



Emeriti & Retirees Association

CONNECTIONS

Staying Connected to Our Campus Community

Newsletter #21 Spring 2023

Fall Luncheon

The Fresno State Emeriti and Retirees Association (ERA) is honored to welcome the 21st United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera as the featured speaker at the Spring Luncheon at the Alumni House on May 24, 2023. Social hour will begin at 11:30 am and the event is expected to conclude by 1pm. We hope to see you there!

by Ron Johnson

ERA Executive Committee

President

David Ross
Foreign Languages

Vice President

Ron Johnson
Theater Arts

Secretary/Treasurer

Joanne Schroll
Kinesiology

Newsletter Editor

Robin Chiero
Curriculum & Instruction

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Communications

Member

Candace Egan
Media Communications &
Journalism

Member

Berta Gonzalez
Curriculum & Instruction

Member

Robert Mikell
Ethnic Studies

Message from the President

My hope is that all members of our Fresno State Emeriti and Retirees Association have successfully navigated both the Covid crisis and the recent wet season to enjoy the beautiful spring weather in Fresno and the surrounding area. Please note that you will not want to miss our ERA Spring Semester Luncheon scheduled for May 24 at the Smittcamp Alumni House. It will feature Juan Felipe Herrera, a native of Fowler, former US poet laureate, and former chair of Chicano and Latino Studies on our campus, to name but a few from a long list of his distinguished honors and accomplishments. His participation with Ben Boone at last Summer Arts' jazz and poetry program, "What If ...," was superb and unforgettable.

Representatives from the ERA Executive committee were invited to lunch last semester in the office of Fresno State's president, Saúl Jiménez Sandoval, who agreed that the ERA should become more visible on campus and at campus functions where appropriate. To this end he promised to locate an office on campus for the ERA to use to expand its presence on campus. The Executive Committee of the ERA has made plans to become more active in the provision of activities at Fresno State to engage ERA members to return to campus. One such successful example was an organized tour March 17 of the recently completed Lynda and Stewart Resnick Student Union.

by David Ross

In This Issue

With this issue I am assuming the position of *Connections* editor from Don Priest. I hope this and future issues continue Don's vision of *Connections* as a way to help us stay connected to the Fresno State campus community and to share our experience and expertise.

In this issue you will find information about our Spring Luncheon on May 24. You will also find an update on our recent events and some future plans. In the spirit of sharing our experience and expertise, David Ross writes about Retirement Travel as Continuing Learning. Judith Chibante Neal describes ERA's journey through the pandemic and some lessons learned as we move forward.

by Robin Chiero

An American Poet



Son of farmworkers, Juan Felipe Herrera lives in Fresno with his wife, poet Margarita Robles. During the last fifty years he has dedicated his life to poetry, community, art and teaching. An Emeritus professor of California State University, Fresno and UC Riverside, Hererra was the Poet Laureate of the United States and of California. He is a graduate of UCLA, Stanford and the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa and has received four honorary Ph.D's. Recent awards include the UC-Riverside Dickens Emeritus Professorship Award, the Ruth Lilly

Lifetime Achievement Poetry Prize given by the Poetry Foundation, and the Frost Lifetime achievement Award given by the Poetry Society of America. He also has the distinct honor of having an elementary school in Fresno named for him.

Juan Felipe has authored over thirty books in various genres and two plays for youth: *Salsalandia* for San Diego County schools was produced by the La Jolla Playhouse and his book *Upside Down Boy* was produced by Making Books Sing as a musical for youth in New York City. Recent work includes *Handful of Gravel* on the war in Ukraine — an experimental dance, music & poetry piece performed by students at UC Riverside. *Stars of Juárez*, a musical on early 20th Century borderlands poets, was also performed at UC Riverside.

Update on Recent Events:

November Luncheon

The November 2022 Fall Luncheon was held at Fresno State's University House with President Juan Sandoval-Jiménez as the featured speaker.

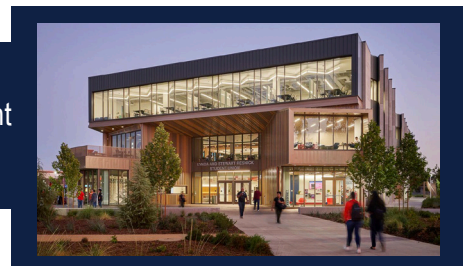


Emeriti Holiday Party

At the December 2022 Emeriti Holiday Party, sponsored by the Office of Planned and Foundation Giving, those attending were treated to a delicious lunch and a wonderful performance by the Fresno State Chamber Singers.

Tour of Resnick Student Union

This March we had the opportunity to tour the new Lynda and Stewart Resnick Student Union. We hope this was the first of several tours of "hidden gems" on campus.

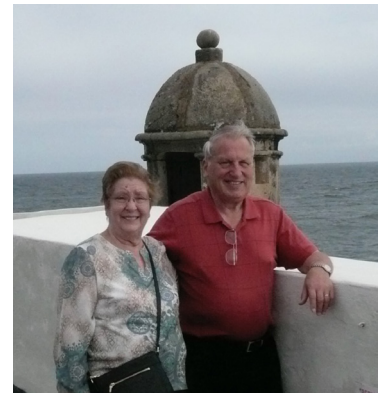


Become a Connections Contributor

How have you been enjoying this new chapter of your life since retirement? Volunteering? Traveling? New ventures? New hobbies? Other? Please consider sharing your story in future editions of *Connections*. To learn more, email robinc@mail.fresnostate.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

Retirement Travel as Continuing Education

As career instructors of French, Spanish and Portuguese, my wife and I have enjoyed our many travels abroad as opportunities to acquire knowledge of peoples and cultures for personal enrichment and for potential use back in the classroom to engage and inspire students, duly recognized in student evals. While preparing to retire from Fresno State in June 2009, I accepted an invitation to teach courses in Portuguese as an adjunct at Fresno City College as part of their Latin America Studies Program, a position I held through fall semester 2019. To satisfy the varied interests of my students, I taught Continental and Brazilian language varieties and Luso-Brazilian culture in the same classroom. My wife and I know Portugal well. However, we had never been to Brazil.



