

Emeriti Center

Retiree Community Newsletter

This Newsletter is devoted to news and articles of importance to members of the USC Emeriti Center, Emeriti Center College, Retired Faculty Association, and Staff Retirement Association.

Considering a Different Medicare Part D Plan?

Open enrollment runs from Nov. 15 through Dec. 31, and it makes sense to learn more about this important benefit.

If your health insurance continued to provide prescription drug coverage, you did not have to worry about the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan this year.

Those without that continuing coverage have made decisions about whether to take the plan, and if so, with which provider to enroll – and then to familiarize ourselves with the new procedures involved in making that plan work.

Our choice was effective for 2006. Thereafter, we could continue with our initial plan or change to another plan. The first open-enrollment period runs from Nov. 15 through Dec. 31, at which time one can opt to change plans.

In preparation for that choice, the Emeriti Center is offering a program sponsored jointly by the Retired Faculty Association and the Staff Retirement Association. The program, “Medicare Part D – an Update on Open Enroll-

ment” takes place on Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Gerontology Auditorium.

A panel of knowledgeable persons from USC Senior Care, the USC Benefits

Office, and the Center for Health Care

Rights will review what has been learned this year and how the opportunity to select a new plan will work.

In addition, the RFA and the SRA are gathering data from our members about what our own experiences

have been – things like how our plans have

worked – or not – surprises we have encountered, our level of satisfaction with various plans and other such matters.

Everyone is welcome to attend the program including pre-retirees who would like to become more familiar with the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan.

No reservation is needed. We look forward to seeing you.

– Bob Biller, RFA President

What?
“Medicare Part D, An Update”

When?
Tuesday, Oct. 24
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Where?
Gerontology Auditorium

JOIN US!

Authors Will Share 100 Years of USC’s Neighborhood History

Join the USC Retiree Community on Sept. 13 for a presentation by Curt Roseman, USC geography professor, of his new book, “A University and a Neighborhood: The University of Southern California in Los Angeles, 1880-1984.” Roseman and his co-authors document the evolution of the area, and, in this program, will share images and historical details. (See page 7 for more.)



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News from the Executive Director

We have accomplished so much this past year, thanks to the hard work of the USC Retiree Community, on-campus supporters, and our dedicated staff!

The 2005 Fall Strategic planning retreat identified: 1) communication and visibility, 2) pre-retirement preparation and information, and 3) advocacy for health and other benefits as the top three priorities for the Emeriti Center.

As a result we have:

- Met personally with every dean to discuss retirement issues;
- Increased the number of Transitions seminars from two in 2004-2005 to five in 2005-2006. Including our six new Q & A sessions, 537 people attended 11 pre-retirement sessions;
- Hosted lunch for Home Department Coordinators to improve the pre-retirement communication process;
- Invigorated local and distance Emeriti Center list serves thanks to **Mike Halloran** and **Bob Scales**;
- Began work on all EC, EC College, RFA, and SRA Web sites through the good work of Web Master, **Bob Stallings**;
- Joined forces with the RFA and SRA to produce new Transitions Q&A Sessions and joint USC Retiree Community events (thank you **Rene Argomaniz**, **Bob Biller**, **Awilda Brigand**, **Carole Gustin**, **Dagmar Halamka**, **Lisa Macchia**, **Lyn Miller**, **Gloria Reyes**, and many others);
- Increased EC College programs thanks to **Judy Diaz**, and **Bob Scales**;
- Added a new freshman course on health profession options through the efforts of **Mike Appleman**;
- Established the fall Guided Autobiography course taught by **Jim Birren**;
- Increased collaboration with the USC Alumni Association – the entire USC Retiree Community is invited to join Alumni Clubs around the world;
- Invigorated the H. Dale Hilton Living History Project with help from USC Public Relations and our new chair, **Christine Shade**. More than 40 H. Dale Hilton Living History videotapes were digitized this year, and five new interviews were taped;
- Increased important programs and resources for all retirees due to the collaborated efforts of **Bob Biller** (RFA), **Bob Coffey** (RFA), **Carole Gustin** (SRA), and **Gloria Reyes**.
- Elevated the professionalism and frequency of our combined Emeriti Center/EC College/RFA/SRA newsletter with our newsletter editor, **Christine Shade**;
- Increased our ability to create reports and capture accurate data for the directory, events, and records due to the hard work of **Jennifer Ontai** and **Bob Scales**. We thank you heartily for this important contribution to accuracy and communication.

