



Emeriti & Retirees Association



CONNECTIONS

Staying Connected to Our Campus Community

Newsletter #18 Fall 2021

ERA Executive Committee

President

Judith Chibante Neal
Literacy & Early Education

Vice President

Berta Gonzalez
Curriculum & Instruction

Secretary/Treasurer

Joanne Schroll
Kinesiology

Historian/Newsletter Editor

Don Priest
Media Communications & Journalism

State Council Representative

Dave Quadro
Communications

Member

Ronald Johnson
Theater Arts

Member

Robert Mikell
Ethnic Studies

Member

David Ross
Foreign Language & Literatures

New Partnership with University Administration

During the past summer, the Executive Committee submitted a proposal for partial funding of the ERA budget by the University to help support outreach to members, and to establish a physical presence on campus. In his response to the Committee, President Jimenez-Sandoval stated, "I'm happily approving this request..." thereby inaugurating a new partnership with ERA.

In the past, our revenue has come from a single and modest source—dues rebates from ERFSA. That is, for each of our dues-paying members, we receive a small percentage of his/her dues paid to ERFSA. Those monies have just barely been sufficient to provide for newsletter expenses and 2 luncheons per year. Shortfalls between rebate income and expenses have been covered by a cushion of funds from past years of inactivity. But cushioning funds eventually will run out, especially considering rising catering costs and expenses to upgrade the preparation and presentation of our biannual newsletter.

The following will be made possible through this university partnership: modest funding to complement ERA's income from dues rebates; an online presence; event space and coordination; and, physical office space on campus. This means office space for producing newsletters and promotional materials, a campus 'home' for emeriti and retirees when visiting campus, as well as meeting space for Executive Committee meetings. This new partnership will be acknowledged in ERA materials, at luncheons, and on the ERA webpage to promote volunteer and donation opportunities to our members.

As this newsletter 'goes to press,' the details of finding available space on campus are still being worked out. Your ERA leadership is deeply gratified for being welcomed and recognized as a vital partner contributing to the future of Fresno State.

by Judith Chibante Neal

Benefits of EFRSA

The Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (EFRSA) was established in 1985. Until 2018 it was known as the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. In that year the association voted to change its name to include retired CSU staff.

The first task of the organization was to bring local campus organizations in as affiliates of the state group. The "carrot" offered was a 15% rebate of the dues paid by local group members. Eventually all existing locals bought into this plan. The Fresno campus did not have a local organization until 1995. Under the leadership of Prof. Lester Roth, a local organization was established and immediately joined the state organization as an affiliate. ERFSA is recognized by the CSU Board of Trustees as the official voice of retired faculty and staff. In order to interface with organizations that have like interests, the ERFSA State Council chooses a voting representative to serve on the statewide Academic Senate and liaisons to the California Faculty Association (CFA), the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA), and the Statewide Coalition of Retired Employees (SCORE). ERFSA provides a number of important member services. Three will be highlighted here.

First, on a "global" level, the organization works diligently to represent the interests of its members at the state and national levels. Its major focus is to protect and enhance our pension and health benefits. Through the efforts of its professional staff and many dedicated volunteers, ERFSA tracks proposed legislation as it makes its way through the State Legislature and the halls of Congress. At the state level, our representatives meet with individual legislators, legislative committees, and executive branch representatives to ensure that our voice is heard on matters that concern us as retirees. In addition, meetings are held regularly with staff and managers of CalPERS and other state agencies when regulatory changes are under consideration.

The second major benefit is a personal one. If you experience difficulties, particularly with your pension or health care benefits, help is but a phone call away. You can call the ERFSA office at 1-818-677-6522 to either get help or be directed to someone who has expertise in dealing with your particular issue. Another good source of help is the ERFSA website: www.csuerfsa.org. Among other resources are back issues of The Reporter which may have articles of interest to you.

