

PostScript

Spring 2022

SDSU Retired Faculty/Staff News

The Mentors and Mentoring Issue

Volume XXXVI No. 1

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nancy Farnan, College of Education



Spring is a lovely time of year in just about any place in the world. For some, the season change is dramatic (e.g., Ohio, my home state); for others, the change is more subtle (e.g., San Diego). This Spring, a lot has been happening with our association. On March 15, we co-hosted an event for SDSU retirees with the SDSU Associate Vice President's Office of Faculty Advancement and Student Success, one of the many celebratory events for SDSU's 125th Anniversary. At that event, we heard from SDSU's President and Provost, and a couple of our previous scholarship recipients spoke to the group. In addition, we watched a video/film that showcased the SDSU

Retirement Association through the decades. Creators of the film include members of our organization and a staff member in the Associate Vice President's office.

Also, in March we had the annual Borrego Spring's Retreat, which was a delightful get-away to the desert with friends and good food. If you haven't attended this event, I highly recommend coming next year. In addition, we just held our annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting at the Bali Hai Restaurant, where we had a chance to meet and hear from our 2021-22 scholarship recipients. Not all were able to attend because of prior commitments (i.e., classes that conflicted with the time); but the Scholarship Committee Chair and Co-chair read brief biographies of those not able to attend. Looking forward, we are anticipating a Day at the Races in Del Mar and some fun and interesting activities that you will hear about in the future.

Also, at our Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting this year, we elected new officers to our Board of Directors, whose terms will begin July 1. New Board members include Nik Varaiya as Vice President; (the position formerly held by Dan Gilbreath); John Gaughen as Secretary (the position formerly held by Barbara Barnes); Gordon Shackelford as Treasurer (the position formerly held by Robin Fishbaugh); Patrick Papin as Senate Representative (the position formerly held by Gordon Shackelford); and Douglas Case, Rick Schulte (continuing), and Robin Fishbaugh as Directors-at-Large (Gloria Ross and Patrick Papin formerly served as two of the three Directors-at-Large.). My first term as President ends this year; and I was reelected to that role for another term. Some officers have moved into new roles. Others, after serving for several years, decided to step aside; but in each case, they generously agreed to provide support wherever needed in the future. I am appreciative of each one, all of whom are volunteering time and effort to lead our organization.

In addition to the officers, each one of our Standing Committees is run by volunteers. There are not many absolutes in our lives, but this is one: each of our activities and events has one thing in common, which is volunteers from our association who are willing to spend hours planning, collaborating, and working to ensure the success of each event. As I begin my second term as President of the SDSU Retirement Association, I am humbled and amazed by the willingness of members to ensure that our events, scholarship processes, and collaborations go smoothly, and to find interesting and fun events along the way to add to our traditional activities. Of course, each activity and event shares one more thing in common, and that's "you." We now have over 500 members in our association, and there is a place for all who are inclined to participate in our mission, which is (and I paraphrase) to serve the needs and interests of SDSU retired faculty and staff; to remain connected to our university; and to provide scholarships to students who have a relative, either retired or still working at SDSU. Thanks to all members for contributing to the health and vibrancy of the SDSU Retirement Association!♦

EDITOR'S NOTE: MENTORS AND MENTORING

Throughout the pages of this issue are inspiring articles from SDSURA members about Mentors and Mentoring. The term Mentor or "wise counselor" has a fascinating derivation. It came from French into English in 1750 and was inspired by the character Mentor in Homer's *Odyssey*. In the epic poem, Odysseus left the man Mentor in charge of his home when he went off to war. He was gone for ten years. As Mentor aged he becomes a rather foolish old man. The goddess Athena assumed his appearance to give wise advice to Odysseus's young son Telemachus as he tried to find his father and get rid of the many men who believed Odysseus was dead and wanted to marry his wife Penelope. Thus we have come to associate the term mentor with wisdom of Athena.

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON/BUSINESS MEETING, 2022

After a two year pause due to the pandemic, SDSURA's annual Spring Luncheon and Business meeting resumed on April 14. Around 60 attendees gathered at the Bali Hai to reconnect, enjoy a buffet lunch, and take care of business. The official meeting began after lunch with the election of officers. Nancy Farnan will continue as president for a second term and be joined by several new faces on the Board. (See Nancy's President's message for a more complete list of officers.)

Next on the agenda was the presentation of the 2021-2022 SDSU Retirement Association Scholarships. Nancy Carmichael and Betty Broom, Chair and Vice Chair of the Scholarship committee, introduced the six awardees (see sidebar), three of whom—Raymond Wells, Tristan Hooker, and Evan Kim—attended and spoke briefly to the audience. Of note, for the first time all scholarship awards were named awards, meaning they were given in honor of an SDSURA member. Dan Gilbreath recounted the contributions of these special members at the end of the program. Many thanks to Amy Walling and University Relations and Development for hosting the awardees and their guests.

And last but certainly not least, another SDSURA tradition placed on hold during the pandemic returned—the Annual Service Award. Because an award had not been given for several years, Ron Young, Awards Chair, explained that two recipients would be recognized—Gordon Shackelford, Senator, and Kimberlee Reilly, Membership Chair.

Many thanks to all those who helped organize this year's luncheon—Nancy Farnan for her generous leadership and Ann Lepage, Dan Gilbreath, Dorothy Romano and everyone else whose efforts made the event happen so successfully. Thanks also to each and every attendee for sharing their wonderful positive energy. As the pandemic wanes (we hope), we will look forward to future celebrations together. ♦



2021-2022 SDSU RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARS

The Dr. Aubrey Wendling Memorial Scholarship
Raymond Wells, Social Work
Nephew of Martin "Mix" Luera, School of Art and Design

The Dr. Kurt and Julie Bohnsack Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Rebecca Pierce, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
Daughter of William Pierce, Financial Aid & Scholarships and Paula Pierce, Aerospace Studies/Air Force ROTC

The Kathy Ross Memorial Scholarship
Tristan Hooker, Aerospace Engineering
Son of Kari Hooker, Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

The Dr. Paul Strand and Sarah Hillier Scholarship
Evan Kim, Economics Quantitative Analysis
Nephew of John Kim, SDSU Field Stations Program

The Nore and Nancy Thiesfeld Scholarship
Diana Castillo Velasquez, Rehabilitation Counseling
Daughter of Roberto Velasquez, Psychology

The Drs. Ronald and Rinda Young Scholarship
Nathaniel Imlay, Anthropology
Grandson of Charles J. Stewart, Chemistry

A UNIVERSITY TRADITION SINCE 1947: DAILY RINGING OF THE FLETCHER CARILLON

*Dr. Terry O'Donnell, University
Carillonneur (Music & Theatre)*

Between 2005 and 2008—in conjunction with the leadership support of Presidents Kathie Ross and Norma Summersgill—the SDSU Retirement Association sponsored a fundraising campaign netting \$27,000 to underwrite final upgrades for the university carillon. In early 2008 the completed instrument was installed in a dedicated room inside the base of Hardy Memorial Tower.

The Original Fletcher Chimes—The Fletcher Chimes were a 1946-47 gift (to then San Diego State College) by Senator and Mrs. Ed Fletcher to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the University as well as to provide a campus war memorial. To reach the chimes, one had to climb a spiral staircase to a space above the water tower located near the top of the campanile. The chimes could be played manually from a small two-octave keyboard the size of a toy piano, and plastic cylinders resembling player-piano rolls could be manipulated to play selected school songs. The chimes were occasionally visited by a “musically-friendly-family-

of-owls” residing in the campanile cupola.