We thank President **Steven B. Sample**, the **USC Board of Trustees**, Provost **C. L. Max Nikias**, and Senior Vice Presidents **Todd Dickey**, **Dennis Dougherty**, **Martha Harris**, and **Alan Kreditor** for approving a 20% increase in the retiree health stipend.

And we thank Provost Nikias for a new operating budget that supports a full-time professional office for the first time in 28 years.

I would like to personally thank: **Bob Biller**, **Frances Feldman**, **Paul Hadley**, **Marty Levine**, **Joanne Ramirez**, **Betty Redmon**, and **Mitzi Tsujimoto** for excellent guidance and support throughout this past year, and for the tremendous efforts of our dedicated staff: **Judy Diaz**, **Jennifer Ontai**, and **Gloria Reyes**.

The 2005-2006 Annual Report will be posted on the EC Web site. Please contact our office if you would like a hard copy mailed to you.



Janette Brown

– Janette Brown, Executive Director, Emeriti Center
jcbrown@usc.edu

News from the RFA



Bob Biller

Colleagues:

Perhaps no research university in America has transformed itself as much as USC over the last 50 years. We are no longer viewed as “Figueroa Tech” or the “University of Second Choice.” Many of the faculty and staff who brought about this

change have now retired, or are contemplating retirement.

The RFA, founded in 1949 and celebrating our 57th anniversary, is proud to honor the contributions of all faculty and staff who created and continue to propel this transformation. Congratulations and thanks to each of you.

Everyone participates in such a major transformation – families, students, alumni, donors, funders, supporters, neighborhoods, trustees and the University’s leadership. Faculty and staff of that period have special reason for satisfaction. We can all savor what has been achieved. We also can enjoy the opportunity to participate at USC in new and enlarged ways that only retirement makes possible.

Given USC’s success, it is striking how many feel underappreciated as we approach retirement. Staff members wonder whether faculty could have shown more respect and appreciation for what they have done to make the University and the faculty’s work a success. Faculty members wonder why their work and contributions haven’t been more respected and better supported by the university.

Retirement reveals how each of us has been isolated within our part of the University. Now we have much to learn and enjoy as we meet and work with colleagues from throughout the University – and come to a deeper understanding of USC. So perhaps some of those abrasions can now begin to heal.

– Bob Biller, RFA President
biller@usc.edu; 818-790-8031

News from the SRA

The SRA will continue to offer programs in cooperation with the RFA, Emeriti Center and Emeriti College. Please join us on Oct. 24 for the Medicare Part D update. (See page 1 for details.)

In June, **Thom Mason** of the Thornton School gave a brilliant presentation on the history of Jazz and some of its important performers. Comments included: “extraordinary,” “super,” “top drawer presentation,” and “I am going to start coming and attending.....” (See page 7 or check the SRA Web Site for information on our next program.)

We welcome **Madaleen Smith** as our new Secretary and thank her for stepping in for **Frances Abraham**. A big thank you and best wishes to Frances for her years of service and dedication to the SRA.

If you haven’t renewed your membership, or are waiting to join, please submit your \$15, or \$25 for joint memberships, to **Ginny Ainsworth** (P.O. Box 8183, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0183).

The Emeriti Center offers a series of 1 1/2 hour “Q & A” sessions on a variety of issues during the year for pre-retirees and retirees (UPC and HSC). Join in.

We’d like to feature some of our members’ interesting activities in our Newsletter and, perhaps, in other publications. Too modest to write about yourself? Why not write about an SRA friend or neighbor? Give us a little information, and we can follow up.

Are you willing to join or head a Hospitality Committee to arrange food for our December 2006 and June 2007 luncheon meetings? Please let me know.

You can receive information about our activities in a number of ways during the year. Please make sure we have the correct e-mail address and other contact information. E-mail allows you to receive the SRA E-Newsletter and information through the SRA-Emeriti Center Listserve.

Hope to see you soon!

– Carole Gustin, SRA President
cgustin@usc.edu; 310-842-7544



Carole Gustin

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Good work on the June, 2006, issue! It is top drawer for content. And the layout is clean and attractive. There is a nicely restrained use of typefaces.

