

REPORTER

A publication of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

CSU-ERFA to Celebrate Fifteenth Anniversary

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY EMERITUS AND RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION will celebrate its 15th anniversary in conjunction with the spring meeting of the State Council meeting April 29, 2000. The combined events will be held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, 6101 W. Century Blvd., a few blocks from the Los Angeles International Airport. The Council meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. to take care of matters that are timely, and adjourn about noon. Refreshments available at 9:00 a.m.

The celebration of the 15th anniversary of CSU-ERFA's founding will begin at the luncheon and continue with an afternoon program. At the luncheon, we will introduce **Founding President Sidney Albert** and the other past presidents of CSU-ERFA in attendance. We will also acknowledge all of our honorary members of the State Council and any guests that might

be present.

Following the luncheon three or four invited speakers will give brief comments about their views of the future of the California State University, the ways in which higher education can be provided for the students of the future and the protection of benefits and privileges for present and future retirees. The rest of the afternoon will be spent on questions and comments among the speakers and between attending members and the speakers. We are planning for a social event after the more formal activities so that CSU-ERFA members, guests and speakers can mix and exchange ideas.

All CSU-ERFA members are welcome to attend this event. Call the office if you need further information: 818-718-7996.

Oversight Committee for CalPERS Investments? Threat to 162?

SOME STATE OFFICIALS have advanced the concept of a state-level oversight committee to monitor PERS investment policy. This was apparently triggered by the well-publicized exchange between board members regarding investment in Greece and Turkey. Questions have been raised as to what extent social policy should affect investment in other countries—or even investments in inner-city projects and senior housing.

Some argue that PERS fiduciary responsibility stresses safety and rate of return and that social concerns are irrelevant. Others argue that PERS does not go far enough in socially responsible investing. These issues will be thoroughly debated.

The proposed external oversight committee, however, could be regarded as an undue, unwise, or political limitation on the constitutional

independence given to PERS under Proposition 162.

CSU-ERFA and virtually every other organization of active and retired public employees fought hard to gain passage of Proposition 162, partly in response to raids on the funds of our retirement system initiated by the then governor.

Without Proposition 162, the benefit equity program of 1999 could not have been achieved. Retirees are very concerned that unwise remarks in the heat of a board discussion are regarded by some as an excuse to amend Proposition 162 and take away independent powers that were granted to CalPERS by the citizens of California. Those powers have been used to enhance the status and benefits of its members and to strengthen California's public service.

[WK]

The President Reports on the February Executive Committee Meeting

CSU-ERFA HAS ALMOST 2800 MEMBERS. When the State Council meets 80 members are entitled to attend, 34 by virtue of their office and 46 as delegates from the affiliates. When the Executive Committee meets it numbers six officers and four members at large. It is not, as some might think, the top of the pyramid, but rather like a microcosm of the membership at large. Its members come from nine of the 17 affiliates. One member has served for 12 years another only two.

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are set forth in the bylaws of the association. It "shall have such duties as assigned by the State Council or the President." It "shall advise and consult with the President and shall have the authority to act for the State Council between meetings of that body." And finally, "all decisions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to confirmation by the State Council." I tell you these things so you can appreciate the work that occurs at each meeting of the Executive Committee.

Emmett Long (Ful), chair of the ad hoc celebration committee, told us of the plans for the celebration of our 15th anniversary. You will recall that **Sidney Albert** (LA), our founding president, told us we had better celebrate the 15th anniversary because we might not be around for the more usual 25th. (See the announcement on page 1.)

Emphasizing the fact that we are especially concerned about the retirement benefits for our current and future members, **Wilma Krebs** (Sac)

reported on the various bills pending in the Legislature that could affect us. Her report appears on page 4.

Max Norton (Stan) and I reported to the Executive Committee that plans to form a CSU-ERFA Foundation

were moving forward. Our attorney had sent us a draft of the State of California application for incorporation and an IRS form to establish our charitable status. We are gathering the information he requires and hope to move along as expeditiously as possible. We will be able to report our progress at the State Council meeting.

