

TUKWUT TIMES



Brought to you by the CSUSM Retirees Association

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Newsletter April/May 2020
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Message from the Chair

By Pat Benson



Note: Because Tukwut Times is an archival document, here is a brief explanation for anyone looking back at this issue from the future. Everyone reading in real time already knows the following--practically all of our RA members are currently sheltering in place to ride out the global pandemic known as COVID-19, or familiarly, "the coronavirus." The university is closed (while all instruction now occurs online and all essential business continues). All public events including commencement have been cancelled or postponed. The crisis has been rapidly evolving; currently we are told that we'll need to practice social isolation for several weeks or months more.

So...Welcome to the spring issue of Tukwut Times! Because the aim of the Retirees Association is to help former CSUSM employees stay connected to the university and each other, it is our pleasure to provide you with some non-coronavirus news about friends and colleagues.

I'm pleased that a number of you have made use of "Retiree News for Tukwut Times," which is included in this issue. Because none of us has ever gone through a global pandemic, I invite you to leave us a Retiree News note for our next issue on how you're coping with your mandatory homestay. I know some of us are learning to bake bread, sew masks, play a new instrument, and...Zoom! If you have experienced something extraordinary—or want to tell us about your "new ordinary" during the pandemic, please send us a short note, at our RA website: <https://www.csusm.edu/fsra/retireesnotes/>

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We're modifying our activities in order to keep the RA going in times of social distancing. If you have any suggestions for an activity that other RA members might enjoy that can take place as a virtual gathering, please contact us at retirees@csusm.edu. The Annual Meeting will now be held on email. We'll conduct our survey of member interests electronically. We're planning a social hour via Zoom. Please watch your email for announcements from RA.

Finally, because we all worked at CSUSM, we can understand the massive effort the current faculty, staff and administrators are making to keep things running for CSUSM students. They are working remotely, isolated with their household members. Some are homeschooling their children as well. Hats off to the current employees! When we were employees, we worked to establish and grow our flourishing university; they are striving heroically through the crisis to keep CSUSM alive. We send them our grateful appreciation.



2019/2020 Board of Directors



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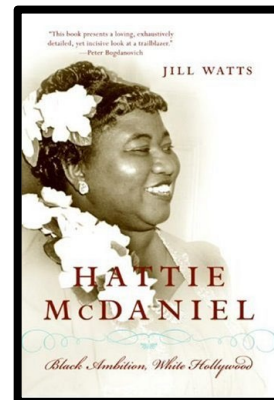
Calendar of Events – Hopefully!

Virtual Happy Hour!

Let's get together to have a virtual Happy Hour!

If you are interested, please email retirees@csusm.edu by May 8.

Once we know how many would like to participate, we will get back to you on a few dates and times. We would like to keep the groups small and each group will have a host to get the conversation started. Your hosts will be Vivienne Bennett and Arlene Cratsa.



["Hattie McDaniel" by Jill Watts](#)

(click on the link above to order the book)

San Marcos Library

Wednesday, October 21

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm – Talk

4:30 pm – No Host Happy Hour at Pizza Nova

"Professor Watts' (History, Film Studies) highly-regarded biography of Hattie McDaniel, which was reviewed by the likes of the New York Times and The New Yorker, is now being made into a film. Join us as Prof. Watts shares little-known aspects of McDaniel's life, from her dealings with Hollywood's power brokers and black political organization to her successful civil rights battle to integrate a Los Angeles neighborhood, revealing a woman hailed by Ebony as an achiever of 'more firsts in Hollywood' than any other black entertainer of her time."

Other events we are working on:

- **TBD** – Rescheduling of Coronado Excursion again!
- **Early November** – Happy Hour to learn more about Emeritus & Retirees Faculty & Staff Association (ERFSA)
- **November or December** – Trip to Borrego Springs
- **January 2021** – Speed Dating about Travel

Do You Remember? ~ The Pow Wow and its Precursors at CSUSM

Submitted by Bonnie Biggs, former Assistant to the Dean, Coordinator of Public Services/Library Coordinator for Arts & Lectures, Founding Tribal Liaison

If you were at CSUSM between 1993 and 2003, you're likely to have attended the American Indian Pow Wow – or at least knew it was going on in the fall in the lower parking lot (now a soccer field).

What you may not know is that there were six years of precursor events that led to the establishment of a full, formal Pow Wow complete with traditional protocols.

