

# TUKWUT TIMES



Brought to you by the CSUSM Retirees Association

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## Message from the Chair

By Michael Yee



Greetings as we begin the new academic year 2021/2022, though you are probably grateful you do not have to think about academic years anymore! We had a tumultuous year during the pandemic; and I hope you, your family, and friends remained healthy. I'm honored to be the new Chair of the Retirees Association (RA) this year.

I would like to thank a terrific team of colleagues who served as officers of the RA last year. Suzanne Lingold led us ably as Chair and kept the RA moving forward as we continued to maneuver around COVID. Vivienne Bennett as Vice-Chair helped ensure many of our events and communications went off successfully. George Diehr as Treasurer shared his insights about Chancellor's Office perspectives, the Emeritus Retirees Faculty Staff Association, and post-retirement campus involvement. I was very grateful to work again with Vivienne, George, and Suzanne this past year and glad I'll continue to collaborate with Dawn Schmid as we serve another year together.

During our events in the time of COVID, the RA Board gives special credit to Lori Brockett and Arlene Cratsa. The RA Board wanted to keep our momentum and camaraderie going so your Association actually had more events via Zoom with wise counsel from Lori. We are very appreciative. This extra effort had a positive outcome by allowing retirees living out of the San Diego area to participate.

RA members voted to bring in three outstanding new Board members: Maureen O'Connor Dupont, Marie Thomas, and Pam Wells. They bring a wealth of vital ideas. For example, Maureen has great ideas to engage new and continuing RA members. We hope you will join us as we engage all of our members.

On behalf of the Board, we are here to serve you! Please contact us at [retirees@csusm.edu](mailto:retirees@csusm.edu) with your input and ideas.

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### 2021/2022 Board of Directors



Michael Yee, Chair



Pam Wells, Vice Chair



Maureen O'Connor DuPont, Treasurer



Marie Thomas, Recorder



Dawn Schmid, Member at Large

## Calendar of Events

### China The Awakened Dragon

Thursday, September 23 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Location: Via Zoom

RSVP by Tuesday, September 21

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP

### Presented by Dr. Glen Brodowsky



You won't want to miss this informative presentation by Dr. Glen Brodowsky. In recent decades, China overtook Japan as the second largest economy in the world. This is a staggering development that has implications for every country on earth. Many wonder how the world's largest country has become such a dominant player in the world economy. Join Dr. Brodowsky as he discusses modern China and its central role in the global economy against the backdrop of its roots in ancient Chinese thought. Dr. Brodowsky will also explore the social and political challenges of China's one child policy and the environmental and social impact of China's economic development and the rise of Xi Jin-Ping – one of the most consequential leaders since Mao Tse-Tung.

Dr. Brodowsky has been a professor of marketing at California State University San Marcos since 1996. He earned a Ph.D. in Marketing from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1997 where he also earned his MBA. He holds a BA in Far Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago and speaks Mandarin Chinese. He teaches courses in Marketing, Marketing Research, Global Marketing, and Consumer Behavior at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

### *Dr. Brodowsky ~continued*

In 2007 Dr. Brodowsky was a Fulbright Scholar teaching at National Cheng-chi University in Taiwan. Since that time, he has returned to Taiwan several times as a lecturer. He regularly teaches courses and lectures at the Copenhagen Business Scholl and the Universidad Internacional del Ecuador. He has also lectured at the University Autonoma de Baja California in Ensenada Mexico, the China European International Business School and the Fachhochschule in Osnabrueck, Germany.

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### Upcoming Events

Your RA Board of Directors is working on creating the following virtual and possible in person events. In person events will be assessed depending on the course of COVID keeping safety our first priority.

**October – Oktoberfest!**  
(Possibly the week of October 18)

### Events to look forward to:

- Borrego Springs Trip
- Coronado Excursion
- Oceanside Surf Museum Outing
- Virtual Tour of the Chinese Historical Museum
- Virtual International Vacation Fair
- Cardiff by the Sea – walk during low tide and lunch at Las Olas
- Bernardo Winery Tasting & Lunch



## Do You Remember? ~ First Graduating Class in 1991!

*Judith Downie, Associate Librarian/Special Collections & History Librarian*



California State University San Marcos started its humble beginnings in an industrial park located on Los Vallecitos Boulevard in San Marcos next to Jerome's Furniture. The University was affectionately known as "Cal State Jerome's." In 1990 the first class of students began their educational journey, and the only program offered at that time was the Teacher Credential Program. Approximately 50 graduates attended the very first Commencement Ceremony that took place in the parking lot. CSUSM has certainly come a long way and look at us now!