I earlier reported that the State Council directed the Executive Committee to meet with the CSU Academic Senate. In January **Milt Dobkin** (Hum) chair of the ad hoc committee, **David Elliott** (SJ), **June Polak** (Ful), **Mark Van Aken** (Hay), **Don Moore** (LA), **Robert Kully** (LA), and I met with **Gene Dinielli** (LB) chair of the Academic Senate. He was accompanied by senate members **Jacquelyn Kegley** (Bak) and **Vincent Buck** (Ful), and by **Harold Goldwhite** (LA) Faculty Trustee.

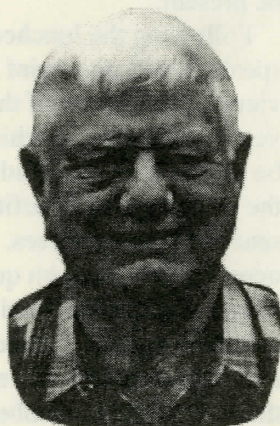
The CSU-ERFA members who attended felt that we had adequately expressed our views and that the Academic Senate seemed to indicate a desire for a continuing relationship. I feel that as "continuing members of the academic community" we have an obligation to push ahead. The next step will be to appear at the CFA Hearing in March at San José on "The Future of CSU." A report of our efforts will be made at the April Council meeting.

In 1994 we surveyed the member-

ship in order to ascertain appropriate membership characteristics, member appraisals of our current activities, and their interest in expanded activities that might affect them, the association or the university. **Ron Kroman**, CSU-ERFA vice-president, is planning to conduct a similar survey this spring. It will have the usual questions and an opportunity for open-ended comment. I hope you will give it your attention. I am especially interested in those members who do not now live near their campus affiliates or, indeed, do not even have a campus affiliate. They are our "dispersed" members and **Hal Barrett**, chair, dispersed membership committee, will be particularly interested in the responses. Concern for all our members is a responsibility of the Executive Committee. I think you will find that we are meeting that responsibility in ways that will make the lives of all retired or emeritus faculty members more productive and enjoyable.

At the time of the Executive committee meeting, there coincidentally was a meeting in the same hotel involving the Chancellor's Office, the Academic Senate, and several campus presidents. This led to our meeting being pleasantly interrupted by **Gene Dinielli**, chair, CSU Academic Senate, who brought with him **David S. Spence**, CSU executive vice chancellor (photo next page); and Presidents **Donald R. Gerth** (Sac), **Robert C. Maxson** (LB), and **James R. Rosser** (LA). I felt it was especially gracious of Dinielli to give us the opportunity to meet and talk to these people who hold important positions in the California State University. •

Robert Maurer, president
rmaurer@mail.csuchico.edu



CalPERS Report

CALPERS IS IN NEGOTIATIONS with the health plans and will report to the board in March. There is continued concern about HMO withdrawals from rural areas. SB 514, the rural subsidy bill, passed and will provide some help for those who live out-of-state or in California counties where there is no HMO choice. Higher out-of-pocket costs in PERSCare or PERSChoice will be partially offset under the program, so that those in Medicare coordinated plans will receive reimbursement for the Medicare Part B premium, now \$45.50 per month.

Those still in a basic plan can receive reimbursement for their deductible, after they incur the expense, by filing a claim with the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA). DPA will be sending instructions to those affected. PERS and CSEA are working on a bill to extend the subsidy to coinsurance as well as the deductible. Long-term solutions are needed. Senator Jackie Speier held a hearing on this subject at which Alan Feezor, new head of the Health Benefits Division,

testified for PERS. There are many difficult problems to overcome.

