



# ERFA

## NEWSLETTER

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### Fall 2024 Newsletter

### Join Us for Lunch on October 31, 2024



Faculty Enjoying our Spring 2024 Lunch

Our next ERFA Lunch meeting will take place on Thursday, October 31 at 11:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the New University Union. Please RSVP, mark your calendar and consider inviting some friends you would love to see there.

Dr. Michelle Rippy was our scheduled speaker for our Spring Lunch but had to cancel due to a family emergency. Dr. Gerald Henig graciously filled in for her giving us a lively discussion on his book, [America's Presidents: What your History Teacher Never Told You](#). We have rescheduled Dr. Rippy, Director

Forensic Science Research Center, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Criminal Justice as our Fall Lunch speaker. She will speak on **Cold Cases: Forensic Science Students Researching and Collaborating to Solve Crimes.** We will learn how her students are actively learning to be forensic scientists.

## President's Message

Jodi Servatius, Professor Emerita, Educational Leadership



Aging has been a focus of my attention lately. Earlier this year I downsized and moved to a senior community. This past week I got COVID (after four years of successful avoidance) and was treated with a level of care reserved for the elderly and frail. (My case, thankfully, was really mild.) And in recent days we witnessed an octogenarian U.S. President remove his name from nomination for a new term, citing his age.

One of the strange things about aging is that none of us have done it before so all of us approach it as novices. We may walk a bit slower, lose our train of thought more easily or spend way more time on medical appointments than we ever imagined possible. It's a new territory and we approach it with curiosity. We are all on a journey not of our making and we have no idea of its timeline. For professors, who are pre-disposed to planning everything, this can be especially frustrating. But then, as Mark Twain reminded us, "Age is matter of mind over matter. If you don't mind it, it doesn't matter."

For thirteen years I have volunteered at UCSF as a subject in the Healthy Aging Study. I spend about four days a year there being medically and psychologically tested for signs of aging. I do not receive the results. They are studying brain decline (and Alzheimer's specifically) and I am happy I can be one of the 500 people who can help them do that. Hopefully, they are learning some useful lessons and others will eventually benefit.

In the Buddhist tradition of celebrating your birthday, you ask yourself "If I am given another year, what will I do with it?" Moving ahead feels more energizing than reminiscing about the way things used to be.

We are busy planning our fall luncheon. We look forward to hearing from Michelle Rippy about her teaching and enjoying time together with our "old" friends. Hope to see you there!

## Join ERFSA

Are you a member of State-wide ERFSA (Emeriti and Retired Faculty and Staff Association)?

If not, please consider joining. Our local CSUEB ERFA Chapter gets its funding based upon the number of our emeriti faculty who belong to the State-wide ERFSA. The funding enables our chapter to make twice yearly donations to the Renaissance Scholars Program. ERFSA lobbies in Sacramento to protect our pensions and other retirement benefits. Dues are \$10/month for most people. For more information and to join go to <https://www.csuerfsa.org/>

## Catching Up With....

### Eileen Barrett, Professor Emerita, English



I have been enjoying retirement--traveling, teaching, and making good trouble. While in the faculty early retirement program, I taught a writing course for students at San Quentin Prison. Inspired by the experience, I collaborated with others on campus to create educational pathways for our formerly incarcerated students. Fortunately, the groundwork for such a plan had been laid in 1967 by Project Rebound, a nationally recognized program for formerly incarcerated students at San Francisco State. In fall of 2022, with myself as Executive Director, Cal State East Bay became the 15th CSU campus with a Project Rebound program.

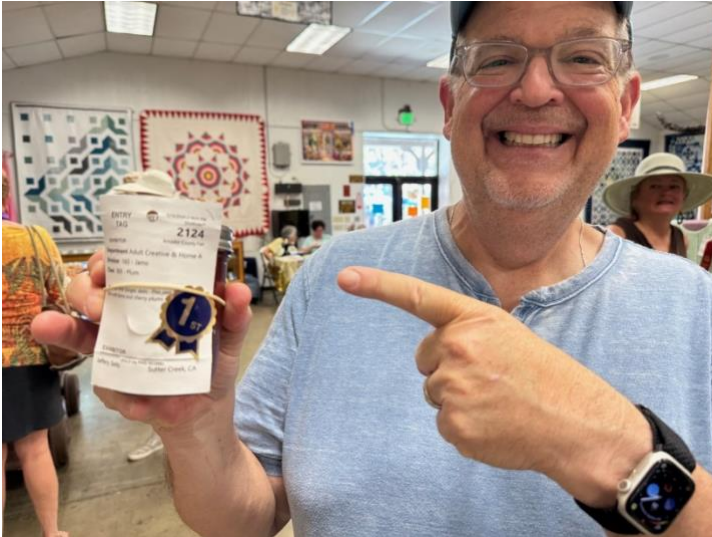
We started with two students and Melvin Calaway, our fabulous Program Coordinator. Now the program has 30+ students with records of accomplishments and success. Check out our website at <https://www.csueastbay.edu/projectrebound/>

