

# CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER #11

Spring 2017

## Lunch: The Arts & Humanities at Risk

The *Spring* luncheon is scheduled for **Monday, May 22**. 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 a.m.; and we sit down for lunch at 11:30 a.m. 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 David Quadro <davidq@mail.fresnostate.edu> in order to give University Catering an accurate count in a timely manner.

ERA President David Quadro 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 1:30 p.m. The **guest speaker** is Dr. Andrew Fiala, Professor of Philosophy, Department Chair, and Director of the Ethics Center at Fresno State. The **general topic** is: “The Role of the Humanities in Today’s World of Left, Right, and Trump.” The **theme** is: “The challenges facing the humanities (e.g., proposed budget cut to National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as for the Arts) and defending the need for critical thinking, interpretive skills, and a sense of the importance of history, literature, religion, ethics, and philosophy.”

**Professor Andrew Fiala** earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Philosophy from U.C.L.A., C.S.U., Long Beach, and Vanderbilt University respectively. Dr. Fiala is the author or editor of more than a dozen books and author of more than 50 scholarly articles and book chapters. His research focuses on ethics, religion, and political philosophy. Professor Fiala also writes a weekly column on religion, politics, and ethics for the *Fresno Bee*. In addition, he is Director of “**The Civility Project**” promoted by the Ethics Center. It focuses on 26 *Virtues of Civility* that are fundamental to self-restraint in a context of liberty.

## Nominations: ERA Officers & Appointed Positions

In accordance with the “Mission Statement and By-Laws” of the CSU, Fresno Emeriti & Retirees Association (ERA) --- the local affiliate of the statewide Emeritus & Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) --- nominations for the election of ERA officers, who constitute the core of the Executive Committee, shall be solicited every two years. The election balloting shall be completed by June 30. Judith Kuipers (Chair), Stephen Rodemeyer, and John Shields [all non-officer members of the present Executive Committee] were appointed by the President to serve on the temporary, ad hoc Nominations & Elections Committee at the March 6, 2017 meeting of the Executive Committee.

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The Nominations & Elections Committee invites and encourages expressions of interest in LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES by ERA members who would like to contribute to the well-being and continuity of the organization through service as an elected officer of ERA **or** as an appointed member of the Executive Committee --- beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2019. Nominations are **due Wednesday, May 24, 2017**. The elected **officer positions** are: President; Vice President; and Treasurer/Secretary. The **appointed positions** of Historian/Editor and Representative to the CSU-ERFA State Council are appointed by the President with a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Additionally, two (2) to four (4) general **at-large positions** (without portfolio) on the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the officers of the ERA. The composition of the Executive Committee “shall consist of an odd number of persons” and “shall be no more than nine (9).” The *current* Executive Committee has seven (7) members.

Nominations of oneself and/or other ERA members should be sent to Judith Kuipers, Chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee via email: [judy.I.kuipers@gmail.com](mailto:judy.I.kuipers@gmail.com) The committee will contact nominees regarding their availability and willingness to serve as an elected officer **or** as an appointed member of the future Executive Committee. Thereafter, the Nominations & Elections Committee will create a **ballot** for elected officers to be mailed to ERA members in late-May for return by a specific post-marked deadline in mid-June. Allowing a few days for U.S. Post Office delivery, the votes then will be tallied. A **report** on the election results will be submitted to the ERA President by the end of June. [NOTE: Names of those individuals for non-officer, appointed positions that were received by the committee will be included in the report.] The official results of the election will be published in the fall 2017 issue of the ERA newsletter CONNECTIONS.

## **President's Report** By Dave Quadro

As a result of the efforts of ERFA in discussions with CSU Chancellor White and his staff and the inclusiveness of the current leadership on our campus, the door has been opened wide to give us **access to campus services** that previously were not available to us. In particular, last Fall the Faculty Affairs Office, under the leadership of Rudy Sanchez, began providing mail service to us at no cost. Recently, we were given access to the emeriti mailing list maintained by that office. This will allow us to step up our **membership recruiting** efforts. Our membership took a major hit this last year, losing fourteen members while gaining only two new members, one of whom passed away shortly after joining. This kind of loss in membership is not unique to us; most ERFA affiliates state-wide are experiencing a similar decline. Your ERA Executive Committee discussed this issue at length at our March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and intends to continue to explore ways to bolster our ranks. If you have any ideas about this, please let me know. Also, if you know colleagues who are not a member of our group and would feel comfortable contacting them about joining ERFA, please do so. If they seem receptive, contact me by phone or e-mail and I will send them information.

**Publication Notice:** Judith C. Neal, an ERA Executive Committee member, has recently self published a first collection of original poems titled: Radio in the Night under her writer's name Judith Chibante. The poems are divided into two sections: (1) one about Growing up in rural Central Valley of California; and (2) the other about the author's personal experience with cancer. It is available through Finishing Line Press at [flp.com](http://flp.com) or at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) .