## Member Profile

### Cathy Baur

*Submitted by Cathy Baur*

Deciding the right time to retire can be difficult. For me it took going to the end of the earth or least the Southern tip of South America. It was New Year's Eve 2019 and my husband Scott and I were enjoying a much needed vacation and bucket list adventure with a cruise around South America. As I started making those New Year resolutions and goals, I just knew it was time to say goodbye to CSUSM.

I felt my team and I had accomplished the things I wanted to in my time at the University: telling the story of CSUSM and raising its profile in the region; successfully completing the first comprehensive fundraising campaign; celebrating the departure of one president; and successfully onboarding the next president.

I knew President Neufeldt was anxious to begin the next fundraising campaign, and I also knew that such a campaign would be a seven-to-10-year endeavor. I just didn't feel I had the stamina to commit to that timeframe. It seemed like 2020 would be the perfect year to retire.

As my husband Scott and I began planning what that retirement would look like and what the next chapter would bring, we started mapping out our travel adventures. We already had another bucket list trip planned for summer of 2020 – a trip to the Baltics. With the help of one of my Foundation Board Directors, I even had scored reservations to Noma – four times voted best restaurant in the world. We would travel to New Zealand and Australia in 2021/22, next up would be Spain & Portugal followed by France, etc., etc.

Visiting vineyards and wineries played a large part in our travel planning. In addition to travel, another focus of my retirement would be winemaking. In fall of 2019, we had harvested our very first crop of grapes from our young vines. Scott and I had successfully made our first five-gallons of Syrah and the dream of Baur Vineyard was coming to life. During our South American voyage, we plotted out planting vines on a much larger scale. We decided to plant just over 200 more vines to get a total of 300 vines. In three to four years, we could anticipate a ton of grapes each harvest or about 60 cases of wine a year! Plenty of wine for us, our family, friends, neighbors and anyone else that might want a bottle.

We were set to start this new adventure. Returning from our trip, I shared my intent to retire in July with President Neufeldt and my wonderful University Advancement team. We began preparations to expand the vineyard, started making more travel arrangements and gearing up for this major transition.

Then as the old adage goes: "Man plans and God laughs..." COVID-19 played havoc with my itinerary for 2020 and 2021... travel plans on hold and our world in chaos. But, even without travel, we were able to focus on the vineyard. Scott got the vines planted and I began working on our label and logo and even created a Baur Vineyard website. Like so many others during COVID-19 lockdown, I started focusing on my hobbies and things that brought me joy – cooking (I now have a great sour dough starter named Bessie), gardening and canning.

I also created a new version of that old adage: "Man plans, God laughs and the Universe points you in the right direction." Just a few days from my retirement date, an opportunity plopped in my lap and I was compelled to take on a new challenge. On September 1, 2020, I assumed the role of President & CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of San Marcos. Leading a non-profit was not part of my retirement plan, but I do believe this is where I am meant to be at this point in time.

## Member Profile ~ *continued*

Over this last year my perception of retirement has changed. Retirement is not so much about ending a career but rather transitioning – transitioning to new opportunities, hobbies or even a state of mind.

For me this new transition is focused on doing the things I love and finding all the opportunities I can to give back in meaningful ways. As I left CSUSM, my staff presented me with a wonderful gift – a wooden box with a carved tree on the outside. Inside the box was cards, notes and letters from colleagues, board members and friends wishing me well. There is also a beautiful quote engraved in the lid:

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees; under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

– Nelson Henderson

Being a part of CSUSM, I believe we all can relate to planting those trees. For me, my retirement... this transition... is all about seeing just how many trees I can plant.



Cathy with her husband Scott



Cathy's daughter, Danielle



Boys and Girls Club of San Marcos

## Recap of Events

### Retirees Association Annual Business Meeting

Friday, April 30, 2021

*Submitted by Arlene Cratsa*



We were honored to have President Ellen Neufeldt speak to over 30 retirees at this year's Retirees Association Annual Business meeting via Zoom. This was the President's first time meeting this dynamic group of dedicated retirees. She had the chance to hear from many retirees on how CSUSM impacted their lives, how they wanted to continue to stay connected, to give back to the University and to be a resource to the President.

### Summer Kickoff Happy Hour

Thursday, May 27, 2021

*Submitted by Arlene Cratsa*

A small group of 11 gathered at 4:00 pm with their favorite summer drink in hand as we shared what we were hoping our summer plans might look this year as compared to last year. If you've never joined one of our Happy Hours, please join us at the next one! It's a wonderful way to stay connected and keep in touch with each other. The groups are kept small to have meaningful conversation and to give everyone a chance to share.

