

POSTSCRIPTS

News of the CSU East Bay Hayward Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association Spring 2010

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President's Message:

Linda Dobb, CSUEB University Librarian, will speak at ERFA luncheon, Tuesday, March 23, 11:30am, at Dino's on Castro Valley Blvd. In the long tradition, (started last spring with David Sprung), our luncheon speaker will be informative and humorous. She has been a comic actress and University Librarian and Interim Associate Provost at CSUEB Hayward. She came to the campus from Bowling Green State University whose libraries are known for their eccentric Popular Culture Collections, including airline liquor miniatures, campaign buttons, and romance novels. She has a BA in Dramatic Art from U.C. Berkeley, a MS in Library Science from Simmons College, and a JD from Hastings College of Law. Linda is bright, energetic, and funny. Her topic will be "Treasure Troves in the Library."

Give to our CSU ERFA Library Endowment! Your donations will be matched. Our local chapter of ERFA here at CSUEB Hayward has only a small bank account. Our only source of funds is Statewide ERFA reimbursement. Unlike most chapters, we have no local dues. We lose money on the luncheons and do not want to raise prices. We send two newsletters a year and unpaid volunteers do all the work.

However, because of the diligent work of treasurer Helen Sowers, we have almost \$3000 moldering¹ in our bank account. At the last Board meeting I suggested that we donate \$500 to the ERFA Library Endowment (which now has about \$15,000) and that I would match that with another \$500. A Board member (whose name I forget because I am an old person) suggested your donations can be used to match an additional ERFA donation, up to \$500, to make a bigger total gift to the Endowment. So, please consider making a contribution so that we can give \$2000. With our Librarian as our speaker, this is time to make a contribution. She will be very grateful.

--Bea Pressley, President

¹Not earning interest. -ed

Spring Luncheon

Guest Speaker: **Linda Dobb**, CSUEB University Librarian

Date: **Tuesday, March 23, 2010**

Time: Gather starting at **11:30, social hour of 45 minutes, sit down 12:15**

Place: Dino's at 3600 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley

All lunches are still \$20, in cash or by check, paid when you arrive at Dino's. Checks are **payable to Helen Sowers**, our treasurer. Lunches include food, gratuity, tax, coffee, tea, tossed green salad with Italian dressing, vegetables, rolls, and wine.

Menu	1. Vegetarian Lasagna
	2. Broiled Salmon with dill cream sauce and rice
	3. Bay Shrimp Louie with Louie dressing
	4. Broiled Half Spring Chicken with mashed potato

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS AND MENU SELECTIONS **by Thursday March 18 with**

- **Jack Kilgour:** 510-582-8760, ijnkilgour@att.net or john.kilgour@csueastbay.edu or
- **Bea Pressley:** (925) 946-9786, beapressley@mac.com



Emeriti Academic Senator's Message

The major topic of discussion that has occupied the Senate and EXCOM since the last senate meeting is the University's Budget Plan. The Colleges have been reducing the number of class offerings for the spring quarter, making it difficult for many students to complete their graduation requirements. It was revealed today the University will have about 2.9 million dollars to alleviate this problem somewhat, but this money will not be available until the fall of 2010. That's all for now.

-Cal Caplan



Obituaries

Editor's note: As far as I can tell, the University has stopped publishing obituaries. If I have omitted anyone, let me know. I thank our two authors for the comments below.

Gwendolyn Staniforth, 1933-2009, PhD (English Literature) UCLA; worked at the Huntington Library before she joined the Department of English at CSUH in 1964. She retired about 1996, and thereafter lived in her house in Castro Valley. She died alone there on November 23, 2009.

Gwen was one of those rare scholars who are entirely scholarly. Even when she played bridge (she was a formidable opponent and a comforting partner), she played it in a scholarly way. Along with Galia Ham (a member of the Department of Foreign Languages) she explored the restaurants of Hayward and the nearby cities, always remembering the quality of the food, the ambience, and the service.

A single anecdote may give adequate description of Gwen's character: At the end of the Winter Quarter of her first year I came out of my night class, and found that she was still in her

office pondering a stack of papers. I asked her why she was staying so long and so late, and she said that she was puzzled about what grade to report for one particular graduate student. I knew the graduate student, and I knew that he was not likely to survive the quarter. "What grade do you believe he has earned?" I asked.

Gwen said, "I am not sure whether to report 'D' or 'F'." I said that either one would be the end of him as a graduate student, partly because he had not succeeded in any other course and partly because Gwen's course was required in the graduate program. "I know," she said, "but I want to get it right." I said, "Gwen, you are going to be the only teacher in the history of the world who never made a mistake about a grade." She only said, "Well, I want to get it right."

I don't remember what grade she finally reported, but I know that she was like that, then and always. In the last year of her life I reminded her of that unfortunate fellow, and she recalled in detail the trouble she had had in making up her mind.

