**Interview with EFA President**  
**Laura Robles**

*What have you been doing since retirement?*

My FERP ended May 2017. I was busy at Dominguez Hills until then and then came the big boom. I have become a member of my homeowners’ association board and remain involved with SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science). Those activities do not take up all my time so I must find more. I realize in retrospect that I should have cultivated interests outside of academia. I guess it is not too late so I will keep searching.

*What do you miss most about your time at CSUDH?*

I miss the people. I miss staff, faculty and students.

*When you look back on your field of expertise, how has it changed from when you were in college to now?*

In cell biology I think collaboration internationally has become more prominent. Of course new details emerge all the time but how science is done as a team has been expanded. It is also expensive!!!!! It is also becoming more difficult to secure enough funding but if you have a good idea that should not be a problem.

*If you could start again, would you change your major? Change your career path? Why?*

I would not change anything. I love biology and have since I asked for Golden Books about the weather when I was a little girl. I was flabbergasted when I first looked though a microscope in high school and speechless as a first year grad student when I first saw an electron microscope. Discovering new scientific knowledge is awesome.

*What advice would you give to students studying in your field? What advice would you give to young people in general?*

Young people in general, put down your phone and go camping. Experience the beauty of nature. Better yet, go backpacking in the wilderness. Get up early and see the sunrise. Go to the desert where there are no lights and view the sky. Still on my bucket list are the northern lights.

Continued on page 3

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**Gus Martin Presented Gripping Talk About Homeland Security**

We were treated to a fascinating talk about Homeland Security by Gus (Augustus) Martin, J.D., Ph.D., who is a Professor of Criminal Justice Administration at CSUDH. Gus is the author of several books on the topics of Homeland Security and Terrorism.

With the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the federal government had to create a system to deal with the new millennium’s threats, which were rather different from the foreign nation-related situations we had endured prior to that day.

Gus showed us a very intense Power Point presentation that included examples from terrorist websites that are trying to recruit new members. He reviewed many aspects of the topic including managing risks, state and local roles, safeguarding trade and travel. In addition to the conventional violent ways in which terrorism can impact us, we are now also in an era in which cyberterrorism can bring enormous amounts of disruption and destruction. Keep alert!!!

Many EFA members attended this fascinating talk and we all want to thank Gus for his enlightening presentation.
Iceland in August
Leni Cook

First of all, it's cold in Iceland in August! Parka, gloves, and earmuff cold! But it is beautiful, yet difficult to adequately describe. The topography in its Golden Circle outside Reykjavik is rife with allusions to television's Game of Thrones. Last July and August, Roger and I spent time in Reykjavik and, as a part of a 16 day cruise, in two other towns on the northern coast, Akureyri and Isafjordur. 

The landscape in the north around Akureyri has spectacular waterfalls, volcanic craters, hardened lava lakes and arches as well as gurgling sulfur pots and boiling mud pits—all just inland from deep fjords that mark the coastline on the way to Isafjordur. Perhaps the most famous spot near Akureyri is Godafoss Waterfall which translates as "Waterfall of the Gods" referring to an event that supposedly occurred over a thousand years ago when an Icelandic chieftain threw statues of the Norse gods into the water to symbolically demonstrate Iceland's conversion to Christianity. In the midst of these geological wonders, though, are small wild gardens.

The natural arches of Dimmulborgir are popular, with viewing areas set close. (see next top of right column). Most of the attractions in Iceland are protected and access on foot is restricted in many areas. 

Farther to the west, on a peninsula that juts up toward Greenland, Isafjordur is on a fjord with the same name. Noted for its bird life and fisheries, the town has a rural atmosphere and the surrounding area is full of small lakes and narrow waterfalls inaccessible for ships.

During our Golden Circle tour we encountered more tourists than we'd seen at our other stops. It is said that during the summer months the population of the country almost doubles in size as British and European tourists join with the increasing group of North Americans, all moving around the only highway that skirts the entire coastline, the N1. Somehow we all get photos and postcards and frostbitten fingers and toes moving around the countryside (see picture above). It is a never-to-be-forgotten adventure, one that I wish we had taken twenty years ago when the country

GO GREEN!

