

# TUKWUT TIMES



Brought to you by the CSUSM Retirees Association

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Newsletter April 2018  
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## Calendar of Events

### Upcoming Events

**The Retirees Association  
Annual Luncheon / Business Meeting  
Friday, April 20, 2018  
11:30 am – 1:30 pm  
The McMahan House  
~Tickets: \$30 ~**

*Complimentary parking in Lot B in designated area*

We hope you will join us to visit with your colleagues, fellow retirees, and friends to catch up at this annual event. There will be a brief business meeting after lunch where you will learn what the Retirees Association has been doing for the past year and what is on the horizon.

Teresa Macklin, Chief Information Security Officer & Associate Dean of IITS will be our guest speaker. Teresa's presentation is titled, "Keeping the Bad Guys Out of Your Computer." She will talk about ways people get their identities exposed, a few simple things we can do to protect ourselves and much more!

*~ Purchase your tickets by Friday April 13 ~*

Click on the link below to purchase now!

<http://www.csusm.edu/fsra/events/index.html>



Attendees from last year's annual luncheon

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**Thursday, May 17, 2018**

**Tour and/or Lunch**

**Tour at 10:00 am**

**San Diego Botanic Garden**

**230 Quail Gardens Drive in Encinitas**

**(760) 436-3036**



**Senior Ticket (60 & over): \$9**

**Parking Fee: \$2 per vehicle**

**(Fee waived if 4 or more are in one vehicle)**

**Website: <https://www.sdbgarden.org/>**

**Lunch at 11:30 am**

**Solace & the Moonlight Lounge**

**25 East E Street in Encinitas**

**(760) 753-2433**

**Website: <http://www.eatatsolace.com/>**



## Message from the Chair

By Janet McDaniel



Spring is in the air—or maybe it's just that we didn't have much of a winter this year? In either case, it's time for organizing the coming year in the Retirees Association as well as at home.

Your Board of Directors created a delightful spring calendar. Our popular no-host Mid-Month Lunch series is well underway—you can check out the photos from Stone Brewery, Wilson Creek Winery, and Duke's La Jolla in "Recap." Our April 20 lunch will be our annual business meeting and luncheon at The McMahan House. And in May, we'll dine in Encinitas and take a walkabout through the beautiful San Diego Botanic Garden (which most of us still think of as Quail Gardens).

An important annual task for the RA is to elect new members to the Board of Directors. Now is the time to indicate your interest in joining the BOD for a two-year term. Don Barrett and I are cycling off the board and you'd be fortunate to serve with continuing members Laurie Lindeneau, Bill Ward, and Marcia Woolf. There are several characteristics of serving on the RA Board that distinguish it from any committee you ever joined at CSUSM.

**First**, we have the all-time best support staff in University Advancement backing us up and doing the heavy lifting on organizing activities, updating the website, publishing our communications, managing our finances, etc. For all of us who remember doing all those things in departments, offices, or shared governance, it's a big relief.

**Second**, we have a relaxed approach to deadlines. After all, we're pretty much retired and we are serving retirees and near-retirees. While we are all devoted to preparing and enacting a set of activities to support the RA's mission, we are pretty flexible about how fast things happen.

**Third**, we really enjoy ourselves. Because we are a fairly new organization, there's the infectious excitement that many of us can recall from creating CSUSM—anything is possible, try something and see if it flies, no one is going to say "No" to an idea. [Of course, the difference from those CSUSM-inventing days is that we are not pulling all-nighters and sacrificing our health and families to get things done.]

**Fourth**, serving on the BOD is a limited-time opportunity, not a life sentence. You commit to a two-year term and can be re-elected once. That's four years and then you get the boot. I really hope you will consider running for the Board this year or some year soon. See how you can do so elsewhere in this *Tukwut Times*.

[It's pretty easy; just contact [retirees@csusm.edu](mailto:retirees@csusm.edu) to let Arlene know of your interest.]

Part of our RA mission is to serve the university, especially current employees who are nearing retirement. We've held two successful events this spring that address this goal. In February, 11 employees joined three BOD members for our third annual "Life After CSUSM" Q & A. This lunchtime gathering was a spirited discussion of what happens once you have turned in your retirement papers and parking pass. In March, 12 faculty members attended the provost's office annual workshop on the Faculty Early Retirement Plan (FERP). Three RA members who have been through FERP chimed in while Deirdre Lowell-Caldera presented the nuts-and-bolts of the program, and then a Q & A session explored many of the less-formal aspects of being a FERPer.