If I were compelled to offer a suggestion for improvement, I would urge you to avoid "continued on page X" in all the articles. There were five jumped stories in the June issue.

Daily newspapers, of course, continue nearly every front page story. But quarterly newsletters? Please understand this is a major peeve of mine and probably went unnoticed by most other readers.

Thank you, Len Wines

[Len will be pleased with this issue, then – there's not a jump in sight! No promises for next time though!. And we now use only the university-approved typefaces – Caslon 540 and Frutiger.]

Dear Janette [Brown]:

Late last night I did two pleasurable things at the same time: I munched on a wonderful brownie and read the Newsletter, which arrived in the afternoon. I congratulate you on both!

Our June newsletter described Jim Birren as having directed the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. Actually, he was the director of the entire Andrus Center, and the Davis School was developed under his wing.

– Frances Feldman

[The brownie was a "Janette delectable." Frances also noted that her late husband, Dr. Albert G. Feldman, helped to create the Davis School (the first such school in the nation).

E-mail letters (125 words or less) to: shade@usc.edu, or mail to EC address on back cover.

EC College Offers Opportunities for Growth

The Emeriti Center College (ECC) brings value to the Emeriti Center and the greater USC community with your help and participation. Therefore, I encourage you to get involved. There is always room for another speaker in the Speakers' Directory that has expanded to service a wider range of groups in the community including the USC alumni. Our new program, "Teaching and Learning Without Borders" provides the opportunity for you to teach that subject you love to your colleagues. There is also the opportunity for the ECC to create a class on a subject that you want to learn. Let us know what that might be. This coming fall **Karen Lansky**, one of our most popular lecturers, will be doing a three-part series, "Beyond the Da Vinci Code," as part of that program. Additionally, there is a need for mentors to assist USC students and a person to organize the ECC mentoring program. **Michael Appleman's** course on Health Profession Options has university support and is an example of how the ECC can contribute to USC's current students. Although several retirees are participating with Michael, he could still use more help. If you have any interest in participating in any of these opportunities, please contact Judy Diaz, Assistant Director, at 213-740-8841 or <judydiaz@usc.edu> and make your interests known.



Bob Scales

– Robert R. Scales, Director
Emeriti Center College <rscales@usc.edu>

Join Us at AROHE!

AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) emerged as a non-profit association in March 2002 under the guidance of **Paul Hadley** with support from the USC Emeriti Center, RFA, and SRA.

The third bi-annual AROHE Conference will take place, Oct. 13 to 15, 2006, at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Please join us as we present best practices, learn from others, network, and socialize.

To date, these EC colleagues are planning to attend and/or present at the conference: **Janette Brown, Bob Coffey, Betty Redmon, and Bob Stallings**, to name a few. Partners are welcome, too.

To receive the special Holiday Inn room rates of \$89/day, and a conference attendance fee of \$100, contact Janette Brown before Sept. 8 (after 9/8 it will be \$100/day for the rooms, and \$150 for the conference fee). For further information, visit: www.arohe.org.

Online Forum Is Launched

Join a lively online group where you can discuss a variety of topics of interest with your colleagues.

The USC Emeriti Center has launched an online discussion forum for the entire USC retiree community.

No membership, usernames, or passwords are required.

Simply go to the forum and read the posted topics and replies. You may add your own comments to an existing topic or post a new topic for open discussion. One initial topic for discussion is retirees' experiences with the new Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

Links to the USC Retiree Forum can be found on the Emeriti Center home page as well as in the navigation panel of the Staff Retirement Association

(SRA) and Retired Faculty Association (RFA) home pages.

Find and click "USC Retiree Forum." An introductory tutorial (in PDF) describing how to utilize the forum can be found on both the SRA and RFA home pages. Click on "Forum Tutorial" in the same navigation panel.

If you are unfamiliar with these Web sites, go to the USC Emeriti Center home page www.usc.edu/emericenter, then click on the RFA or SRA link.

And when you arrive, why not add the Web site address to your "Favorites" or "Bookmarks" list?

– Bob Stallings, rstallin@usc.edu

Emeriti Center Development Update

Every fall, the USC Emeriti Center conducts an Annual Giving Campaign to:

- increase the Emeriti Center Endowment;
- expand services, advocacy, and support for the USC Retiree Community;
- add to the USC Living History fund, enabling us to conduct more interviews;
- provide support for Emeriti Center College programs, research, teaching and learning;
- improve pre-retirement planning for current USC faculty and staff.

