

# TUKWUT TIMES



Brought to you by the CSUSM Retirees Association

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Newsletter September 2017

Volume 2, Issue 6

## Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 pm**  
**Arts and Lecture Series at CSUSM**  
**Eric O'Neill, Cybersecurity in an Age of Espionage**  
**USU Grand Ballroom**



Click on the link below to purchase your tickets.

Website:

<http://news.csusm.edu/fall2017-arts-lectures-series/>

Retirees Association Members receive the  
Faculty/Staff/Alumni rate.

Must show your membership card at the door

Happy Hour – Retirees Reception 4:30 pm  
Pizza Nova – 141 N. Twin Oaks Valley Road  
Retirees Association to host appetizers  
No-host beverage service

RSVP by the end of the business day on Friday, Sept. 22  
to [retirees@csusm.edu](mailto:retirees@csusm.edu) or call (760) 750-4408

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## Next Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, November 8

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

University Commons 207

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**Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00 pm**

**Arts and Lecture Series at CSUSM**

**Black Lives Matter**

**An evening with Co-founder Alicia Garza**

**USU Grand Ball Room**

Click on the link below to purchase your tickets.

Website:

<http://news.csusm.edu/fall2017-arts-lectures-series/>

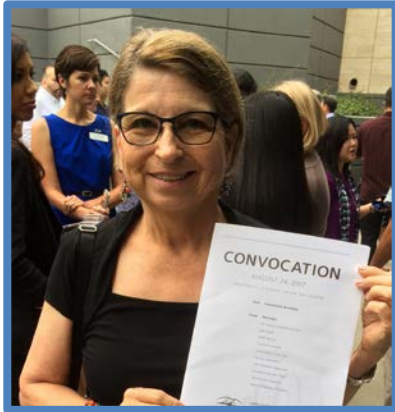
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~ Retirees Reception to be determined at a later date ~

## Message from the Chair

By Janet McDaniel



On August 24, I attended my final CSUSM Convocation as a member of the faculty. We didn't have Convocations the first few years I was an employee, although I do recall an all-university meeting at "Cal State Jerome's" in August 1991. There were a couple of kick-off events on the new campus in The Dome and ACD 102, then several years of formal Convocations at the California Center for the Arts Escondido, and now at the University Student Union. Likewise, I recall multiple venues for the bookend event, Commencement: various open-air spaces on campus, Del Mar Racetrack, and now the Mangrum Track and Field on campus. I love these ceremonial beginnings and endings to the academic year. I have attended darned near every one, and now in my 27<sup>th</sup> year as an employee, I have attended my last.

OK, I can hear you saying, "Wait a minute, I thought you were retired!" Indeed I am. I'm in the Faculty Early Retirement Plan (FERP). It's a popular program—a way for faculty to ease into retirement by formally retiring and then signing on for up to five years of part-time work. Similarly, staff members can retire and be hired back part-time as retired annuitants. Because of these programs, there are always retired employees on campus continuing to contribute to instruction and support for our current crop of students. My campus experience has been rather comical at times. Colleagues look at me in puzzlement and ask, "What are you doing here?" or "Are you sure you want to keep coming back?"

This is my final year of FERPing. I will work full-time fall semester teaching three courses in the School of Education and supervising three student teachers. Then...I'm done!

I have mixed feelings about ending this long and meaningful career and about beginning fully retired. Accomplishment, delight, and apprehension are among them. But there's one important aspect of retirement that both consoles me and contributes to my anticipation: the existence of the CSUSM Retirees Association. Five years ago, I was dreading retirement. I worried that it would mean the end of my natural connection to CSUSM. I could not bear the thought of losing opportunities to engage with our campus's wonderful people and meaningful programs. Now that we have the RA, I no longer have that fear. Instead of "retirement = severance," CSUSM has a formal structure for "retirement = new relationships" with employees. The RA provides retirees with opportunities to support campus programs, offer service to current employees, and engage in social activities to continue longstanding friendships and make new connections. I especially love the fact that many current employees have joined the RA in anticipation of when they, too, will enter into their "new relationship" with CSUSM.