If you’re receiving the Newsletter by U.S. Mail, please consider changing to email delivery. Email Jackson Henry at jhenry@csudh.edu to change it.

THANKS!
Interview with Laura Robles, continued from page 1

In my field,

1. Learn to write well scientifically. Winning the game in science is being able to express yourself to others and convince them your idea is worth pursuing.

2. Develop your creativity. I am not sure how to do that but scientists come up with new directions for their research all the time. Revolutionary ideas may float in your head and wake you up at night. Write them down so you can make room for more.

3. Get over being shy and not wanting to speak in front of others. You must be heard to be successful. Being shy and not saying anything will not get you anywhere.

4. Take advantage of professional development opportunities offered by scientific societies. Those opportunities were not available to me during my time but I can see how fantastic they are. You can learn so much from them and make new friends and connections.

* What do you think were the greatest advantages and disadvantages of being a baby boomer?

**Disadvantages** - We saw SMOG evolve and choke our cities.

JKF was assassinated. What a sad day that was. I was in the library to study at SDSU and heard some girls say he was shot. I left and walked to the bookstore. There was crowd, the radio was on the speaker system and Walter Cronkite told us the President was dead.

We have witnessed too many wars.

**Advantages** - Social Security and Medicare!!!!

We were able to witness the dawn of computers. I remember cutting and pasting with a typewriter!

In 1969 American astronauts landed on the moon. I remember every second of TV coverage and calling my Dad to tell him about it. Years later I was walking through the National Museum of American History and there was a TV display with news footage of the moon landing playing. A group of young boys were watching it. I thought to myself I saw that when it was happening. Awesome!!!!!
Christmas Letter from David Churchman

(This is excerpted from a longer letter describing David’s observations about Norway and the Nobel Prize. The next installment will be in the June Newsletter. Included is a link to his recent research.)

Alita and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, fulfilling, safe and peaceful New Year, unlikely as the last may be.

2017 began quietly but picked up when I headed to Norway on a third Fulbright, this time as one of the first three (simultaneously) at the Nobel Peace Institute. The flight on Alaska to Seattle was rescheduled two hours earlier without bothering to notify my travel agent or myself. Had I not tried to print my boarding pass at home I would have missed it—a lesson for all—and my connection on Iceland, pleasantly uneventful but in further evidence of the decline in service throughout the industry, the overnight flight offering nothing in the way of a hot dinner or breakfast.

Having arrived on a Friday and been escorted to my apartment by the Nobel Institute’s research director, I spent the weekend beginning to explore the city. There were essentials to find such as a dry cleaner (what IS the Norwegian word?) and grocery stores (the best a -bare fifty yards from apartment, itself a leisurely fifteen-minute walk past the royal palace grounds to the Institute). I did not always know what I was buying and was unable to read the labels or the instructions on how to cook things. Anyway, I planned to eat mostly at restaurants. A restaurant with distinctive Norwegian offerings such as whale and reindeer? No luck although I did find the latter on one menu. Pizza (advertised as American), falafel, kabob, sushi, and Indian places dominate. Takeaway is ubiquitous and a company apparently employing students seems to have contracts with dozens of restaurants to deliver food by bicycle, the food itself carried in huge insulated backpacks.

My second Sunday in country was Easter, for which Norway essentially closes down from the preceding Wednesday until the following Tuesday. Problem solved when I realized those in the central train station would be open.

A few random observations. Norwegian names often were a mystery: If you had to respond formally to letters signed by Alsvik, Aril, Asle, Bajram, Bard, Bente, Espen, Geir, Gentian, Heige, Iben, Iver, Kjetil, Siri, Solveig, Synne, Terje, Torodd, Turid, or Vitbeke, who would you address as Mr.? Norway is a near-cashless society, and some places won’t take the stuff, so credit cards are essential, but our stipends are paid in Norwegian cash. There are rental bike stands around Oslo and presumably an app so one can locate pickup and return points. Cyclists tend to use the sidewalks often coming up behind walkers fast and silently. Street entertainers and beggars abound, the latter mostly illegal immigrants with little or no access to the Norwegian welfare system—seems a good plan to me. Incidentally, Bente, Iben, Siri, Solveig, Synne, Turid, and Vitbeke are women, the rest men.

