

SILVER BULLETIN

Newsletter of CSU, Sacramento Emeritus Association

Fall - 2004

President's Column *Robert Bess, President*

Greetings Colleagues and Friends:

As I write this, I am only a few hours from an extended trip that took me to a number of old favorite locations in both Europe and Asia. I continue to be impressed by the high level of awareness about world affairs demonstrated by folks just about everywhere, in stark contrast to what I observe hereabouts. Two themes dominated our conversations, identical to what I experienced during the run up to the war, when I was in South East Asia – Most folks seem to be able to distinguish between American people and government leadership and opposition to the war is nearly universal.

During my trip, I had the privilege of being the guest of a Pakistani family and obtaining a quick overview of this country about which we know so little. I was surprised at the friendliness of people on the streets as well as the degree to which I was allowed to observe the daily lives of a large extended family. It is fairly easy to understand much of what we read about concerning terrorism, etc., when one contemplates a literacy rate of only ten percent perceived threats, past and present, and growing poverty. Just press my button and I will be happy to share more.

Back home again, I believe it is not an overstatement to say that we have entered a new era for the Emeritus Association. Of course, our ability to offer a great variety of new benefits is good news, but more importantly, the manner in which various University personnel have responded is most gratifying. Virtually everyone with whom I have worked to develop this program responded positively and generously. This is evidence of the worth of emeriti as perceived by these individuals and the constituencies they represent. President Gonzalez has authorized a

modest budget which will cover most of our mailing costs. During the past couple of weeks, two other University entities have offered tangible support to improve the Silver Bulletin. (You can expect to see the results next spring).

We have already received over sixty reservations for our November 12 dinner, suggesting that we may be headed for record attendance. Our speaker will be Prof. Robert Waste. The title of his address is "Sacramento's New Gold Rush." Senate Chair Christy Jensen will also be our guest for the evening. If you have not already made your reservation, please do so as soon as possible. Information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

By the time you read this, those of you who have joined the Association should have received your membership materials. Perhaps you have already used one or more of the benefits. We encourage your feedback and suggestions for new programs and activities. If you have not joined yet, I hope that you will decide to do so and act soon.

(Continued on page 2)

ANNUAL FALL DINNER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004

GUEST SPEAKER:
Professor Robert Waste

See page 7 for complete details

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued from page 1)

Thanks to Alan Wade for so ably representing the organization during President Gonzalez' inauguration. If you did not hear his remarks, you will find them on page of this newsletter. I am sure that Alan would appreciate hearing your thoughts on the them he followed.

Finally, I just received the quarterly membership report from CSU-ERFA. There are 154 CSUS faculty currently signed up. Of course, we would like to see the number grow. The Association receives approximately ten dollars per member. This goes a long way toward meeting our costs of operation as well as contributing to our ability to support University programs. More importantly, the greater the membership number, the greater the ability of CSU-ERFA to represent us in numerous ways, particularly with regard to health care. If you have not already done so, please consider adding your name to the roster.

PLANNED GIVING TO CSUS

Sheila Hard, our campus' Planned Giving Director, reminds us of the importance of charitable gift annuities. The transfer of property is one way of giving to the university. A recent New York Times article, "Giving Away the House as a Strategy," points out that a gift of property can be made to a charitable remainder trust, which then sells the property and provides the donors with a lifetime monthly payment. On the death of the donor, any assets remaining are transferred to the charitable/educational institution. For more information, call Sheila Hard, 278-6989.

EMERITUS FACULTY AS TUTORS?

Many students at Sac State need remediation and tutoring, to help them function more effectively in the academic environment.

Would there be interest in gathering a cadre of Emeritus Faculty to participate in a special program helping students?

Interested? Please Contact President Bob Bess or Newsletter Editor Alan Wade if you have ideas and time to contribute.

Bob Bess: 635-1405 / Alan Wade: 455-7083

THE CRISIS AT CSU

Manny Gale, Emeritus Professor of Social Work & Gerontology

The California budget crisis has deepened. Because the Guv has refused to consider appropriate tax revenue increases, budgets have been slashed. These policies have dramatically affected health, education and human services, etc.

The Chancellor agreed to another \$240 million cut from the CSU budget, in addition to the \$311 million cut of last year. The Master Plan for Higher Education, the vision and commitment to improving the quality of higher education has, in essence, been shelved - or dumped. With CFA and student pressure, the Legislature restored \$40 million of the proposed reduction, which included enrollment money for 6,000 additional students, funds for CalGrants and the Educational Opportunity Program for low-income students.

Where the systems of higher education in California were the models in terms of access and opportunity, the cuts and increased fees have resulted in restricting access, at the same time that the population is increasing.

Fees for undergraduates and graduate students have increased above the recent tuition increases, stressing students and parents, and placing them further in debt. This has also resulted in restricting access to higher education for potential students, who can't afford the increased tuition.