Your contributions or planned giving designations are separate from RFA and SRA membership dues that focus on activities within each Association.

Please join in our efforts to enrich and serve the USC Retiree Community. The annual giving letter should reach you in early October.

University of Southern California

center for
work & family
life

Center Has New Name, Same Dedication

John Gaspari, director of USC's Center for Work & Family Life, recently sent us an update on the Center.

In today's hectic world, said Gaspari, the demands of work and family life can be more challenging than ever. The Center is dedicated to helping active and retired faculty, staff, and their dependent family members maintain a healthy balance in their personal and professional lives through a full range of services from counseling to family/caregiver consultation, to healthy aging and much more.

Formerly known as the Staff/Faculty Counseling and Consultation Center (SFCCC), the Center was established more than 25 years ago by Professor Emerita **Frances Feldman** and was the first multi-purpose counseling service at a university.

Recently renamed to better reflect the expanded services being provided, this program is at the center of USC's Family-Friendly Initiative, designed to enhance the quality of life of USC faculty and staff and to make USC a role model for other institutions in this area.

To learn more, go to: www.usc.edu/work/life or call (213) 821-0800.

Transitioning – It’s a Good Thing

As part of its “Transitions” to retirement series, the Emeriti Center will host Q&A sessions on “Distribution Options” on Sept. 19 (HSC) and Sept. 21 (UPC).

In July, the Emeriti Center, along with the Office of Benefits Administration, sponsored a one-day “Planning for Retirement: Transitions 2006” seminar on the Health Sciences Campus. This represented the first time the Transitions seminar was offered during the summer. Nearly 40 active faculty, staff and spouses attended.

As with previous Transitions’ sessions, representatives from the USC Benefits Office, Social Security and USC Senior Care spoke about their programs.

The Emeriti Center hosted a panel of retirees including **Bob Biller, Steb Chandor, Carole Gustin** and **Mitzi Tsujimoto** who shared their insights on retirement. Once again, **Dagmar Halamka**, Attorney-at-Law and Professor Emerita, USC Marshall School of Business, conducted a dynamic session on financial planning.

For more information about the September programs, please call (213) 740-7122 or visit the Emeriti Center website at www.usc.edu/emeriticenter.

– Gloria M. Reyes
Assistant Director, Retiree Relations

Wanting to Reconnect

We no longer have a current address for the following folks:

Lottie Black-Mayfield; Robert Deputy; Jo Kolsum; Cheng Pin Liu; Arthur Merritt; Dolores Oliver; M.Gail Vanderlee; John Viljoen; and Harriett Zlatohlavek.

If you know one of these retirees, could you give us a hand by letting us know a current address (regular mail, e-mail, or telephone #) for him or her? Or, if you feel more comfortable, ask the person whether they would want to contact us to update their address so we can get back in touch?

Contact Jennifer Ontai at <jontai@usc.edu> or call 213-740-8169.

How Can a USC Computer Account Help You?

A “USC email account” was and is a misnomer because it provides you with much more than just an email address – it’s really your USC Computer Account.

If you use email through an Internet Service Provider (ISP), such as AOL or TimeWarner, you might want to consider obtaining a USC Computer Account. USC services available include:

- access to both online and telephone computer support;
- the ability to download free software to facilitate your access to the Internet;
- free access to site-licensed resources such as Lexis-Nexis, First Search, JSTOR, Books in Print, Medline, Britannica Online, and the Oxford English Dictionary Online;
- and free access to e-journals (JAMA, Aging and Mental Health, Gerontologist, etc.) as well as the USC library’s increasing number of books only available online in digital form.

Many of these online resources require the use of a simple piece of software called VPN Client. With this software, your home computer becomes a virtual “on campus” computer with access to USC’s computing resources. VPN Client is free and may be downloaded from the USC Information Technology Services (ITS) Web site. [Note: If you use USC as your ISP; i.e. you “dial in” to USC’s server, you will NOT need the VPN Client. The VPN Client is only for those who use another ISP.]

How do you obtain one? If you have a USC e-mail address, you already have a USC Computer Account. If you were benefits eligible for at least 10 years and were at least 55 years of age when you left USC in good standing, call Jennifer Ontai at the USC Emeriti Center at (213) 740-8169 or e-mail her at jontai@usc.edu to apply for a USC Computer Account.

