

TUKWUT TIMES



Brought to you by the CSUSM Retirees Association

CSUSM Retirees Association, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd., San Marcos, CA 92078
www.csusm.edu/fsra retirees@csusm.edu 760-750-4408

Newsletter March 2016
Volume 2, Issue 1

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Join us in the Kellogg Reading Room on **Friday, April 22 at 11:30 am**. This is our signature event of the spring and our second annual luncheon/meeting. After lunch, founding Library Dean Marion Reid will provide an entertaining and informative history of the University. A brief business meeting will be squeezed in before we adjourn to the first floor of Kellogg for a guided tour of the University Archives. If you love CSUSM history (and we've all been a part of it!), you won't want to miss this event.

You will receive an email with a link to the Eventbrite website where you can make reservations for you and your guests. Space is limited so please RSVP soon. All are welcome whether you are an RA member or not. Each reservation is \$25. If you do not receive an invitation via Eventbrite, please contact Arlene Cratsa at (760) 750-4408 or at retirees@csusm.edu.



Photos taken at the 2015 Annual Luncheon Meeting

Mid-Month Lunch

So far we have had two very successful (and delicious) no-host lunch dates around town. We have three more to come this spring. Let us know if we can set a place for you. RSVP to retirees@csusm.edu at least a few days in advance so we know how many tables to reserve. Each lunch will convene at 12:00 noon.

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 – Don't miss this one!

Green Dragon Tavern & Museum

6115 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad, CA 92011

This is a stunning 22,000 sq. ft. replica of Boston's original Green Dragon. Check out their website at:

<http://www.greendragontavernca.com/Home>

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Mid-Month Lunch - *continued*

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Pizza Nova
141 N Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92069

Friday, May 13, 2016

Café Merlot – Bernardo Winery
13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte
San Diego, CA 92128

Monthly Walks

Sandy Punch will continue to greet all walkers on the **3rd Wednesday** of each month at **9:30 am** for a healthy walk at the Batiquitos Lagoon in Carlsbad. Upcoming dates are **March 16, April 20 and May 18**. Meet at the parking area at the end of Gabbiano Lane. The walk is 3.2 miles but you can cut that short if you wish, and there are lots of benches along the way. Dogs are welcome. Let's exercise and have fun at the same time! Contact Sandy at spunch@csusm.edu with questions.

The Reid Lecture Series "Voting in Agreeable Societies"

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Reception with Light Appetizers – 5:30 pm

Presentation – 6:00 to 7:00 pm

CSUSM University Student Union Grand Ballroom

No need to RSVP - Parking Pass required

Speaker: Dr. Francis Edward Su

This lecture is geared toward the general public.

Message from the Chair

By Janet McDaniel



As you see on the homepage of the Retirees Association's website (<http://www.csusm.edu/fsra>) the RA's mission is "serving the needs of retired and near-retired CSUSM employees by offering **social, practical, and service** opportunities to enhance the retirement years." Let's take a look what we've done to achieve this mission in our not-quite-two years of existence.

The RA has addressed the **social** aspect of our mission with multiple events of our own devising (e.g., mid-month lunches, MandoBasso concert, excursions, walking group) as well as connecting to CSUSM programming (e.g., happy hour before Arts & Lectures presentations, Cougar Night at the Padres, Annual Gala). From the feedback of those who have engaged in these gatherings, I believe we are being effective in bringing together members and guests for activities that we enjoy both for the experience itself and for the chance to reconnect with our former coworkers or to meet new folks whom we did not know during our working days. We hope you will join us at one of our upcoming social events that you read about on page 1.

For **practical** assistance to retirees and those who are near to retirement, two opportunities are developing. You might well be interested in this summer's "Estate Planning 101" seminar series sponsored by University Advancement. This has been wildly popular with current and former CSUSM employees and their loved ones. The RA is working with Advancement to make sure you will receive information on how to participate in this program.

For employees nearing retirement, there are initiatives underway nationwide to improve pre-retirement planning in universities. I attended a jam-packed, two-day conference in Los Angeles in January, sponsored by the American Council on Education and the Sloan Foundation. The theme was "Navigating the Transition"—all about retirements in higher education. I gathered a great deal of data and examples of university programs to help employees make a seamless and well-informed journey during the culmination of their working years—and then to stay connected in all sorts of ways to the campus. As our first steps in this direction, our RA has held two pre-retirement lunchtime discussions at CSUSM; we call these "Life After CSUSM." By the end of this academic year, we hope to convene focus groups of faculty and staff to help define employees' wants and needs for pre-retirement planning. That should lead us toward working with university units to incorporate best practices into retirement planning.