My five-year FERP experience has been rewarding in many ways. This semester, I'm planning to enjoy every moment of working with the amazing and inspiring students of CSUSM. And I'm looking forward to the day when I'm not setting my alarm clock to get to campus on time for Convocation 2018. Then I'll know I am really retired!

### Update on the Board of Directors

Welcome aboard to Bill Ward who will be serving on the Retirees Association Board of Directors!  
Bill retired from CSUSM after a long career in IITS as Associate Dean and then Interim Dean.

## Do You Remember? ~ Early Senate Meetings

*By Marcia Woolf, Secretary to the Senate*

Following are excerpted notes of one of the original Founding Faculty meetings from the fall of 1989. Kenneth Seib (Literature - he left in the spring of 1990) wrote these amusing notes of a meeting when the faculty discussed a Credit/No Credit grading policy:

Moved by Bernie, seconded by Pat that: "Neither the CR nor NC grade is included in the calculation of the grade point average" passed unanimously.

Heady with success, the group moved on to [discuss qualifications for the CR grade]. There was a lot of talk about this, and for reasons that I fail to remember, Pat moved to table the issue, seconded by Bernie. This seemed like a good idea to everyone, for they were all sick of discussing the thing, so it was tabled.

[The third item discussed was catalog language describing how to recognize courses available for CR/NC grading.] Well, what the heck, this seemed simple enough, right? No way. Bernie wanted all CR/NC courses designated in the catalog with an asterisk or some such thing; all other courses would not be available for CR/NC grading. Everyone turned on Bernie at once, and it was like a shark feed. The catalog, they pointed out, would look like a celestial omnibus, with little stars and asterisks everywhere. The scientists in the group thought this was great, for it was the first mention of science they had heard in weeks.

Somehow the group skipped numbers 6 and 7 but nobody either noticed or cared.

Number 8 had a charming simplicity that belied its sinister implications: "All CR/NC grading shall have the permission of the instructor." Anybody outside of a mental institution or an academic setting would not have believed the ensuing discussion. If this were passed, some argued, horrible things would happen. Faculty would, practically overnight, turn fascist, sexist, racist, and murderous. They would abuse this not inconsiderable power, and blackmail their students with the omnipresent threat of either giving or denying the possibility of a CR/NC grade. On the other side (if there were actually "sides" to this discussion), some argued for the blissfulness of ignorance. They didn't want to know what their students were up to, and wished to operate on the not unenviable assumption that the less one knew about what one's students were about, the better.

Everyone was getting tired at this point, and several had to go to the bathroom, so it was moved by Bernie, seconded by Chabe, that we accept the statement as she was writ. Lo and behold, the thing passed by a score of 6 to 3 (at the top of the seventh).

But wait! What about number four, sentence two, which got itself tabled several hours ago? It was high time to go back to that sucker and get it straightened out. "The decision to enroll for CR/NC grading must be made prior to the end of the fourth week of instruction." Actually, this didn't sound too bad the second time around. Besides, people really had to go to the bathroom by now! So it was moved by Bernie, seconded by Joan, and, to everyone's surprise, passed unanimously.

There was, at this point, a mad rush for the door.

The game was called on account of darkness.

## MEMBER PROFILE - Vivienne Bennett

*Submitted by Professor Emerita Vivienne Bennett*



"What are you going to do when you retire?" And "What, YOU are retiring?" I am sure all the retired members of the RA heard the same questions over and over and over again during their last year or months on campus.

And I replied, "I don't know. I can't know while I am still working. I have to stop working to become a retired person and only then can I begin to find out who that retired person is." And then came this:

"What? You, who are always so organized, so detailed, so systematic, so organized, surely you have a PLAN?!"

Nope. I did not have a plan except not having a plan. And for the first time in my life, not having a plan was the perfect plan!

Then this year the standard question has been, "What do you do, now that you are retired?" Yet I've found that short of saying something along the lines of "Well, I applied to and was accepted into the new NASA program to send seniors into space," or "I've actually been a painter all these years and there is going to be a major retrospective of my work at MOMA in NYC next year," nothing I say about retired life is met with an enthusiastic response commensurate to the wonderfulness of retirement!

Until we retire, our lives are lived within the simultaneous arcs of career, work, and family. But retirement takes us beyond that to another world, one that those who are still working cannot imagine.