Since I'll be off the Board soon, I want to say that it has been a true honor and privilege to serve the RA. I am proud of all that the organizing committee, the members of the BODs, the Advancement staff, and all of you have accomplished to get our organization up and running. I see a very bright future for the Retirees Association. I'm really looking forward to participating in the RA as a member. I hope you are, too.



## Do You Remember? ~ The Founding of the Retirees Association

*Submitted by Janet McDaniel*

Usually our "Do You Remember?" column highlights something from the early days of CSUSM. This time, it's the early days of the CSUSM Retirees Association. This is somewhat of a personal note since this issue of *Tukwut Times* brings my tenure on the RA Board of Directors to a close (yes I'm pleased that the organizing committee chose to put term limits on the BOD!).

Before I was ready to retire, I had learned of university retirees associations from friends who had retired from other IHEs. In particular, I knew quite a bit about the SDSU retirees group because its founding "mover and shaker" was the father of one of my CSUSM faculty colleagues, Laura Wendling. In the fall of 2012 when I formulated my plan to retire at the end of that academic year, I knew it was time to act so that our university might have an organization for retired staff, administrators, and faculty. While I was okay with the notion of retiring from work, I sincerely did not want to sever my relationship with CSUSM and the terrific colleagues I so enjoyed. I approached President Karen Haynes at the campus holiday party in December 2012 to plant the seed for establishing a retirement association. She was supportive and directed me toward Neal Hoss, then-Vice President for University Advancement.

During Spring Semester 2013, I checked out some existing RAs and the national umbrella organization of all RAs (AROHE). I met with VP Hoss and Lori Brockett, who was the director of the Alumni Association. I was greatly reassured by their expertise, as there are clear parallels between the alumni group for students and an alumni group for employees. We formulated a plan for creating an organizing committee for fall 2013, with the goal of launching the RA in spring 2014. President Haynes and her Executive Committee approved this plan (with seed money!) and we were officially off and running.

In October 2013, a group of enthusiastic retirees met in the president's board room to start planning the Retirees Association. We met almost monthly to formulate the mission, bylaws, communications, membership drive, activities, and a launch event for the association. Membership was a bit fluid but the core organizing group was comprised of Don Barrett, Bonnie Biggs, Dick Bray, Tanis Brown, Stella Clark, Brenda Edgington, Helen Montag, Sandy Parsons, Sandy Punch, Brooks Reid, Marion Reid, Marty Ummel, Peter Zwick, and me. With inspiration from a start-up kit from AROHE, the amazing support of our University Advancement staff (Lori Brockett, Arlene Cratsa, and Michelle Romans), and the creative thinking of our group, we had a structure in place for a formal launch of the CSUSM Retirees Association in April 2014.

Many of you will remember the early-evening reception of April 11, 2014 when 80 of us gathered in the ballroom of the brand-new University Student Union. Sandy Punch and Bonnie Biggs chaired the event; Café Catering (Mark DuBois) provided a yummy spread; an opportunity drawing provided some great door prizes; President Haynes and VP Hoss spoke; and we enjoyed a tour of the new USU after the short program. Best of all, of course, was the sight of so many retired and still-working colleagues reconnecting after years of separation.

The Board of Directors in 2014-15 was drawn from the organizing committee the year before and included representatives from the three main groups of employees: staff, administration, and faculty. While we have not formalized this idea in our bylaws, each BOD since the founders has continued this representation. Some of the highlights from our early days are the MandoBasso concert in March 2015, the periodic publication of our newsletter *Tukwut Times*, the establishment of benefits for RA members (library and email privileges, for example), happy hours prior to select campus activities like Arts & Lectures and athletic events, mid-month lunches each January to May, and our annual luncheon and business meeting in April. Special excursions such as hiking, city walks, and a trip to Palm Springs have been a hit with RA members. We have established two regular service activities for current employees by hosting pre-retirement Q/A sessions each spring.

## The Founding of the Retirees Association ~ *continued*

As the RA completes a fourth year of existence in spring 2018, we can look back with pride on all we have accomplished and look forward to a rich future.