As for **service** opportunities, individual RA members have engaged in service and philanthropy on behalf of the campus...there's no doubt about that. RA Board members have provided service by introducing T'ai Chi to campus employees; leading RA excursions; and being panelists for our "Life After CSUSM" Q&A discussions. However, we have yet to organize the general membership for service to the campus or community. If you have a great idea for this, please pass it along for the Board to consider at: mcdaniel@csusm.edu or retirees@csusm.edu

Our vision for the Retirees Association is to build interest and participation in all three areas—**social, practical, and service**—so that RA members are fulfilled by their engagement with the organization. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our events this year. Our annual luncheon and business meeting on April 22 will be a great opportunity for you to mingle, to enjoy the program on the history of CSUSM, and to express your wishes for future endeavors of the Retirees Association. I certainly hope to see you there!

Do you remember? The Evolution of our Campus Technology

By Bill Ward, Retired Dean and Chief Information Officer IITS and Retirees Association Member

In 1989, the widespread use of technology was in its infancy within higher education. CSUSM had the advantage of a "clean slate" and the faculty and administration wanted to develop a campus known for its use of technology in aiding the academic mission.

It is hard to imagine the "cutting edge" technology being implemented in 1989-90. Faculty and administrators were provided with Apple's Mac SE 30s, which cost about \$4,000 each and had about 1/50 the power of today's iPhones. There was a small computer PC lab shared by the SDSU satellite campus and CSUSM. The Apple computers had 9 inch monitors while the PC screens were 12 inches! Faculty and staff computers were mostly used for word processing and a simple form of email (Quickmail). The total computer count was about 60 systems, supported by three technology staffers. There was no World Wide Web, no video on demand, no local finance database, etc. Networking was only used for printing, email, and access to a primitive finance and student system at the Chancellor's Office. Networking speeds were 17,000 times slower than what we have today.

When classes started, there was no such thing as a learning management system (today's Cougar Courses) or PowerPoint. There were no student computer labs for instruction until the campus moved from CSU Jerome's. Overhead projectors were standard in classrooms, though faculty could check out a video setup and projector.

Major changes took place in the mid-1990s. Apple computers were in decline and many new faculty began requesting PCs loaded with Microsoft Office. Most administrators and staff used PCs during this period while maybe 35% of faculty used Apple systems. Student computer labs were installed on the second floor of ACD. The campus had major database needs, and large Unix systems were required to support business applications such as Banner finance, enterprise email systems, and classes that taught programming. In 1994 the "computer refresh program" was initiated to provide ongoing funding to replace all campus computers every three years (expanded to every four years in 2009). By the end of 1995 the total computer count had risen to about 500 systems.

The late 1990s and early 2000s saw an incredible acceleration in technology. The World Wide Web became a useful tool, and desktop systems began to support basic video functions and powerful graphic software applications. Faculty became dependent on classrooms containing computers and projection systems so that PowerPoint and other applications could be demonstrated and used. The campus installed its first Learning Management System, used by faculty to present instructional material electronically. Laptops became powerful enough to be used as faculty office computers. Dell was the PC computer of choice, and Apple computers made a comeback. Student computer labs increased as new buildings were added. Instructors and students from all disciplines could use all labs on campus. Total desktop computers during this period grew to about 2,000 systems. CSUSM remains the only CSU where students can log into any lab computer and use all available applications. In addition, faculty members can log into any classroom computer in any building and access their personal information.

Article continued on page 4

The Evolution of our Campus Technology - *continued*

The evolution of technology continues to be amazing. There are now well over 3,500 computers supported on campus and over 85 employees in IITS. Social media, video, and web applications are daily essentials. Online learning has become a critical component of instruction. Computer and internet security has become a huge concern. iPads are hundreds of times more powerful than the full-powered desktop systems used in the early years of CSUSM. Wireless networking has become fast and reliable both indoors and outside, creating a very mobile environment for the campus community.

It will be fascinating to see what new technologies will be developed over the coming years.



Computer Lab in the library at
Cal State San Marcos
Jerome's



Computer Lab in ACD 202
on campus

Technology has come
a long way!

Member Profile – Trini Urtuzuastegui Melcher

Submitted by Trini Melcher



Trini pictured here with José Clark at Hacienda de Vega at the 1st RA monthly luncheon on January 18.

