



# Emeriti & Retirees Association

# CONNECTIONS

*Staying Connected to Our Campus Community*

*Newsletter #19 Spring 2022*

## Luncheon Scheduled After Two Year Hiatus

The protocols and cautions of the COVID pandemic have not allowed for holding our members' semi-annual luncheon since fall 2019. But...it's back!--and scheduled for May 27 at Smittcamp Alumni House. (See the flyer with this newsletter for specific details, including online COVID self-screening before coming onto campus.) I invite members to come together to renew acquaintances and rekindle common connections to Fresno State.

Past Luncheons have featured a variety of speakers from the university, such as Rudy Sanchez from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (November 2019), as well as from the community (Mayor Lee Brand in May 2019). Speaking to us at the May 27 luncheon will be Dr. Randy Yerrick, Dean of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.



Dean Yerrick came to Fresno State in 2020 from University of Buffalo where he served as Dean of the Graduate School of Education and professor of science education. His relocation from the east signifies a return to the CSU for Dean Yerrick. From 1999 through 2006, he was professor of science teacher education at San Diego State University. Dean Yerrick is known for his collaborative efforts, innovative teaching and implementation of technology. Welcome back to California, Dean Yerrick!

*by Judith Chibante Neal*

### ERA Executive Committee

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Judith Chibante Neal  
Literacy & Early Education

#### Vice President

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Curriculum & Instruction

#### Secretary/Treasurer

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Kinesiology

#### Historian/Newsletter Editor

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#### Member

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Theater Arts

#### Member

Robert Mikell  
Ethnic Studies

#### Member

David Ross  
Foreign Language & Literatures

## In This Issue

Welcome to the second edition of our newly revised newsletter. We received lots on positive feedback on our first attempt. Thank You. We hope you'll enjoy this one as much.

As we stated in the previous issue, our goal is to live up to the tagline, "Staying Connected to Our Campus Community," and that's what this issue is mostly about. We'll be telling you stories about retirees, both faculty and staff (what would we do without our dedicated staff?) who have found ways to enjoy their retirement while staying connected to the university.

We'll also be sharing some ideas and presenting some opportunities that can either help you get involved, if you're not already, or assist you in finding new ways to deepen your connections to the campus community.

What we discovered, or should I say 'rediscovered' in the process of putting this issue together, was just how much our years of commitment to the university, our departments and our students are appreciated. And just how deeply all those contributions to the campus community are ingrained in our souls. So that even when we leave, even if for an extended period, we just can't stay away. Must have something to do with our DNA.

*by Don Priest*

## More Than a Free Lunch



Looking for a casual way to keep up on what's happening on campus, chat with other retirees and have some fun in the process? Then Liz Garvin, from the Office of Planned and Foundation Giving, has just the thing.

For the last seven years, she's been working to develop informal and informative programs designed to keep retired faculty involved. She began with the quarterly Emeriti Luncheons, which were already in place upon her arrival at the University. She has since gone on to craft a series of events that help retirees stay abreast of the who's, what's and where's around campus

"The administration saw a really wonderful opportunity to make sure that our emeriti don't just leave and never come back. So they worked with me to develop events to bring them back to campus," she said. "They gave me free reign to create a program that would have events and opportunities for emeriti to learn what's been happening on campus since they left, to meet new deans, new chairs, see new buildings get put up, and learn about new programs."

She likes to move the events around campus so participants can see what's going on in programs other than the ones they worked in. These have included visits to the campus dairy to sample ice cream and learn about healthy eating, to the enology dept to taste university wine, and to the university farm to pick fruit, which was a first-time experience for some. "I've had Emeriti tell me, 'I worked here for 30 years and have never been on the farm,'" she said. She's also taken a group of retirees on a trip to the Central Coast "just for fun."

And how do participating Emeriti respond to these adventures? "I think what they love the most is meeting and getting to know the new department heads and deans. They gain a sense of peace in knowing what's going on."

Of course, the point of all this, "is to make sure Emeriti know you're appreciated," she says. "You stand in classrooms for 30-40 years. Those students then go out into the community and make the community a better place – and so your work never really ever ends – never."

"So it's not like you get a handshake and your Emeriti status and then you're done. We want to continue to let you know that you're appreciated and always welcome you back on campus, even if it's for a ballgame. And it's ok to bring a spouse, partner, and grandchildren. Everyone is welcome. And there's always food involved!"