### The Retirees Association Planning Committee



Photos from the April 11, 2014 Retirees Association Launch  
To see more photos go to: <http://www.csusm.edu/fsra/events/annualmeetings.html>



## MEMBER PROFILE - Dennis Guseman

*Submitted by Dennis Guseman, Former Dean of the College of Business Administration*

### “Life After Work: A Journey of Learning”

Is there life after work, and if so, what kind of life? For me, the answer is yes, and a good one!

Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed my time at CSUSM. I had the honor of being the Dean of CoBA for nine years and then teaching another four years under the FERP program.

I have always enjoyed travel and have been fortunate enough to have traveled to many places around the world – Europe, Central and South America, Asia, and Africa. However, during my retirement from CSUSM I have discovered a new way to travel. Travel that is not only less expensive but one that provides for a deeper learning experience and results in life-long relationships.

I have come across two programs that provide great personal experiences while also making a difference in the life of others. The first of these programs is from Geovisions ([www.geovisions.com](http://www.geovisions.com)), which provides travel opportunities across the globe. They offer several types of opportunities but I selected a homestay in China. I spent two months living with a Chinese family in Beijing. My job was just to live with the Chinese family – going where they went, doing what they normally did, and eating what they ate. I learned so much about the Chinese culture – things you are not going to get from a guidebook – went to places a tourist would not normally go – like a Chinese culture theme park – and attending events that are not on a guided tour – like attending a wedding. Not only did I learn a lot about the Chinese people and their culture, I was able to teach them about life in America. Over the span of the two months I developed life-long friendships. I'm still in contact with my Chinese family and they visited me in America.

This is such a great way to learn and experience different cultures. Since my homestay in China, I have spent a month homestay in Spain and a three-month homestay in Thailand. Each experience was completely different and wonderful experience. The homestays can be for one, two or three months and cost approximately \$1,300, however the experience itself is priceless. (Go to the Geovisions website to learn more about the types of programs and locations they offer.)

The second program I experienced in retirement is from Diverbo ([www.diverbo.com](http://www.diverbo.com)). This program is offered in various locations throughout Spain and Germany. I have participated in this program 3 times, twice in Germany and once in Spain. This program provides an intensive English language experience for students – typically younger people who are desiring to improve their English Language skills for their work. As a volunteer you are given a free room at a nice resort with 3 meals a day. The requirement for the volunteer is to speak English and like people – something that I can do. There are between 15 to 20 native English speakers, who typically come from Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, who are matched with either Germans or Spaniards. Diverbo does a wonderful job in organizing the time, so it is fun and engaging. During your time with the students you learn about their life and perspective on a lot of topics. Not only do you learn from the students, you also get the opportunity to interact with the other native English speakers, who are also extremely interesting. I have also developed some great friends from both native and non-native English speakers.

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## Member Profile – Dennis Guseman

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Space is limited, so I cannot relate all the great experiences I have had, but I would be happy to discuss them with you if you are interested in knowing more.

For me, retirement has been a great opportunity to travel, making some special friendships and learning about some different cultures, and all on the cheap. Life is good!



Learning traditional Thai dance



Great Wall of China



Dennis' new friends!



My Thailand Host Family



Soccer Game in Barcelona



My Chinese Host Family

## RECAP

### Monday, January 15 – Stone Brewery

*Submitted by Laurie Lindeneau*

We had a great turnout for our first no-host, mid-month lunch at Stone Brewery in Escondido. Sixteen of us enjoyed an outdoor lunch in their fanciful patio area. We couldn't have asked for more perfect weather that day. The food was amazing and many of us took the opportunity to sample some of Stone's award-winning beers. I had recently read a newspaper article about their new vegetarian 'impossible' burger and it didn't disappoint. It tasted just like the real thing!

To see more photos go to: <http://www.csusm.edu/fsra/events/monthlyluncheons.html> and click on Stone Brewery



### Tuesday February 13 – Wilson Creek Winery

*Submitted by Janet McDaniel*

Our Mardi Gras lunch at Wilson Creek Winery in Temecula was a connoisseur's delight. A dozen of us were treated to appetizers and two bottles of wine by owner Bill Wilson, who stopped by our Creekside Grille table to greet us. After consuming a wide variety of gourmet plates, we toured the vineyard and winery. Winemaker Gus Vizgirda patiently answered every question and helped us to distinguish among the many tasty wines in barrels and bottles. A memorable Fat Tuesday indeed!