### Jewish Diaspora Performance by Dr. Merryl Goldberg

Thursday, June 24, 2021

*Submitted by Arlene Cratsa*

Dr. Goldberg gave an uplifting and joyful performance of folk tunes from the Jewish Diaspora that put a smile on everyone's face! Her friend Phyllis, 92 years young, accompanied her on the piano. As many know, Merryl is a Professor of Music at California State University San Marcos and Director of the **ART=OPPORTUNITY**

~ continued on next page ~

Campaign of Center ARTES, a university center dedicated to restoring arts to education. Prior to entering academia and as a professional musician, she recorded CDs and was on the road for 13 years playing the saxophone with the prestigious Klezmer Conservatory Band.

After the performance, Merryl shared one of her many experiences while she was touring in Europe. She was shadowed by KGB agents during a visit to the Soviet Union and eventually forcibly deported! Merryl kept us on the edge of our chairs sharing her story as well keeping us laughing with her humor! Below is an excerpt from the San Diego Jewish World on December 7, 2017.

"In 1985, four members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band headed by Hankus Netsky decided to meet and play music with a group called the Phantom Orchestra in Tbilisi, in the Soviet Republic of Georgia. They went first to Moscow, Russia, where they were intercepted, questioned, searched and followed by Soviet KGB agents. Goldberg said she had devised a system of writing down people's names and contact information in musical notation. Inspectors who went through her luggage found what they thought were musical scores, though if they knew how to read and hum music, these "scores" would have sounded strange indeed. On more than one occasion on their multi-city journey, Goldberg and others were locked into dormitories and guarded by machine-gun toting military. Soviet authorities apparently had been alerted to their desire to meet in Tbilisi with the Phantom Orchestra, which though amounting to no more than ten musicians included Jewish refuseniks, Christians who also wanted to emigrate, poets, and members of human rights groups created in response to the Helsinki Accords."



## Retiree News!

### Maureen O'Connor DuPont

*I entered into retirement not really having any expectations. I dreamed of lots of free time doing whatever I wanted to do, never setting my alarm clock again and not worrying about having a daily, weekly or even a monthly schedule. While some of those ideas came true, eventually I found myself filling up my calendar with volunteer positions, relying on circadian rhythms (which are so much nicer than annoying bells and buzzers) and routinely scheduling adventures here in my city, across America and on marvelous yachting excursions throughout the Mediterranean Sea.*

*I've also spent time reminiscing about my colleagues and friends that I spent 27 years with, during my working days at CSU San Marcos. So many good memories. I'm glad to be a Lifetime Alum and a Lifetime Member of the Retirees Association so that I can still have the opportunity to reconnect, to visit the campus and to see the progress that my alma mater is making as the campus continues to grow.*

### We would love to hear from you!

Let us know the good and bad about retirement that has surprised you. Your responses might encourage other retirees who are struggling with the transition and give them ideas on how to handle this journey called retirement. Your responses can be short and sweet or a bit longer. Just speak from your heart and what you're experiencing. Send your comments to [retirees@csusm.edu](mailto:retirees@csusm.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!



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## Michael Yee Honored at CSUSM's 2021 Graduation Ceremony!

**Michael Yee** of Poway received the Outstanding Master of Arts Thesis Award from the Department of History at California State University San Marcos. While a member of the Class of 2020, Yee was honored at CSUSM's 2021 graduation ceremony.

Yee's thesis, "From Underground Chinatown to Hall of China: Chinese Representation at San Diego's 1915 and 1935 Expositions in Balboa Park," was the only thesis selected by the history department for recognition, officials said. It was selected due to its "substantial contribution to the historical field" and how it adds to understanding the evolving history of national and local anti-Chinese racism plus successful efforts of the Chinese/Chinese American community to battle against segregation, bigotry and discrimination.

## CSUSM Retirees Association

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### Website

[www.csusm.edu/fsra](http://www.csusm.edu/fsra)

### Membership Information

[Go to our website](#)

## Do you know about CSU-ERFSA?

The CSU Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association represents all CSU retirees. Its mission, goals, and activities differ from those of campus-level retiree associations, as is made clear by its mission statement:

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

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

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

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

*We're on Facebook!*

[www.facebook.com/CSUSMRetireesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CSUSMRetireesAssociation)



## Retirement Tips

### 65 Tips for a Healthy, Wealthy, and Happy Retirement!

If you want to have a good retirement, you need to figure out what that means to you. Do some life planning for retirement, set goals, and use these retirement tips to create a plan that allows you to achieve exactly what you want.

What do most of us want?

It is usually pretty simple; we want a happy, wealthy and happy retirement!

Click [HERE](#) to read more