

CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER # 1

SPRING 2012

Inaugural May 11th Luncheon & Speaker

This event kicks off the relaunch of the CSU Fresno ERFA chapter. Attendance is free for members and prospective joiners. The lunch is from 11:00 to 1:30 at Marie Calendar's restaurant, at Cedar & Shaw (1781 E. Shaw). The featured speaker is Ted Anagnoson whose talk is titled "Will CalPERS Survive the 21st Century? The Survivability of Defined Benefit Retirement Systems in a Defined Contribution World."

Ted Anagnoson is the editor of the CSU's Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (CSU-ERFA) newsletter, *The Reporter*, and professor emeritus of political science at Cal State LA, where he taught from 1983 to 2010. He received the campus outstanding professor award in 1991, the campus president's distinguished professor award in 2005, the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration's Harry Scoville Award for Academic Excellence in 2006, and was the campus nominee for CSU's Wang Family Excellence Award in 2005 and 2006. He was acting director of the health financing policy division under the assistant secretary for planning and evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. from 1995 to 1997. He also taught at the University of Rochester, where he got his PhD, Alfred University, the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, where he was a Fulbright lecturer in 1981, and at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand in 1988. Most recently he has been a visiting professor at UCSB since 2009.

FRESNO CHAPTER HISTORY & CURRENT REVITALIZATION EFFORT

By David Quadro
Fresno Representative to the CSU-ERFA State Council

In March, 2011, I wrote to the Fresno membership to describe some recent events affecting our local chapter, provide some history about the chapter's founding, and to open a dialogue on the chapter's future. In this first edition of our local newsletter, I want to expand on some of the historical information and provide an update on what has happened over the past year.

CSU-ERFA was established as a **statewide** organization in 1985. Most of the CSU campuses had local retirement organizations in place that formed the nucleus this new entity. A structure was established to recognize local organizations as affiliates of the state organization. There was not then nor now any intent that the state organization would influence the structure of the affiliates. Thus, for example, membership eligibility varies from campus to campus, ranging from only emeriti faculty to a structure that allows any campus retiree (faculty, administrators, staff, etc.) to join.

The situation at **Fresno** was somewhat unique. There was a faculty retirement organization in place that was founded by the graduate school dean, Dr. Phyllis Watts. This group predates the founding of CSU-ERFA. Along the way, Lester Roth, Professor Emeritus of Education, established a local group with the same name as the state organization minus the "CSU" designation. The exact timing of that event is unclear. I am in possession of a few documents that detail a number of local issues that emerged between these two groups in the mid '90's, but the picture is far from complete. It appears that the first group was not interested in affiliating with CSU-ERFA, but was interested in the campus receiving the funding provided (the "carrot" for affiliating is a rebate of 15% of the dues paid by members from the campus). The campus did receive some funding, which was placed into a foundation account. In 1995 the question of who should receive the funding came to a head and was adjudicated by President John Welty. Ultimately Dr. Roth won this battle. Most of the funding sent to the campus was transferred to the local affiliate, and the first dues rebate check was issued for the second quarter of 1995.

On December 7, 1994, a luncheon was held for the local membership. Of the 144 Fresno members of CSU-ERFA at that time, twenty-nine attended. A Constitution (currently lost) was presented and an interim board was announced. Application for affiliation was subsequently submitted to CSU-ERFA and approved by the State Council in 1995.

[See Quadro page 2]

Quadro contd.

As I reported a year ago, no other significant chapter activity occurred after this time. Presently we have 133 members. The pool includes faculty, librarians, administrators, and student affairs professionals.

In my letter I asked each member to indicate interest in revitalizing our chapter. The **survey** generated thirty-eight responses, which fit into four categories: 1) Some interest in participating in the chapter, but not in a leadership role (15 responses); 2) Not interested in participating (9 responses); 3) Interested, but live too far away to participate (10 responses); and 4) Willing to take an active, leadership role (4 responses).