Relationships between the university and local tribal communities began in 1987 thanks in large part to Dr. David Whitehorse (Lakota) who approached me in my first year at SDSU-North County urging me to reach out to tribal libraries in the region. That's another long and wonderful story but the American Indian Storytellings in the SDSU-NC Library were an important step in strengthening that growing relationship and in bringing awareness to our students and campus community about the 18 federally recognized tribes in San Diego County. Three Storytellings took place from 1987 through 1989, evolving into the American Indian Cultural Fair in 1990 that took place in the Jerome's parking lot.

In 1992 the third American Indian Cultural Fair was co-hosted by SDSU-NC and CSUSM, taking place at The Red Barn in Walnut Grove Park in San Marcos.

By 1993 we were ready to put on the real deal since we were now on campus.

Pow Wows incorporate many tribal traditions and protocols that must be respected and observed. However, since Pow Wows are not part of our local tribes' traditions, it was important to include community input from San Diego tribes and that led to the event always being blessed by a Luiseño elder and to feature local Bird Singers (a local tradition).

It became clear early on that a variety of campus and community voices needed to be heard at the Pow Wow Committee table which led us to include campus police, health & safety folks and the like. A favorite story is of Steve Orsak, Director of Environmental Health, approaching fry bread booths with his thermometer to check hot oil temps. While it was a funny quirky thing to vendors, Steve became a part of the event, and vendors came to respect his role and his thermometer.

And then there was Pow Wow MC, Randy Edmonds, calling out to the man on a horse, up above the field (now apartments) asking the rider if he was a good cowboy or a mean one. Everyone cheered as the "cowboy" gave us a friendly wave!

Do You Remember? – *continued*

The Pow Wows continued until 2003 when funding started to fizzle. But our campus continued to celebrate local tribal communities with the Native Scholars program, Tukwut Scholars, the Tribal Communities Task Force, the President’s Native Advisory Committee, the hiring of a full time Tribal Liaison and the establishment of California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center. These have all become concrete examples of our commitment to working with our local tribal communities.

Photos provided by the
CSUSM Special Collections University Archives



1992 American Indian Cultural Fair/Red Barn
Lee Dixon, Henry Rodriguez, Jane Dumas, David White Horse



Bird Singers
Pow Wow 1993

Grand Entry – Pow Wow 1993



Along the Alabama Civil Rights Trail 8 CSUSM faculty/staff take a powerful trip together

Staci Beavers, Vivienne Bennett, Linda Holt, Janet McDaniel, Linda Shaw,
Laurie Stowell, Marie Thomas, and Marcia Woolf

In January 2020, the eight of us traveled to Alabama to deepen our understanding of Civil Rights history by visiting Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham. Six of us are retirees, while two are still active faculty on campus. The trip was on the order of life-changing for all of us, despite our prior knowledge of civil rights and US history. We designed the trip ourselves and have created an itinerary that we are happy to share with anyone who is interested.

In Montgomery we visited the new Legacy Museum and the new Memorial for Peace and Justice, both created by the Equal Justice Initiative, helmed by Bryan Stevenson. We also went to the Rosa Parks Museum, the Freedom Rides Museum, the Dexter Ave King Memorial Baptist Church, the Confederate White House, the State Capitol, and the Civil Rights Memorial and Center (created by the Southern Poverty Law Center). Here are some reflections:

[The Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum \(https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/museum\)](https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/museum)

Marie: This museum really impressed me in terms of the amount of content that was squeezed into a relatively small space and how well information was presented. Especially moving to me were the holograms of individual women and men in slave pens. This was an extremely well-done part of the museum -- it was heartbreaking to hear people calling out to family members who were being sold away from them or recounting their lives before and during slavery. This exhibit was right after we walked into the museum -- I could have stood there listening and watching for hours and had to pull myself away to see the rest of the museum.

Vivienne: The Legacy Museum is a punch-to-the-gut depiction of how slavery led to Jim Crow led to mass incarceration. You can't walk out of there without understanding that today's mass incarceration, especially of African-Americans, is a direct legacy of a country that engaged in mass slavery. Super-powerful.

[The National Memorial for Peace and Justice \(https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/memorial\)](https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/memorial)

Laurie: This site had the biggest impact on me, the haunting reminders of all the people lynched in every state. Additionally, the rows of jars of dirt commemorating the place of the lynching and the person were powerful.