While plans for summer and spring are still on hold due to Covid restrictions, Liz does have some interesting ideas brewing for future events that she'll announce at the appropriate time.

For more information contact: Liz Garvin • 559-278-4038 • [egarvin@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:egarvin@mail.fresnostate.edu)

## The Beat Goes On

Manuel Olgin came to the Fresno State campus in 1975 when he took a position as a counselor in the Student Affairs Division. "I started off with Dr. Richard Arndt, putting together the campus wide tutorial service that turned into advising services, then helped create "Dog Days," the new student orientation program," he recalls.

Additionally, he was a key player in the creation of the Chicano Alumni Association and is proud of being part of the team that helped institutionalize the Chicano Commencement Ceremony, the first bi-lingual, bi-cultural, individual recognition ceremony on campus. "Lots of people were against it at the time," he said. "But it grew to be one of the biggest graduation events on campus."

Manuel retired in 2007 after 32 years of service to the campus community. Then after a short break, he found himself drawn back to the University. "I missed the campus. I missed the camaraderie. I missed the branding of being a part of Fresno State."

He stays involved now through the activities of the Chicano Alumni Association as an advocate and fund raiser, and in 2021 helped them achieve their goal of creating an endowed scholarship program for Chicano students.

His most recent project is creating the means for preserving the institutional memory of the Chicano Experience on campus by creating an audio/visual history of the people who were involved in student organizations, beginning with the 70s, and preserving that history for the students who follow.

"I'd like to show how those organizations got started," he said. "Who started Chicanos in Law, for example? Who were the founders? What was the original goal? And now 40 years later it's still going on and some of those kids are lawyers and judges. So I'd like to capture that overall cycle. And also focus on individuals like Ernie Palomino for example, and all his great work in the art world and the Chicano community."



For more information: Manuel Olgin • 599-871-8463 • [manuelolgin@gmail.com](mailto:manuelolgin@gmail.com)

## Silence Is Golden

Paul Ogden began his Fresno State career at as an Associate Professor in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Deaf Studies. Born deaf himself, his goal was to help parents and teachers improve the quality of deaf education. Forty plus years later – a full 14 years after his 'official' retirement - he's still at it.

The seeds to this longevity were planted in his first book, *The Silent Garden: Understanding Your Hearing-Impaired Child*. Published in 1996, it was considered a groundbreaking tool to aid hearing parents in the raising of a deaf child.

"I always tell people, we want to return to the Garden of Eden where the world of communication is perfect. I love the word silent, not because of its descriptive quality so much as its poetic and evocative meaning," he says in explanation of the title.

Paul went on to spend the rest of his teaching career working with students, parents, clinicians, and other educators in developing more meaningful ways of improving deaf education. The opportunity to take this work to another level came in 2008 when he was considering entering the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP).



"The dean called me into his office and said that he would like me to do something special while FERPing, which I took as a great compliment. He basically said to dream big." Paul's initial response was to suggest writing more books. But the Dean told him to "dream bigger, beyond the book, beyond what you've been doing."

After giving it some thought, he returned to the Dean with the idea of creating an endowed Chair Position for the Department – and in the process secure funding for further expansion of "The Garden" to include workshops, guest lectures and conferences.

"I was passionate about the idea of how can I support our alumni? How can I support our community? And really it could be any teacher, any parent, anyone in the field. Why are they having to pay for conferences, paying for travel and paying for that continuing education? Why can't we do that here at Fresno State?"

The Dean approved and Paul spent his FERP years learning to be a fund raiser. He admits it was difficult at first and it took a few years to learn the ropes. But now he considers himself a pretty "savvy" fund raiser. "I don't mean to brag, but just this morning, I got a 250,000 donation."

Since the end of his FERP, Paul has continued his fundraiser efforts in support of the Silent Garden and deaf education. He's just doing it now as a volunteer. Why?

"Because deafness is considered a low incidence disability as far as government funding. So it's hard to find programs that will support deaf and hard of hearing people. A lot of states and organizations have programs that have deafness as the lowest priority on everybody's list and the first to be eliminated when there are cuts. So my heart is with those people, and regardless of state funds, federal funds, anything that comes and goes with the budget, I want to provide that stability – and I've always wanted to endow a deaf education program at the Master's level so it will always be there."