Proposals in the Government Performance review, make recommendations that could dramatically change K-12 and higher education, by shifting greater control to the Governor. The outcome of the public hearings and the possibly revised proposals, will require alertness by those committed to quality education.

At CSUS, (as of October 4th) the Colleges and Departments/Divisions still do not have their budgets for the current academic year. How do they plan re needs, with no definitive commitments of resources from the University? This has resulted in fewer admissions, increases in class size, layoffs of needed lecturers, dropping of classes, scheduling classes in alternate years, and delays in graduation.

There were 24 million people in California in 1980, 30 million in 1990, and 36 million in 2004.

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(These remarks were delivered by Alan D. Wade, Emeritus Professor of Social Work, on the occasion of the Inauguration of Alexander Gonzalez as President of California State University, Sacramento, on October 4, 2004. Mr. Wade served as spokesperson for the Emeritus Faculty of the CSUS.)

It is with a mixture of enthusiasm and hope for the future of California State University, Sacramento, that I speak for my many colleagues among the retired and emeritus faculty. I am honored on their behalf to welcome and congratulate you, Alexander Gonzalez, on your inauguration as our campus president.

With humility and pride, I represent today the hundreds of men and women who came to this campus during the generation beginning more than a half century ago, to begin or continue our academic careers in California. By the hundreds we came to this capitol campus, by the thousands to the California State University system, many of us veterans of World War II and Korea, most with degrees from prestigious universities. Young, optimistic, and idealistic, we were drawn here by the New El Dorado, which was California's Master Plan for Higher Education. This unique, nay—revolutionary, social invention offered the shining promise of free access to higher education for any California citizen, on a campus close to home. Rooted in a wide range of academic disciplines, we came here to devote our professional lives to the fascinating task of teaching what one might call “the ‘B’ and ‘C’ students who as college graduates just happen to run the country.”

The result of the synergy that took place between the productive academic energy of my legion of colleagues and the Master Plan itself left a gargantuan mark on the State of California. However, we now face challenges of a different order of magnitude from even the grimmest faced in the past. I need not detail them here, but it can be fairly stated that public policy in higher education as elsewhere seems driven by the pursuit of private benefit, while the public interest and the social contract are increasingly discounted.

And yet, there is much hope. In her little book ***Hope in the Dark***, Rebecca Solnit offers this insight: “To hope is to gamble. It’s to bet on the future, on your desires, on the possibility than an open heart and uncertainty (are) better than gloom and safety. To hope is dangerous, and yet is the opposite of fear, for to live is to risk.”

Alexander Gonzalez, your inauguration offers hope to all of us. During your short tenure here thus far, you have shown your optimism and creative energy in making far-reaching plans for the physical surroundings of this campus. The Emeritus faculty look forward now to beginning with you the far more daunting task of engaging the faculty of this campus in achieving the highest possible standards of quality in the classroom, the laboratory, and the library.

You are blessed—we all are blessed—with a teaching faculty on this campus with awesome talents, under-utilized, over-stressed, and under-compensated. As Emeriti, we adjure you to work hand in hand with our faculty in order to ignite an explosion of educational creativity that will revive the hope of the Master Plan for California's tidal wave of students yet to come. This campus holds the human resources to become a source of pride and wide-ranging benefit to our state and to the nation.

We dare to hope that the beacon that drew us to this wonderful place decades ago can once more be ignited, and that you are willing, with our full support, to engage the risks inherent in such a task.

Send in your reservation now for the Fall Dinner to be held on **Friday, November 12, 2004.**

Reception at 6 p.m. / Dinner at 7 p.m
University Alumni Center

*PETER SHATTUCK'S TRAVEL CORNER
AROUND SIBERIA'S SEA OF OKHOTSK, SUMMER, 2004*

Siberia in the summer is still Siberia, and when I was tipped out of a Zodiac (think Jacques Cousteau's 18-foot rubber tube boats) into the Sea of Okhotsk, I understood vividly what 5 degrees Celsius means. Other aspects of this year's trip also thrilled us, with glorious scenery and menacing fur seals and huge sea lions and millions of birds. One loud and depressing day we flew 200 miles inland in an old but reliable helicopter to visit a lead mine and prison camp that had been part of the Gulag. But the trip's organizers also saw fit to provide some cultural experiences, which turned out to be among the most bizarre aspects of the expedition.

On a sandy meadow on the east coast of Sakhalin Island, the ninety passengers gathered in the morning to eat blinis, drink vodka, and watch folk dancing. First came children in authentic - though synthetic plastic - fur costumes, moving gracefully if a bit tentatively. Then a shaman appeared, masked and threatening, banging a wide flat drum. And then - in far eastern Russia, in tribal Siberia - eight blonde and red-headed young women in sailor suits (think Battleship Potemkin) performed a seemingly Busby Berkeley-inspired dance featuring large paper plates beaten upon with wooden spoons. Did I use the word bizarre?