Vivienne: This memorial even supersedes Maya Lin's Vietnam Memorial in its power. It manages to depict the number of people lynched in each state and county -- which is overwhelming in and of itself - while simultaneously overpowering you with the utter brutality of what lynching was (and even still is) and with the terrors of everyday life for African Americans. Its brilliant and somber design leads you deeper and deeper into the violent truths of lynching history.



Along the Alabama Civil Rights Trail ~ *continued*

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[Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church](https://www.dexterkingmemorial.org/) (<https://www.dexterkingmemorial.org/>)

Laurie: To stand in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s actual office was a highlight. Then to be in the sanctuary imagining it filled with parishioners and protestors the night before the 1955 bus boycott began was also moving.

Vivienne: Wow, we were in Dr. King's office, we stood around his desk and chair. He sat there! He worked there! We were awed into silence and tears.

In Selma we walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, we went to the Brown Chapel AME Church where the Voting Rights March started and to the courthouse where black citizens tried to register to vote and were turned away over and over again.

Janet: Walking across the [Edmund Pettus Bridge](#) -- the site of powerful moments in the Voting Rights Movement -- moved me to tears. I recall watching television news footage in 1965 of hundreds of marchers being beaten by state police on Bloody Sunday when they tried to walk from Selma to the state capitol in Montgomery. The risks taken by these brave people are inspiring even today.

Vivienne: Standing on the steps of the [Brown Chapel AME Church](#), thinking of the people setting forth to march for voting rights that were already theirs but were systematically denied by unconstitutional and pervasive racist rules, people of all ages setting forth to march in a context where violent brutality was sanctioned as a way to stop them, the tragedy of our country and the pain of lives lived by those subjected to Jim Crow was all right there, and in many ways still is.

In Birmingham we went to the Civil Rights Institute, Kelly Ingram Park, and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. We also met with about 15 members of Birmingham Indivisible.

Janet: [Kelly Ingram Park](https://civilrightstrail.com/attraction/kelly-ingram-park/) (<https://civilrightstrail.com/attraction/kelly-ingram-park/>) sits across the street from the [Sixteenth Street Baptist Church](https://civilrightstrail.com/attraction/16th-street-baptist-church/) (<https://civilrightstrail.com/attraction/16th-street-baptist-church/>). The park holds sculptures that capture the horror of police with dogs and firehoses attacking and arresting 1,000 children in a series of protests in 1963. A monument to the four young girls killed at the church in a 1963 bombing is especially poignant.

Marie: Meeting with members of Birmingham Indivisible was another moving experience for me. We heard about their struggles, with Birmingham being the only "blue" dot in the state and with a local Democratic Party that was a political obstacle and liability. Their valiant attempts to change the political landscape in 2018 came to nothing and caused massive burnout. By the time we said goodbye, though, I felt as if we all were galvanized to action. The struggle continues, and so must we continue our work!

Laurie: I'm amazed at what they are doing in a very red state!

Vivienne: At Kelly Ingram Park, listening to the audio testimonies of people who lived through the bombing of the 16th Ave Baptist Church where four teen girls were killed... at the Civil Rights Institute hearing testimony of those who as children lived through attack dogs and water hoses being turned on them.... With Birmingham Indivisible learning about the stupefying corruption even today in the Alabama Democratic Party....no words but a deepened resolve to keep on fighting.

We all felt that traveling together through Alabama on this Civil Rights itinerary was a deeply transformative experience. We learned more and felt more than we ever imagined we would. All of us highly recommend a trip like this to Alabama to learn about (and for many, to recall) this important era in U.S. history. We discovered that it's one thing to read about it and watch documentaries, but quite another to be right there, to feel in our hearts and in our guts the history and legacies of slavery, to stand where others stood and grasp how and why the Civil Rights movement emerged right there, and to leave knowing how much of that struggle is still being fought today as the fight for equality continues.

If you would like our itinerary with specific recommendations for sites, restaurants, lodging, etc., email Vivienne at vbennett@csusm.edu



Janet McDaniel at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. The marchers leaving Selma for Montgomery, the state capitol, during the Voting Rights March in 1965, had to cross this bridge.

On Sunday, March 7, 1965, Bloody Sunday, police and state troopers waited at the far side of the bridge (they could not be seen by the marchers as they crossed from Selma) and brutally attacked the marchers as they reached the other side. Two weeks later the marchers tried again and successfully got past the police and made the two-week march to the capitol.

