



Emeriti & Retirees Association

CONNECTIONS

Staying Connected to Our Campus Community

Newsletter #20 Fall 2022

Fall Luncheon

It's that time of the year again. Fall is upon us, cooler weather is coming, and the trees should be turning color. Our Fall luncheon is also arranged at this time and, fortunately, it is being hosted by the University President on November 4th at the President's House, 4411 N. Van Ness Avenue in Fresno.

The event will start at 11:30 am with a short mixer. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and end at 1:30 PM November 4th. Our members will receive a personal invitation by email from the President. RSVP is required to attend as there is limited seating.

This is a luncheon not to miss. A chance to meet and greet Dr. Saul Jimenez-Sandoval as well as to see some of your old colleagues and find out what they have been up to in their retirement. You will also be treated to a fine meal and have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful venue of the President's house and grounds.

Our last event at the President's house was May 30, 2019 and it was absolutely fabulous. I hope to see you soon.

by Ron Johnson

Changing of the Guard

In keeping with organizational by-laws, our Fresno State ERA Chapter conducted its semi-annual election over the summer. The terms of President Judith Chibante Neal and Vice President Berta Gonzalez expired and neither sought re-election. Current Secretary/Treasurer, Joanne Schroll, volunteered to stay on. Berta will continue as a member of the Executive Committee.

The nominees to replace them as President and Vice President were current Executive Committee members David Ross and Ron Johnson.

Ballots were sent to all members of our chapter in early August with just under 50% response. As a result, David Ross and Ron Johnson were elected as new President and Vice President respectively.

We sincerely thank Judith for her leadership and service.

by Don Priest

In This Issue

This month we want to help you stay connected by telling you about our chapter elections and introducing you to some new members. The incoming President will also share some thoughts on the position. And Prof. Robert Mikell will tell you about his trip to New Orleans, where he made a presentation about the man who taught Louis Armstrong.

Our big goal for this issue was to establish a direct connection to University President Dr. Saul Jiménez-Sandoval, so he could tell you himself about how he views the University's relationship with faculty retirees and how that may be improved. Some interesting points there.

We've received some very positive comments about our previous issues of the updated newsletter. Hope you enjoy this one as well.

by Don Priest

ERA Executive Committee

President

David Ross
Foreign Languages

Vice President

Ron Johnson
Theater Arts

Secretary/Treasurer

Joanne Schroll
Kinesiology

Newsletter Editor

Don Priest
Media Communications & Journalism

State Council Representative

Dave Quadro
Communications

Member

Candace Egan
Media Communications & Journalism

Robin Chiero

Curriculum & Instruction

Berta Gonzalez

Curriculum & Instruction

Robert Mikell

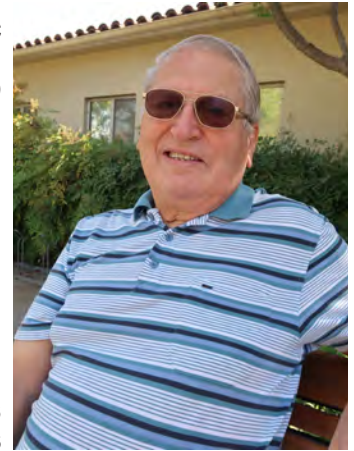
Ethnic Studies

The New Leadership

In 2019 I was invited to join the Executive Committee of the ERA. Three years later, I am the newly elected president of the Association, and am very fortunate to count on the counsel of eight enthusiastic and hard-working members of the ERA Executive Committee, several of whom have long experience in the Association. The Emeriti and Retirees Association enjoys the strong support of our CSU Fresno president, Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, and the Senior Director, Liz Garvin, of the Office of Planned and Foundation Giving for the University, and her assistant, Alejandra Vásquez, who are instrumental in making necessary arrangements for our ERA luncheon planned for each semester.

An important goal of the Executive Committee is to increase our ERA membership by the inclusion of additional recent emeriti, retired administrators and librarians in the state-wide California State University Emeriti and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA). ERFSA is our voice in state-wide retirement issues that affect our California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), and as such, it merits our continued attention and support.

As ERA president I plan to remain supportive of the vitally important educational and research functions of our California State University, Fresno. My hope is that every CSU, Fresno Emeriti and Retirees Association member will seek ways to remain engaged and supportive of the university where they spent their teaching careers.



by David Ross

**ERA welcomes Emeriti Faculty & Retirees who joined
EFRSA
and the Fresno State Affiliate in 2021-2022.**

**Kathleen A. Curtis
College of Health and Human Services
Professor of Physical Therapy**

**Candace Egan
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of Film and Media**

**Robert Monke
Kremen School of Education and Human Development
Associate Dean**



Executive Committee Member Candace Egan

I'm a Professor Emerita of Film and Media Arts in the Media, Communications & Journalism Department. As a FERPing faculty member I will continue as Director of the MCJ Multimedia Production Service and teach a related practicum course. I've worked at Fresno State for over 35 years, the last 18 as faculty in the MCJ Department.