Nineteen sixty-three began my multi-decade association with the University Carillon. As a service project, the SDSC chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (the National Men's Music Fraternity) rang the Fletcher Chimes for special university events. I became the sufficiently bell-obsessed individual who repeatedly subjected himself to the ordeal of climbing the tower's treacherous 130-step spiral staircase. By eventual default I became the only “reliable chime guy” to regularly visit the chimes (and the resident owl family).

A Thumbnail History—Over the decades, the original 24 amplified chimes have been renovated or upgraded to incorporate technological advances. Today's digital 204-bell campus installation features 48 English-major bells, 48 English-minor bells, 21 Whittington hour-strike bells, 49 Flemish bells, 26 Bourdon, 12 upper-minor bells, and various swinging-bells, tolls, change-rings, and peals. The carillon is engineered to operate utilizing computer and digital technology—including a programming system to capture and preserve over 400 songs and performance events—but is also designed to honor historical bell-ringing traditions.

In 1985, we experienced the first



University Carillon

of four carillon system expansions that would lead to today's completed installation. Alma Maroszcz (Assistant to the President), Michael Lewis (Major Gifts & Development), and Liz Brilliant (Business Affairs) coordinated efforts to move the carillon to the base of the tower and to completely replace the forty-year-old tower speaker and amplification system. The Fletcher Foundation and Associated Students also funded a carillon expansion to 50 bells—which added 25 English minor-bells to our existing major bells. Barbara Hartung (Assistant to the Presi-

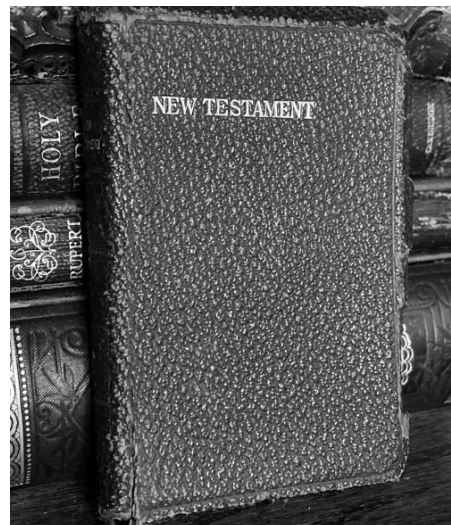
continued on page 10

ELLIS R. MARTIN— THE “MR. CHIPS” OF MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

*Em Cummins, Emeritus Professor of
Counseling*

From the day I entered Kindergarten in January 1942 to completing the Ph.D. in June 1964, I attended school during every intervening year (save two when I taught high school English near Los Angeles). My ballpark calculation suggests that I was a beneficiary of the pedagogical prowess of at least 115 teachers and professors at eight different schools, from Wm. Ford Elementary through Michigan State University, while acquiring degrees at Wheaton College and USC along the way.

I recall many teachers from this era, but one stands out from all the rest. Ellis R. Martin, a lifetime bachelor, was nearing retirement at Dearborn High School when he took this nerdy teen under his wing in sophomore English nearly 70 years ago. Rather than belittle my naïve book report on *Pilgrim's Progress*, he gently teased me with questions like, “Did you understand what you read?” And when I assured him that I did, he smiled and told



*The New Testament given to Em
by Ellis R. Martin. The inscription
inside the cover reads, “To Ellis
Martin upon his entering upon the
active service of his country.” It is
dated September 12, 1917.*

me that he was still trying to understand this Bunyan classic. Like the apocryphal Mr. Chips, he embodied “those ideas of dignity and generosity that were becoming increasingly rare in a frantic world.”

On the last day of class in 1953 he handed me a small packet with a personal letter. “Dear Emery,” he wrote, “*The enclosure dates from a troubled period in my life, and since it will have meaning for no one after me, it occurred to me to pass it on to you as a memento of 20 weeks together. The inscription is in the handwriting of my pastor, a gentle, kindly man whose words and kindnesses linger yet in my mind, though he is dust these many years. I needed friends and encouragement very much and he perceived it and was generous. I hope his spirit will still pervade these pages and give you understanding and courage in a difficult field. In spite of all the kidding and ribbing, I have found it a pleasure to have you in my class.*”

Inside the packet was the small pocket-sized New Testament that had been presented to him prior to serving in the US Army during World War I. He retired from teaching shortly thereafter, and we corresponded by mail for a few years until his death. I have never forgotten “Martie,” as he was known by his students, and I’m ever grateful to have been blessed by the gifts of this beloved teacher. ♦

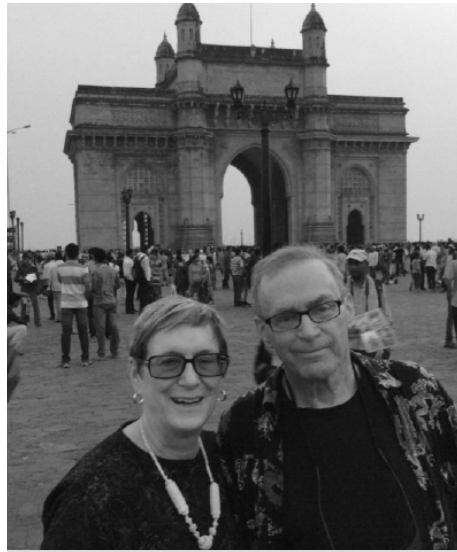
ON MENTORING

Ann M. Johns, Rhetoric & Writing Studies and Linguistics

Over the years, I've become accustomed to saying that I never had a mentor, suggesting that I am one of those self-made types you hear about occasionally. But I've been wrong, of course. Throughout my life, people have reached out to advise and help me, particularly as I attempted a new academic venture.

At Carleton College (MN), where I earned my BA in history, I was mentored by outstanding scholars who insisted upon competent academic writing from the very day I arrived. They required me to read carefully, think critically, and write thoughtfully, all skills that have served me well throughout my academic life.

My first work mentor was the principal at the site in Chicago where I taught middle school English and social studies. Mardell Parker, who was eventually selected to be superintendent in our district, taught me a great deal about how to work successfully with students and, more importantly, how to respond to their parents. Starting to develop these abilities early helped me to teach students at a number of academic levels and assisted me to revise my thinking as I have taught classes in



Ann and David Johns, India

Kenya (1963-64), Egypt (1970-72), and China (1981-82).

I have also been an administrator on and off throughout my career. The longest and most challenging of these jobs was as Founder and Director of the American Language Institute

(1973-1981). With no administrative experience and training while working with a group of 30+ teachers as well as international students and their sponsors, I looked for help wherever I could find it. Much of my help came from the teachers in the program (Thanks, Judy, Patrick, and Chris!); but perhaps my most important mentor was Don Basile, the Director of the SDSU Academic Skills Center, whose savvy has seldom been equaled on our campus.

I am still teaching—and I still need mentoring, advice from those who are more aware or thoughtful than I. Two of SDSU's unsung heroes, Jose Preciado and Glen McClish, try to keep me grounded and professional. They are wonderful friends who support (and critique) my work while keeping me informed of campus activities and issues.