My journey to CSUSM started many years ago in a little town on the Arizona border with Mexico. I was the eleventh of twelve children and spoke only Spanish before elementary school. When I was eleven, my father turned over the books of my family's gas station while my older brothers were away in the service during World War II. That is how my love of accounting was born!

As a first generation U.S. Citizen, and the first person in my family to attend college, I can relate to many of our students at CSUSM who are undergoing a similar journey. After I received my bachelor's degree in Accounting from Arizona State University, I married while working and studying for my MBA from Kent State University. When I was 40 years old, I found myself a single parent of three young children, and I decided to return to school at ASU for my Ph.D. in Accounting (becoming the first Mexican-American woman in the U.S. to do so). While my youngest daughter learned to read by my side, I wrote my dissertation. Today, I see a lot of students working to "do it all," and I can certainly appreciate the challenges and rewards of going to school, working, and raising a family at the same time.



Trini in Serengeti in northern Tanzania. She made some new friends!

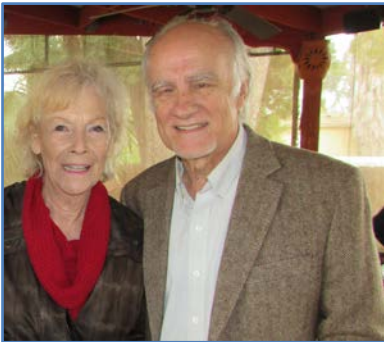
Prior to CSUSM, I was Chair of the Accounting Department at Cal State Fullerton. My areas of focus were Financial Accounting and International Accounting. When I came to CSUSM in 1989 as a founding faculty member, it was an exciting time but one which was filled with uncertainty. Shortly after I arrived, there was talk about closing down the University. Imagine the feelings of consternation we had after recruiting faculty from elsewhere who had left tenured positions! Luckily, CSUSM did not shut down. At first we had no curriculum, no diplomas, no mascots, and no permanent campus but we were all very driven to make this University an outstanding institution of higher learning. The Accounting Society was the first student organization at CSUSM (formed even before ASI); I started it in my first class in intermediate accounting. Soon it became apparent that our little venture was a success. Around 1996, I checked on the pass rates for the CPA exam and learned that we ranked second in California right after Berkeley. Not too shabby for a startup!

Today I am so impressed at how CSUSM has developed and grown, and I marvel at all the changes that have occurred since we began this great adventure. As for me, I retired in 2002 and spent five years teaching part time through the Faculty Early Retirement Program. I have not slowed down. I love reading and spending time with my three children and eleven grandchildren ages 1 to 32 years. I have traveled the world, visiting over 60 countries. From taking turbo prop planes on safari in Tanzania, to shopping in Dubai, to exploring India, Ireland, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Russia, Colombia and Panama...I have tried to check off every item on my bucket list. Recently, I traveled to Cuba with fellow founding faculty member Therese Baker Degler, who now lives near Stanford. It is a testament to the unique camaraderie we developed when starting the University that so many of us remained friends even after retiring.

RECAP

Mid-Monthly Lunches

January 18th: 18 Retirees Association members and friends gathered at two large tables at Hacienda de Vega in Escondido. This family restaurant's patio seating provided a relaxed setting for everyone to compare notes on their holiday activities and catch up on retirement life. The food and drinks were terrific—topped only by the pleasure of everyone's company.



February 16th: 10 retirees celebrated The Year of the Monkey with a dim sum lunch at one of San Diego's premier Chinese restaurants, Jasmin's. We were seated at a large round table with a lazy susan in the middle. Servers approached every few minutes with carts serving steamer pots and plates filled with Siu Mai dumplings, barbecued stuffed buns, steamed Chinese broccoli, roasted duck, calamari and so much more! We managed to save room for a dessert of egg tarts or steamed red bean buns. Everyone agreed the experience of sharing small bites of such a wide array of tasty treats was delightful. After lunch, several shopped at nearby Ranch 99 for a variety of Asian foods and products. Many thanks to Vivienne Bennett for being the resident expert at Jasmine's and our guide to Ranch 99!



RECAP continued

The President's Report to the Community

Several Retirees Association members joined 600 business leaders, campus colleagues, community advocates, donors, and legislative representatives for President Haynes 12th annual Report to the Community under the Event Pavilion bright and early on Thursday, February 4. Fortunately, portable heaters kept everyone warm while we chose from multiple stations with delicious breakfast choices. The President's address summarized CSUSM's accomplishments in the past year and presented a message of "impacting tomorrow together." For those of us who have been away from campus for some time, hearing the many accolades and milestones of our University fostered a sense of pride in the institution and the contributions many of us have made to CSUSM.