Over my media career I have directed, written and edited documentaries, corporate videos and multi-camera productions. Recently my focus turned to screenwriting in order to experience the challenge of writing a feature-length screenplay. I've written two feature film screenplays; the second, "Ladies Choice", was a quarterfinalist in the "CineStory Feature Retreat and Fellowship Competition". I am currently developing a script for a television pilot set in Alaska.

My goal as an executive committee member is to support existing and new initiatives that engage, encourage and enhance the lives of our retired faculty while strengthening their role at Fresno State.



Executive Committee Member Robin Chiero

I came to the Kremen School of Education at Fresno State in 1997. My path to the university was a somewhat indirect one. Originally from Glendale California, my work experiences centered mainly around education. I taught middle school, worked as an elementary school classroom aide, and taught computer programming to adults, with a "side trip" as a technical writer. I received a Masters in Education Technology from San Diego State and a Ph.D. in Education through the joint San Diego State/Claremont Graduate University program.

During my time in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction I taught a variety of courses related to teacher preparation, coordinated accreditation visits, and for 6 years served as Regional Director of CalStateTEACH, an online supported teacher preparation program.

Since my retirement in 2014 I enjoy being able to spend more time on interests such as reading, gardening, and traveling. I also volunteer with the Valley Animal Center and serve on the board of the Fresno League of Women Voters.

Thoughts from The President

University President Dr. Saul Jiménez-Sandoval will be the keynote speaker at our November 4th luncheon. He's also hosting the event at University House. As a runup to that event, we had the opportunity to sit down with him to discuss his views on the University and Emeriti relationship - both in its present form and how it might be improved in the future. What follows is a summation of that discussion, presented mostly in the President's own words. (Some editing done strictly for clarification).

We began by asking his thoughts on Emeriti in general and how they might reflect on their careers.

"Most people think that professors come, they teach and then retire - and at that point all the connections to Fresno State are severed. But what I see more than anything is that the professors at Fresno State invest themselves into the position in a very intentional, personal way. Everything we research, publish, teach are done so, not because it's a professional duty, or because it's a requirement, but it is born out of a desire to change the world through the work of the individual.

And I really believe the emeriti exemplifies that in so many ways. Because it's only after someone leaves the university and begins retirement that I think a person is able to quantify in a very concrete way the value of what Fresno State has presented in their lives. It's not until someone leaves that they're able to get a bit of a distance and say, what I did with my students was deeply valuable beyond words. And then you remember special people. You remember special students. And you see what they've done with their lives and you feel deeply proud of that."

Question. What are your thoughts on how the university has dealt with retired faculty and how that might be improved?

"Not great, but I think we've made some strides. The fact that this is really the first time that the emeriti have external funding, for example, is a testament to what we want to build here at Fresno State. This bridge of connectivity, this bridge of advocacy that the emeriti represent I think is fundamental. So, I think we're headed in the right direction. I think from here on we build on the successes that we've had so far.

Note: The President made funding for the Emeriti and Retirees Association a line item in his budget. So we asked what motivated him to do that.

"It was actually multi-layered. Everything I already said, but I'm also interested in history. I'm also interested in the notion of knowing about someone's impact. And in speaking with emeriti, I've discovered that they give me a different perspective of a time that is gone - but of a time that is still present at the university.

And that gets my wheels turning, right? On what's the next possible step for innovation at Fresno State? How can we build on our legacies and move forward with an intentional, innovative mindset of what Fresno State has been and is becoming? "

Question - What are your thoughts on retired faculty playing a role with departments through mentoring new faculty and/or counselling students?

"I think there's a lot of possibility in that. I think it's a 2-pronged approach. On the one hand, we need to be aware of what has been built at Fresno State. We need to be aware of the history.

We also need to be aware that new professors are coming in with new ideas about where the field is going. They represent new orientations to new research, new discoveries, and new possibilities. Which is great. But the new professors also need to be aware of what has been built and what has worked and what has not worked.

Developing a system for emeriti and new professor collaboration is how we can move together on an informed mission on what the next steps can be for these new professors."

Question - How do you encourage retired faculty to come back and participate?

"We encourage them by having a goal and a mission. We have a mission and a vision in mind for what this group is going to do. So, now we need to work together to build that mission and build that vision together.