Undoubtedly, the best mentor of all was my husband of 56 years, David Johns, a Professor of Political Science and a life-long supporter of my academic and professional career. He encouraged me, listened carefully, and advised me with wisdom, love, and patience—and I am very grateful. ♦

A MEMORABLE MENTOR

Dean Popp, Economics

Like many of you I began my academic career at a rural four room school house. Sunnyside School is located in Oregon near Portland. When I entered the eighth grade there was a unification of school districts and I went to a junior high with 10 rooms (I met this beautiful young girl in junior high named Sharon Densmore) and then on to high school. When I entered Willamette University in 1962 I was not soaking wet behind the ears but the area was still damp. I had visions of majoring in History but I did not mesh well with the History Professors but there was a cocky, opinionated, chain-smoking Economics Professor who had an abrasive loud voice and a painful southern accent that I found quite interesting and provocative. He would ask an individual student an impossible question in class, seemingly to embarrass the student because they could not answer the question, and would then continue to pound away at the defenseless student with additional

questions. He really seemed to enjoy inflicting pain. To my astonishment I did not mind this merciless grilling and kind of looked forward to class. Perhaps he sparked my competitive spirit or I just was not going to let him intimidate me. In retrospect, he probably knew exactly what he was doing and how I, and some other but not all students, would react to his antics. I studied harder for that class just on the off chance that I would be asked the question and I wanted to be ready with an answer. I wanted to show him!

Needless to say, I majored in Economics and took several more classes from Dr. Gillis. Once he had me hooked he kind of eased up on the humiliation in the upper division classes but every so often he would display a fiendish look and go on the offensive but by then I knew what the game was and could relax. He spent hours discussing graduate school options with me and writing letters of recommendation. He

strongly encouraged me to apply to Harvard, Yale, etc. which I did with mixed results. The few acceptances I received were ego boosting though the costs were not within the reach of my family. I often thought of Dr. Gillis while I was teaching classes at SDSU and thought I could emulate him. But I soon discovered I do not have the demeanor or personality of Dr. Gillis and I think my attempt to use his teaching tactics would ring hollow and false so I muddled along and found my own style of teaching. But I still remember his gloating manner of saying "I really nailed you that time" as he would smile and point out the inconsistencies in the answer and then formulate another piercing question so he could revel in watching the student squirm and sweat. The rest of us in the class would just be thankful it was somebody else on the spot. But we would be back for the next class. ♦

MENTORS IN MY LIFE

Pat Coffey, Business Administration

I can think of three people who have mentored me and made my career in computers possible. I graduated from college in 1960 and our little college didn't have a computer on campus and computer science was not mentioned as a career possibility. I remember that my freshman math professor had an actuary talk to us about his field. He did tell us that women could not be hired as actuaries because they would get married and quit.

After graduation, my college roommate Nancy told me she wanted to drive to San Francisco, and I decided to go with her. As we were driving up the 101 freeway, there was a sign for Palo Alto. I remembered that my brother's godmother lived there with her husband. I contacted Bea and Gene Ritter just to be polite and they invited us to dinner. At this point, we had no jobs and hadn't found an apartment. Nancy had a teaching certificate, but I just had a BA degree with an art major plus lots of math and science credits. Gene had been an executive at Stanford Research Institute (Now SRI International). He got me an interview at the radio communications lab and gave Nancy leads on where she could get a teaching job. Then they helped us find an apartment in Menlo Park. They mentored both of us and gave us a great start in California. We asked them how we could repay

them for all their help, and they just said to do the same for someone else. I have done that many times over. If it weren't for the Ritters, I would not have gotten into the computer field.

When I was working at SRI, our lab hired a mathematician named Dorris Miller. We had another woman in the



A Monroe Calculator, the type that Pat operated in those early days

department who was a queen bee and, out of jealousy, was making unkind comments about Dorris. This made me wary of Dorris until I had a problem with some calculations and using a Monroe calculator. She helped me use the calculator and continued to mentor me. She became a good friend. She was instrumental in my getting my first job writing computer programs at SRI.

When I got my programming job, I really didn't know much about computers. I had been a tab machine programmer where we used wire connectors to get punched card machines

to help us organize data for graphs and reports. (Remember IBM cards?) I had shown aptitude for this, so when they needed a programmer, they thought I would be a good fit. Remember, this was the early 1960s and there were very few computer science graduates around. They connected me with Ann Geoffrion, who worked in the lab and had used computers in college. She gave me a little book on how to use Fortran (Formula Translation), an early scientific computer language. After that, she had me write computer assembly language programs to interface with my Fortran programs. We were using the IBM 7090 at Stanford University with a tape operating system costing \$300/hour as compared to my \$425/month salary. (The 7090 was the computer they were installing in the movie *Hidden Figures*.) Ann took me over to Stanford University and we watched the tapes move as they read in our jobs, compiled and assembled the programs, and then executed them. For those of you who remember Fortran, the tapes 5 for input and 6 for output were actual tapes. Watching the tapes move as Ann explained what they were doing gave me a solid idea on how computer operating systems worked. This knowledge later helped me become a systems programmer. Since using the 7090 was so expensive to use, Ann taught me how to write very efficient code. She was a tough task master that I credit with my computer expertise. ♦

AL MERINO, IVC MENTOR

Al Merino retired from SDSU, Imperial Valley in 2001 where he was a mentor to many. The following tribute was shared by the Merino's from an article by Laura Mackenie in Calexico's local newspaper.

At golf-themed parties, complete with golf balls and tees as the table centerpieces, students and staff of San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus bade farewell to a man who has spent 42 years as an educator.

His office is emptying. Boxes of memories line the floor. The shelves are almost bare. Only a few pictures remain. After 27 years with SDSU, Alfred Merino, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at SDSU-IV, is retiring. "He has been a tremendous asset to this campus," said Khosrow Fatemi dean of SDSU-IV. Fatemi continued, "He has contributed greatly....He played a significant role in educating



Nancy and Al Merino

the educators in the Valley....He brought stability to the campus...his attitude, his optimism and team playing are valuable assets," Fatemi said. "His enthusiasm is contagious."

Said Yulil Alonso-Garza, associated student body president, "He leads by example. What he believes in he also acts on. Students are the reason he is in education. That's the purpose of his career," said Alonso-Garza.

Training future administrators has

been Merino's passion since he started teaching at SDSU. Merino started both the master's degree in Educational Administration and the administrative credentialing programs at SDSU's Calexico campus. Merino estimated he has trained more than 40 school administrators in the Valley through the Educational Administration master's degree program he started in 1977. He estimated at least four of the 40 administrators are now local school superintendents.

"He was really good about shepherding everyone through the program," said Blaine Smith, superintendent/principal of Magnolia Union Elementary and Merino's former student. "He was genuinely concerned about each individual and he took the time to get to know everybody," Smith added.

Merino said his job has been rewarding. His biggest reward, said Merino, is "seeing my students being promoted." "When I see in the paper so and so got a job as an administrator, that's my reward," he said. ♦

RAMON ROYAL ROSS

Steve Barnes, Administration, Rehabilitation, Postsecondary Education (ARPE)

Ramon Royal Ross was a highly visible and popular figure at San Diego State, and quickly recognized and greeted by former students, colleagues, and local teachers in virtually every venue, from the Old Globe Theatre, to swap meets, to the beach at San Felipe, Mexico. He dressed well and was always meticulously groomed. His skill set was broad—researcher, counselor, author, father, chef, long distance runner, mason, master gardener, artist... If he lacked any worldly talents they were unrevealed to most of us. Ramon Royal Ross was a renaissance man in every sense of the word.