To see more photos go to: <http://www.csusm.edu/fsra/events/monthlyluncheons.html> and click on Wilson Creek



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## RECAP ~ *continued*

### Wednesday, February 28 to Thursday, March 1 ~ Palm Springs Excursion

*Submitted by Laurie Lindeneau*

Our first Retirees Association overnight excursion was a huge success! We traveled to Palm Springs from Feb. 28 to March 1. Board Member Don Barrett lives there full time now, and he was able to provide us with an insider's view of possible side trips for us to explore outside of our two planned 'group' activities. Together our group of seven enjoyed a delicious dinner at Spencer's restaurant (voted Best of the Valley) on Wednesday. On the following day, we visited Sunnylands in Palm Desert. It was fascinating and educational to learn about the history of Sunnylands and the many political dignitaries to whom the Annenbergs offered their private estate for informal political negotiations and socialization away from the hubbub of Washington, D.C. While we were not able to visit the Annenberg's actual home, we enjoyed a walk through the Sunnylands Garden and learned about mid-century modern architecture of the main house/visitors center and the extensive art collection of the Annenbergs. Our short visit motivated all of us to want to return there in the future and secure a ticket for an interior tour of the actual home.

Many of us took the opportunity to spend more time in Palm Springs, separate of the planned Retirees Association activities. Some of the other fun side-trips pursued independently were a walk through the Palm Springs uptown design district, a visit to the Palm Springs Art Museum, a drive to 'Shield Dates' to bring home some of the valley's delicious dates, a drive-by of Elvis' Honeymoon Hideaway house, and a hike through the palm-filled Andreas Canyon located within the Indian Canyons area, home of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.



### Wednesday, March 14 – Duke's La Jolla

*Submitted by Janet McDaniel*

Five RA members dined at Duke's La Jolla, a gorgeous and comfortable restaurant with a spectacular view of the ocean. After lunch, Vivienne Bennett led us on her favorite walk around the village. We took outdoor stairs down to the Coast Walk, peeked in Seashell Shop and its mysterious staircase to the La Jolla Caves, walked along La Jolla Cove, then up Girard Street to the best gelateria in San Diego, finishing at Warwick's Bookstore where we browsed through their fantastic book selection, stationary shop and gift area. It's easy to see why this is "The Jewel" of the San Diego Coast.



## CSUSM Retirees Association

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**Membership Information:**

[Go to our website](#)

## In Memoriam: Dannis Mitchell



Dannis is on the left in these photos.



It is with heavy hearts that we share the sudden passing of Dannis Mitchell on Thursday, March 22. Dannis was the library services specialist in the University Library. She came to many Retirees Association events and was looking forward to joining us when she retired. She will be sorely missed by everyone.

For more information, click on the link below:

<https://news.csusm.edu/in-memoriam-dannis-mitchell>

## Save the Date:

**Saturday, June 2, 2018**

CSUSM We Go Together 2018 Annual Gala!

For more information go to: <http://www.csusm.edu/gala/>



## Retirement Tip by Janet McDaniel

### PERS/IRMAA

If you are 65, collect your CalPERS pension, and have additional income, it's possible that you pay an "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" (IRMAA) for your Medicare Part B coverage. You might not be aware that PERS will reimburse part/all of that additional premium but only if you apply to PERS for it. See page 7 of the CSU-ERFA newsletter at <http://csuerfa.org/pdf/Reporter-Mar-2018.pdf>. You can also read the fine print on the PERS Medicare website:

*If you're paying an increased Medicare Part B premium (IRMAA) due to your income level, send a copy of the entire Social Security notice showing your IRMAA determination and the increased Medicare Part B premium. If there are funds available, you'll see an increased reimbursement credit on your retirement warrant. Send the copy of your notice to: CalPERS Health Account Management Division; Attention: Medicare Administration; P.O. Box 942715; Sacramento, CA 94229-2715.*

There are some picky details for this reimbursement ...so if you don't figure it out the first time, you can contact RA member (and former CalPERS board member) George Diehr at [gdiehr@csusm.edu](mailto:gdiehr@csusm.edu) if you have questions.