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CSUSM
Retirees Association



SEPTEMBER 2022

Message from the Chair

Greetings! There are several changes to the Retirees Association including changing the name of the leadership team from Board of Directors to Advisory Council. The change was to comply with other similar organizations on campus, such as the Alumni Association that do not carry fiduciary responsibility.

I have stepped into the chair role that Michael Yee so ably held last year. We were able to convince him to stay on the council one more year as member-at-large. Dawn Schmid has rotated off the council and we sincerely thank her for her four years of service and numerous contributions. Diana Sanchez is new to the leadership team, and we warmly welcome her. She will serve as recorder. Marie Thomas will serve as Vice Chair and Maureen DuPont with continue as treasurer.

If you have any suggestions for the RA Advisory Council, please feel free to contact me directly at pwells@csusm.edu. I hope you have enjoyed your summer activities and wish you a happy and healthy fall. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

22/23 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Pam Wells, Chair
1997 to 2018 - Retired March 2018

Last position held: Director of the Career Center



Marie Thomas, Vice Chair
1995 to 2017 - Retired December 2017

Last position held: Professor, Department of Psychology, CHABSS



Maureen O'Connor DuPont, Treasurer
1991 to 2015 - Retired June 2015

Last position held: Math Lab Director and Math Professor, Career Center Module Instructor for GEL



Diana Sanchez, Recorder
1989 to 2020 - Retired December 2020

Last position held: Director of the Career Center, GEL lecturer



Michael Yee, Member at Large
1990 to 2016 - Retired August 2016

Last position held: Technical Lead

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join the Retirees Association as we enjoy a performance by MandoBasso with a catered reception. Appetizers, beer and wine are included in your ticket. Guests can park in the Lot B event section at no cost.

MandoBasso is a duo featuring Gunnar Biggs on bass and CSUSM professor emeritus, Bill Bradbury on mandolin. Biggs and Bradbury first came together as colleagues working on projects at both Palomar College and Cal State San Marcos. Biggs comes from a strong background in jazz and classical performance, Bradbury from a composition and computer music background. Their mutual love of Irish and traditional American music brought them together in this unusual pairing of mandolin and bass. MandoBasso performances include mainly new compositions, along with arrangements of traditional music, classical music, jazz and ragtime.

When: Thursday, September 22, 2022, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Where: McMahan House Courtyard
Details: Registration is free for members of the Retirees Association and $10 for non-members & guests

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!

MEMBER PROFILE

Janet McDaniel
Professor Emerita, College/School of Education

I arrived at Cal State Jerome's in August 1991 with my freshly-minted Ph.D. from University of Washington. I had been a middle school social studies teacher in Honolulu for a dozen years before going to graduate school and have long believed that working with young adolescents is the most rewarding and fun job in K-12 schooling. But that level of schooling has not received sufficient attention from school districts, teacher prep programs, and policy makers across the US. Fortunately, founding dean of our College of Education Steve Lilly and local school superintendents recognized the need for specially-prepared educators for young adolescents. When I saw the advertisement for this almost-new university in North San Diego County—an ad that emphasized creating a middle school teacher ed program—I gave it a long look. I didn't know anything about San Diego County except that people in Hawai'i always said, "If you have to live on the mainland, you'll love San Diego—it's the closest you'll come to a place like Hawai'i." I've found that to be true.

Like many of the "con-founders"* of CSUSM who arrived in the early 1990s, I was thrown into a position with way too much responsibility and expectation for my comfort level. Nonetheless, with the enthusiastic support of university- and school-based colleagues, I was thrilled to welcome the first cohort of 25 middle school teacher education candidates in the fall of 1992. Our teaching team was comprised of Laurie Stowell, Peggy Kelly, Francisco Ríos, Distinguished Teacher in Residence Patty Christopher, and me. From the get-go, we taught all our courses at a middle school site; for the past twenty years, CSUSM has owned its own portable classroom at Woodland Park MS in San Marcos. CSUSM remains one of the few universities in California to offer this program, and we've received national recognition for our innovative practices.

As I grew in confidence and experience at CSUSM, I became involved in shared governance. I become a regular on the Academic Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee, where my legacy will probably be my presentation of the committee's infamous "What is an item?" document intended to guide faculty in compiling their retention, tenure, and promotion files (or bins, as they tended to be in those days). I served on almost every standing committee before becoming the AS chair in 2008. The two years of my term were not easy—we weathered a furlough, workload issues, down-to-the-wire contract negotiations, debates about ROTC, possible no-confidence votes, and persistent budget cuts. Despite the challenges, I always valued being in the middle of it all—addressing administrators on behalf of the faculty, working closely with colleagues from other colleges, and seeking to resolve sticky situations. My favorite partner-in-crime in Senate was longtime coordinator Marcia Woolf, without whom I surely would have screwed up a zillion times more often than I did.

When I moved to San Diego County, I knew that I wanted to advance my rusty high school Spanish skills. I started by auditing Spanish 101 in 1997 and continued to audit/enroll in a dozen CSUSM courses from almost every instructor. I loved studying Spanish. I surpassed my initial goal of being able to supervise my student teachers who were in bilingual classrooms. After two years of grammar classes, I started going to

Spanish-speaking countries to travel and to study in language institutes every summer. This was a terrific way improve my skills, see the world, and get to know local people. I have fond memories of summers in Mexico (Cuernavaca and Oaxaca), Peru, Spain (Santiago de Compostela and Nerja), Costa Rica, and Guatemala. The culmination of my adventures in learning Spanish was an invitation to assist five universities in Chile in their government-funded effort to create middle school teacher education programs. I traveled to Chile several times during summer and semester breaks from 2005-08, getting to know the country and its wonderful people. My Spanish was at a professional level in those days (though rusty again now), but it wasn't flawless. One memorable day, I thought I had asked a group of 30 professors if they had any suggestions (sugerencias) about how to proceed on a thorny issue…but instead I asked if any of them had to pee (urgencias). Hilarity ensued.