We first met in 1968 when I was a graduate student in Clinical Psychology at San Diego State University. At the time Dr. Ross was Professor of Education and Director of the Clinical Training Center. We worked closely together on



Ramon

my thesis research project with disabled readers and in the process became life-long friends. I served as a kind of older

brother to his four daughters during their formative years—Susan, Jane, Michele, and Loren.

Ramon was instrumental in nearly all of my major life and career decisions. He talked me into entering a doctoral program at the University of Oregon; said it would be life-changing, and it was. He provided strategic counsel on my love life. Urged me to return to SDSU in 1977. We hiked, camped, rode our mountain bikes, ran throughout the streets of San Diego and on all the beaches, laughed, and drank a lot of wine over the ensuing years. I never really got around to thanking him for all of that before his death in 2015. I do now publicly and by dedicating my recent novel, *Legends of the Escalante*, to his wonderful memory.

Final note: Ramon Royal Ross was raised on a prune farm in Walla Walla, Washington. I can still hear Ramon today, as he said many times in the past, "a town so nice they named it twice."♦

MENTORING, BEING A MENTOR AND BEING MENTORED

Leif Fearn, Teacher Education

I'd like to think I was a mentor for some folks whose paths I crossed over the years. I would like to think I left a handprint on people's minds and souls so they were better for knowing me. But that isn't for me to say. If I have served as mentor over the years, the people whom I served know about it better than I do.

What I know best is the people who entered my life and left me better for it. My high school track and field coach saved my adolescence because late one cold and rainy Pennsylvania February afternoon, after an hour of tutoring me past mere mediocrity, he took my hand in his, looked me in the eye, and said, "You're a good man." And I started to become a man right then.

As a student teacher, the local school district's reading specialist took me aside and explained how I had a responsibility to teach two sixth grade boys who couldn't read, and she'd teach me how. From Eleanor Light I learned to understand one of my professional missions. I don't know why El Light took me aside, but I have always thought that if she hadn't, I'd be teaching sixth

grade in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania in 1967, instead of beginning a career at San Diego State.

I was twenty-seven years old when I arrived on the San Diego State College campus. Many of my new colleagues were war vets, two generations my senior. Several of them told me I would attend a lot of memorial services. Two of those services were for the professors who interviewed me. I think they were among the people who observed that this new guy was raw and arrogant without much to be arrogant about, but had promise if we help him along.

People named Fran Ballantine and Bill Wetherill and Arthur Singer and Sticks Rowland and Sally Anthony and Paul Anderson and Paul Bruce and Jim Carnevale and Ralph Miller and Bob McCabe and Les Becklund all had a hand in helping me fulfill the promise Coach James B. Crawford observed about me when I was an adolescent. They were gentle men and women, very good at what they did, and willing to take time to help me understand how to be a colleague and credible leader for my students, many of whom were substantially older than I was.

My students allowed me to be part

of their professional and personal lives. Some understood what I was trying to do, and some of them bought in. Some new teachers recast their social studies instruction to reflect *what* we teach when we teach the social studies, not merely *how*. Many learned *what* to teach when they teach writing, again, not merely *how*. One told me she would give the district in which she took her first position three years, and if she couldn't teach the way she knew, she'd leave. She left. The school she opened in Central America continues, now a decade later. I'd like to believe there are teachers here and in places around the country whose mentorship serves their students' mental health, first, and who use their instruction to capitalize on their students' prodigious ability to think.

And I am always thrilled when I see a former student in a mall or theater lobby or airport, and he or she says something like, "You always left me troubled. You always said education is provocation, that schooling is just seat-time, that if I left class with nothing to think about, you'd failed. You never failed me." I only need an occasional one of those to be reminded that I've been a mentor.♦



David Sleet (mentee, far right) with Lindsay Carter's team (mentors) during a break in their somatotype studies of athletes in the Olympic Village at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games.

MEMORABLE MENTORS

David Sleet, Ph.D., Health Science and Public Health and Exercise and Nutritional Science

My first Memorable Mentor was Professor Ralph Grawunder, then the Chair of the Department of Health Science. I had taken courses from him as an undergraduate when later he offered me a graduate teaching assistant position to monitor students taking HS 101 through televised lectures fed into each classroom. We shared an office for a time, and he was instrumental in helping me

understand and appreciate the breadth of opportunities in health education, public health, and preventive medicine.

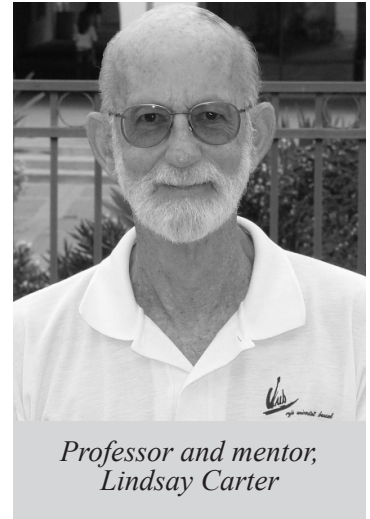
At SDSU as a graduate student in Exercise Science, Professors Lindsay Carter and William Ross (my professors) obtained a National Defense Education Act (NDEA) fellowship for me to study Anthropometry under a Federal Training Grant. They mentored me through the year-long training which led to a certification in anthropometry. This eventually led to my participation in the Montreal Olympic Games Anthropological Project (MOGAP) and an invitation to join an international team of researchers conducting somatotype research on athletes in the Olympic Village at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada, led by professors Carter and Ross. This work led to several publications on the data.

Another Memorable Mentor was a philosophy professor, Dr. George Guthrie, at the University of Toledo (Ohio) where I was a Ph.D. student. After a few classes with him, he invited me to join him in a week-long Workshop in

St. Louis on Phenomenology, hosted by a world-leader in the history of Philosophy (Herbert Spiegelberg). He introduced me to all the famous leaders who attended and mentored me through the week encouraging me to contribute and write about my experience. I felt honored and accepted as a member of the workshop even though I was only a graduate student.

These professors took the time to mentor me, and others, because they cared about their students and wanted to see them succeed, in school and careers, but also in life. And it worked!

My greatest admiration to those who mentor. ♦



*Professor and mentor,
Lindsay Carter*

DORIAN ROSS

Sharon Popp, SDSUR/Osher

One evening in the mid 1990s, my dad called to tell me that Dorian Ross was very ill and not expected to live much longer. Without a second thought, I asked my dad for Mr. Ross's phone number, though I had not spoken to him in at least 25 years. But I knew I wanted to call him before it was too late.

For a bit of back story, my dad and Dorian Ross both taught at Clackamas High School where Dean Popp, my boyfriend at the time, and I attended from 1958-1962. My dad was the Chaucer and Shakespeare spouting Senior English teacher. As a further aside, I had my dad for Senior English because the only other section of Senior English conflicted with band and I was the only bass clarinet player. Decision made. Throughout the year, my friends who were also classmates mostly earned A's from my dad, but I did not.