Representatives of the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) presented a study on possible methods of providing health benefits to all active and retired teachers. Currently benefits are handled by individual school districts. Most do not provide any benefits to retirees. PERS and STRS will explore areas of possible collaboration. STRS wants to explore the possibility of direct contracting with providers, rather than going through an HMO. Reference was made to some success with such an approach in Minnesota. PERS will examine the pros and cons. A joint PERS-STRS committee with member representation will be developed to oversee these efforts.

New Appointments to the CalPERS Board of Administration

Sean Harrigan, with an extensive labor background, has been appointed to replace Ron Alvarado from the State Personnel Board. It was rumored Gov-

ernor Gray Davis would appoint **Willie Brown**, now mayor of San Francisco, to the board. At the February board meeting it looked as though the appointment had fallen through. But that night the governor announced that he had indeed appointed Brown, who is expected to add a lively presence to the meetings. It may be tough to find a parking place.

Domestic Partners Register for CalPERS Health Plans

Once registered with the Secretary of State (www.ss.ca.gov), domestic partners (not married, same sex, or different sexes but over age 62) send the registry form and the statement of liability for domestic health benefits to PERS (call 800-237-3345 for this form). Things to consider: no survivor health benefit when the PERS member dies; there will be continuation insurance (health and dental); dependent children may be covered—apply to PERS. Thus far, a small number of domestic partners have enrolled. •[WK]



*Vice Chancellor David Spence
with Exec. Director Robert Kully*

New Plans for Long-Term Care

The CalPERS Long-Term Care plan will offer new, more affordable plans during the application period April 1 through June 30, 2000. Call 1-800-338-2244 and ask for the application kit. Visit the Website at www.calpers.ca.gov for information about this plan and other information about CalPERS.

Other news from CalPERS: Retirees with school service, who retired before January 1, 1998, will receive a special increase in their April benefit payment. SB 400, the Benefit Equity legislation, was effective January 1, 2000, so the April payment will include the increase for January, February, and March. The increase becomes a permanent part of retirees' monthly allowances.

CSU-ERFA actively supported SB 400 as it wound its way through the legislative process, as it did for the Long-Term Care plans. •

CalPERS Home Loan Program

CALPERS AND iOWN, INC. have partnered to provide online home loan origination capability for the 1,000,000 CalPERS members through the CalPERS Member Home Loan Program.

The CalPERS Member Home Loan offers many features that protect the member against interest rate increases and high loan fees. Specifically, the CalPERS Member Home Loan Program offers 100 percent financing (the member borrows 95 percent of the home value and the remaining five percent is secured by their pension account), a free 60-day rate lock, two free float down opportunities, controlled closing fees and competitive interest rates.

iOwn, Inc offers additional benefit to the membership in the form of re-

duced origination fees, online loan information, and status tracking. iOwn has reduced the origination fee to 0.5 percent for CalPERS members. Also, iOwn allows members to track their application status online and offers a number of informational services at the Website.

Jody S. A. Furtney, director of affinity programs for iOwn and former manager of the CalPERS Member Home Loan Program stated, "On an average home loan of \$150,000, the CalPERS member will save over \$1,000 in closing costs."

Additionally, CalPERS has recently made available a 97 percent LTV mortgage loan. This loan allows a person (with certain restrictions) to qualify for a loan up to 97 percent of the home

value. For the three percent down payment, members may use their own savings, a personal loan secured by their pension account, or a three percent second mortgage provided by the California Housing and Loan Insurance Fund.

The CalPERS Member Home Loan Program recently opened up its program so that it is available to CalPERS members (active, inactive, and retirees) nationwide.

For further information about the CalPERS Home Loan benefit, please call toll-free 877-895-PERS (7377) or visit the iOwn CalPERS Website at www.eCalPERS.com.