The Nobel Peace Prize, perhaps simultaneously the world’s most prestigious and most controversial, has been awarded 128 times since 1901, usually to one but sometimes to joint recipients such as Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin, and sometimes to an organization such as the International Red Cross (thrice). The Laureate is selected by a committee of five Norwegians elected to six-year terms by the Norwegian Parliament. Nominees are winnowed in phases over eight months from nominees submitted by 1 February of any given year. The Committee takes its final vote in in October and moves to the adjacent Nobel Hall to announce its choice to an invited audience, mostly media, of about 175. Past recipients include saints (Mother Teresa), sinners (Yasser Arafat), women (16 through 2014 first in 1905), statesmen, soldiers (George C. Marshall was both), scientists (Linus Pauling, the only Nobel Laureate in two entirely different fields) and symbols (Malala Yousafzai). Twenty-one have gone to Americans (including 4 presidents, 2 vice presidents, and 5 secretaries of state), 8 each to British and French, 5 to Irish, 3 to South African, and 2 to Russian citizens. The youngest was 17, the oldest 87.

My own research quickly narrowed from my overambitious proposal to the current situation in Iraq and Syria leading to an article due the end of December in the Journal of Social Science for Policy Implications and a synopsis without all the academic methodology in the 1 October web page of the History News Network, proposing an approach to reducing the violence unfortunately about as likely as a pig with wings.
Are You Paying Too Much into Medicare?  
Get Your Money Back!  
Jackson Henry

One of our colleagues asked me about the Medicare Part B premium reimbursement from PERS. Some of you may have received a letter from CalPERS about this.

Roughly speaking, if your adjusted gross income last year exceeded $85,000, you pay an "income related adjustment" (read increase) for Medicare Part B. That increase may be reimbursed by PERS but not unless you request it in writing. The details are in the letter below I received from PERS. Beneath that I have also included the letter I have sent to PERS for the past several years, requesting the additional reimbursement. You need to include a copy of the 7 or 8 page letter that you received from the Social Security Administration last November. It has always been successful!!

As an example, last year a colleague and I saw a reimbursement increase of over $130 per month or over $1,500 a year.

I hope this will help those of you who are unfamiliar with the program.

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Dear Jackson Henry:

We are writing to update you on how the federal Medicare program may affect you and/or your dependents and your CalPERS health benefits.

How does it work?

Individuals with higher income levels will pay higher Medicare Part B premiums. Your income level is based on your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), which is determined by the Internal Revenue Service as defined by the federal tax code. Your MAGI is your adjusted gross income, less specified adjustment and certain types of tax-exempt income, most often tax-exempt interest.

Please contact the Internal Revenue Service if you want to verify your MAGI.

The attached table shows the Part B premium categories based on tax filing status and income. Members who are not in the higher income level category will pay the 2018 standard Part B premium of $134.00.

How does this affect me?

Your 2018 Medicare Part B premium may change based on the income you report to the Internal Revenue Service.

You will receive a notice from the Social Security Administration (SSA), telling you how much your Medicare Part B premium will cost in 2018.

How do I know if I qualify?

State members enrolled in a CalPERS Medicare supplement health plan may qualify for income-related monthly adjusted amount Medicare Part B premium reimbursement.

How can I get my Part B premium reimbursed?

You will receive the standard monthly reimbursements through your retirement warrants, if eligible.

If you pay an increased Medicare Part B premium due to your income level, you can submit a written request for additional reimbursement to the following address:

CalPERS Health Account Services Section  
Attn: Medicare Administration  
P.O. Box 942715  
Sacramento, CA 94229-2715

Please include a copy (all pages) of the SSA notice with your written request along with a copy of this letter, or CalPERS will not be able to make a determination. CalPERS will let you know if you qualify for additional Medicare Part B reimbursement.

In addition, the SSA will notify you annually of your new Part B premium based on your income. You will need to submit new information to CalPERS each year and any time your premium changes.

