

California State University, San Bernardino

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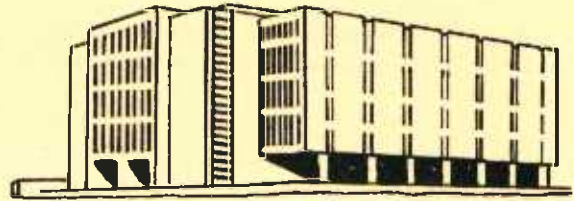
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# csc bulletin

california state college, san bernardino



January 11, 1982

## PRESIDENT JOHN M. PF AU ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Dr. John M. Pfau, founding president of California State College, San Bernardino, announced today he will retire at the close of the current academic year.

This month marks the 20th anniversary of his appointment by the Board of Trustees of the California State University and Colleges to establish a new college for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Dr. Pfau, who will be 64 years old April 28, and Mrs. Pfau will continue to make their home in San Bernardino. He has several plans for the future in the offing but they will not be finalized for a few weeks.

Dr. Pfau has had the rare experience not only of founding one college but also of being involved in the creation of two other institutions. He was on the original planning staff for Sonoma State University, and earlier was sent out from Chicago Teachers College to establish a branch which today is Northeastern Illinois State University.

Dr. Pfau currently is the senior president in terms of tenure among the 19 presidents in The California State University system. Fifty-eight college and university presidents have been appointed in the system since he assumed the helm of the San Bernardino campus.

CSU Chancellor Glenn S. Dumke, in a statement released today, said "President Pfau's pending retirement will be viewed with regret throughout The California State University system. Not only is Dr. Pfau the president with the greatest longevity on our 19 campuses, but his wise counsel over the years has helped to shape decisions in my office for the betterment of all higher education.

"As founding president of CSC, San Bernardino, Dr. Pfau exercised an opportunity that comes only to a few in higher education and has followed it through to an important legacy. Starting with no staff, no faculty, no students and not even land for a campus, he has overseen the birth and development of an institution with inestimable worth in the southern California Inland Empire," the chancellor continued.

"While President Pfau's retirement will be a severe loss, I am pleased that his presidency will continue through the remainder of the academic year and that he will remain in the San Bernardino area and be available to share his expertise," Dr. Dumke added.

When he assumed the presidency of the future San Bernardino college Jan. 16, 1962, Dr Pfau began the process of selecting a planning staff and securing a site. From

a cadre of about a dozen planners in a temporary office in downtown San Bernardino came the educational philosophy and the concept of the physical plant needed to carry it out.

Classes began in September 1965 with 270 students and 33 faculty, administrators and librarians in three buildings in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. Reflecting a steady growth pattern, the college today serves just under 5000 students. For the last three years, Cal State, San Bernardino was among the top three in the system in terms of percentage of growth.

The college which exists today is, in great part, a reflection of the educational philosophy of its founding president. His concern for maintaining close contact between faculty and students led to the design of classrooms which would limit the size of the classes, thereby creating a seminar-type learning environment. Students thus could become more active participants in the learning process; they have increased opportunities to write and their work could be more carefully evaluated by the faculty. Independent study became an important part of the curricular options.

President Pfau's deep belief in the value of a general education program has been demonstrated by the curriculum of the college and was reinforced during the past year by mandates from the CSU Board of Trustees concerning graduation requirements for all students.

In his inaugural speech, where he urged that specialization not crowd out general education, he said: "A college education may encompass many things but primarily it must be an intellectual experience. If we do not provide for the student an atmosphere which arouses his intellectual curiosity and stimulates his mind, we have missed the mark. ... That portion of the curriculum devoted to specialization must be constructed around the principle that nothing is more constant in modern life than change. ... When one considers that the typical member of the first graduating class of this college will still be earning a livelihood in the year 2010, the need for adaptability becomes evident.

Concerned with having a breadth of academic ideas for the new college, Dr. Pfau recruited his initial faculty from throughout the country. Several came from his alma mater, the University of Chicago; others were from Harvard, Columbia University, the Universities of Minnesota, California, Wisconsin, Illinois, the Ohio State University, Stanford, Purdue and the University of Southern California.

"We have had a forward-looking, smooth-working administrative group and an excellent faculty with many creative individuals," he said in reflecting upon 16 years of operation for the college.

The college's athletic policy, also unique in the system, calls for intramural sports and no varsity or intercollegiate athletics. Dr. Pfau, a football fan and still a supporter of the Chicago Bears from his former home town, commented,

"We think it is right for this institution to put all of its emphasis on student participation rather than on spectator sports."

The college thus has stressed the types of activities which an individual can use throughout his or her lifetime. The intramural program, now a vital part of the physical education department program, brings students and faculty, men and women, together in lively on-campus competition.

Dr. Pfau, born in Yugoslavia, spent his childhood in Chicago. He received his education at the University of Chicago, earning his A.B. in 1947, his A.M. in 1948 and his Ph.D. in 1951. His academic field is history.

While pursuing his doctorate, he was an instructor in American history at North Central College in Illinois. During his tenure at the Chicago Teachers College (now Northeastern Illinois State University), he served as associate professor of history, administrative assistant to the dean and assistant dean in charge of the Foreman Branch.

He came to California in 1959 as professor of history and chairman of the Division of Social Studies at California State University, Chico. He then served a similar position on the founding faculty of Sonoma State University, before coming to San Bernardino in 1962.

Dr. Pfau and his wife, Antreen, also a graduate of the University of Chicago, have two daughters. Madelaine is employed by a consulting firm in Dallas, Texas, and Ellen is an audiologist in Upland.

Dr. Pfau has been active in professional organizations and in the community. His academic involvement includes service on several accreditation committees and on the Statewide Advanced Placement Committee of the California State Board of Education; chairmanship of the Committee on the Humanities of the American Assn. of State Colleges and Universities, and chairman of the Inland Empire Higher Education Council. He currently is a member of the Committee on Cultural Affairs of the American Assn. of State Colleges and Universities.

He served three terms as president of the San Bernardino Symphony Assn., was a founding member and director of the World Affairs Council of Inland Southern California, a director of the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce and a member of the corporate board and the Board of Directors of San Bernardino Community Hospital.

President Pfau has also been a member of the California Council for the Humanities in Public Policy and the Labor Management Council for the Inland Empire. He also is a Rotarian.

A successor to Dr. Pfau will be chosen by the CSU Board of Trustees. A presidential selection advisory committee will be formed to screen applicants and make recommendations to the trustees. The membership of the committee will consist of the board chairman, John O'Connell; three trustees, Chancellor Dumke, the president of another CSU campus, three members of the Cal State, San Bernardino faculty who will be selected by the faculty, one member of the administrative and support staff selected by that group, one student chosen by the Associated Students, one member of the campus Advisory Board selected by that board, and one alumnus named by the Alumni Association.