[Press release]

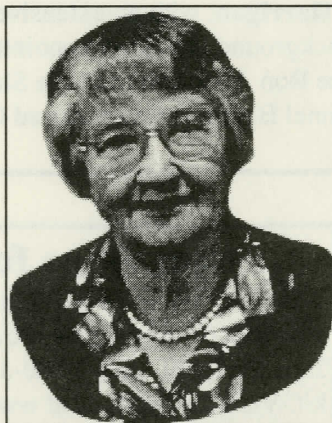
Legislative Report

CSU-ERFA AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STATE COALITION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES were generally pleased with last year's SB 400, the benefit equity bill. We will receive our first checks April 1, retroactive to January. The annual cost of living increase in May will be on top of this higher base allowance. The governor vetoed, however, some other bills on the ground that they would benefit active employees when they retire and therefore must be subject to collective bargaining. We will try to eliminate this problem by making the benefits apply only to current retirees, who cannot engage in collective bargaining.

The major bills so far, which CSU-ERFA cosponsors:

SB 1446 (Hughes) Would guarantee 80 percent of original purchasing power of monthly allowances, to all those retired before July 3, 2001.

AB 1829 (Correa) Would increase the death benefit from \$2,000 to \$5,000; apply to those retired before July 3, 2001.



*Wilma Krebs, chair,
legislative committee*

AB 2019 (Wildman) Would provide fully paid vision care for state retirees including CSU retirees.

SB 1697 (Ortiz). Equity for state retirees equal to new two percent at 55 for actives, as well as base of final year compensation. Would be equivalent to about a 9 percent one-time increase. Precedent in legislative action following 1971 increase for active employees.

Further, CSU-ERFA supports the following:

SB 1638 (Burton) Provide a minimum retirement allowance of \$15,000 a year with 20 years of service, and a minimum of \$20,000 with 30 years of service. The current minimum has not been updated since 1955.

CSU-ERFA will support general senior legislation for nursing home reforms, the governor's "Aging with Dignity" initiatives, bill for consumer protections in assisted living facilities, and the general concept for more staff training in facilities advertising that they specialize in Alzheimer's or dementia care, plus more geriatric training.

As this goes to press, not all new legislation is available. As new bills are introduced, and amendments occur, CSU-ERFA will re-evaluate our positions. Member comment is welcomed. Those with access to the Internet may get more information at www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Wilma Krebs

Welcome to New Members of CSU-ERFA

Chico: Ralph J. Gagnon, Charles V. Genthe, Rolland K. Hauser, Thomas W. Johnson

Dominguez Hills: Gary Colboth, Lila B. Geller, Ruth A. Pease

Fullerton: Sundaram Krishnamurthy, Alexander Omalev, Prem K. Saint, Edward F. Sowell

Fresno William H. Corcoran, Samuel S. Franklin, Robert B. Van Gelder

Hayward: Rhoda L. Agin, Virginia Ireys Anderson, Peter A. Fowler, Jack A. Samosky, Judith M. Stanley

Humboldt: Carol A. Mcfarland, Thomas S. Parsons, Ellsworth Dean Pence, Peter Mark Shaffer, Frederick Thad Siler, Barbara Jean Wallace

Long Beach: Daniel A. Campbell, Francis Glen Cummins, Wayne F. Kelly, Lawrence S. Lerner, Wendell H. McCulloch, Jr., Stephen B. Ross

Los Angeles: Carlton W. Blanton, Carol G. McKenzie, Richard D. Roberto

Northridge: Dwight V. Call, Richard L. Camp, Marge W. Chilstrom, Martin G. Levine, Lawrence Littwin, Thomas H. Mcmillin, Alexander V. Muller, Robert

Stanley Rocke, Archibald P. Sia, Reba N. Soffer
Pomona: Susan J. Cardona, L. Lynne Emery, Richard C. Richards

Sacramento: Doris M. Beard, Dean S. Dorn, Richard D. Kellough, Joseph W. Kilpatrick, Jr., David K. Lee, Phyllis L. Mills, Barbara A. Schmidt

SanDiego: Ann B. Cottrell, Janet B. Esser, Rod Plotnik, Rolf H. Schulze, Raymond G. Starr