Finally, ERFSA has a grants program which funds research and creative activities undertaken by our members. A complete description of the program including information on how to apply is on the website. ERFSA has proven to be a major force as an advocate for CSU retirees. I expect it will continue to be in the foreseeable future.

by Dave Quadro

Fall ERA Luncheon

At a meeting September 8, 2021 facilitated by ZOOM, the members of the ERA Executive Committee discussed whether to complete plans for a traditional fall semester luncheon that had been tentatively scheduled for November 12. Since the covid pandemic continued to fill local hospitals, it was decided unanimously that it was prudent to cancel the fall luncheon. A spring semester luncheon will be scheduled for the week following campus graduation ceremonies.

Meet Your Executive Committee

Due to inactivity during the shutdown for the pandemic, the Executive Committee took the unusual action (for “unusual times”) of extending the current term of officers from ending in June 2021 to 2022. Here are your officers and appointed Executive Committee members currently serving to re-enliven ERA after a COVID hiatus of several months.



President

Judith Chibante Neal

Out of high school, I moved 200 miles away from home to attend a small, liberal-arts college on the eastern edge of Los Angeles County. What an abrupt awakening from having grown up on a small farm in Atwater! I returned to the Valley to teach at the age of 23. During 14 years in grades 7-12, I earned a Masters Degree from Fresno State, then decided to go into teacher preparation at the university level. To do that, I took sabbaticals, personal necessity days, and unpaid leaves to attend University of the Pacific, earning a doctorate in 1988.

After four decades in education—public school teaching and teacher training at CSU Fresno—I retired to return to my creative writing roots. A new world of endeavor means becoming a learner yet again. For several years I've studied with an established, nationally recognized poet from Santa Cruz. In my academic life, I had conducted research and had articles published in refereed journals. But, in creative writing, work is submitted to contests (rather than committees or editors)! In my new life as poet, I've had a first chapbook published (2017); several poems have received awards, the highest being the James Miller (Grand Prize) Award given by the oldest poetry society in California, the Ina Coolbrith Circle.

I joined ERFSA/ERA for connection to that prior life of mine (academia). Through staying in touch with colleagues, I find opportunities to give back to the milieu which enabled me to thrive and prepare for a second life as artist—a term I continue to find surprising in reference to myself.



Vice-President

Berta Gonzalez

My career has included teaching and serving in K-12 settings, including school principal; in migrant education programs; in community college, private, and public universities; and, serving as a CSU Resident Director abroad. The scholarly research, publications and engagement with national and international networks helped build linkages with community agencies, school districts and numerous universities. Many of these efforts built sustainable collaboration across disciplines. Numerous programs and projects were multidisciplinary, inclusive and culturally relevant. I am proud that many of these initiatives still thrive on campus today.

In 2011, Emerita status was bestowed on me after serving as Associate Vice President of the Division of Continuing & Global Education; I was also awarded Professor Emerita from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The Kremen School of Education and Human Development presented the 2016 Outstanding Alumna Top Dog Award to me for distinguished leadership in education.

Transitioning into retirement and joining EFRSA and the local ERA chapter has been an opportunity to stay connected with the university. It is a pathway to re-examine, reinvent and reimagine time in continual learning and personal growth with colleagues. I have also spent time with family, friends and enjoy reading, writing, gardening, painting and volunteering with various organizations. In the past two years what I missed most is my love of travel.

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Secretary/Treasurer

Joanne Schroll

I graduated from CSU, Fresno with degrees in Physical Education. I began my teaching career in a public junior high. From there I became a faculty member at Fresno State for 38 years. While working there I served in many capacities: Kinesiology Department Chair, Athletic Administrator, Professor, member and/or chair of numerous university committees. Also, I initiated a coalition for department chairs and developed an administrative handbook, served

as women's basketball coach and president of the Alumni Association.