Monthly Walks

Sandy Punch welcomes all RA walkers (and their dogs too!) on the monthly Batiquitos Lagoon Walk. With the sunny weather we've had this winter, every walk has been a delight. Recently, Bonnie Biggs brought Zuni, her "Love on a Leash" therapy trainee on the walk. By next year, Zuni should be ready to visit CSUSM students during finals week.



Happy people are healthy people...just look at those smiles!

Potpourri

Upcoming Retirees Association Elections



Elections for two positions on the Retirees Board of Directors will take place shortly after our annual luncheon meeting on April 22. The terms of the Chair and Treasurer will be on the ballot.

- **The Chair** works closely with the RA staff to set meeting agendas, refine programming decisions by the Board and compose/edit the Tukwut Times and Tukwut Tidbits. The Chair represents the RA at CSUSM in order to advance the mission of the Association.
- **The Treasurer** works closely with the Retirees Association Coordinator who pulls the financial report to assure the financial health of the RA.

The term for each position is two years. Board meetings are held at CSUSM on a quarterly basis and run for approximately 90 minutes.

This is a really fun Board due to the terrific support from our RA Coordinator and CSUSM staff (they do most of the work!). Incumbents are Chair Janet McDaniel and Treasurer Don Barrett. Continuing on the Board for another year are Vice Chair Sandy Punch, Secretary Brenda Edgington, and Member-at-Large Stella Clark.

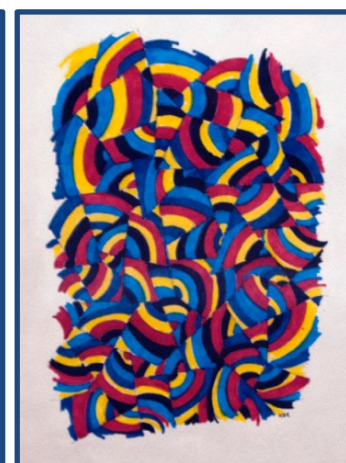
If you are interested in being on the ballot for the Chair or Treasurer, please contact Arlene at retirees@csusm.edu.

Budding Artist!

K. Brooks Reid

Emeritus Professor of Mathematics
University Founding Faculty and RA member

Brooks has been channeling his artistic side with a mathematical flair. He had three pieces on display at the Borrego Springs Art Institute for their February show, and he has 2 pieces on display by invitation at a little "funky" gallery in Laguna Beach at the Las Laguna Gallery.



The one photo above shows Brooks standing next to his piece "Deconstruction" that won a blue ribbon for the February show at Off Track Gallery in Encinitas. The second photo is a closer look at his piece.



Here is Brooks' "Hope Torn Asunder" piece that won 3rd place for the February Show at COAL Gallery (Carlsbad Oceanside Art League). Both pieces are done in pigmented ink.

CSUSM Retirees Association

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San Marcos, CA 92078

Phone:
760-750-4408

E-Mail:
retirees@csusm.edu

Website:
www.csusm.edu/fsra

Membership Information:
[Go to our website](#)

See you soon!

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, March 16 at the Green Dragon Tavern and Museum. Great food, conversation, and history wrapped up in one!



We're on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/CSUSMRetireesAssociation

Explorations – extended from December Edition

RA members have volunteered to organize & guide a number of excursions to get to know our region. Which ones are of most interest to you?

- Hiking: Santa Rosa Plateau
- Walkabout: Liberty Station in San Diego
- Walkabout: La Jolla Village and Cove
- Excursion: Borrego Springs
- Other ideas: Where would you like us to go; are you able to guide or should we find one?

Reply to retirees@csusm.edu by April 1. Once you indicate an interest, you will be on the contact list to set the date; then all RA members will be invited to participate.



Save the date!
Saturday, June 18, 2016

Don't forget your mask for this elegant but fun gala that you won't want to miss!

Retirement Tip by Stella Clark

I am not a tax preparation expert but I use TurboTax to do my taxes. Being over 70 and half years old, I have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from my deferred tax account each year. The RMD is taxable as a rule. However, TurboTax asked me if I had rolled over any or the entire amount of the RMD to a qualified charity. Apparently, the amount rolled over to a charity becomes nontaxable which, in my case, helps minimize the amount added to my income plus I don't have to write a check for my preferred charity which goes into my deductions. I have not done the math but I'm sure there is an advantage to this step-saving process. Make sure you consult your tax preparer about the possibility of doing this with your RDM. I hope to take advantage of this if it still exists in future years.