I fully retired from CSUSM in 2017 after five years of halftime work (during which I helped to establish the RA). I moved from my house in Carlsbad to a downtown San Diego condo one block from Petco Park and two blocks from the Central Library. I attend Padres games and I take part in cultural and civic events within easy walking distance. I've explored parts of the US and world with friends. This fall I'll take a twice-postponed foodie trip to the Swiss/German/Austrian alps. Each year I visit my hometown of Portland to see family, my old stomping grounds of Seattle to be with friends, and the East Bay to spend quality time with my godson and his young family. Finding strength in community, I address current issues by volunteering on political campaigns and social justice matters; this continuously renews my commitment to civic engagement.

I'm happy to see the CSUSM Middle Level Teacher Education Program and the Retirees Association going strong long after I stepped down from leadership roles. I made lifetime friendships at CSUSM and cannot imagine how my life might have unfolded had I not taken a chance on the new university in Southern California back in 1991.

*"Confounding faculty" is the affectionate term given to those who were hired in the generation after the Founding Faculty.



CSUSM under construction, 1992



In the Andes on the border between



First Middle Level Teacher Ed cohort, 1992: In the front row, look for teaching team

with Joyce Jasinski

Chile and Bolivia, 2008

members Laurie Stowell, Peggy Kelly, JMcD, and Francisco Ríos

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Planning meeting for the Retirees Association, 2013: Brooks Reid, Lori Brockett, Marion Reid, Don Barrett, JMcD, Sandy Punch, Brenda Edgington, Marty Ummel



Niagara Falls on my 68th birthday, 2018



On the Edmund Pettis Bridge, Selma, Alabama, 2020



Opening Day 2022 at Petco Park with Sherry Freeborn



With my godson's kids Adelyn and Cole, 2022



Dexter Avenue/ML King Jr. Memorial Church, Montgomery, Alabama, 2020: Vivienne Bennett, Laurie Stowell, Linda Holt, JMcD, Linda Shaw, Marie Thomas, Marcia Woolf

RA ACTIVITES

California Surf Museum & Lunch at Carte Blanche

We were delighted to be able to host in person events for the first time in two years. The first gathering took place on Wednesday, March 16 and began with a docent led tour of the California Surf Museum in Oceanside followed by al fresco dining at the French-inspired bistro, Carte Blanche. Everyone had a wonderful time, and it was a great turnout - 30 members attended!





Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon

The Annual Business Luncheon Meeting was held on Friday, April 29 on the patio of the McMahon House on campus. Our featured speaker was Dr. Carl Kemnitz, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. He shared campus updates on new initiatives, a new strategic plan, and described changes the pandemic brought and how they will affect the campus moving forward. We were so pleased that former President Karen Haynes and First Gentleman Jim Mickelson were in attendance along with 36 Retirees Association members.





Carlsbad Beach Walk & Lunch at Dini’s Bistro

The Retirees Association held its annual beach walk on Wednesday, August 17 in Carlsbad followed by a no host lunch at Dini's Bistro. It was a beautiful day for a walk with the majority of attendees participating. Twenty-five members enjoyed a delicious lunch while visiting and catching up with fellow retirees. We thank Anna Fleming for making all the arrangements.





WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

We are honored to welcome the following new and renewing members into our CSUSM Retirees Association family since March 2022. We look forward to seeing and connecting with you all at an upcoming event.

Pat Finstad
Sherry Freeborn
Patti Gero
Minerva Gonzalez
Teresa Handy
Neal Hoss
Catalina Huggins
Grace Kessler
Pamela Kohlbry
Francisco Martin
Dale Metcalf
Linda Muse
Esmeralda Quijada
Anne Randerson
Lamine Secka
Michael Schmidt
Gilbert Valadez

RETIREES NEWS

Report from Wayne Veres

Janice and I just completed walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain, a journey of over 400 miles. We started in St Jean Pied de Port France on March 16 and completed our journey in Santiago de Compostela on May 4. It was just the two of us as we walked over 400 miles in 50 days with nothing more than our belongings in our backpacks. It was spectacular! If you would like to see photos visit our blog at https://camino.ourfathersson.com/. Buen Camino!



It is hard to explain the emotions we were feeling at this moment!



This is day 44 and 100km left. We started at 790km!

RETIREMENT TIP

There have been so many new retirees that we are revisiting this tip that is a good reminder for us all. So you have finally retired…you have been used to a full calendar with every waking moment planned. Well, now it's time to step- back, relax and b-r-e-a-t-h-e. It's OK to have free time and NOT wake up before the birds every day! In fact, it is recommended that you don't over commit yourself the first six months such as working with your volunteer organization or watching the grandkids 5 days a week. This is your new reality; you've earned some time to figure out what you want to do for the next chapter in your life!

CSU-ERFSA MEMBERSHIP

½ Price CSU-ERFSA Membership – The California State University Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association is offering a half-price membership sale to new members. A bonus for our CSUSM Retirees Association is that a portion of the ERFSA dues comes back to our RA to support our activities. Learn more from the CSU-ERFSA brochure and the Special Dues Program Page.

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