I continue to volunteer with Project Rebound, stay politically active, and contribute to her field of feminist literary criticism. Currently I am working on a project that highlights themes of social justice in the writings of Gwendolyn Brooks, Sandra Cisneros, Julia Alvarez and Aminatta Forna. And, of course, there's time to travel. My spouse, Elissa Dennis, and I spent 10 weeks last winter in South America,

traveling from Colombia through Chile and down to Patagonia. We explored glaciers and hiked through Torres del Paine, confirming what we knew--we live on a beautiful, endangered planet that we need to do all we can to protect.

This fall, Elissa and I will celebrate 40 years together. In 2013 when we married, we started a Cal State East Bay scholarship for students who graduated from Oakland public high schools. So far, the Oakland to East Bay scholarship fund has awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships. I feel fortunate to have had a 36-year career at Cal State East Bay, to have been a member of a unionized faculty (go CFA!), and to have taught and learned from our richly diverse student population.

## Jeff Seitz, Professor Emeritus, Earth and Environmental Sciences



In 2021, I retired and am now in my fourth year of FERP. My husband, Greg, and I visited some friends in the town of Sutter Creek (in the Sierra foothills) and decided to move there in 2023. We have a couple of acres, and I am enjoying working to restore the house and the neglected and overgrown garden and property. Both of us love to travel and have made it a goal to take at least one major international trip every year and several domestic vacations, too. In the last year, we traveled to Alaska, Arkansas (to visit family), and Spain. Next year, we plan to have an extended trip to Japan to visit family. We have been learning Japanese to prepare for the trip.

Since living in the Sierra foothills, we joined a fly-fishing club, took a class in fly fishing, and now we are exploring the many rivers and lakes in Amador and Calaveras Counties. During the COVID lockdown, I took up knitting to pass the time and for stress reduction. I found I really enjoy it. I joined a local knitting circle in Sutter Creek and this summer won three ribbons for my knitting at the Amador County Fair.

This Spring, I learned to can and preserve fruits and vegetables. This works well with my gardening hobby. We have many wild plum trees on our property and I created a wild plum and ginger jam. I won a blue ribbon for the jam at the county fair. My next goal is to learn pickling. It has been fulfilling volunteering for our county's local interfaith food bank where I help with sorting and distributing food to those in need.

In addition to my half-time teaching, I continue my research in molecular astrobiology. I am working now on several peer-reviewed papers related to that work.

I also serve on the board of ERFA.

Life is good in the Sierra foothills!



## How You Can Create a New Revenue Stream Through a Charitable Gift Annuity

An interview with Dr. Doris Duncan, Professor Emerita, Business, by Dr. Liza Dawn Audiviso, University Advancement

*What motivated you to make a gift to the faculty and students at the university?*

I believe in the mission and values of Cal State East Bay, its faculty and students. My gift will have more impact at Cal State East Bay than it would at a larger university or an Ivy League school. In short, my gift is a modest way I can help to make the world a better place one faculty member and one

student at a time.

*Why did you decide on a charitable gift annuity as the vehicle for your gift?*

I will receive income from the CSU Education Foundation for the rest of my life. I also received an income tax deduction for the year I made my gift. Plus, the rate of interest paid by the annuity is noticeably higher than interest rates paid by banks and financial institutions today. The charitable gift annuity is a financial win for me, and for the faculty, students and programs I wish to support.

*In your own words, what is it about Cal State East Bay that makes you want to donate now?*

I invested nearly 40 years of my professional life at the university and wanted to continue contributing in some way after retirement. This is my way of letting my peers and future faculty and students know I believe in them. By making a planned gift, my legacy will support faculty and students during my life and beyond. Plus, by giving now I get to enjoy seeing the impact of my gift while I receive a lifetime income stream.

