



April 2026



Message from the Chair

Greetings,

The first quarter of the year was a memorable one, with two engaging events bringing members together.

On April 2, the Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon featured a presentation by Dr. Jennifer Ostergren, Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Services. She introduced the SWIFT program (Scholars in Wellness Innovation Fast Track Health Programs), an accelerated pathway allowing students to earn a BA in Human Development or a BS in Public Health through dual enrollment, a cohort model, and a summer experience; made possible by a generous grant.

During the meeting, we discussed membership benefits and gathered retirees' perspectives on the use and importance of retaining their campus email addresses. Currently, retirees may keep their campus email address as long as they remain members of the RA. However, the cost to the campus to maintain and administer these email accounts, along with the growing staff time required to manage annual memberships, continues to increase. As a result, the group discussed the possibility of moving to a lifetime-membership-only model as a way to simplify administration and improve record keeping. While no decisions have been made, we wanted to ensure all RA members are included in this discussion. If you have thoughts on transitioning to a lifetime-only membership model (with appropriate payment plan options for the \$200 membership), or suggestions for additional benefits you would like to see, please email Anna at retirees@csusm.edu.

On April 13, several members visited the Flower Fields in Carlsbad, where Advisory Council Treasurer and Master Gardener Helen Purcell Montag provided a tour of the demonstration garden. The vibrant ranunculus, nearby strawberry and blueberry picking, unique sculptures, and a charming sweet pea maze made for a beautiful and worthwhile outing.

With such a strong start to the year, there is much more to look forward to. The Advisory Council has additional activities planned, and the next gathering is just around the corner. As always, we welcome any ideas you have for future outings.

Warmly,

Danna Wright - Chair



Past Events

Annual Business Luncheon & Meeting



The Flower Fields & San Diego Master Gardener Demonstration Garden Tour



Member Profile: Glen Brodowsky



It was September 1995 and I was in grad school when I first got a call from Cal State San Marcos inviting me to a phone interview for an assistant professor position. My first question was, "Cal State where?" About a week later, I had a phone conversation with Beverlee Anderson, Soheila Jorjani, and Kathleen Watson. I thought the interview had gone well.

And then.... Nothing.

They hired someone else.

In April of 1996, I got a phone call from Dean Newt Margulies asking me if I would be interested in coming for a campus visit. I said I would check my calendar. I put my hand over the receiver and breathed deeply – I was desperate for a job. I penciled him in.

While it was snowing in Buffalo, I was dining at the Beach House in Cardiff. I mentioned to Kathleen Watson that the Dean had made me a verbal offer that afternoon. The next day, after a shared governance kerfuffle, the search committee agreed not to cancel the search.

I was hired.

I grew up at and with CSUSM. That first year, I moved across country, defended my thesis, started a new job, took care of a dying spouse, and buried him. The Dean and Beverlee were concerned about my lack of publications. Two weeks after the funeral, I dropped my first published manuscript on the dean's desk. My colleagues supported me through that difficult time. I was just grateful to be a working academic. I had found my forever home.

And what a home it was. There was no place for a new Ph.D. to hide on a new campus. I served alongside luminaries like David Barsky, Jackie Trischman, and Michael McDuffie on APP – Academic Policy and Programs committee (eventually split into APC and UCC). We reviewed dozens of programs, approved hundreds of courses, and crafted many early policies.

CSUSM allowed a professor of international marketing the freedom to travel and teach in Taiwan, China, Denmark, and Ecuador every year for more than a decade. I was honored to represent CSUSM at the ASCSU for 14 years. I chaired the Department of Marketing and Management. After it split in two, I chaired each department separately.

After 28 years and more than 30 journal articles, 4 edited volumes, and 50+ presentations – most of them co-authored with my CoBA colleagues – I officially retired from CSUSM on August 18, 2024. Just six weeks earlier, on July 1, 2024, I became Dean of the Heller College of Business at Roosevelt University in Chicago. In 2016, I had purchased a condo in downtown Chicago for my retirement. Who knew I would find a job four blocks away that would keep me busy after CSUSM.

Academia is one of the last professions built on a mentorship system. Assistant professors are the apprentices, associate professors the journeymen, and the professors are the masters. The founding faculty and staff of CSUSM from 30 years ago hired and mentored me. My proudest achievements are young faculty members I recruited and mentored who are now taking our campus into the next 30 years.

That's a 60-year connection to a campus I will always call home.

I am writing this article after having had breakfast with Beverlee Anderson here in downtown Chicago. It's a sunny morning not unlike that morning in April 1996 when we had breakfast at the IHOP in Vista the day of my on-campus interview.

Welcome New and Renewing Members

We are honored to welcome the following new and renewing members into our CSUSM Retirees Association family. We look forward to seeing and connecting with you all at an upcoming event.

Theresa Aitchison-Clark
Catherine Armas-Matsumoto
Steven Bates
Pamela Bell
Jeffrey Charles
Eddie Colanter
Deborah Coronado
Ronald Dunn
Jo Espinoza
Steve Holbrook
Ian Irvine
Karen Irwin
Lise Llanes
Danna Wright

In Memoriam

[Dr. Patty Seleski](#)

Member In the News

Michael Yee: [Ten CSU-ERFSA members awarded Foundation Research Grants](#)

Upcoming AROHE Webinars

As part of your CSUSM Retirees Membership, you receive access to AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education).

Aging Alone Together: Unique Considerations to Support Solo Agers
Monday, April 27, 2026
12:00 pm
Virtual

Aging Alone Together Registration

Cultivating Social Connections and Support Systems in Retirement
Wednesday, May 06, 2026
12:00 pm
Virtual

Cultivating Social Connections Registration

RA Advisory Council

Chair - Danna Wright
Vice Chair - Robert Carolin
Treasurer - Helen Purcell Montag
Recorder - Judith Downie
Member at Large - Paul Tiglao

CSUSM Retirees Association

333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road | San Marcos, CA 92054
retirees@csusm.edu | (760) 750-4408

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