After the Civil Rights Movement: Activities and Beliefs in Sacramento 1970-2000, at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011 in the University Library Gallery.

Chef, restaurateur, columnist and author Mai Pham will conclude the series with a discussion of Vietnamese food and culture at 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in the University Library Gallery. Pham’s presentation will be part of the Friends annual meeting during National Library Week.

All lectures are free and open to the public. Cosponsors include Capital Public Radio and the Faculty and Staff Emeritus Association.

The Friends will join the Emeritus Association in presenting two additional talks by Sacramento State faculty researchers this year. Government professor James Rae will discuss his research in human rights and international law, including the current trials of suspected Khmer Rouge who carried out the atrocities described in *The Killing Fields*, at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 1 in the University Library Gallery.

History professor Rebecca Kluchin will discuss her work in U.S. women’s reproductive history at 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in the University Library Gallery. Her first book, *Fit to be Tied*, dealt with government sterilization programs. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Sally Hitchcock, coordinator for community outreach, University Library, at (916) 278-5954.