The evening of the day we visited the Valley of the Geysers, courtesy of another terrifying but reliable helicopter, we watched a troupe of Koriak dancers who had just returned from a tour of Scandinavia. In their gorgeously embroidered - and evidently real - sealskin costumes, they leapt demonically about the tiny stage. They bashed their small flat drums with reports like gunshots. One man, clearly Genghis Khan's nephew, grinned evilly through missing teeth under a curving mustache. The dancers' sweat splashed us three rows away.

Okhotsk, a town of about five thousand people, dates to the early 18th century. After leaving St. Petersburg and crossing the breadth of Russia, Vitus Bering built

two ships in Okhotsk and sailed east to discover America, as well as the Bering Strait. The largest building in town, dominating Lenin Square, harbors a museum and a concert hall. We heard an hour-long program most notably featuring a seven year old boy who is going to grow up to be Wayne Newton, or maybe Bobby Darin. Rotating disco lights gave a surrealistic touch to the performers; the doctor who sang like Edith Piaf kept turning from slightly mauve to vaguely golden to a bit silver.

From the ridiculous, we turned to something closer to the sublime on Bering Island, where the Danish-born explorer died of scurvy on his return voyage. Of the five hundred inhabitants of Nikolskoye, descended from Aleuts and Russians from the fur-trading years, at least fifty turned out to entertain us. All ages took part; a four-year old boy was so goggle-eyed at the parka-clad tourists that he found his own private drum rhythm. Then three aged women stepped forward to sing two songs in the Aleut language. The music, atonal, gentle, and haunting, left us breathless. It was marvelous marker for the end of our voyage.

This trip left many vivid memories. The scenery and the wildlife, of course, and the gloom of the prison camp. We certainly cannot forget the huge, grim, barracks-like apartment buildings which house most of the people of cities like Magadan and Petropavlosk. And the dirty old men among us will remember the glimpses of thong underwear when our young Russian guides stooped to feed the pigeons in Lenin Square. While the quality and professionalism of the cultural programs varied widely, we cannot forget the energy, the enthusiasm, the dignity, and the kindness of the singers and the dancers. Although the Sea of Okhotsk chilled me most memorably, I am grateful to have experienced the equally impressive warmth of the people of Siberia.

(Continued on page 5)

Peter Shattuck's Travel Corner, continued from page 4

A post-script, or actually two: at the end of the trip, we were scheduled to fly from Petropavlovsk to Anchorage at 8:00 A.M. A bureaucrat, straight out of stories from Czarist to Soviet to Putinesque Russia, held us up for eight hours, even though a staff member with a broken leg needed to get to the Anchorage hospital. And ten days after we left the ship, it went aground on an uncharted reef off the Aleutians, and all passengers had to take to the lifeboats. By comparison, my adventure was mild; at this stage, I'm quite grateful.

Sound Familiar??

The following note by Bill Blischke, President of the CSU, Dominguez Hills Emeritus Faculty Association, appeared in his "President's Message" in their Spring Newsletter:

. . . During the '70's, the campus was an intimate, friendly academic community, with small classes and a(thankfully) "emerging" bureaucracy. Since that time, despite our efforts to maintain that "idyllic atmosphere" (the grass is always greener on the other side of the time warp), the campus, the CSU, and the State bureaucracy have impinged on our on-campus and off-campus lives in incredible and unimaginable ways.

Our new faculty colleagues face a much more formidable, unfriendly, competitive, bureaucratic, resource-depleted, and demanding academic environment. I am glad I am not walking the academic corridors in their shoes!

(Ed. note: Professor Blischke then urges support for the campus' Legacy Fund for Faculty Excellence, and greater support for current faculty on the part of Emeriti.)

Reminder!

The Emeritus Faculty Room is located in Room 4026f of the University Library, and is available for use by all CSUS Emeriti faculty during library hours. Contact Dr. Mary Reddick at mreddick@csus.edu 278-4045, for further information.

Sports Department

While it is not the policy of the *Silver Bulletin* to publicize every athletic feat by our members, Jerry McDaniel claims that this one, from the wonderful world of golf, is special. Jerry tells us that on March 23, Murray Work, (Psychology) launched a seven-iron drive on the 110 yard 16th hole at Castle Oaks Golf Club. It looked good as it approached the green, but then the ball disappeared! We assumed it had gone long or short. Yes, we found it in the cup, but, *mirabile dictu*, it had clearly gone in "on-the-fly," a kind of "immaculate" hole-in-one, the odds on which are very long indeed. Murray therewith "broke his maiden" (as they say in horse racing), his first ace in many decades of playing the game. The honest golfers-emeriti witnessing were Peter Shattuck, Henry Chambers, and Jerry McDaniel. (Ed. note—equally honest skeptics suggest that this item should have appeared under the heading *Believe it or not!*)

Wilma Krebs' Apprentice Recruited

After several years of impassioned pleas in the *Bulletin*, David Humphers (Social Work) has graciously and enthusiastically volunteered to be helper-apprentice, and eventual successor to Wilma in her role as lobbyist for the CSUS-ERFA. Thanks, David, for taking on this essential but rewarding task for the statewide organization, and for all of us.

