



Sen. Alquist bids farewell at SJCC 75th Anniversary dinner

# 75th Anniversary dinner honors retiring Alquist

by Jeff Rehrig  
Staff Writer

San José City College celebrated its 75th anniversary in grand style Friday with a banquet honoring retiring Democratic State Senator Alfred Alquist at the San Jose Hyatt Hotel.

The evening began with cocktails in the lobby of the Mediterranean center, where the City College divisions had set up displays and demonstrations to give the guests a taste of the different programs at the college.

More than 800 people attended the sold-out event, including state controller Kathleen Conlin, assemblywoman elect Elaine White-Alquist, former San Francisco Giants pitcher Dave Rigetti, City College alumni, members of the local business community and other state and local officials.

Missing was the presence of any significant number of City College students, except for those who were representing the different divisions and student govern-

ment.

Channel 11 news anchor Doug Moore, who is president of the San José City College Foundation, served as master of ceremonies along with J. Logan J.D..

The evening officially began with a welcome by Moore and Logan followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Marie Chatterton, Associated Students President.

Chatterton, who was hospitalized the day before for an unknown illness, left her hospital bed to attend and to represent the students.

As dinner came to an end, the first up to speak was State Controller Kathleen Conlin, who praised Senator Alquist for his accomplishments in state government.

"He is the king of the California Community College system," said Conlin as she spoke of his contributions to education.

Next up was City College's acting President Bill Kester, who spoke of the college's history and accomplishments and the distinguished individuals that have

graduated from City College.

"Not only are we proud of our past and present, but we look forward to a bright future," said Kester.

Another highlight was the presentation of the Alfred E. Alquist Scholarship Award to City College student Hugo Hernandez.

At this point in the program, Alquist was seated on a bench nestled in a park-like setting on center stage.

Called upon to present the scholarship, the 88-year-old Senator unknowingly provided a little humor to the occasion when he missed his cue to present the award to Hernandez.

Hernandez waved to him from the podium to try and get his attention, but Alquist just waved back as if acknowledging one of his many admirers.

The evening was filled with tributes to Alquist and the presentations of gifts and awards to the Senator in recognition of his many legislative achievements in the area

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of education.

Last to speak was Senator Alquist, who was enthusiastically greeted by the crowd of well wishers.

"I feel very much at home at any event sponsored by San José City College," said Alquist.

Alquist briefly reviewed his tenure in state government, praised the group for their dedication to education and urged them to continue the fight for a better educational system with the help of his wife, newly elected assemblywoman, Elaine White-Alquist.

"Education has a new champion and your cause is in good hands," said Alquist.

Making a special guest appearance was Forest Gump, convincingly played by actor Steve Weber.

The evening wrapped up with Gump and Alquist sitting on the bench center stage, taking a humorous stroll down Alquist's

memory lane.

Proceeds from this \$50 a plate fund raiser will go to benefit the Alquist Student Scholarship Fund and the San José City College Foundation.

# Alquist honored at San Jose City College celebration

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Retiring state Senator Al Alquist (left) is being entertained by a Forrest Gump impersonator at a celebration in his honor Friday night at San Jose City College.

SAN JOSE — Retiring state Senator Al Alquist (D-San Jose) was honored Friday night at a banquet at the Hyatt San Jose.

The celebration was held in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of San Jose City College. Joining in the festivities were well-known alumni, including Olympic gold medalists Millard Hampton, Andre Phillips, Olympic bronze medalist Ato Boldon, San Jose City Councilperson Margie Fernandes, former San Francisco Giants pitcher Dave Righetti and NBC sports commentator and professional golfer Roger Maltbie.

The celebration, which was co-hosted by KNTV news anchor Doug Moore, also highlighted the accomplishments of the college's students and faculty, as well as Alquist's longtime support of education, particularly the community college system.

"By providing everyone the opportunity of a higher education, community colleges open up avenues toward a better quality of life for all Californians," Alquist said. "San Jose City College has been an educational cornerstone of our community for the past 75 years. As we move into the 21st century, I have every confidence that this excellent institution is equal to the challenge of preparing its students to enter the increasingly technical workplace here in Silicon Valley and to succeed in a highly competitive society."

"Looking back, the strengths of the college have been rooted in the support of its community, the excellence of its dedicated faculty and staff, the enthusiasm of our students and our location in the 'Valley of Heart's Delight', now known as 'Silicon Valley'," said William Kester, the college's acting president.