Mr. Ross taught Drama and Speech and had a swagger and flair that set him apart from most of the rest of the faculty,



Dorian Ross

to say nothing of his little mustache and goatee. I took lots of elective classes from Mr. Ross because he not only taught content, he taught confidence and courage. He was able to coax and coach and direct reticent speakers and actors to do what they were afraid to do, and do it well. Two tall, skinny basketball players who never hesitated to don those super

short game shorts and romp up and down the basketball court, were terrified of going on stage to deliver a few, simple lines. But true to form, Mr. Ross coached and coaxed and they were great!

With Mr. Ross urging us on and up, we discovered we could do a lot of scary things and do well at things we'd never imagined even attempting. He was never solicitous with his praise, but conveyed that even though our successes may have been surprising to us, he had expected nothing less.

I made that phone call. It wasn't too late. I told him that I attributed a great deal of my success in life and in my career to what I had gained from him. I described some particularly dicey situations that I had experienced. I told him that when I reflected back, I knew that the successful outcomes had in large part, been the result of what I had learned and gained from having had him for a teacher and a role model. I thanked him. And he thanked me for calling. Final curtain. ♦

MENTOR AND MENTORING

Reynaldo Ayala, Geography, Imperial Valley Campus

I thank the editorial board of this publication for selecting a topic that is so dear to my heart. I also acknowledge the Chancellors Office for providing the funding for me to accomplish this work as a mentor adviser from 1990 to 1996 when I retired. I am also grateful that the IVC administration selected me for this job. This was a very rewarding chapter in my life as a professor at the Imperial Valley Campus of San Diego State University in Calexico.

I was hired in 1969, to teach geography, particularly California geography, to complement the teacher training curriculum at the Imperial Valley Campus of San Diego State University in Calexico. One of the missions of the campus was to train local bilingual teachers to serve in the community. Calexico had a large Latino school population but only two or three Latino teachers.

The student population at SDSU-IVC was around 400 at the time. There were more female than male students and very few of them were Latinos, Mexican American and Mexican. Many of our students had transferred from the Imperial Valley Community College where they had completed the first two years of their academic life.

We did not have a regular counseling program at SDSU-IVC, so our faculty also served as counselors to certain numbers of students. I was given



Mentors from the IVC program

mostly Latinos students to counsel. Particularly, some of the female students had difficulties attending school because their families did not understand the value of a university education. Many times, I had to talk to the families and explain to them the significance of the process and the outcome. Some students stopped coming to school when they realized they could not cope by themselves with the challenges at the university. Some who had gone to other universities, returned to Calexico because they had not found there the personalized help they needed. They did not know how to use the library, how to take notes, how to take tests, how to write a term paper, how to study and how to ask for help and from whom?

Fortunately, the CSU decided to start a system-wide program of mentor and mentoring, and I was selected to administer it at the Imperial Valley Campus. The program provided funding for me to get release time and to pay the student mentors. I selected the mentors from my own classes and invited them to work with me to help other students. Space was provided in a large empty classroom with desks and chairs to meet with their mentees on an individual basis. We had weekly meetings to train the students on how to be mentors and how to identify possible mentees who might benefit from the program; they learned to recognize the problems and obstacles the students might have and how to resolve them in a timely manner. The mentors also went to the Imperial Valley Community College to advertise our program. In an average semester, we would start with 4 or 5 student mentors and at the end the semester we ended up with 10 or more mentors responsible for as many as 50 or more students. Most student mentors stay with the program for the two years, until they graduated.

It was an extremely successful program credited for helping many students complete that part of their university education. A good number of them upon graduation continued studying for their credentials to become teachers, others went to graduate schools to obtain Masters degree and several earned their PhDs. I am still in contact with some of them. ♦

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Gina Balistrieri

PostScript (PS): What did you do as your career at SDSU? When did you retire?

Gina Balistrieri (G): I was the Associate Athletic Director of Ticket Operations for Athletics. I retired the end of December 2020.

PS: Where did you grow up and what brought you to San Diego? If you are from San Diego, what kept you here?

G: Not only am I an Aztec for life, I lived in San Diego all my life. When I would watch football games on TV that were played in crazy snowstorms, I would think why would anyone want to live there??? I love our weather.

PS: Do you have a memory about SDSU that stands out and that you would like to share?

G: The success of the Kawhi Leonard led Aztec Basketball team made more Alumni proud to say they went to SDSU. The excitement level in the city was something to remember!

PS: Do you have a hobby, special interest or volunteer activity you would like to share?

G: I love working in the yard with my succulents and cactus. My lawn is a lot greener now that I am retired.

PS: What was the last book you read? Do you recommend it? If so, why; or if not, why not?

G: I did not have much time to read when working, but it is on my list to do more of in retirement (along with learning to cook).

PS: Do you have a favorite quote? If so, why is it your favorite?

G: Pretty much any quote from Mother Teresa is good for the soul, but somehow Yoda's "Do or do not, there is no try" always comes to mind..

PS: What are you looking forward to in retirement—any special plans; or if you've been retired, what have you enjoyed doing?

G: People would tell me to reinvent myself in retirement, but I am not interested in becoming a new me, just me that is more relaxed. I now enjoy being an Aztec fan watching the games without the worry that came with working in athletics. GO AZTECS! ♦



Gina Balistrieri

STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS

Maggi Mckerrow. Theatre

The term mentor started to become popular in the United States in the 1970's, which was after I stopped working with a woman who, I realized later, was an important mentor for me. At the time, I simply considered her a good colleague and friend. Her name was Zelma Weisfeld, popularly known as Zee. She was a Costume Designer. She had an MFA from Yale and, when I met her in 1963 was Head of the Costume Design program at the University of Michigan. She was an attractive blonde woman who always dressed very stylishly and had a tremendous zest for life. She was ready to take on any challenge. I had just received an MA in Theatre from Northwestern when the University of Michigan hired me for a very unusual job. I was to supervise the students working in the costume shop building costumes for shows, and subsequently develop a program of University classes in Creative Drama and Theatre for Young Audiences. Only later did it occur to me what an odd job that was.

In June of '63 I drove my pale blue Volkswagen Convertible from my parents house in suburban Chicago to Ann Arbor to start work in the Costume Shop. And work I did. As in immediately! The University staged four plays that summer so I worked all day every day in the Costume Shop supervising students as they worked on costumes for the shows, all cleverly designed by Zee, but also doing a lot of hand and machine sewing myself. Fortu-



Zelma Weisfeld, popularly known as Zee

nately two summers in summer stock had prepared me for the strenuous schedule. There was hardly time to eat. One show was *South Pacific* and I vividly remember how sore my thumbs and fingers were from sewing strips of thick Army camouflage material to women's bras. Each show had several dress rehearsals so many nights were spent in the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre watching the rehearsals, organizing quick changes, making sure the costumes fit and were worn correctly and myriad of other details. Next day we carted the costumes back to the shop making alterations and, once in a while taking the time to make whole new costumes when the first one didn't quite work. Zee and I were often exhausted from working day and night, but we worked well together, laughed a lot and turned up 'all dressed

up' for Opening Night and Opening Night parties. Definitely a summer to remember. Actually I loved it.