For more information: [thesilentgarden@csufresno.edu](mailto:thesilentgarden@csufresno.edu)

## CSU-ERFSA Small Grants Program

CSU-ERFSA has a small grants program that, each year, awards grants that normally range from \$100 to \$2000. The general criteria revolve around scholarly research and creative projects. The process of awarding grants is the responsibility of the ERFSA Grant Awards Committee. The Charitable Foundation provides the funding for the awards. Normally each year between \$6000 and \$7000 is available for all of the grants. You must be a member of ERFSA to apply for a grant. You can submit a grant proposal simultaneously with an application for membership.

Grants may be used to pursue any of the following purposes:

1. Scholarly research on issues important to CSU retirees.
2. Research and scholarly projects that contribute to the quality of life of CSU retirees.
3. Research pertaining to retirement concerns within the CSU System and the history of its institutions.
4. Research, creative projects and publication endeavors that contribute to a given academic discipline.

The grant application process begins July 1st of each year and is announced on the ERFSA website (<https://www.csuerfesa.org>). More detailed information about the program and the application process, including the application form, are also available on the website.

The deadline for applications is October 31st of each year. Awards are announced in December.

by Dave Quadro



## “Staying Connected and Finding Balance”

One perception of retirement is the anticipation of beginning a new chapter in life. According to ERA member, Dr. Robert Monke “retirement from the university does not end but changes into a well-paced transition.” After spending more than four decades as a professor and later as an administrator in the Kremen School of Education and Human Development (KSOEHD), he continues to stay connected with the campus community serving on a couple of committees sharing his knowledge and ideas while also doing the things he loves. “Staying active and finding activities that you enjoy is important in your retirement years,” he stated in my recent interview with him.

Bob retired 20 years ago and maintains the philosophy shared by many Emeriti and retirees, that stewardship and a continued commitment is important to the vitality of a university. He and his family have established two scholarships that fund students career paths in education.

“Finding a way to stay physically active and also engaged with colleagues at the KSOEHD alumni and ERA activities has many merits,” he said. He spoke about the transition into retirement and the many challenges that are also encountered, especially medical issues that creep up. He stated that with each situation you “learn to take it one day at a time, and staying healthy and finding balance in our daily life just becomes more important as we age.” He stays physically fit with home projects, exercise and assisting in the caregiving of his wife who currently has limited mobility. Both their spirits for socializing and spending time with family are important these days.

Shortly after retirement, he and his wife Carole did extensive traveling to various destinations around the world. In addition, for 15 years each summer both were active support to their son and daughter in-law with the operation of the Gold Arrow Camp at Huntington Lake. Bob loaded up his truck with tools and lumber, and took them up to camp where he built various camp signs for trails, storage units for equipment and did repair work as needed while Carole provided support to office staff.

Last fall at the age of 85, he participated in the California Classic Bike Ride which covered 35 miles starting at Chukchansi Park, then going down to Hyw 168 and onto country roads. His two sons Steve and Scott, pictured here, helped keep him on track. This is a pretty good track record for this active ERA member. Congratulations Bob and Keep on Biking!



*by Berta González*

## Interested In Leadership?

ERA By-Laws call for a nominations and voting of new officers process every 2 years. Our last balloting for officers was spring 2019. Last year (2021), the Executive Committee (EC) voted to extend current officers' terms an additional year due to ERA's inactivity during COVID. That terms ends with this semester.

Following by-law procedures, I will be appointing a nominations committee to draft a slate of nominees for the offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. In the past, those nominees are members who have served on the EC, which consists of 7-9 appointed members who have indicated an interest in serving ERA in a leadership role. (Current officers and EC members were introduced in the fall 2021 newsletter.)

Please let me know—via [judithn@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:judithn@mail.fresnostate.edu)—to be considered for EC appointment by the incoming ERA President for the term 2022-2024 . FYI: EC meetings are held twice per calendar year (special meetings are occasionally also called).

*by Judith Chibante Neal*

### Connections Staff

**Writer/Editor – Don Priest**

**Graphic Designer – J.T. Garcia**

**Contributors-**

- Berta Gonzalez
- Dave Quadro
- Judith Chibante Neal

### IN MEMORIAM ERA- Fresno Chapter Members

Dr. June Marian Gill  
1971-2004 (33 years of service)  
College of Arts & Humanities  
Professor of French-Spanish-Cross  
Cultural courses  
Passed October 4, 2021

Dr. Robert O'Neil  
1957-1992 (35 years of service)  
College of Arts and Humanities  
Professor of English  
Supervisor of Secondary Student  
Teachers  
Passed October 22, 2021