We made our initial trip to Brazil at the end of 2013, summer (hot and humid) in the Southern Hemisphere, aboard a Regent Mariner cruise that originated in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and continued two weeks up the coast of Brazil to Rio de Janeiro. The cruise featured educational lectures, fine food, stopovers in several ports and excursions inland along the way. Afterward, we found that we had only scratched the surface of experiencing Brazil and wanted to return there very soon. To prepare for our second trip to Brazil I studied travel books, taking notes on significant historical and cultural places to visit. In June 2015, agreeably winter in a temperate Brazil, we stayed five days in each of five cities: Recife, Salvador, Brasília, Belo Horizonte, and Rio de Janeiro. In each, we hired a driver recommended by personnel at our hotel's front desk. I presented each driver with a list of what we wanted to visit. This arrangement worked very well. We used the same procedure in May and June 2016 while re-visiting Paris, France, and Porto, Coimbra and Lisbon, Portugal.

Travels to Brazil also provided useful background for a course on the history of Brazil that I taught for OLLI fall semester 2020. The covid pandemic thwarted our plans to visit historic St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2020. Now we may revisit some large cities in North America. Pursue your own life-long learning goals through travel in retirement. Enjoy your next trip! Bon voyage! ¡Buen viaje! Boa Viagem! Gute Reise!

By David A. Ross, Emeritus Professor of French and Portuguese
davidro@mail.fresnostate.edu

ERA welcomes Emeriti Faculty & Retirees who joined EFRSA and the Fresno State Chapter in 2022-23

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

Christine A. Maul
College of Health and Human Services
Associate Professor of
Communicative Disorders

Dennis Nef
Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and
Technology
Professor and Dean

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

Jean M. Millar
College of Science and
Mathematics
Professor of Psychology

Claudia Sholl
Kremen School of Education and Human
Development
CalState TEACH

Gary Gilroy
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of Music

Robert Monke
Kremen School of Education and Human
Development
Associate Dean

Susan Tracz
Kremen School of Education and Human
Development
Professor of Education-Statistics

Ruth Y. Jenkins
College of Arts and Humanities
Professor of English

F. Ndiri U. Griffin-Myers
College of Health and Human Services
Professor of Nursing

ERA 2019-22: Five Take-Aways (In Random Order of Importance)

- 1. Zoom is good.** Your Executive Committee continued to meet via the Zoom conference-meeting platform from fall of 2020 through spring 2022. Meetings centered on how to continue service to ERA members, including how to forge new ties with the University administration. Loved those faces in boxes on the screen!
- 2. Make the ask.** Those 'new ties' were achieved by meeting with University administrators and submitting a partial funding request as a measure of regard for ERA. The proposal included a basic, annual amount of monetary support, along with a request for office space and support on campus. We were overwhelmed with President Jimenez-Sandoval's enthusiastic approval of the proposal!
- 3. Be smart: hunker.** In the spirit of the shut-down and concerns for safety, we canceled plans for usual fall and spring luncheons from spring 2020 through fall 2021. Happy to say that we were back together for lunch in spring 2022!
- 4. Look to re-brand.** Without the need to plan luncheons, we turned to formulating a new look and upgrade for the newsletter sent to members twice a year. Our first 'rebranded' newsletter went out in fall 2021. New features included photos, professional layout, and a variety of informational and socially-focused articles. This four-page newsletter is a joy to read and to hold was just one of many comments we received!
- 5. Stay part of the whole.** There is good reason to stay connected to the professional world that's the backdrop for the well-earned slow-down of retirement. We continue to support one another, serving to inspire new ideas and interests, and remaining in touch with fellow retirees with whom, together, we served students and the university at large. *Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to serve as your ERA President!*



By Judith Chibante Neal
Immediate Past-President

Looking Forward

- Our Spring Luncheon in May will be the perfect opportunity for you to socialize with other ERA members and to hear from Juan Felipe Herrera.
- We are currently working on access to a website that will enable ERA members and others to learn more about the organization and its activities. If you have ideas or suggestions on what you would like to see on our website, please email robinc@mail.fresnostate.edu.
- We are excited about a Mini-Conference/Expo in the planning stages for Spring 2024. Those attending (retirees, prospective retirees and any interested faculty) will be able to hear about and discuss retirement tips, resources and ideas for retirement. Stay tuned for more information!

Connections Staff

Writer/Editor – Robin Chiero

Graphic Designer – J.T. Garcia

Contributors-

David Ross

Judith Chibante Neal

Berta Gonzalez

IN MEMORIAM ERA- Fresno Chapter Members

Julian W. Whaley
1970-1992 (22 years of service)
College of Agricultural Sciences & Technology
Professor of Plant Science
Passed August 28, 2022

Hugh A. Williamson
1967 -1998 (31 years of service)
College of Science and Mathematics
Professor of Physics
Passed October 14, 2022