I continued to work with Zee in the costume shop for a couple of years and then transitioned into teaching classes and directing plays. I stayed in Ann Arbor until the Fall of 1968 when I left for a new job at the University of Maryland. We always remained friends and I saw her fairly often over the years, often in London where she had bought a small flat close to the National Theatre. We always loved to go to museums, films and the theatre together. One of those Ann Arbor summers we saw *Lawrence of Arabia* at least twice. I think Zee saw it three times!

What did I learn from Zee? A lot. She demonstrated to me how to be great at your job. Set high standards for your work and expect them of others. Be willing to put in the time required to achieve your goals. Respect colleagues and students alike. Stand up for your rights! Participate in national and international organizations in your field. Have fun! And something subtler. We didn't know the term but we were feminists. Zee worked in a world of men (as I did for much of my career) and expected them to respect her and treat her as an equal. They did and not only because she was great at her job, but because she always did more than was required. Zee was an excellent mentor for me and the many students she taught over the years. She died a couple of years ago. I will always miss her.♦

Terry O'Donnell, continued from page 4

dent) helped to coordinate the 1992 and 2001 carillon expansions. The carillon was also made to broadcast from Lipinsky Tower, and in 2001 the system was augmented to 117 English Major/minor bells.

The April 2008 Dedication—Files extracted from the depths of my computer reveal excerpts from an article published in the *PostScript* after the 2008 dedication. Perhaps RA members may find the following (now historic) commentary of interest:

Kathie Ross (SDSU RA Past President) discussed the Retirement Association campaign and thanked donors for making the expansion project a success. University Carillonneur, Dr. Terry O'Donnell (Professor of Music and Theatre), spoke of the history and development of the SDSU carillon installation since its inception. SDSU President Stephen Weber made heartfelt remarks about the importance of the carillon to the quality of life of the general campus community. He stressed that the carillon is part of the aesthetic infrastructure of this institution and thanked the Retirement Association for supporting the carillon and the continuation this University tradition.

President Weber and Kathie Ross revealed a dedication plaque to be mounted outside Hardy Tower commemorating the dedication event. The plaque acknowledges the Retirement Association for the expansion campaign. O'Donnell also premiered an original musical composition, "Dedication Tower Music—2008" and a music manuscript was presented to Connie Vinita Dowell (Dean, Library and Information Access) for inclusion in Special Collections and University Archives. O'Donnell dedicated this Tower Music composition to the SDSU Retirement Association to honor their extraordinary effort to complete the SDSU Carillon installation.

After serving 60 years to maintain and develop the carillon, it has been a worthwhile and gratifying experience to see and hear our SDSU installation evolve from 24 amplified chimes to our current 204-bell installation. Years ago, the resident family-of-owls vacated the campanile and relocated to new lodgings.

Private or small group carillon tour/demonstrations may be scheduled. Inquiries regarding scheduling tour/demonstrations may be made via email to the Retirement Association office: retire@sdsu.edu or contact Terry O'Donnell directly at Drmusic4@cox.net.♦

BORODYANKA, UKRAINE, 2022

Haven't we met before, Borodyanka?
Your name was *Guernica*, in 1937,
Basque your tongue.
Picasso held you fast
in crazed and fractured strokes.

And hadn't you a *nom-de-plume*, in 1942?
Lidice, your language Czech.
Millay lamented your massacre
in stanzas still sustained.

Or should I say a *nom-de-guerre*?
Mylai, in 1968, voiceless in Vietnamese,
till witnesses, shamed and indiscreet,
gave voice to rape and murder,
bloodying a foreign flag.

So now, Borodyanka,
here you are again,
harvests aborted, walls fallen,
unpeopled, violated and bereft.
Shall we at last forget?

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
Rachel weeping for her children,
because they are no more."

by William J. Pease, Library

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Marla Mumford

PostScript (PS): What did you do as your career at SDSU? When did you retire?

Marla Mumford (M): I was hired at SDSU in April 2009 as a Development Coordinator in the College of Health & Human Services and stayed in this position for three years. In 2012 an opportunity to apply for the Donor Relations & Stewardship Officer in the Division of University Relations & Development (URAD) allowed me to transfer to the Campanile Foundation offices in Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center. I retired in December 2021 as the Director of Fund Administration in the Financial Management Department of URAD. In this position I was responsible for the accuracy of donor gift agreements and ensuring donor funds were used as stated in the executed gift agreements. We annually created financial reports for the donors and explained how the funds were used to benefit SDSU. We worked closely with the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships to award endowed scholarships each year, and we were heavily involved with the new Aztec Stadium gift agreements associated with seating and naming sections of the stadium.

PS: Where did you grow up and what brought you to San Diego? If you are from San Diego, what kept you here?

M: I grew up in Central Eastern Illinois on a farm near the small town of Casey, Illinois where I went to high school. I graduated from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois with a B.S. in Business Education with an accounting and data processing emphasis and a minor in music. I ended up in San Diego after some major life events because my son lived in San Diego and my daughter lived in Long Beach. It was not a good time to be job hunting in Southern California during the 2008-09 economic recession, and I felt extremely fortunate to be hired by Dean Marilyn Newhoff, CHHS, at SDSU in one of the most desirable cities in the USA.

PS: Do you have a memory about SDSU that stands out and that you would like to share?

M: My first memory of SDSU was walking across campus in the sunshine the first week I worked there thinking what a gorgeous campus it was and how fortunate I was to be a part of it! One of my last memories was from 2019 working on the Blackbaud Aztec Scholarship Portal team to get the program up and running with accurate information and funds available to award with over 800 scholarships for the 2020 academic year. It ended up taking so much more time and work than anticipated to implement the program, which was added to an already full schedule, but crucial to hit the deadline in order for students to receive scholarships. And my final overall impression of SDSU is how everyone is there for the right reason and wants to do what is right for the students which makes SDSU a very special place.

PS: Do you have a hobby, special interest or volunteer activity you would like to share?

M: I hope to have more time to play the piano, sew and read. I would love to actually finish the quilt I started 20 years ago! However, I really want to travel, now that I have more time to do some international locations that require more time than a week or two.



Marla Mumford

continued on page 13

A PRACTICAL ACCOUNT

Tom Donahue, Benefits/ERFSA

Readers of this column will have noticed that in recent issues of *Postscript* there have been several ministrations concerning the dangers of falling down as we age. Well, to borrow the famous freshman English phrase, now the cows have come home to roost. Two months ago I was at home at the top of the steps leading toward our sidewalk, carrying bags of laundry, when I made a sudden misstep. Next came a fall, but not an ordinary one: picture a marlin on hook and line breaching high out of the water. I somersaulted, twisted ninety degrees to my left, and plummeted for five feet on to the back of my rib cage low on the left side. I did a quick census. I didn't hit my head. There was no broken skin, and there were no abrasions or broken bones. After lying there stunned for about ten seconds, I had another revelation. If your nose is within two inches of the sidewalk in our urban neighborhoods, you will find that the cement smells like dog poop. You needn't try to confirm this. Take it on authority.

I stood up and completed my chore, although I wasn't surprised that I felt stunned for five hours or so. For weeks afterward I wondered off and on about my good luck in this bit of epic clumsiness. How did I escape injury? How did I know to twist ninety degrees in midair? Was it a muscle memory from my despised 8 a.m. college class in tumbling sixty years before? Then sixteen days later, I had episodes of rolling muscle spasms for thirty hours or so at the spot on my left side where I had landed. A trip to Kaiser found nothing but symptoms of fulminating hypochondria. But two days after that I awoke with a great patch of shingles, painful and repulsive, caused by the injury I received at the old landing site. A trip to the Doctor's for acyclovir and strong sympathy helped me along immediately.