I am particularly indebted to the four who volunteered to take a leadership role. They are Al Evans, Political Science, Frank Powell, Psychology, John Shields, Agricultural Economics, and Bill Stock, Student Affairs. We have constituted ourselves as an **ad hoc planning group** to determine the viability of revitalizing our local group and to simultaneously do some preliminary work toward that end. We have met twice during the past year, on June 21 and November 9. At the first meeting we discussed the responses to my letter and how we intended to approach this effort. We also agreed to undertake the following tasks: 1) plan a luncheon (see the enclosed flyer); 2) draft a mission statement; 3) draft a new Constitution and By-Laws; 4) create a newsletter; and, 5) provide technical support. Four of these items have been completed. The Constitution and By-Laws are in process. Don Cameron, the Executive Director of CSU-EFRA, joined us for the second meeting for a wide ranging discussion on revitalizing the chapter.

It is my fervent hope that more than twenty members are interesting in participating in a viable local affiliate of ERFA here in Fresno. Please make an effort to come to the **luncheon** on May 11. We will have a very dynamic speaker in Ted Anagnoson, the editor of CSU-EFRA's newsletter, *The Reporter*. There will also be an opportunity for a discussion of our chapter's future. **RSVP** Dave Quadro (davidq@mail.fresnostate.edu) or phone (559-322-8256) by **April 27th**.

CSU, FRESNO EMERITUS MISSION STATEMENT

The goals of the California State University, Fresno Emeritus Association are to: foster membership in CSU-ERFA; facilitate communication and interaction among regional emeriti and retirees; find solutions to retirement related problems; protect system retirement provisions; and support and monitor relationships with CSU Fresno, which may include addressing administration decisions, supporting student scholarships and library operations, as well as providing direct assistance to students. [Draft 11-09-11]

NOTE: This statement is subject to revision and approval by the membership.

Three Important Reasons Why You Should Join the Statewide CSU-ERFA

- (1) As a retired annuitant with CalPERS, you enjoy the benefits of one of the best retirement programs in the nation. With California facing difficult financial problems, those benefits are subject to continuing review. To make certain retiree benefits are not eroded in coming years, a strong and vigilant organization is needed to protect your interests. The California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association, founded in 1985, is the only organization working solely on behalf of CSU retired faculty. **Website: www.csuerfa.org**
- (2) If you encounter a problem with your health care benefits, are the victim of an adverse administrative ruling from your health care provider, or have questions about the increasingly complex regulations applying to dental, pharmaceutical, long-term care or other programs, help is only a telephone call away. **Phone: 1 (818) 718-7996**
- (3) The statewide CSU-ERFA supports campus affiliated retiree organizations, both financially (by returning 15 percent of the dues you pay to the local chapter) and organizationally (by communicating information about programs and initiatives on CSU campuses). **SOURCE: The CSU-ERFA 2011-12 promotional brochure.**

Interest Groups & Activity Clubs

A review of some newsletters produced by other campus affiliates of ERFA reveals a rich assortment of **intellectual, social, and recreational groups/clubs** formed by members. The types are identified below. It is recognized that many such informal congregations in ERFA affiliates have formal counterparts in the communities in which we live (e.g., birding group versus Audubon Society, hiking club versus Sierra Club). However, the formal organizations may not meet your criteria for joining them (e.g., focus, location, size, age, dues, difficulty, frequency, compatibility, etc.), in which case an ERFA sponsored group could shape the activity to your specific liking and level that best meets member wants and needs. These groups and clubs will strengthen and define the nature of our local ERFA affiliate through sustained personal interaction. You are encouraged to place a notice in the CSU, Fresno CONNECTIONS newsletter announcing the formation of a group or club, inviting ERFA members to contact you to arrange a meeting. Alternatively, you can request our local ERFA affiliate director to send out a message to members about your intention. And you can use our occasional luncheons to make such informal announcements.

Here is a **sampling** of interest groups and activity clubs: book discussion, foreign affairs discussion, museum trips, bridge players, theater or film goers, hiking and walking, cycling, birding and nature walks, golf and tennis groups, camping and RVing, exercise and swim groups, crafters and hobbyists, photography buffs, quilting and knitting, genealogy research, epicurean and fine dining, monthly lunch bunch, race track betters, and line dancing.