– Bob Stallings, Web Master
stallin@usc.edu

Come Celebrate 100 Years of USC's Neighborhood History

Who of us can imagine the University Park Campus neighborhood when USC was formed in 1880? Or all the incredible ways in which it has evolved since?

Fortunately, Prof. **Curt Roseman** of our USC geography department (with **Ruth Wallach, Dace Taube, Linda McCann, Geoffrey de Verteuil, and Claude Zachary**) has written a remarkable book (August 2006) titled: "A University and a Neighborhood: The University of Southern California in Los Angeles, 1880-1984."

The volume documents the evolution of USC's University Park Campus and surrounding neighborhoods from USC's founding in 1880 to the 1984 Olympics. More than 180 historic and contemporary photographs, maps, and aerial photos were drawn from the collections of USC and neighborhood organizations as well as some held in private hands.

Roseman and several of his colleagues will present a program of their images and findings to an RFA/SRA jointly sponsored program with the Emeriti Center, on Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the recently remodeled Gerontology Auditorium. No reservation is needed, but come early for a good seat.

Show your Gold Card to park free through Gate 1 (off Exposition at Watt Way) or Gate 6 (on Vermont between Exposition and Jefferson) in Parking Structure A (next door to the Gerontology Building). Handicapped spaces are on the first level. And be sure to show your Gold Card to receive a 10% discount for a signed copy of the book which is expected to be available at the program.



Geography professor Curt Roseman says this 1922 aerial photo of the campus and the surrounding neighborhood is one of his favorites.

"BUILD ON, TROJANS, BUILD ON!"

The SRA will focus its September General Meeting Program on USC's physical campus and the changes – past, present, and future.

Special recognition will be given to USC retirees from all of Facilities Management. USC Vice President Tony Lazzaro will offer that recognition on behalf of the SRA, and Vice President of Capital Construction, Curt Williams, will give a PowerPoint presentation on USC building projects.

Box lunches will be provided to paid members. Guests are welcome and with reservation may purchase a lunch for \$10. Dues paid at the door will cover lunch.

Reservations are required by Wednesday, Sept. 6.

DATE: Sept. 11 – 9:30 a.m. check in; 10 a.m. program; 11:30 a.m. box lunches; Gerontology Courtyard and Aud.

To reserve, phone 310-842-7544 (Carole Gustin); e-mail to cgustin@usc.edu; or Fax info to 213-740-7120.

Family Members Welcome

Spouses and partners – widows and widowers of retired faculty and staff are all considered members of the Trojan Family and the Emeriti Center. They can participate as members in their partner's respective RFA or SRA association. We are happy to announce that **Ruberta Weaver** has just joined the RFA board and will help us find ways for widows and widowers to connect with the EC and support one another. We hope a SRA board member and others will join in this worthy endeavor!

2006 Leibovitz Faculty Award Nominations Open

Deadline: Oct. 6
(see enclosed flier)

Applications for the 2006 Leibovitz Faculty Award are now being accepted. This award is presented by the Emeriti Center to one faculty member in appreciation for service to seniors. The recipient will be recognized at the annual retired faculty recognition luncheon in November.

The award includes an honorarium of \$500 and is funded by a grant from the Leibovitz Foundation.

Nomination forms must be received by Friday, Oct. 6 in the USC Emeriti Center office via regular mail, Fax, or e-mail.

Faculty Recipients:

**1999 – Eli Glogow
2000 – Arthur Gutenberg
2001 – John Fleming
and Harrison Kurtz
2002 – Paul Hadley
2003 – Gerald Larue
2004 – J. Tillman Hall
2005 – Frances Feldman**

The EC Embarks on New Mini-Biography Project

This summer the Emeriti Center began a mini-biography project which will be posted on the USC Emeriti Center Web site early this fall. The project is a branch of the Living History Project; however, they are *not* one and the same.

This project has been designed with the intent of serving as inspiration and encouragement for USC staff and faculty considering retirement as well as keeping others in the Trojan Family informed on the well-being and projects of our current retirees.

Unlike the Living History recorded interviews, which focus on a retiree's career and the history of the university campus at their time of employment, the mini-biography project focuses on life as a retiree.