Continued on page 6
If you have questions about how your federal Medicare premium may change, please contact the SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website at http://www.ssa.gov.

We are here to assist you. If you have questions, please visit our website at www.calpers.ca.gov, or you may call us toll free at 888 CalPERS (888-225-7377).

### 2018 PART B PREMIUMS

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<th>Beneficiaries who file an individual tax return with income:</th>
<th>Beneficiaries who file a joint tax return with income:</th>
<th>Income-related monthly adjustment amount</th>
<th>Total monthly Part B premium amount</th>
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<td>Less than or equal to $170,000</td>
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**December 4, 2017**

CalPERS Health Account Services Section  
Attn: Medicare Administration  
P.O. Box 942715  
Sacramento, CA  94229-2715

Dear CalPERS:

I believe I may be eligible for an increased reimbursement for my Medicare Part B premium. Enclosed you will find a copy of the premium notice from the Social Security Administration dated November 22, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration of this increased reimbursement.

Sincerely yours,

Jackson N. Henry
Interview with Tricia Cherin
EFA Vice President

*What have been some of your favorite times/memories about working with EFA? I enjoy the presentations in the spring from the Faculty Legacy recipients when they discuss their research. Each awardee is doing fascinating and productive work. Also, the faculty colloquium in the Fall is great fun. This year Gus Martin shared his expertise on Homeland Security and we were all riveted.

*What have you been doing since retirement? I’m still teaching part-time in the HUX program I used to direct. I am learning how to muse and wonder, how to “waste” time, that most valued resource. I am getting surprisingly skilled at that.

*What do you miss most about your time at CSUDH? I miss the thrill of walking into the classroom, crossing that threshold, and seeing all those bright, expectant faces.

*What would you like to see EFA do in the future? I was heartened that Michael Spagna, our new provost, came to our holiday party to let us know he wants to work with EFA. I would like for those who still want to be involved with students to be able to do so. Retired faculty join EFA for many reasons: keeping up social contacts; keeping abreast of health, tax, and other logistics that affect us; and mentoring new faculty. Perhaps we can query all retired faculty to see how the EFA can meet their objectives.

*What retirement activities are you looking forward to? I was most looking forward to having lots of time to write. I retired in 2013 and gave myself the summer off with the proviso that I would get up at 5:00 the day after Labor Day and resume writing. I haven’t done it yet. I wrote and published a lot when I was under the time crunch of work responsibilities. Now that I have the time to write leisurely, I find that the muse doesn’t especially appreciate languor. And so, I have adjusted my retirement objectives—and I’m perfectly content.

*When you look back on your field of expertise, how has it changed from when you were in college to now? The Humanities used to be more valued than they are now. The study of how we make human meaning is an essential endeavor in helping us make sense of it all. The field of English has broadened and become very concerned with cultural studies.

*If you could start again, would you change your major? Change your career path? Why? I am grateful that in my one mortal life I have been able to work with language and how we and those before us have grappled with having our say.

*What advice would you give to students studying in your field? What advice would you give to young people in general? I would advise young people to pursue their heart’s work. Let their parents tell them to be sensible. That wrestle is part of the educational process.

*What do you think were the greatest advantages and disadvantages of being a baby boomer? As baby boomers, we are on the cusps of the analogue and the digital; the Modern and the Post-Modern; the staid and the crazy. We have been privy to different ways of knowing and are fortunate to have so much texture in our lives!

In Memoriam

Eugene Garcia was a valued and trusted member of the Chemistry Department at CSUDH from 1972 until 1992. He was active in the local and national divisions of the American Chemical Society and defender of employee rights in the chemical industry.

John L. Johnson was a former UCLA football teammate of Jackie Robinson who went on to coach at UCLA. He founded the CSUDH athletics department inn 1968 and serve as its golf coach for 45 years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2018 – Ethnic Dinner
March 2018 – Brown Bag Lunch with 2017 FLF Winners
May 2018 – Spring Luncheon
CSUDH Emeritus Faculty Association
C/o President’s Office
California State University, Dominguez Hills
Carson, CA 90747
Mail Code: 707

CSUDH Emeritus Faculty Association Officers  2016-2018

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