Upon retiring in 2001, my days are full. I wonder how I found time to be a full time professor! I am active in my church by being on the board, working in the children's nursery, greeting at services, and attending many functions. I have continued to serve on various boards, including the Advisory Board for the School of Health and Human Services, and am currently on the executive boards of Sugar Pine Christian Camps and select dance clubs.

It has been wonderful to have time with friends and family meeting for lunch, coffee, dinner, traveling and attending events together. I keep fit by exercising, walking, hiking, ballroom dancing and eating well. I am an avid Bulldog supporter who attends athletic events and numerous university sponsored gatherings.



Historian/Newsletter Editor

Don Priest

My Fresno State adventure began in 1983 when I enrolled as a 37-year-old transfer student, a simple event that somehow evolved into a 35-year career. That convoluted path led from student, to staff, to lecturer, to tenure, to department chair, to retirement and then finally back to part-time adjunct. In the old days at Disneyland, it would've been considered an “E Ticket” ride.

Always the media guy, I taught most of the video and audio production classes in what's now known as the Media Communications & Journalism Department. I was also very active with the campus radio station, KFSR, and served in every position from on-air volunteer to station manager. I also did a stint as the first online advisor for the Collegian and came back after retirement to teach photojournalism.

Along the way I became involved with the CSU Summer Arts program and followed the same sort of circuitous path, going from student, to staff, to course coordinator in the 20-plus years I worked for them.

I retired in December 2011 as endowed Professor and Chair Emeritus. Since retiring I helped launch the Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC) and currently serve as Board Chair of the Valley Music Hall of Fame.



State Council Representative

Dave Quadro

I came to Fresno State in 1970 on a one-year appointment to replace a faculty member who resigned in August. I was given a tenure-track appointment the next year. My service during the 1970's included Chair of the Speech Communications Department, membership in the Academic Senate and service on the Executive Committee, and as an active participant in the formation of CFA. Beginning in 1981, I served for 12 years in several capacities in the central administration. The rest of the decade of the 1990's was spent teaching in my department. I retired in 2000 and taught in the FERP for three years.

I joined ERFA (now ERFSA) in 2001 primarily because I was impressed by the work the organization was doing in advocating on behalf of CSU retirees, especially in the areas of health benefits, policy formation and legislation.

I became Fresno's representative to ERFA's State Council in 2006. I continue to serve in that capacity as well as President of ERFSA's Charitable Foundation. In 2009, I was asked to pursue the revitalization of our chapter. Four colleagues agreed to work with me on this. We launched the revitalized chapter in 2011. The activities of our local group have continued to expand. We now have a significant presence on the campus and are doing good work on behalf of our membership.



Member

Robert S. Mikell

I am a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. I hold Bachelor's degrees in Business Administration and the MBA from Fresno State, and the Doctor of Education degree from the University of Southern California. I was a full professor at Fresno State and taught courses from 1972 until 2007 in Africana Studies and in the School of Business (Management and Marketing). I served twelve years (1978-90) as the Chairperson of the Ethnic Studies Program. In 2007, I was bestowed the honor of Professor Emeritus of Africana Studies.

I am the founder of the Africana Studies Research Center and served as Director. I co-chaired the Martin Luther King, Jr., Monument Committee, which commissioned the life-size statue of Dr. King located in the University's Peace Garden. Currently, I am serving on the President's Nelson Mandela Project Monument Committee.

I received a FIFSE grant of \$243,000, and published works including Black Town, Allensworth, and a manuscript entitled, "Peter Davis: The First Music Master of the Great Louis Armstrong." I have several entries on the academic website, blackpast.org. I served as an elected official at Educational Employees Credit Union. Currently, I volunteer as Jazz Host at KFSR 90.7, FM, Red Beans and Jazz, Fridays, 9:00am to 12:00pm.