This march resulted in the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(Ironically, Edmund Pettus was a confederate General and Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan.)



Along the Alabama Civil Rights Trail ~ *continued*



In Dexter Ave King Memorial Church in Montgomery where Dr. King had his office and where the meetings to organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott were held.



Rows of jars with dirt collected at the site of every lynching documented by the Peace and Justice Memorial, which is the Equal Justice Initiative's memorial to victims of lynching.



The Four Spirits sculpture commemorates the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Ave Baptist Church by members of the local Ku Klux Klan. The four girls killed were Carol Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley and Carole Robertson.

Retiree News!

The Retirees Association is excited to bring you this new section of the Tukwut Times. Inspired by the Alumni Association's Class Notes, retirees now can let their colleagues and friends know what they've been up to since retirement. If you want to participate, please click [HERE](#) to complete the form. The next issue of the Tukwut Times will come out in August/September.

Marion & Brooks Reid



Brooks and Marion Reid were employed at CSUSM from 1989 to 2009. Both retired in 2009 and are Lifetime members of the RA Association. Brooks served on the Retirees Board of Directors from 2014 to 2017.

The photo of Brooks and Marion was taken at the Lone Pine Sanctuary in Brisbane, Australia where they met Orinoco, a 10-year old koala.

Eugenia Haven



Eugenia Haven was employed by CSUSM for 16 years, retired in 2005, and is a Lifetime member of the RA Association. Many will remember her as Eugenia Villamarin. Since retiring, Eugenia and her husband David have been traveling to Quito, Ecuador, several times a year. Their home is 30 minutes from Quito in the Valle de Los Chillos, a city named Sangolqui. This year they went to Ecuador in February and were scheduled to return at the end of April, but the corona virus changed their plans. Eugenia is sharing the following:

The first case of virus occurred when a national returned home from Spain. She tested positive after she had contact with her immediate family and friends. While she died a week later, the virus was spread in Quito and it had already been spread by someone else in the City of Guayaquil, Ecuador's main port. On March 16 the government established emergency measures and the airports were immediately closed to commercial flights. Because the spread of the virus could not be diminished, a curfew was declared from 2 pm to 5 am. Subsequently, restrictions on the use of personal vehicles were also established in accordance to the last digit of the license plate. There are, of course, exemptions for service vehicles. There are no buses or transportation allowed within the city or within the provinces. People are allowed out of their homes for grocery or pharmaceutical shopping and we must wear disposable gloves and face masks. So, our plans for this family vacation have been completely changed and we remain in isolation in our home here in Sangolqui. The population is about 100,000 people while Quito has a population of about 2 million people. The latest statistics on the virus (as of April 15) are 7,529 people tested positive and 355 deaths in the Country. We are well and healthy and hope that we can return to CA in May or at the latest June.

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Membership Information

[Go to our website](#)

In Memoriam Dr. Robert Sheath



Bob Sheath passed way at the end of November 2019 after a brief illness. He worked at CSUSM for 18 years, arriving as Provost in 2001, joining the Biology department as faculty in 2006, and transitioning to the Faculty Early Retirement Program after the spring 2018 semester. He had joined the Retirees Association as a near-retiree in February 2019.

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To read more about Bob's incredible career and his celebration of life that took place in late January, click [HERE](#).

Do you know about CSU-ERFSA?

The CSU Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association represents all CSU retirees. Its mission, goals, activities differ from local retirees associations as made clear by its mission statement:

"[it is] devoted exclusively to addressing the concerns and protecting the rights of all retired CSU faculty and staff. It represents the interests of its membership before the state legislature and federal government, various state and federal agencies, CalPERS, and the CSU Chancellor's Office."

CSU-ERFSA is focused on key issues important to all of us: retiree pensions and health care benefits.

See www.CSUERFSA.ORG and click on links to "[About CSU-ERFSA](#)" and "[Accomplishments](#)" for specifics.

CSU-ERFSA is almost 100% supported from membership dues. Please consider joining to help ensure the long-term viability of this organization. Click [HERE](#) for membership information.

Retirement Tip from the Cleveland Clinic

During this time of isolation due to COVID-19, it's important to keep our brains engaged.

Here are "Six Pillars of Brain Health" from the Cleveland Clinic:

- Physical Exercise
- Food & Nutrition
- Medical Health
- Sleep & Relaxation
- Mental Fitness
- Social Interaction

To learn more, click [HERE](#)