I now live on another planet. It's a planet where I can breathe and where I am aware of the beauty manifested in the small moments of the day. Instead of noticing for only a nanosecond that my garden looks beautiful as I dash by the sliding glass doors while rushing out to the car to drop my son at school on my way to campus, I now find myself at that sliding glass door looking out, observing the changes in flowering plants and the growth of my acacia tree and the lizard in the sun on the patio and the blue sky. And that moment is deep and fulfilling and calm.

"What am I doing now that I am retired? I am breathing," I reply. I am quietly breathing, taking my time, pausing when I want to, able to ponder, able to be present more often.

I had a wonderful, engaging, growth-filled 22-year career at CSUSM, starting as assistant professor in 1994, serving as department chair of Liberal Studies for ten years, running the Center for Border and Regional Studies for a few years, helping to create the Integrated Credential Program, being Academic Senate Chair, working on Community Engaged Scholarship, and teaching classes on Mexico, the US-Mexico border, and the politics of water. But what mattered most and made my years at CSUSM wonderful were the people: my friends, colleagues, and co-workers among the faculty, staff, administration, and students. CSUSM was my community both as a place and as a feeling of belonging. As we worked together to create a new university and then to run it, a deep fellowship developed amongst us, a fellowship that was my greatest joy at work. And as we toiled in our respective domains across the growing campus, the built campus itself became the repository of so many shared experiences... That's where I taught my first class....

~ continued on next page ~



## Member Profile – Vivienne Bennett

~ *continued*

That's where Mtafiti played Amazing Grace the day after 9/11.... That's where my first office was across from David Avalos and Don Funes (RIP)... That's where my class met with Melanie Chu in the Kellogg Library... That's where the Executive Committee of the Senate met.... That's where my home base, Liberal Studies, is.

Giving up being an active member of my CSUSM community was the hardest part of retirement for me. However, after mourning that impending loss during my last year on campus, I have found that, for me, being retired does indeed mean life on another planet. And on this new planet, life is good and it is full, really good and really full. Daily, I am aware of how fortunate I am to have this privilege of retirement, this privilege of being able to find a balance between breathing and other activities such as more travel, being more politically active, being involved in my broader community motivated by my continued passion for social justice, seeing more of my friends and family here and around the world.



Traveling in the Elipsos Train



A visit to Spiez in Switzerland



With son Adin on motorbikes in Saigon

## RECAP of Events

### "Life After CSUSM" Panel Discussion ~ Thursday, May 25

As a service to current employees, four Retirees Association members served as panelists at our third annual "Life After CSUSM" event on campus; nine current employees asked questions about what it's like to be retired.

### Oceanside Museum of Art ~ Tuesday, July 11

Our excellent Docent at the Oceanside Museum of Art enlightened us as to the symbols and messages within the whimsical contraptions and art of John Dillemith entitled "GOMOS and Contraptions," and gave us great insight into many of the inspiring art pieces in a Juried Exhibition. Afterwards, we enjoyed delicious lunch entrées at "6o8" – a new farm-to-table restaurant in downtown Oceanside. A fun time was had by all!



The art pieces in the exhibit were handmade with natural woods and materials. Each piece was unique and took hundreds of hours to complete.



**RECAP ~ continued**

**Balboa Park Private Tour ~ Wednesday, July 26**

Nineteen members of the Retirees Association met at the beautiful historic offices of the Balboa Park Conservancy on July 26 for a private tour with Conservancy CEO and President Tomás Herrera-Mishler (a landscape architect). After pastries and coffee, Mr. Herrera-Mishler took us on a walking tour designed to highlight the challenges of conserving the natural and built environments of Balboa Park under conditions of rapidly escalating use of the park by a significantly larger San Diego population base as well as visitors from all over the world. From the serious problems created by drought, insufficient funding for maintenance and restoration, and too many cars, to the plans for renovating and upgrading numerous buildings and spaces, Mr. Herrera-Mishler provided us with a compelling behind-the-scenes tour that changed the way we understand our park, leaving some RA members committed to volunteering with Balboa Park organizations that focus on the issues we learned about.