Member

Ron Johnson

I received my undergraduate training at UCSB and did graduate work at San Francisco State and USC. I taught a year at San Francisco State before being hired in 1968 as Technical Director for the Theatre Arts Department at Fresno State; I held that position for 7 years until I was elected Department Chair. I remained in that position for 23 years until I retired in 1998. During that period and concurrently, I served as Chair of the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences which included Speech Communication, Radio/TV, and Theatre Arts/Dance. I remained in that position for 12 years until that department split into separate units.

I have been retired since 1998 if you don't count my years in FERP. ERA has given me the opportunity to keep connected to the campus as well as former colleagues. I enjoy sailing, a bit of golf, and trips to Tahoe and the coast.



Member

David A. Ross

I began to teach at Fresno State fall semester 1968, following a Fulbright year in Paris and London gathering documentation to complete a dissertation in the French department at UCLA. I also pursued studies at universities in Bordeaux, France, Lisbon, Portugal and Guadalajara, Mexico.

My professional career included teaching courses in French, Spanish and Portuguese; service as chair of the Foreign Languages department, associate dean of Graduate Studies, and Director of University One,

Introduction to the University. Following six years as president of L'Alliance Française de Fresno, I was designated Chevalier des Palmes Académiques by the French Education Ministry.

Since beginning to FERP in 2005, I published editions of Voltaire's Candide and Balzac's Eugénie Grandet, presented five papers at Annual International Symposia on Portuguese Studies at U.C.L.A., three of which became publications. As a participant in the Encyclopédie translators project, University of Michigan, I completed on-line translations to English of four articles concerning Portugal with historical footnotes.

Since departing Fresno State in 2009, I have taught Portuguese courses at FCC for ten years. During summers, my wife and I enjoy travels to Brazil, France, Greece, and Portugal. In my experience, the best job at a university or college is teaching students in a classroom.

ERA welcomes Emeriti Faculty & Retirees who joined ERSA & and the Fresno State Affiliate in 2020-2021

Tina Fernandes Botts-
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of Philosophy

Donnie Simmons-
College of Social Science
Co-Director of Humanics Program

Rssoul Yazdipour-
Sid Craig School of Business
Professor of Finance

Darnell P. Austin-
Jordan College of Agriculture
Sciences
Professor of Industrial Technology

Don M Priest-
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of Media Communication and Journalism

Corinne Hales-
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of Creative Writing

Loredan LoBianco-
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of Italian

Enid Perez-
College of Social Science
Professor of Women's Studies

Another Passage

The Fresno State campus has always been a visually interesting place. A mishmash of architecture surrounded by a cleverly woven tapestry of gardens.



A pleasant place to stroll, especially in the spring and fall when all the colors came out.

And for those of us who recollect more than few strolls around campus, the Amphitheater has always stood out as that special spot. The place to go to take a breather from classes, meetings or whatever, and by far most open and restful place on campus. But that too must now pass into memory, as the Amphitheater is in the process of being replaced by the Resnick Student Union.

The project has been in the works since 2017 when students supported the referendum to build it. Construction began in late 2019 with the grand opening scheduled for fall 2022. No one doubts that the new facility is needed, as it will include spaces for classes, meetings and performances. All of which are in short supply.

But still, seeing the Amphitheater replaced by brick and mortar, no matter how artfully designed, brings a bit of sadness. So many meaningful events took place there: graduations, speeches, demonstrations, concerts. Remember Air Guitar? Even just sitting there eating lunch was an experience.

But new replaces old – it's the way of the world. So now new students will make memories



in the new student union. We wish them well, as we cherish our memories and accept that the Amphitheater has passed.