There also could be groups centered around **community, educational, and professional volunteer activity** at a myriad of local organizations and institutions.

CSU, Fresno ERFA Renewal Team

Dave Quadro, Communication Department
[Director of Revitalization Effort]
Contact: Email < davidq@mail.fresnostate.edu >

Al Evans, Political Science Department

Frank Powell, Psychology Department

John Shields, Agricultural Economics Department

Bill Stock, Student Affairs, Research & Evaluation

CONNECTIONS Editor's Desk:

Regarding the purpose and function of the this newsletter:

The **goal** is to help keep emeritus retirees (i.e., faculty, librarians, counselors, student affairs professionals, and administrators) connected to their colleagues and the campus after settling into post-career lives.

Toward that end, the Fresno ERFA newsletter CONNECTIONS will be published at least twice a year (i.e., fall and spring, with the possibility of a winter edition next year if the organization grows and becomes active with plentiful and timely news to report).

The **standard content** of CONNECTIONS can include announcements of forthcoming chapter events such as ERFA luncheons; notices about upcoming group and club activities as well as descriptions of their recent functions; highlights of CSU system and CalPERS happenings printed by news organizations (but not appearing in the CSU-ERFA Reporter); references to CSU, Fresno educational and cultural events of possible general interest; alerts about vital campus issues being discussed by administration task forces and debated in the Academic Senate; reports on CSU-ERFA State Council deliberations by the Fresno representative to that body; and summary minutes of the local affiliate board (not yet elected) meetings.

Other ERFA affiliate newsletters include **unique features** such as: "Scholarly & Creative Activities" describing publications, conference presentations, and professional awards of colleagues; "In Memoriam" noting the death of colleagues; "Travel Adventures" about fascinating, humorous, or exotic trips of members; "Commentary" about the current state of things; "Culinary Corner" about food and dining; and "Money Matters" on retiree finances.

Please send **comments and suggestions** for the development of the CONNECTIONS regarding future content, format, etc. to John Shields: < johnshi@csufresno.edu > . The newsletter should broadly reflect the wants and needs of the members; so your input is important.

Contributors are needed to write about standard topics mentioned above and to submit unique feature articles.

Designers are needed to arrange an eye-appealing layout for the newsletter and to create a logo for our association.

NOTE: Please **share this newsletter** with nonmember colleagues to spread awareness of CSU, Fresno ERFA.

CSU, Fresno ERFA
 [Street Address]
 Fresno, CA 937—

First Class Postage

Address Label Placed Here

If you have moved, please report your NEW address to CSU, Fresno ERFA

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
 EMERITUS AND RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Social Security Number
Home Address - Number and Street	City	State Zip	E-Mail address
Date Retired	CSU Campus	Department	() Home Phone - including area code

Please enroll me as a CSU-ERFA member. I hereby authorize deductions to be made from my retirement warrants by Public Employees' Retirement System for the payment of dues to the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. I further agree that CSU-ERFA act as my agent in payroll deduction agreements and transactions between myself, CSU-ERFA, and the Public Employees' Retirement System. This authorization will continue in effect until I submit a timely written notice of cancellation to the CSU-ERFA office. If you prefer to make direct annual payment of dues, multiply your monthly payment x12 and send a check for the total amount to the CSU-ERFA office. Your Social Security number is not required if you choose annual payment.

Gross Monthly Retirement Benefit	Dues	Check One
Less than \$3,000	\$5 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$3,001 - \$3,600	\$6 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$3,601 - \$4,300	\$7 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$4,301 - \$5,300	\$8 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,301 - \$6,300	\$9 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$6,301 and above	\$10 per month.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime Member (one-time dues amount of \$1,000)		<input type="checkbox"/>

Please mail the completed form to:
 CSU-Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association
 The Retiree Center, 18111 Nordhoff Street
 Northridge, CA 91330-8339

Signature _____ Date _____