My talk at the luncheon will be a call to action of what the group can become. Because of what I see in my interactions with emeriti is that, while it's nice to get together, it's nice to be back on campus, it's nice to have lunch - but at the same time, we want more. What is the end goal?

There's a lot of knowledge and experience in our retired professors. We need to utilize it."



The Big Easy Calling

Recently, I was invited to present a seminar on August 7, 2022, (all expenses paid) at the Satchmo SummerFest in New Orleans. My topic was on the life of Peter Davis, the first music master of the great Louis Armstrong.

This speaking engagement gave me an opportunity to visit my hometown, New Orleans. In addition, my granddaughter, Ashley, flew in from San Francisco to lend family support and to get an up close and personal experience with the city where our family once resided.

Before going to New Orleans, I developed a four-day itinerary to keep us on schedule and maximize our stay. In doing so, it gave my granddaughter and me a chance to spend some quality time together. Each day was filled with activities that ranged from Ashley adventuring out on her own into the Big Easy and later the two of sharing quality time together and enjoying the unique cultural nuances of New Orleans which included the cuisine, the music, the hospitality, and even the summer rains.

The music teaching career of Davis began around 1912 when he was hired as the warden at the Colored Waif's Boys Home, where Louis Armstrong was incarcerated as a teenager and soon after Davis became the Director of Music. The facility was used to house African American boys who had been incarcerated by court order.

Although Peter Davis taught thousands of youngsters during his lifetime, he never became as well-known as his most famous student, Louis Armstrong. Davis also taught Dave Bartholomew, who collaborated on many songs with Fats Domino.

Davis was one of New Orleans' better-known musicians from the World War I era to the 1960s. He played numerous instruments in a variety of venues across the city and always seemed busy with engagements until his retirement in 1949. Davis then volunteered as a scout master in the African American community, leading scouts on hiking and camping trips through the woods of New Orleans teaching them survival skills during the mornings and in the afternoon offering music lessons to the interested boys on an instrument of their choice. My brother Calvin and I were cub scouts under his leadership and he taught my brother how to play the trumpet and he taught me how to play the drums. Thanks to my loving parents, who bought me a drum kit when I was a teenager, I became the church drummer at Ephesian COGIC in Berkeley. I still have my drum set and now teaching several of my grandchildren how to play.

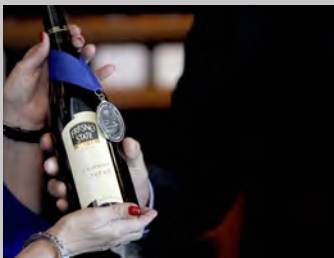
If you would like to watch my seminar at the Satchmo Summerfest, go to <https://youtu.be/0iOVdg7xjng> and you may listen to my Red Beans and Jazz program Friday mornings, 9am-12pm PST on kfsr.org or 90.7 FM. Also check out Louis Armstrong and Peter Davis on YouTube, "I've Got A Secret" I have a 7 chapters manuscript in the works.

by Robert Mikell



You're Invited to Special Emeriti Events

Wine Tasting / Christmas Party



The Fresno State Office of Planned and Foundation Giving is hosting two unique events for emeriti faculty and their guests. The 1st is an opportunity to learn more about our Fresno State Winery while tasting student-crafted wines! Join us on Friday, October 14, 2022, 3-5 pm at the Fresno State Winery, 2360 E. Barstow Avenue.

And to help celebrate Christmas there will be an Emeriti Holiday Party on Friday, December 2, 2022, 11am – 1pm at the Smittcamp Alumni House, 2625 East Matoian Way.

Contact: Alejandra Vazquez at 559.278.2470 or alejandravazquez@csufresno.edu for details

IN MEMORIAM ERA- Fresno Chapter Members

James M. Smith
1959-66 and 1969-1990 (28 years of service)
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of Philosophy
Passed March 15, 2022

Dr. Shirley Kovacs
1986-2014 (28 years of service)
College of Science and Mathematics
Professor of Biology
Passed March 23, 2022

Dr. Richard D. Nordstrom
1981-2003 (22 years of service)
Craig School of Business
Professor of Marketing
Passed August 12, 2022

Dr. Paul Dale Bush
1961-2001 (40 years of service)
Craig School of Business
Professor of Economics
Passed July 14, 2022

Professor Eddie Gregory
1965-1986 (21 years of service)
College of Health and Human Services
Basketball Coach and Scout
Passed August 31, 2022

Connections Staff

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Graphic Designer – J.T. Garcia

Contributors-

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- Ron Johnson
- David Ross