San Francisco: James H. Creighton, Newman H. Fisher, Lance M. Gentile, Marvin Gerber, Polly Glycer, Michael S. Gregory, Eric J. Moon, Edna Picchi, Marvin L. Silverman

San José: Mary O. Bowman, Bernard L. Gabrielsen, Harry A. Gailey, Jr., Ruth A. Hafter, Phyllis Sturges, Dale A. Wise

San Luis Obispo: F. Stuart Chestnut, Willi M. Coleman, Arthur S. Gloster, Alfred W. Landwehr, Norman Lerner, Roger J. Osbaldeston

Sonoma: Ellen Amsterdam-Walker, James L. Kormier, Anne I. Lewis

CSU-ERFA Grant Awards:

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce this year's grant awards for research and creative projects..

Acting upon the recommendations of the Grants and Awards Committee, I am pleased to present the CSU-ERFA members who are the recipients for 2000:

Charles Lambert, Cal. State Fullerton: Ovulation and Meiosis in Ascidian Eggs.

Reba Soffer, Cal State Northridge: Catastrophe and Commitment: Conservative Thought in Twentieth-Century Britain and America.

JoAnn Yates, Cal State Long Beach: Rock Art in Printmaking Form.

Jackson Putman, Cal State Fullerton: Biography of Jesse Marvin Unruh.

The grant awards committee is chaired by **Max Norton** (Stan).•

Overseas Group Seeks Teachers:

Recently CSU-ERFA Executive Director **Robert Kully** had a discussion with Cesar P. Patulot, founder and president of Global Overseas Group. The Group has a number of interests, such as international trade, technology, the environment, and education. Mr. Patulot is interested in talking to retired faculty who might be interested in overseas teaching or other activities related to education.

CSU-ERFA can provide little information about the Global Overseas Group. If any CSU-ERFA member is interested in finding out more about the Group or its overseas programs, they should write or call Mr. Patulot: Cesar P. Patulot, Founder and President
Global Overseas Group
3045 South Archibald Avenue, Suite H, PMB 294
Ontario, CA 91761 (626) 579-5789 (626) 579-6586 (Fax)
Email: cpmatulot@aol.com•

*As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain,
and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality.*

—Albert Einstein .

We Get Letters—

As a member of ERFA, I keep checking the *Reporter* to see how things are going and there you are. . . . Good to know that you share in believing that such an organization is needed to properly represent the concerns of old buffalo heads such as us (the term comes from the back-and-forth movement of the animal's head when confronted with anything that it does not comprehend).

I became a part time person at HSU for a while, . . . became director of continuing education, . . . then retired again for the third time to teach part time for another few years. This year has been my first out of the classroom entirely. Really, one should quit whilst one is ahead!

Bill Murison, Trinidad, CA
 ☼☼☼

I was quite disappointed in the December Newsletter of our organization. Having been a member of CFA, I am still not interested in hearing all the verbiage in our newsletter about its future: not a word about serving retirees!

I offer the same disgusted response to the report on the Academic Senate, and for the same reason. Isn't it clear that what matters should be the higher rates for PERSCare and PERChoice that are coming up? . . . The improvement of retiree conditions in CSU? Where do we express our clout with the State Board and other state government officers?

Come on, folks, whom do you serve after all?

Nathan Kravetz, Northridge
 ☼☼☼

Thanks for the calendar, and for all your good works. I appreciate . . . Dieter's fine synopses of the complicated twists and turns of union politics.

Jeff Lustig, CFA

From the Affiliates—

Congratulations to the **Sonoma State University Staff and Faculty Retirees Association** for launching *Update*, the association's handsome newsletter. The inaugural issue featured a nostalgic article by **Ron Logsdon**, "I Discovered Sonoma State and Sonoma County and I felt I Found Home." (Logsdon, retired from the Career Development Center, died in December.)