Long live the Amphitheater!

by Don Priest

Connections Staff

Editor – Don Priest

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**Associate Editors – Judith Chibante
Neal, Berta Gonzalez**

**Contributors – David Quadro, David
Ross**

***Amphitheater Photos courtesy of University
Communications***

IN MEMORIAM ERA- Fresno Chapter Members

Dr. Robert B. Van Galder
1962-1997 (35 years of service)
College of Health and Human Services
Professor of Physiology / Exercise & Kinesiology
Served as Assistant Athletic Director
Passed January 11, 2021

Dr. Harry P. Karle
1962-1991 (28 years of service)
College of Social Sciences
Professor of Plant Science
Chair of Plant Science Department
Passed April 9, 2021

Dr. John Norman Tinker
1969-2006 (37 years of service)
College of Social Sciences
Professor of Sociology
Passed April 3, 2021

Dr. Karen T. Nishio
1959-1988 (29 years of service)
College of Health and Human Services
Professor of Nursing
Passed July 10, 2021

Dr. John R. Donaldson
1960 -1995 (35 years of service)
College of Science and Mathematics
Professor of Physics
Passed May 23, 2021

Dr. Jean E. Pickering
1970-2004 (34 years of service)
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of Literature & Department Chair in 1980's
Passed September 15, 2020

Dr. Stephen Rodemyer
(1967-2009 (42 years of service)
College of Science and Mathematics
Professor of Chemistry & Dept. Chair
Director of Smittcamp Honors College
Passed October 16, 2019

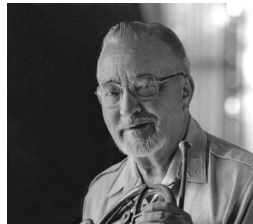
Music Professors Honored

Two retired professors from the Fresno State Music Department were honored with induction into the inaugural class of the Valley Music Hall of Fame.

Russel Howland taught music at Fresno State for 27 years and was a multi-instrumentalist in the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also a brilliant conductor, composer and arranger, who created and composed music for the clarinet choir, woodwind choir and saxophone quartet. He also led many school honor-bands and orchestras and taught workshops nation-wide. He was one of the most highly regarded woodwind teachers in the US at that time. He was loved by his students and many credit him with inspiring their careers. He received the Distinguished Professor Award in 1973 and retired in 1975.



Dr. James Winter starting teaching music at Fresno State in 1947 and played in the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra for 40 years. He was a gifted and dedicated teacher and highly respected by the horn and brass playing community. From 1948-68 he taught all the brass courses at the university, to the point that the entire brass section of the Fresno Philharmonic was made up of his students. In the early 1970's he assembled the President's Quintet and guided them through tours of Europe and Asia, where they won competitions against major music schools. He retired in 1987.



More information is available at www.valleymusichalloffame.org

Editor's Note

Hi Everyone. As the new editor of ERA newsletter, I thought it'd be appropriate to introduce myself and give you a heads up on what you're likely to be seeing here going forward. It's going to be a change from what you're used to, so I don't want you to be too shocked. When I was "encouraged" to take on this role by Judith and Berta, the only real directive they gave me was to make it more contemporary and personal. This edition represents my first attempts in that direction.

Obviously the first thing to notice is the new format. I come from a photographic background, so the 'look' of things is very important to me. And while I don't have a lot of publication design experience myself, I am working with a student from my old department, Media Communications and Journalism, to develop a new visual style. I'm also a Journalist at heart and take pride in telling stories about people and events. So, while this newsletter will continue to provide factual information, it will lean a bit more on trying to put that information into a more personal context by connecting it to the people that information affects.

Which brings us to the purpose of this organization and the reason for the newsletter. It's all about connections. "Staying Connected to Our Campus Community" is our new tagline. That means we will not only be trying to keep you informed on issues that may affect your retirement, but also keep you in touch with what's happening with our campus community. Being an Emeriti Faculty means we've all spent years being a part of that community, developing relationships with the people and places at Fresno State. Being Emeriti also means that we no longer work there and have probably lost contact with a lot of those people and places. So, what we will be attempting to do, at least in a small way, is help reestablish some of those connections.

I hope you enjoy this new envisioning of newsletter. It's still a work in progress and I'd love to hear your thoughts. Looking forward to staying 'connected' with you down the road.

by Don Priest