What can we all learn from this, given the recent focus in this column and elsewhere on avoiding falls? First: shingles last longer than a month, and are more disagreeable than most people let on. There are those who swear that the vaccine Shingrix is of significant help if you are vulnerable to this unfortunate malady. Second: acyclovir is used to treat a virus, and this particular reanimated virus from your childhood chicken pox days can last two months. That means you are fighting to control a virus for some time, and you will have ordinary viral symptoms like reduced body temperature 24 / 7. Third: any of a variety of antiviral medicines is necessary, and you might even benefit from two regimens of it. You will be advised also to try Tylenol or aspirin, but neither is as helpful as Ibuprofen. Applying Neosporin to shingles gives instant relief. Next: the time between the instant you see you're going to fall and the actual fall itself is half a second or less. The only way to cope with this is to guard against a fall at any time the footing becomes dangerous. If you consciously plan for that outcome, you will prepare unconsciously for what comes next.

If you wish to recommend subjects for this column, please write: donahue_thomas@ymail.com. ♦

TREASURER'S REPORT

Robin Fishbaugh, Treasurer

SDSU Retirement Association Accounts as of May 9, 2022

Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$281,198.38
Scholarship Fund	\$31,347.64
Operating Account	\$16,348.92
Activities Account	\$16,037.40
Sub-total	\$344,932.34
Bohnsack Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$57,752.54
Bohnsack Scholarship Fund	\$2,642.38
Sub-total	\$60,394.92
Total Assets	\$405,327.26

IN MEMORIAM

Joyce Wright
College of Education
February, 2022

William (Bill) Feeney
Management Information Systems
March, 2022

James Dietz
Athletics
March, 2022

Paul Erickson
Charter Member
Education
April, 2022

Muriel Kulikowski
Theatre
May, 2022

Florence Benjamin
Charter Member
Communication

OUR MISSION

To serve the mutual benefits and interests of retired and near-retired faculty and staff. To facilitate continuing contributions by members to the furtherance of the scholarly and other professional objectives of San Diego State University.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Norma Ojeda

PostScript (PS): What did you do as your career at SDSU? When did you retire?

Norma Ojeda (N): Before coming to SDSU, I held tenured positions as a professor-researcher, first in the National University of Mexico and later at El Colegio de la Frontera in Mexico. I started working at SDSU as a joint appointee in the departments of Chicano/a Studies and Sociology in 1999. I loved my work in both departments where I enjoyed a supportive and collegial environment. I learned to operate in two different academic cultures despite their similar challenges. But, I have to say that sometimes it was not easy to be a good citizen in two departments. Therefore, after seven years of this double academic life, I decided to simplify my life and moved full time to the department of sociology, where I continued teaching on the U.S.-Mexico border issues along with other more conventional sociology courses. I also had the privilege of collaborating with Latin American Studies and Women's Studies for several years. I retired in the fall semester of 2020. Overall, it was a highly rewarding and beautiful academic journey.

PS: Where did you grow up and what brought you to San Diego?

N: I was born in Mexico City where I lived most of my youth. I moved to San Diego after I married my husband for 33 years. He and I decided that the San Diego/Tijuana region was the perfect place for us and our goal of building a family that combines appreciations for both the American and the Mexican cultures. We have one child who is totally binational, bicultural and bilingual.

PS: Do you have a memory about SDSU that stands out and that you would like to share?

N: I have a nice memory about SDSU that stands out. This is my new role model as a "Latina faculty" and the social symbolism attached to it in my daily interactions with faculty and students, particularly of those of Hispanic heritage. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent not only my beloved Mexican heritage, but also a broader Hispanic heritage. My participation in the Study Abroad Program teaching on U.S.-Mexico border issues at the UABC – *Universidad Autónoma de Baja California* – was a highly rewarding experience. I had the opportunity to lecture and coordinate informed discussions on highly sensitive topics affecting both Mexico and the United States with a diverse group of American students and Mexican students. It was a wonderful experience. I learned a lot from such discussions.

PS: Do you have a hobby, special interest or volunteer activity you would like to share?

N: I have been an enthusiastic supporter of women's reproductive rights and justice most of my life. I enjoyed doing applied research with several women's organizations and I served in the board of directors of *Fronteras Unidas Pro Salud* in Tijuana, B.C., Mexico, and Planned Parenthood in San Diego for several years. About my hobbies, I love classical ballet, opera and swimming. I have added watching PBS and Netflix series to my list of hobbies since the COVID19 pandemic.

PS: What was the last book you read? Do you recommend it? If so, why; or if not, why not?

N: I have been reading "I Alone Can Fix it – Donald J. Trump's Catastrophic Final Year" by Carol Leonnig & Philip Rucker". I have not been able to finish reading the entire book because I need to take long breaks between chapters and sections to calm myself down. It makes me sick to read about how such an important thing as the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic was handled so badly. Almost two years later, we are still paying the consequences of such incompetence. In short, I recommend it to you but I also warn you about it!

PS: Do you have a favorite quote? If, so, why is it your favorite?

N: I do not have a favorite quote. However, I think two of the most important values in an institution of higher education are academic freedom and plurality of thought.

PS: What are you looking forward to in retirement—any special plans; or if you've been retired, what have you enjoyed doing?

N: I am in my third year teaching under FERP. I love it. I can finally focus only on my lectures and my student's academic performance. I have more time to advise them. I have also been able to enjoy the simplicity of everyday life activities at home such as cooking and gardening without feeling stressed. I have also reconciled my interactions with family and friends through frequent telephone calls and chatting by Skype without feeling guilty for not working on my research. Besides this, unfortunately! I have not been able to do that much during my retirement due to the COVID19 restrictions. Hopefully, I can travel overseas sometime soon. ♦



Norma Ojeda

Marla Mumford, continued from page 11

PS: What was the last book you read? Do you recommend it? If so, why; or if not, why not?

M: "The Empty Nesters" by Carolyn Brown—I found this interesting because it included people of three generations going through life changes and the ensuing emotions and reactions as they move forward. "Tales of a Female Nomad" by Rita Golden Gelman—After reading this book, I decided I am more of a tourist than an informed traveler. Rita delves into the lifestyles of the people in the countries she visits for extended amounts of time. She makes you feel like you are sharing her adventures.

PS: Do you have a favorite quote? If so, why is it your favorite?

M: The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It is my favorite quote because I think the world would be a better place if everyone followed this advice.

PS: What are you looking forward to in retirement—any special plans; or if you've been retired, what have you enjoyed doing?

M: I just returned from a wonderful trip to Peru. We went to Lima, the Sacred Valley including Cusco, Urubamba, Machu Picchu, Ollantaytambo, Pisac, and spent several days on the Amazon River taking a riverboat cruise. It was worth all of the extra steps we had to take due to Covid and the safety routines. I enjoy waking up without an alarm clock! An alarm clock should only be used to get up early enough to get to the airport to travel! ♦

CAREER CHANGING MENTORS

Ed Deaton, Mathematics

I began Graduate school at The University of Texas in Austin in January, 1955.

I had just finished four years in the Navy (all on Navy Pier, San Diego.) My plan was to get a Master's degree and return to San Diego to teach mathematics and English in high school.