During the summer, as the EC Center intern, I collected information about what interviewees did during their time at USC, how they transitioned into retirement, and what they are doing now. After each interview, the information is edited into two short paragraphs: the first giving a brief overview of the participant's career and the second giving an update of life as a USC retiree. At the end of these paragraphs there will be a link that reads "lessons learned" which will lead to a page with additional information for those contemplating retirement.

To date, more than two dozen interviews have been conducted and we are hoping to interview every retiree who is able and willing to participate.

We encourage anyone interested in sharing their story to contact the Emeriti Center, as we want to keep our retirees a part of the Trojan Family.

Interviews can be done in person, over the phone, via e-mail, Fax, or regular mail. When sending information, please be sure to include a brief summary of your work at USC. Most important, include your activities since retirement and any advice you might have to offer pre-retirees.

This project serves as an important link between all members of the Trojan family and should prove to be valuable for future retirees. We look forward to your contributions.



Autumn Lamb is a senior in the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology's B.S. program.

– Autumn Lamb, EC intern
autumnla@usc.edu

CARES Volunteers Make a Difference

Louise Ball was working as special assistant to the dean of USC School of Medicine in 1969 when CARES was formed by **Betty Hibbard**, wife of a medical school faculty member, and **Maria Cole**, widow of Nat King Cole.

CARES is a nonprofit corporation that provides financial support and volunteer services to patients at LAC+USC Medical Center, and provides for about 22,000 children of patients a year – or of relatives visiting patients – in curriculum-based day care centers.

Volunteers help with story-telling programs, book carts that service patients, or work in the gift or thrift shops. Magazines, books, and paperbacks are especially welcome gifts to be used through the hospital.

Among the more than 200 CARES members are USC faculty wives and USC staff members. Ball is a charter member and in the ensuing years has volunteered along with **Cynthia Berne, Yvonne Biller, Mindy Halls, Judy Henderson, Mireya Jones, Anita Leedom, Jane Lombardo, Weta Mathies** (CARES President, whose husband was dean of the medical school for 11 years), **Mildred Milgrom, Carol Mishell, Betty Petit, Mary Rea, Nancy Smiley, Jan Tranquada, Ruth Turner** and many others.

In 1969 relatives of patients at LAC+USC had few resources to call upon. When USC faculty took over all the services under contract to L.A. County, CARES slowly redecorated the hospital, opened the gift shops and raised funds for services.

To date, thousands of hours of volunteer service have been donated, and personnel have been trained to run the three day-care centers, a coffee bar, a health food store, two gift shops and a thrift shop. CARES members supervise each of these functions.

“Like most retired persons,” said Ball, “I only work the shops at CARES when there is a big sale, or event. We have a story program for children at the Pediatric Unit and would welcome new members.” Ball said any members of the Emeriti Center would be welcome to volunteer their time, or to give gifts of money or supplies.

“I have always loved the CARES mission and as soon as I returned from my 12-year stay in the Inland Empire I joined the Board as a Member-at-Large,” said Ball.

Call (323) 226-6941 to volunteer or to receive additional information.



CARES volunteers prepare items for a gift-shop sale. Clockwise, from left, are Anita Tsuji, Diana Jehue, Grace Carter, Nancy Castillo, Martha Galaif, Carol Salva, Cynthia Berne, Louise Ball, and Weta Mathies.

We Thank Our Center Benefactors

Through the Emeriti Center's Benefactor Program we thank those who have become benefactors of the Center and who have recognized honored colleagues, friends, and family. For details on how you can participate, call 213-740-8921, or send an e-mail to <emeriti@usc.edu>.

June to July Benefactor Donations

- **Donor:** Louise B. Hall
- **Honoree:** J. Tillman Hall
- **Donor:** Christine Glogow
- **Honorees:** Walter Graf and Robert Biller

Do You Love Words As I Do?

The words “schadenfreude,” “conquian,” and “dog days,” have little in common except for the fact that I've received each by e-mail, along with definitions, proper usage, and historical references, since I began subscribing to Merriam-Webster's “Word of the Day” service.

I try to use each new word I receive in a sentence – “Unfortunately, the dog days are upon us!” for instance. This may go no further than my own scratch paper – but it keeps me out of trouble and my mind sharp!

To sign up, type Merriam-Webster into a search engine, then click on the column, Word of the Day, and subscribe to the service.

