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CSUSM
Retirees Association



DECEMBER 2023

Message from the Chair



Greetings to all of you. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by those you love. I am grateful for many things in my life including my years spent in the Career Center at CSUSM. I can hardly contain my excitement from the results of Giving Day on November 28th and the status of the Retirees Association Scholarship Endowment which was started in April of this year by the RA Advisory Council. Twenty donors kindly gave to the fund, which was matched up to $2,500 by a generous RA lifetime member and benefitted from a repeat gift bonus. Total dollars raised: $7,725! The new total in the fund is $13,997.50 which is more than half of what we need to start awarding scholarships to deserving students. I cannot thank the donors enough for their generosity and kindness.

The Retirees Association has been busy this fall. Nine of our members attended the Power to Transform our World lecture on October 11th, three members attended the To What Remains documentary screening on November 8 and fifteen current employees came to the Life After Retirement virtual panel on November 2nd.

If you like wine and/or chocolate, plan to join us at TERI Campus/Common Grounds on February 29th (yep, 2024 is a Leap Year) for a tour of the campus and overview of their life changing programs followed by a wine and chocolate tasting by Twin Oaks Valley Winery and D'Liteful Chocolat. Also, mark your calendar for the Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon at the McMahon House on April 18th. We are also planning a happy hour before an Arts & Lectures event and Life After Retirement panel in the spring - details to be determined.

This issue's bio is from Diana Sanchez, who currently serves as the Vice Chair on the RA Advisory Council. I had the good fortune and pleasure of working closely with Diana over my twenty plus years at CSUSM. I think you will enjoy her history lesson on the campus.

I wish you peace, joy and good health this holiday season. Happy New Year!



Pam Wells, Chair

PAST EVENTS

Holiday Bingo Happy Hour



Thirteen RA members logged onto Zoom for our 3rd annual Holiday Bingo Happy Hour. Thank you Danna Wright for being our bingo caller and congratulations to our winners. Pat Benson won a University branded Sherpa throw blanket and Dawn Schmid, Mary Ann

Wallner, and Pam Wells won vouchers for our Annual Business Meeting & Lunch on April 18, 2024.

MEMBER PROFILE



In the Beginning by Diana Sanchez

Few folks are aware of CSUSM's humble beginnings. I began my association with the CSU as an undergrad and student worker for SDSU North County Campus in the early 80's, when Sandy Kuchler ran Student Services and Dean Dick Rush was sending letters (which I transcribed and typed) to State legislators and CSU administrators to gain approval for a new State University. In those days, increasing enrollment was critical, so Sandy and I were recruiting students anywhere we could find them: tabling at malls, getting drinks at happy hours, wherever we could find a college student!

Initially alongside SDSU NCC, California State University San Marcos was born at a strip mall on Los Vallecitos, affectionately called Jerome's West. In 1989, the first question employees asked a student seeking service was, "are you SDSU or CSUSM?" as processes could differ. I supported CSUSM students while still employed by SDSU until that program was phased out. I recall putting together a local housing guide for students moving to the area, before there were any on-campus residence halls, and a monthly newsletter of campus information. In1991, I was hired by another Sandy (Punch) to provide administrative support for CSUSM's initial Career Planning and Placement department. Those were the days when you knew everyone on campus and could walk a student over to the person they needed to talk to. It was an exciting time when we all knew we were working together to accomplish a great goal that would change lives and the community for the better.

In 1991-92 we moved from Los Vallecitos upon completion of the first buildings of the campus: Academic Hall, Science Hall, Commons and Administration. Career Planning and Placement was initially located on the 4th floor of the Admin building, which was a confusing maze to navigate. Rumors continue to circulate that the building was designed by an architect whose expertise was in designing prisons, and they are true! Later the department name was changed to Career and Assessment Center, then Career and

Transfer Student Services, and finally the Career Center. Eventually we moved to the first floor, making it much easier for students and employers to find us.

I went on to attain a graduate degree in cross-cultural counseling and served as a career counselor for many years. I remained in career services through the many iterations of the department, developing a variety of programs to increase career-related services and to help diversify the profession. It was extremely rewarding work that I loved. I retired in 2020 as the Director of the Career Center, to have the time I needed to care for my ailing mother. I have to say I will always miss the enthusiasm and camaraderie of that initial Jerome's West crew. I believe John Segoria in DSS is the last one standing of the original SDSU-North County crew. I hope CSUSM always retains its founding desire to support students in the best way possible to ensure their success. I will continue to do what I can to assist the campus in that work.



From the University Archives, California State University San Marcos Special Collections, University Library

RETIREMENT TIP FROM PAM WELLS

One of the benefits of working on a university campus was the opportunity to learn new things. Some were, of course, required as part of my employment, but others came from students and colleagues or cross-campus collaborations. When I retired, I wanted to continue learning. Resources that I have taken advantage of are Poway Adult School where I take acrylic painting and mixed media classes on an ongoing basis. San Diego OASIS is another. They recently opened a beautiful new facility in Rancho Bernardo very close to where I live. I prefer in person classes, but my husband has taken several classes through

EdX and they are virtually free. Check out what's available in your area. You may be pleasantly surprised like I was.

INCOME-RELATED MONTHLY ADJUSTMENT AMOUNT (IRMAA) FOR MEDICARE PART B

Your CSUSM Retirees Association is here to keep you informed of issues that matter to CSUSM retirees and to be a valuable resource before and after you retire. We are writing to you now with important information regarding Medicare Part B, including guidelines to get reimbursed by CalPERS if you are assessed by Medicare for the additional Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA). Click here to read more.

IN MEMORIAM

Martin J. Gannon

WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

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

Oneita Billings
Maria Brown
Elizabeth Canavan
Deborah Coronado
Cathie Dorsett
Andres Favela
Benita Garcia
Krista Gutierrez
Kara Kornher
Robin Martens
Marilyn Ribble
Kathrine Rolison
John Schneider
Ariel Villanueva

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Let us know what you've been doing.

Help us reminisce about the early days with stories/photos about CSUSM.

Share a helpful retirement tip.

Submit an idea for an activity that the Retirees Association could host.

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SHARE NOW

EVENT PROPOSAL

RA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair - Pamela Wells

Vice Chair - Diana Sanchez

Treasurer - Maureen O'Connor DuPont

Recorder - Judith Downie

Member at Large - Danna Wright

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