*Would you recommend others give through a charitable gift annuity?*

Since a charitable gift annuity offers a guaranteed fixed income stream for life, it provides peace of mind, reducing worries about running out of money when we are blessed with a long life.

*Is there anything else you would like faculty to know?*

A lot of retired staff and faculty can benefit from charitable gift annuity. Planned giving is a great way to support the people and programs you love while potentially gaining significant savings on income taxes. If a charitable gift annuity isn't right for you, consider cash gifts, appreciated property, IRA rollovers, Qualified Charitable Distributions, bequests, and more. Estate planning offers many options, so I recommend meeting with University Advancement to explore impactful giving opportunities.

If you are interested in setting up a charitable gift annuity, or a different planned gift, please contact Brad Vartan, AVP, Development and Campaign Director, University Advancement Cell: 312 774-2500 or Office: 510-885-7885 Email: [brad.vartan@csueastbay.edu](mailto:brad.vartan@csueastbay.edu).

# David Larson, Professor Emeritus, Anthropology, Environmental Studies & Geography, Continues His Olympic Odyssey



The Olympic Games returned to Paris this summer (Jeux Olympiques de Paris 2024), exactly one-hundred years since the French capital last hosted them. Having missed that one, I was certain to be there for the full 17-day run this time, continuing my Olympic adventures into a fifth decade.

The modern Olympic Games were born in Paris, conceived by a Frenchman, the aristocrat Pierre de Coubertin, in the late 19th century. Athens, in 1896, hosted the first modern Games, followed by Paris four years later. This year Paris joined London as the only three-time hosts. Over the past century, cities in Europe, Asia, North and South America and Oceania have hosted the Games. Two world wars and a one-year Covid-19 postponement triggered the only pauses in the quadrennial cycle. While moving the Summer Olympics around the globe is a noble gesture, the infrastructure requirements of putting on an Olympics have

*Dr. Larson and Yared Nuguse,*

*U.S. Bronze Medalist, Men's 1500 meters*

financially crippled some host cities – Montreal (1976), Athens (2004) and Rio de Janeiro (2016) lead that list. Train travel is the primary reason why Western Europe is always the best host for global sporting events. Hundreds of thousands of attendees from a dozen or more countries can travel rapidly and inexpensively to the host city's center, and then connect easily to subway and light rail to dispersed sports venues. The Paris Metro deserves a gold medal of its own.

My fascination with the Olympic Games began in 1970, when track & field became my favorite

sport as both participant and observer. In my adult lifetime, I have traveled the U.S. and the world to watch the sport at its highest levels. As the Olympics' marquee sport, track traditionally occupies the second week of the Games. I always have tickets to all evening sessions. That has left the first week and daytime in the second week open to watch other sports. In Paris, for example, I attended multiple competitions in volleyball and beach volleyball, team handball, swimming, and a riveting men's basketball quarterfinal between Serbia and Australia. In previous Olympics, I have seen racquet sports – badminton, tennis – and table tennis. Tickets to niche sports can be difficult to come by but if there's a will, there's usually a way.



Until Paris, I thought I would never see a better Olympic venue than the modular stadium erected on Copacabana Beach in Rio, the veritable birthplace of beach volleyball. But this year's beach volleyball venue at the foot of the Eiffel Tower now reigns supreme. Other sports took place at some of the most iconic sites in the history of western civilization: fencing at La Palais, equestrian at Chateau de Versailles, and the marathon races finishing at Invalides.

Prior to this year, my best Olympics experience was London in 2012. Paris surpassed that, exceeding lofty expectations. After the Covid exile of Tokyo (2021), these Games brought the fans back (a record 9.6 million tickets sold) and with them the passion and pathos, the thrills, the joy. Moreover, the data is expected to show that in terms of participation, this

was the first-ever gender equal Olympics – a monumental milestone a half-century in the making, as Title IX’s passage in 1972 changed the trajectory of women’s sports all over the world.

To Paris and all of France: *Fabuleux! Fantastique! Magnifique!*

## Academic Senate Report

Donna Wiley, Emeritus Representative to the Academic Senate

### Spring 2024 Academic Senate Report



The CSUEB wrapped up a busy 2023-2024 academic year. The Senate approved numerous curricular proposals, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, and revisions to the Senate standing rules. In total, 81 Senate action items were approved by President Sandeen. Of particular note was the new DEI Framework for Senate Policies, a revised Curricular Timeline policy and a Policy for Emergency Remote Teaching (which grew out of a discussion about what to do when temporary emergencies, such as power outages on campus, make it impossible to teach a face-to-face class).