## Upcoming CSUSM Event

### The Family Caregiver Workshop Series

Sponsored by CSU Institute for Palliative Care at California State University San Marcos

Are you helping a loved one with tasks as they address a long-term illness or disability? If so, CSUSM has a workshop series designed to provide you with local resources, tips for coping with stress, and ideas to stay resilient and build a support network. Last year, two members from the RA took this free 6-session workshop on campus and found it to be invaluable in helping us address our own needs in family caregiving situations. We highly recommend it for everyone who is currently providing care...and/or who is thinking ahead to the day when someone will to be providing care to you. Dr. Judi Phillips, CSUSM Psychology Department lecturer and CSU Palliative Care Institute Associate, is the instructor.

Register for this free series today!

#### Current Employees Registration

Employee Training Center (ETC)

[www.csusm.edu/etc](http://www.csusm.edu/etc)

#### Retirees and OSHER Participants

For further detail and registration, go to: [www.tinyurl.com/FCGWorkshop](http://www.tinyurl.com/FCGWorkshop)

#### Six Sessions at CSUSM

SBSB Conference Room 3219

**Tuesdays: September 19 thru October 24**

Time: 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

Bring your lunch!

Questions:

Contact Lisa Lipsey at

[llipsey@csusm.edu](mailto:llipsey@csusm.edu) or call (760) 750-3550



On **Saturday, November 4, 2017**, the CSU Institute for Palliative Care will host the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual "Because I Care" Community Fair from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the San Marcos Community Center at 3 Civic Center Drive in San Marcos.

The purpose of the Because I Care Community Fair and Educational Forum is to raise awareness and provide training that ensures the health and wellbeing of older adults, many of whom need care and support. The event will provide free, high-quality learning opportunities for family caregivers who are working with older adults.



## CSUSM Retirees Association

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760-750-4408

**E-Mail:**

[retirees@csusm.edu](mailto:retirees@csusm.edu)

**Website:**

[www.csusm.edu/fsra](http://www.csusm.edu/fsra)

**Membership Information:**

[Go to our website](#)

## Save-the-Dates for 2018

### President's Annual Report to the Community

Thursday, February 8, 2018

7:00 to 9:00 am

On the campus of CSUSM

### Excursion to Palm Springs

The Board of Directors is planning an overnight excursion in Palm Springs some time in February 2018 to visit sites such as the Sunnylands Center and Gardens, museums, and other sites of interests. Arrival would be on a Wednesday with departure on Thursday.

Here are the dates currently being considered:

- February 7 – 8
- February 14 – 15
- February 28 – March 1

Please email [retirees@csusm.edu](mailto:retirees@csusm.edu) if you are interested in attending; and if so, which dates would you prefer?

*We're on Facebook!*

[www.facebook.com/CSUSMRetireesAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/CSUSMRetireesAssociation)

### CSUSM Library Privileges for RA Members

Did you know that RA members have privileges at Kellogg Library? Bring your RA card to the Checkout Desk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Library to receive a barcode and have your account created.

- A maximum of 10 items may be borrowed at one time & must be returned to the CSUSM Library. There's a drop box in Craven Circle.
- CSUSM books check out for 30 days; CSUSM media items check out for 7 days. Renewals are allowed on a limited basis. No overdue charges but lost materials incur a cost.
- Databases are available at the stand-up computers inside the Library or thru logging into the Library's guest wireless network with your own device. Not available outside of the Library.

Questions: Contact [jkimmitt@csusm.edu](mailto:jkimmitt@csusm.edu) (Joanna)



## Annual Retirees Association Luncheon & Meeting

Friday, April 20, 2018

11:30 am to 2:00 pm

The McMahan House

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## CSUSM Annual Gala

Saturday, June 2, 2018

6:00 to 11:00 pm

On the campus of CSUSM

## Retirement Tip

Submitted by Janet McDaniel

Kyle Button, Association Vice President for Development, publishes a monthly electronic newsletter called "Resource Guide to Wealth, Retirement and Estate Planning." Each issue contains something of great interest to RA members. For example, a recent issue provided estimated costs for a range of care from independent home assistance to Alzheimer care in a detailed article entitled "Planning for Senior Care." If you would like to receive this newsletter, send your email address to Kyle at [kcbutton@csusm.edu](mailto:kcbutton@csusm.edu).