She spent the years after retirement studying Metaphor. Her living room was stacked high with books and papers, mostly scholarly books and papers, with encyclopedias and dictionaries scattered here and there. She studied everything she could find that has been written about metaphor, as many heavy thinkers as she could discover, and she managed to refute all that she came across--mainly because their grasp of the subject was unsound and inaccurate, in ways which she could demonstrate. If she had lived long enough she might have come to the end of it, but she wanted to get it right.

-Jack Conner

Ronald Schusterman, Professor Emeritus Psychology and Biology, died February 11, 2010, of complications related to heart disease, which he battled for much of his life.

Ron held joint appointments in the Psychology and Biology Departments at Cal State and co-taught one of the first Marine Mammal Biology courses with Sam McGinnis, beginning around 1972. Ron's research was done at the Ecological Field Station in Garin Woods, an area south of the Cal State campus. Sounds of barking sea lions (including the famous Rocky) must have mystified many a hiker in the Hayward Hills during that time. In 1985 Ron moved his research program to Long Marine Laboratory at the University of California, Santa Cruz, though he continued teaching at Cal State until 1998. At Santa Cruz he worked with California sea lions, harbor seals and elephant seals, conducting experiments to understand how they perceive and think about the world. Ron retired in 2003, but the lab that he founded continues as an important center of pinniped sensory and cognitive research.

According to Daniel Costa, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at UCSC, "Ron carried out truly pioneering work on cognition and sensory physiology of marine mammals. He was an exceptional experimentalist, and his research has stood the test of time, ranking among the classic works on marine mammals and animal cognition."

Ron was born in New York and grew up in the Bronx. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science at Brooklyn College and a master's and doctorate in psychology at Florida State University. Ron started his research career studying primates, but in 1963 he was recruited to the Stanford Research Institute to study the behavior and sensory physiology of pinnipeds. There he helped debunk the idea that pinnipeds use echo-location like dolphins and bats. In 1964 he began teaching part time at Cal State.

Contributions may be made to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Cardiac Research Fund, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94301 or to the Pinniped Cognition and Sensory Systems Lab Student Research Fund, UC Santa Cruz Foundation, 1156 High St., Santa Cruz, CA 95064. For more information see www.pinnipedlab.org or *SF Chronicle* Feb. 27, 2010.

-Arnie Stoper

Opinions

CEAS Budget Forum of February 4, 2010

Addendum: Statement by Professor Rita Liberti

Over the past 3-4 years in the role of Department Chair, Vice Chair of the Academic Senate, and now as Professor in Kinesiology, I watched as the administration spent considerable time and energy ensuring that students levy and increase mandatory fees on themselves to pay for everything from a Wellness Center, to Student Health Services, a Division II Athletic Program, and a parking garage. In building a version of a “vibrant campus community,” the administration expended much energy arguing these things were necessary, despite their tangential relationship to academic programs and instruction. In recent weeks, using precious university resources, renovation began on, of all things, a soccer stadium – I suppose to round out the kind of vibrancy desired by this administration.

In contrast, and far from “vibrant,” I’ve watched as the feeble foundations on which academic departments were built crumbled under the weight of massive budget cuts to Academic Affairs. The 20% cut to CEAS this year alone, rivals the non-academic cuts being made. These actions are indefensible in and of themselves – but especially so, given the attention, energy, and money paid to nonacademic activities and pet projects. Academics seem an afterthought to an administration that sees more value in a new soccer stadium than the quality (or even the continuing presence) of its academic programs.

In its haste to build a “vibrant campus community,” the administration seems to have forgotten the reason for the community’s existence in the first place.

Comments by editor:

Several of these initiatives were committed when times were good, and go forward with financing separate from the instructional program. Students, as well as the administration, did not foresee the depth of the financial crisis. I had a sense the bubbles would burst, but not with the severity that has occurred. I don’t know about all the items mentioned above, but I have detailed knowledge of the parking structure and my organization is now litigating the issue.

I went on the CSUEB Hayward web site to look for some summary of the adverse effects of the budget crisis, and I found only Prof. Liberti’s comment. I don’t blame our administration for the crisis; it seems to me to be a result of an incompetent electorate and minority control of the legislature. The competency problem cuts two ways, expanding spending too much when times are good, and failing to raise taxes in tandem with cuts and loans when times are bad, digging ourselves deeper into credit card debt. Reagan and Wilson raised taxes to deal with their budget crunches, but now we have such a fear of taxes that it amounts to a war on government. If I were the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, I would have disaccredited the CSU system on the first day of furloughs.

Does anyone out there have a good factual summary of our decline, under a page long?

[Room reserved for emeriti faculty in library: LI 3169. Service desk, second floor has the key.]

Postscripts editor Sherman Lewis

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