While the Senate was able to complete many of its ongoing business items, much of the Senate time in the Spring (as well as throughout the academic year) was devoted to discussions about the current and potential future effects on Academic Affairs resulting from the campus’ dramatic decline in enrollments over the past few years as well as rising costs for salaries, energy and other campus needs. The Senate had already spent much time in the fall semester discussing the effects of cuts in class sections on both students and faculty, particularly the effect on lecturer faculty members.

One of the areas of discussion in the Spring was about Academic Affairs’ considering reductions in faculty reassigned time as a way of reducing costs. Interim Provost Kim Greer later announced that these plans have been postponed. However, clearly the campus is facing severe threats to its academic programs if the declining enrollment situation continues.

At the final Senate meeting, the 2024-2025 Academic Senate Officers were elected. The incoming officers include Senate Chair Jenny O, Vice Chair Maureen Scharberg and Secretary Michael Rowley. For anyone interested in more information, details on all Senate actions may be found in Chair Christina Chin-Newman’s Annual Report (2023-2024).

## In Remembrance

**Larry Bensky, Lecturer, Political Science.** Larry Bensky taught in the Political Science and Communication Departments from 2002 to 2021 focusing on media and politics. He passed away on May 19, 2024, at his home in Berkeley, California. Before and during the time he taught at CSU East Bay, he was an internationally recognized journalist who worked at Pacifica's local radio station, KPFA. He served as Pacifica's National Affairs Correspondent from 1987 to 1998, covering many prominent national and international stories, including the Iran-Contra hearings in 1987, for which he won the prestigious George Polk Award. Larry's had great energy and enthusiasm for politics, which he encouraged students to pursue, and for media that did not rely on what others may have said or written, but instead was based independent research and investigation to learn the truth.

**Cal Caplan, Professor, Emeritus, Kinesiology.** Calvin "Cal" Caplan joined the Department of Physical Education at Cal State Hayward in 1968. He earned a BA from Cal State Northridge, where he competed in swimming and water polo, and a MS and EdD from UC Berkeley. Cal passed away at his home on March 14, 2024. Dr. Caplan's academic focus was on exercise physiology. He helped the Department of Physical Education transition into the present-day broad-based Department of Kinesiology. Cal was the head coach for the Pioneer Men's Water Polo team from 1968-1981 and Springboard Diving from 1972-1984. In recognition of his distinguished contributions and achievements, he was inducted into Cal State East Bay Athletics Hall of Fame (2006). More recently, a Cal Caplan Scholarship was established in 2021 to honor his accomplishments in Athletics, Kinesiology, and the University. He was a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine. Outside of the classroom, he was an advocate for and fiercely committed to university shared governance and faculty rights. He regularly served on the Academic Senate, as well as the State-Wide Academic Senate for many years. In 2007-08, he was the recipient of the Sue Schaefer Service Award from the Academic Senate in recognition for his service to the University. After he retired in 2005, he quickly returned to his passion for coaching and continued to contribute to the university from the pool deck as the Volunteer Goalies Coach for the Women's Water Polo Program.

**Jean Sumitis, Lecturer Emerita, Mathematics.** Jean Sumitis was a valued member of the Department of Mathematics for 27 years before retiring in 2017. She passed away on July 30, 2024, in Oregon. Dr. Simutis had the distinction of being the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics from UC Davis, and the first lecturer in Cal State East Bay's history to be granted the recognition of emeriti status, normally reserved for tenured faculty. Dr. Simutis was a dedicated and effective teacher. She was a committed math professor, who transformed fearful undergrads and credential seekers into confident teachers. She approached teaching with comfort and love of math. She was an early OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) Advisory Board member who attended field studies and classes, even when she was teaching full-time. She also was Chair of the OLLI Finance Committee. Jean also was dedicated to the AAUW (American Association of University Women) and produced fundraising events for women and girls' scholarships.

## Comments and Suggestions

If you have any comments, photos, or suggestions for Newsletter items or for ERFA, please send them to Carl Bellone, [carl.bellone@csueastbay.edu](mailto:carl.bellone@csueastbay.edu) or Jodi Servatius, [jodi.servatius@csueastbay.edu](mailto:jodi.servatius@csueastbay.edu).