

California State University, Fresno
Emeriti and Retirees Association

CONNECTIONS

Newsletter #16

Fall 2019

Fall Luncheon

Friday, November 8, 2019

Smittcamp Alumni House

11:00 Social, 11:30 Lunch and Speaker

Lunch Details

The *Fall* luncheon is scheduled for **Friday, November 8**. It will be at the Smittcamp Alumni House on Matoian Drive of the Fresno State campus – west of the SaveMart Center complex. The “meet and greet” period starts at 11:00 AM and we sit down for lunch at 11:30 AM. The meal is free to ERA members; prospective joiners are welcome as non-paying guests. If you are planning to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Judith Neal <Judithn@mail.fresnostate.edu> in order to give University Catering an accurate count in a timely manner.

ERA President Judith Neal will welcome attendees with brief remarks regarding organizational matters. Then, after the luncheon main course is finished, the guest speaker will be introduced. Following the subsequent Q&A session with the presenter, the President and/or officers of the Executive Committee will update members on vital issues being tracked by the statewide ERFA and our local affiliate ERA. The luncheon ends by 2:00 PM (at the latest).

The **guest speaker** is Rudy J. Sanchez, Ph.D., who serves as the Interim Associate Vice President for Academic and Institutional Effectiveness at California State University, Fresno and is a professor of management. He previously served as the Director of Academic Technology & Innovation. He led the development of the teaching and learning aspects of DISCOVERe, Fresno State’s mobile learning program. He co- led the design and implementation of Fresno State's President's Leadership Academy and Staff/Faculty Mentoring Program. Rudy is an award winning teacher and highly rated trainer. He has facilitated training for hundreds of faculty, managers, and executives from a variety of for profit, not-for-profit, educational, and governmental organizations. Rudy conducts research and facilitates workshops in the areas of leadership, innovation, strategy, and educational technology.

“Your mind is like a parachute: If it isn’t open, it doesn’t work.”

Buzz Aldrin

SPRING 2019 Speaker Recap

The Spring Luncheon was hosted by President and Mrs. Castro at University House. Our speaker was Mayor Lee Brand who highlighted some of the accomplishments and challenges facing the City of Fresno.

One of the most visible challenges is homelessness in the city, which spends \$14 million on the problem. In Fresno, there are 1200 unsheltered people on the average day. The best way to move people off the street is have low barrier shelters. The city must work with Fresno County and Social Services to form organization(s) that will triage the homeless and move them into transitional housing.

It is estimated that there are 130,000 homeless people in California, 60,000 in LA, 8000 in SF, 1700 in Fresno.

Exacerbating the situation are the homeless with mental, drug and alcohol problems.

Underlying the homeless situation is that for one-third of the Fresno population, there are just no jobs. Recently there has been some expansion of state funds to aid cities.

Half of Fresno citizens live below the poverty line, so the city does not generate enough tax funds. New businesses (e-commerce, Ulta, Amazon) generate tax funds and jobs. Fresno is ideal for this type of business because of land prices and wages.

For the city, it must become (more) "business friendly" and move faster on these opportunities.

Overall, the city must monitor its debt, labor and pension costs. There was a higher city staff level 20 years ago. The city still has a deficit in public works and SPCA. One of the main issues: the city must invest in itself - parks, safety and public works.

In general, Mayor Brand thought city finances were the best so far. In 2017, Fresno had junk bonds. Since then there have been 5000 new jobs added, leading to lower unemployment. The pension plan is fully funded (the only one in California, one of five in the nation).

Why did Mayor Brand decide not to run for a second term? **POLITICS!!**
He is more of a meet and collaborate person. Politics these days is not civil.

"The Golden State used to be a rising tide lifting all sort of boats. Now it's a rising tide lifting a few yachts." Joel Kotkin

"People first, then money, then things." Suze Orman

Election Results, 2019-21 Officers and Executive Committee

Officers

Judith Chibante Neal, President, Literacy and Early Education
Berta Gonzalez, Vice President, Education
Joanne Schroll, Secretary/Treasurer, Kinesiology

At-Large Members

Ronald Johnson, Theatre Arts
Judith Kuipers, Child, Family and Consumer Sciences, Admin
Robert Mikell, Africana Studies
David Quadro, State Council Representative, Communication
Stephen Rodemeyer, Newsletter Editor/Historian, Chemistry
David Ross, French
John Tinker, Sociology

After an extensive investigation into possible Russian collusion in the election, no such collusion was found and the results certified by the Nominations/Elections Subcommittee (Rodemeyer, Quadro, Kuipers).

“These mountains that you are carrying, you were only supposed to climb.”
Najwa Zebian

“There are three things extremely hard: steel, a diamond, and to know one’s self.”
Benjamin Franklin

Projects to help students

You are probably familiar with the Food Security Project. 31% of college student are food insecure. Our Student Cupboard serves over 800 students per month, distributing free food and hygiene products.

<http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/foodsecurity/index.html>

The Clothing Closet provides professional clothing to students for interviews and other needs. Each student can have up to three items per year, including accessories. They have served over 6500 students over three years.

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/careers/closet.html>

What has been happening on a quiet day on campus?

At Commencement 2019, 6200 degrees were awarded, including 1000 post bacs.

Students, faculty and staff logged over 1.44 million community service hours in the last academic year.

The Gibson Farmers Market posted sales of nearly \$1 million in annual sales of student goods, including wine and corn.

The Smittcamp Family Honors College entered its third decade, accepting its 21st class in the Fall of 2019.

Fresno State wins its sixth consecutive award for excellence in diversity. (INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine)

U.S. News and World Report ranked Fresno State in the top three public universities for graduate-rate performance. Fresno State was also ranked sixth for having the least debt load at graduation among public universities. In a category measuring how well schools graduate students who receive Pell Grants, the university ranked no. 27.

Fresno State was ranked no. 24 in the nation by Washington Monthly magazine for its focus on social mobility, research and service to the community.

“A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.”

Dwight Eisenhower

“Many a good argument is ruined by some fool who knows what he is talking about.”

Marshall McLuhan

“The universe is under no obligation to make sense to you.”

Neil deGrasse Tyson

Many Thanks to the Office of Faculty Affairs for mailing our newsletter.

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