## PROFILE: Judith Kuipers, V.P.A.A. Emerita

*Many of us remember Dr. Kuipers as an academic colleague in her capacity as CSU, Fresno Vice President for Academic Affairs in the 1980s. But, now that she is back amongst us, some may wonder what transpired during the intervening years. The arc of her career is truly interesting and distinguished as a servant leader. Dr. Kuipers became Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse (10 years), which is next to her home state of Michigan where she earned all of her degrees in Child & Human Development, Counseling and related fields. Subsequently, she was recruited to become President of Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara (10 years). Judy and her husband, Jerry, returned to Fresno in 2010 to be close to their daughter and family. Here, Judy has purposefully created a life of extensive and deep community involvement in accord with her priorities. What follows is an exposition of her philosophical tenets as a person and educator. [Editor's Reference: "An unexamined life is not worth living." Socrates, from his "Apology."]*

Leading an **intentional** existence has been the touch stone of Dr. Kuipers's personal life and professional career --- flowing naturally through her academic years into retirement. This idea formally took shape during freshman orientation week as the new President of the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse, when she talked to incoming students about the importance of introspection during the next four years to gain "perspective" on the world and their own lives in it. She stressed how vital it was to become aware of the *values* and *beliefs* they already possessed and/or would come to embrace as a framework/context to help them establish **priorities** in "figuring life out!"

Dr. Kuipers emphasized how essential it is to be "intentional" about the **choices** they make affecting their career and life. She urged students to "listen to your inner self" as they explored possibilities and evaluated alternatives in a period of their lives that could be transformative, if they have an open mind. She encouraged students to chart a path of their own choosing, rather than passively accepting what others think is in their best interest, what is the safest choice, or what (especially in the case of women) are the traditional (and often restricted) options that conform to historical stereotypes. Judy sums it up by posing the challenging **question**: "Are you going to let someone else define who you are?"

Dr. Kuipers, speaking from personal experience, feels this is an **empowering** message for young women as they navigate a culture where girls have been socialized to develop a different mindset than boys in choosing careers and seeking a concordant education that will hopefully result in personal fulfillment and career satisfaction. Dr. Kuipers is quick to acknowledge that culture also puts young men in "boxes" that can limit their "perspective" by placing different (and often exclusive) expectations that restrict freedom of choice for both genders in pursuit of goals and accomplishments, which earn recognition that society rewards.

Surprisingly, this initial presentation at La Crosse quickly travelled by word-of-mouth across campus and became the center piece of future freshman orientations. Moreover, it allowed students to engage their parents in a constructive dialog about their futures that could result in understanding by mothers, fathers, and other family members of the deliberative process of decision making that was worthy of their support for daughters and sons seeking a meaningful professional career and personal life after graduation.

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Dr. Kuipers was intrigued by Fielding Graduate University’s unique vision of serving older adult learners (average age 47). Fielding’s mission dovetailed beautifully with Dr. Kuiper’s personal passions, academic credentials, and administrative experience. It was an irresistible *dream job* that became a *perfect match* in the judgment of the Board of Trustees. An “intentional” exercise she conducted with returning older students involved: (1) List all the things you (would) love to do; (2) List all the things you (would) hate to do; and (3) List all the things you are doing. Now compare # 3 with #s 1 and 2; then get on with “creating your own life.”

Back in Fresno, Judy’s “intentional” retirement is guided by three **priorities**: Family; Travel; and Community Service. Dr. Kuipers currently serves on the boards of Valley Public Radio, California Health Care, Fresno State’s College of Arts & Humanities, and the Fresno Philharmonic (Chair). She reserves time to be alone, practicing “**mindfulness**” – meditation connecting with her inner self; focusing on the present moment (i.e., a linchpin of Fielding’s educational mission to awaken oneself to who you really are). She loves walking, writing poetry, visiting art museums, attending concerts, listening to jazz, singing (at family gatherings and in the church choir), and dancing. Priorities enable her to say “No” to requests for her limited time. She poses this **question**: “Is this good for me, so that I can be better with and for others?” Finally, when all is said and done and Judy reflects upon her hard-earned successes, she admits that beyond all the preparation, dedication, and perseverance there is also random “dumb luck!”

## Commission on the Future of Arts & Humanities

President Castro announced the formation of this body in January 2017. It is charged with “considering the establishment of a new **performing arts center**” (with a gallery plus adjoining state-of-the-art classrooms) to be located on campus along Shaw Ave.

The Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities, Dr.Saul Jimenez-Sandoval, said the commission will engage the public to increase “awareness of the value of the **arts and humanities** --- their timeless relevance and capacity to transform individuals and enhance communities.” He noted that “the arts are a fundamental part of our everyday conception of ourselves as human beings. Their **intrinsic value** comes from their power to inspire reflection upon our world.” And, “Together, artists and audiences create a unique philosophical and artistic interpretation of the world” through a myriad of mediums (e.g., music, dance, theater, sculpture, painting, film, photography as well as literature, religion, history, philosophy, and ethics).

**Editor’s Farewell:** This is my sixth year of writing CONNECTIONS. The format and content have evolved considerably. I hope you found it attractive, informative, and interesting. Now, it is time to pass the baton to someone else with a fresh perspective. My thanks to President David Quadro for his support in launching CONNECTIONS and for giving me editorial freedom.

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