The winter issue of *Emeritimes* (**Emeriti Association of CSU-LA**) featured an article "Coping with the Challenges of Dementia," by **Karen Walter**, R.N. Her tips for caregivers:

- Plan ahead
- Simplify daily routines
- Learn methods of behavior management
- Arrange for respite care or taking time away
- Consider when safety may require placement in a caregiving facility [Ed note: Space limits reprinting this entire article.]

The spring issue of *Emeritopics* (**CSU Fullerton Emeriti Association**) disclosed the retirement of **Ralph Beckett** as editor and **Ruth**



Nycum as associate editor of the newsletter—after 10 years in those capacities (Nycum and Beckett pictured).

[Ed Note: The editor encourages all affiliate editors to send copies of their newsletters to the CSU-ERFA office.]

Life in Retirement—

Leon Schwartz (current president of the Emeriti Association at CSU-LA) is one of seven US Diderot scholars among the 67 worldwide whose entries are included in the recently published *Dictionnaire de Diderot*.

Sidney Albert (LA) recently introduced two George Bernard Shaw short plays on radio station KPFK in Los Angeles.

Dale Carter (LA) "unretired" by returning to active duty as acting chair of the department of theater and dance.

Anthony Moye (LA) teaches chemistry at Cuesta College and recently accepted appointment from the UC Office of the President as secretary of the California Mathematics Project.

Ronald Kroman (LB) was one of 250 scientists, nationwide, invited to a colloquium, "Variation and Evolution in Plants and Microorganisms," sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences held at UC Irvine in January.

Mary Arnold (Son) lectures in Elderhostels and the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning on Russia. **Bernice Goldmark** (Son) also lectures at the Fromm Institute.

Elaine Bundesen (Son) owns an import business and volunteers for the Ruben Salazar Library.

Hal Skinner (Son) has built an old-time blacksmith shop and provides demonstrations forging items using traditional tools and methods.

Jean and Clem Falbo (Son) are with the Peace Corps in Zimbabwe.

Charles Frazee (Ful) presented the lecture, "Bad Days in the Balkans," at the winter meeting of the Fullerton Emeriti Association.

Executive Committee 1999-2000

Robert Maurer (Chico) *president*

Ronald A. Kroman (Long Beach)
vice president

C. Dale Johnson (San Diego) *secretary*

Sol Buchalter (Northridge) *treasurer*

Emmett Long (Fullerton)

past president

Wilma Krebs (Sacramento)

member at large

Milton Dobkin (Humboldt)

member at large

Eleanor Price (Dominguez Hills)

member at large

David Elliott (San José)

member at large

Ralph Bigelow (Fullerton)

Reporter editor

Robert D. Kully (Los Angeles)

executive director

Committee Chairs

Hal Barrett (Hayward)

dispersed membership

James Ryan (Long Beach) *membership*

Ralph Bigelow (Fullerton)

publications

Wilma Krebs (Sacramento)

legislative

Kurt Bohnsack (San Diego)

retirement concerns

Max Norton (Stanislaus)

Foundation grant awards

H. Dieter Renning (Stanislaus)

liaison to CFA

Don Moore (Los Angeles)

liaison to CSU Senate

Sidney Albert (Los Angeles) *liaison to*

California Conference of AAUP

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Linda Zimmerman *office manager*

Nancy Cheeks *administrative asst.*

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Academic Senate Brief:

Don Moore, liaison to the Academic Senate, reports that at the last meeting, the Senate chair, **Gene Dinelli**, Vice Chancellor **David Spence**, Executive Vice Chancellor **Richard West**, and Chancellor **Charles Reed** spoke to the senators on matters of mutual interest. Reed, West, and Spence also responded to questions.

In other business, the Senate adopted a resolution asking that the Trustees' proposed revision of Title 5 (reducing the degree requirement of 124 units to 120) be postponed until May, to give the Senate time to study the proposal.

The Senate gave first readings for action in March to Title 5 changes in how grade-point averages are calculated for freshman applicants, principles for implementing YRO, admissions requirements for teacher credential programs in the CSU, and enrollment management. •

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