During my first semester I took a mathematics course in real analysis from Steve Armentrout. It was unlike anything I had ever faced. We proved theorems, solved problems, no text, no cooperation. No tests until the final. The final started at 1:00 pm. No time limit. "Just slip it under my door when you finish." At 5:00 pm I went home for dinner came back and finished about 9:00 pm. A few days later I met Mr. Armentrout and he told me I **had** to take Dr. R. L. Moore's Geometry class in the upcoming first summer session. Later I found this was a compliment. He told me to sit in the middle of the room, not to say anything until I knew what was going on. This was superb advice. Dr. Moore gave us theorems to prove and, the next day asked for volunteers. Some who thought they had a proof (but did not) went to the board and tried. They were not interrupted, but asked to explain any incorrect step(s). Then they sat down. After a few days I knew I had a proof, volunteered and was successful. I was not always successful. But my confidence was increasing and I decided to try for a PhD in mathematics. I taught that geometry course at SDSU twenty times.



Ed with Dawa Yangji Sherpa in Mumbai, 2020. Ed has been a mentor to Dawa and her family since 1996.

In 1979 my wife, Mary Dee Dickerson, (Family Studies) made arrangements to go to Oklahoma State University to finish her PhD. I decided I would go with her and study computer science. I called the chair of the CS department at OSU and asked for permission to sit in on some CS courses. He said it was fine with him; I would need to ask the instructors for permission. I received a year long sabbatical. The Mathematics Department at OSU hired me to teach one course. Of course the arrangement was not legal since I was not paying tuition. It is not uncommon for visiting faculty to sit in on courses.

I was advised to talk with Mike Folk, the undergraduate advisor about what to study.

Folk said that since I could spell FORTRAN, I could skip the first course

and take the second course, also in FORTRAN. He also advised me to take the next course, machine language and the one after that on data structures. So he put me in three computer science courses, using three languages. I had turned 50 years old the week before classes started. The oldest student in each of the classes. I do not know what the instructors expected of me, but I was determined to do the best I could. I did and turned in all the home work, wrote all the assigned programs (in three different languages) and took all the tests. I ended up with the second highest grade in each of the courses. Some different young student was the first in each of the classes. It was not easy. Three times that first semester I had serious doubts if I could do what I wanted to do: "pass the course." But I got my program to work and all was right with the world. The second semester Folk put me in three more CS classes. None of the students except one knew I was anything but an older student. In one class we were encouraged to work in pairs. A woman asked me to work with her, but I declined, believing it was not appropriate. A few weeks after our conversation she asked me why my name was on an office in the floor above. So I explained.

In May, 1981 one of their faculty suddenly asked for a leave for the upcoming academic year. They asked me if I would fill in for the year. I was thrilled to do so. I was planning on teaching computer science, but not quite that soon. When I returned to SDSU I began teaching computer science here. Mike Folk was a wonderful mentor for me.♦

To the Membership: FYI

Interest Groups

Walking Group: The walking group meets at 8:30am at Lake Murray, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. They usually walk a little over an hour and all levels are welcome. Contact Kimberlee Reilly, k_reilly@cox.net, if you have any questions.

Bridge Group: Anyone who is interested in joining the Bridge Group, please email one of the individuals below. They will be meeting at SDSU at the Faculty/Staff Club.

Murugappa Madhavan, madhavan@sdsu.edu

Lewy Hughes, lewyhu@gmail.com

Edmund Deaton, edmund_deaton@yahoo.com

Golf Group: The golf group meets once a month and plays courses throughout San Diego. Courses have included Mission Bay, Singing Hills, Balboa Park 9-hole, Loma Santa Fe, Willowbrook, Mt. Woodson, and several courses in Borrego Springs during the Desert Escape event. If you are interested in joining, contact Rick Schulte at rickschulte@cox.net.

New Interest Groups: If you are interested in starting up an interest group, please contact the Retirement Association office and we will email the membership to get a group going. The office email is: retire@sdsu.edu.



Bridge Group members at on-campus meeting

Coming in the Next PostScript: Memories of Aztec Stadium and SDSU Athletics. Dreams for SDSU West. (A Theme with Three Parts)

Barbara Barnes, Enrollment Services/PostScript Editorial Board

Have you driven through Mission Valley lately and seen the Snapdragon construction? Wow! Groundbreaking was less than two years ago, August 17, 2020, and now the stadium is nearing completion. Soon will come fresh turf, goal posts, and when September third arrives, the Aztec football team and 35,000 fans will return to Mission Valley for the season opener against the Arizona Wildcats. Just like the old days, almost. And it's those old days we invite you to share with us for the first part of *PostScript's* next theme, "Memories of Aztec Stadium." Whether you sat on the concrete bleachers in Aztec Bowl or on seats in Jack Murphy Stadium, who were the coaches and players you remember, what games and seasons left an impression? I myself remember the festive atmosphere more than specifics, tailgating at Jack Murphy Stadium and cheering on the teams of Don Coryell and Claude Gilbert. Good old days.

But there's a lot going on with Aztec Athletics beyond football—SDSU athletic history is a star-studded lineup of successful varsity teams, intramural sports, and celebrated personalities. There's baseball (Jim Dietz, Tony Gwynn), women's basketball coached by Beth Burns, men's basketball (Smokey Gaines, Michael Cage, Steve Fisher), cross country, soccer, lacrosse. . . just to name a few. "SDSU Athletics," then, is the second part of our theme and if you have a connection to Aztec sports you'd like to share, we'd love to hear. For me, it's women's golf where I played on SDSU's team in the very early 1970s. We were not a major sport—there were only four of us. We sewed our own uniforms and our coach, Mary Cave, drove us in her Buick Riviera to matches throughout Southern California. But somehow "Miss Cave" found the funding to fly our team to national championships in Las Cruces, New Mexico and Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts, the only time I've ever been to Boston. I'll never forget it.

And finally, the third part of the upcoming theme, "Dreams for SDSU West," returns to that construction in Mission Valley. The new stadium is a major addition to SDSU and the city of San Diego, as is the entire SDSU West development. I can't wait for it to be done. What about you? Share, if you'd like, your thoughts and hopes for SDSU West and SDSU.

So, for the next *PostScript*, we have a three-part theme. Write to one part or all—we can't wait to hear your stories! ♦



*Mary Cave,
SDSU Women's Golf Coach*

Editor's Note: We would like to thank SDSU's Love Library Special Collections and Archives for permission to use the photo of Mary Cave.

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2021-22

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Coming in the Next PostScript:
*Memories of Aztec Stadium and SDSU Athletics.
Dreams for SDSU West.*

Save the Date:
*Day at the Races, August 11,
Del Mar Racetrack
Oktoberfest, October, TBA, Santee Lakes
Desert Escape, March 20 - 23, 2023,
Palm Canyon Hotel and RV Resort,
Borrego Springs*

*Left: The University Carillon, sunset. See
Terry O'Donnell's article on page 4.*

DEADLINE: October 31, 2022

Please e-mail your double-spaced article of approximately 400-500 words to whitesagecafe@aol.com. If you have no access to a computer, mail your typed or clearly printed article to 4829 Beaumont Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941. Scanned photos may be sent as an attachment or mail photos to Barbara Barnes at the above address. Photos are appreciated and will be returned.

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