LOOK NO FURTHER

by Marina Snow

Marina Snow (Library) continues her post retirement career as an author with her latest novel. Described as "a compelling narrative of love and international relations," Marina's latest follows her two plays, numerous short stories, and BAIPA Best First Novel award winning *The Walking Wounded*.

Look No Further may be ordered on-line at: www.cypresshouse.com



The Crisis at CSU, from page 2

The Department of Finance projects another 20 million people by 2050. In Sacramento County, the population is expected to grow an additional 750,000 by 2020. Where are the resources necessary to invest in physical infrastructure, jobs, affordable housing, education, health care, environment, transportation, water, etc.?

The picture is grim, the result of a dramatic failure of political leadership to address the values in the social contract, and to assign top priorities to investments to people. Emeritus faculty must join with others in addressing the crises.

E-Mail Addresses

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive regular updates from the Association, please send a simple message to Bob Bess at: rbess@sbcglobal.net. Your address will be used only for Association-related matters.

How About a Web-site??

Any volunteers out there to help set up a web site for the Association? A web site would be of great help in communicating with our members. The illustrious title "Webmaster" awaits the first volunteer!

LATEST REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

Jim Jolly, our able treasurer, has this last minute "good news" to report: The Association now has 109 paid-up members, including 22 out-of-area members at the \$10.00 rate, and best of all, seven great role models who have signed up at the "Life Membership" level. The latter are:

Deanna Balantac, Robert Bess, Phyllis Donovan, Donald Gerth, David Humphers, Sheila Lai, and Peter Shattuck!!

Jim Jolly urges that we congratulate the new life members, and points out that this level of contribution to the Emeritus Association will show on the books for many years as a fitting and stabilizing benefit for us. With reference to the "out of area" members, he opines that perhaps many emeriti are seeking adventure elsewhere.

IN MEMORIAM

James L. Crawley, June 13, 2004
Recreation and Leisure Studies

Gene Savage, 2004
Music

Merrell Skeels, May 22, 2004
School of Business Administration

Royal M. Vanderberg, 2003
Physics

Inaugural Ceremony for President Alexander Gonzalez

by Alan Wade, Editor

No doubt you have already heard about the colorful but dignified (and long overdue) induction of Alexander Gonzalez as CSUS' eleventh president. Attended by members of the public, many of the Trustees, the presidents from many sister campuses (or their representatives), and aided by perfect weather (well, a few complained about the heat magnified by our academic regalia), the ceremony turned out to be an appropriate confirmation rite of passage for the new president.

I was asked to lead the parade, carrying the University flag, and representing the Emeritus Faculty. I was flanked by two ROTC cadets, who apparently were assigned to pick me up and carry me in case of stumbling or heat exhaustion. I made it safely to the Outdoor Theater stage, where I later gave a two minute speech.

(See page 3 for the complete text of my remarks.)

There was some criticism of the idea of holding a medieval spectacle of this nature at this time. Others, including me, believe that rites of passage of this nature lend dignity and a sense of historical continuity to our educational enterprise.



**California State University, Sacramento
EMERITUS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address / P.O. Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Membership Type: Regular \$25 _____ Life \$250 _____

Inactive/out of area (75 or more miles from campus) \$10 _____

Enclose check for proper amount. If you have already paid, return form without check.

Do you wish to receive occasional e-mail bulletins? Yes _____ No _____

I would like to lend a hand with our activities; call me. Yes _____ No _____

RESERVATION FORM

EMERITUS ASSOCIATION, FALL DINNER. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004

Reception at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. University Alumni Center.

Name of Attendee(s) & menu choice - Please print:

1. _____ Meat _____ Vegetarian _____

2. _____ Meat _____ Vegetarian _____

Dinner includes salad, dessert and wine.

**Complete both sections and return with your check to James Jolly, Treasurer
4618 Crestridge Road
Fair Oaks, CA 95628**

Amount of dues PLUS \$25.00 per person for dinner

***Our speaker will be Professor Robert Waste
The title of his address is "Sacramento's New Gold Rush"***



**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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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 Alan Wade, Editor - 2916 - 25th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 (e-mail and fax listed above). Photos from your trips can and will be included when space permits. Black & white are best.

ATTENTION: Articles for the Spring, 2005 Silver Bulletin should be turned in by: March 5, 2005.