And if you simply type “word of the day” into a search engine, you'll find additional sources for words.

– Christine Shade, Editor, shade@usc.edu

Second Careers, Publications, Personal Endeavors, and Passings

Digging in to Help: Lynn Gill, emeritus professor of marketing and logistics, reports that her volunteer activity at the present is the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, where she's currently the treasurer on the Board of Trustees. The Garden is 87 acres under LA County Parks and Recreation. "After Prop 13 budget cuts," she writes, "the Foundation provides volunteer help with volunteer gardens, with over 125 volunteers at work. The Foundation also raises funds for the Garden and assists with its management."

Sharing Their Expertise: Many retired faculty members have been called upon for their comments on news topics in recent months, including:

David Eggenschwiler (English) wrote an ironic op-ed for the *L.A. Times* about the U.S. Senate's vote to establish English as the national language.

Eggenschwiler wondered just which English the politicians were referring to – the English, say, of Walter Cronkite, or Valley Girl lilt, or various dialects spoken south of the Mason-Dixon Line?



The late **Eberhardt Reichtin** (engineering) was profiled in an *Investor's Business Daily* article about his career accomplishments. Reichtin, who died in April, led the development of space communications and later in his career started a systems architecture program at the USC Viterbi School

Malcolm Klein (sociology) was quoted in a *L.A. Times* story about Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca's pledge to wipe out street gangs in the county. Klein called that promise "ridiculous," noting that few of these programs have been successful, and some, he said, have "made things worse."

Robert Tranquada (medicine) was quoted in a *L.A. Times* story about the continued work of the LAPD reform panel, the Christopher Commission. Tranquada, a member of the commission, said that the most important reforms, "those involving governance issues, have been implemented."

Hugh Hurt (safety science) told *USC Today* that since high gasoline prices have boosted the sales of motorcycles, new riders should learn safe practices. And he commented first in the *Pittsburg Tribune-Review* then in the *L.A. Times* on whether a standard helmet would have lessened the injuries a football player received in a motorcycle accident, and on a study which found that motorcycle deaths in Los Angeles County increased 67 percent between 1999 and 2003. "It's just like with any form of recreational activity," Hurt said. "You need to go into it with your eyes wide open about what the risks are, and do what you can to minimize those risks."

Jerald Jellison (psychology) was quoted in the *New York Times* and the *Christian Science Monitor* on job searches. Jellison recommended that job seekers manage their emotions, set small goals, reward themselves, and stay focused. And he recommended waiting for the "sting of rejection" to pass before committing to another option.

And kudos to **Clive Grafton** (education) who was interviewed for an article that appeared in the August, 2006, issue of *Forbes* (Japan issue) on the value of distance learning in an international setting. He was also interviewed by *The Japan Times* and *The Daily Yomiuri* for articles that appeared in July on the same topic.

In Memoriam: We honor and mourn our university colleagues who have recently died. Those who were recorded by press time, and whose names have not been noted in previous newsletters, are: *Ramon D. Buckley (medicine|biochemistry); Edgar Ewing (fine arts); Howard Hickman; Frances Johann (auxiliary services|bookstore); Helen Martin (medicine); Charles Metzger (English); Helen Northen (social work); D. Cameron Paschall (pharmacy); James Ratchford (facilities management); Claire Shaw (medicine|pediatrics); Mortimer Welkowitz (medicine); John Winkley (medicine|surgery), and Jay Zorn (music|music education).*

If you know of colleagues we have missed, please contact the Emeriti Center at (213) 740-8921, or send an e-mail to <emeriti@usc.edu>

USC Emeriti Center Fall Events

For more information about these events, please call (213) 740-7122 or e-mail emeriti@usc.edu (some events may have a different reservation number)

- Sept. 11 (Monday):** SRA General Meeting
Sponsor: SRA. See article on page 7 for details. Reservations required.
- Sept. 13 (Wednesday):** “USC in the Neighborhood,” a book presentation by Curtis Roseman, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Gerontology Aud. Sponsors: RFA and SRA. Books will be available for purchase and signing. See page 7 for details.
- Sept. 19 (Tuesday):** “Retirement Distribution Options Q&A” (HSC) 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Herklotz Seminar Room. Sponsors: USC Emeriti Center and USC Benefits Office
- Sept. 21 (Thursday):** “Retirement Distribution Options Q&A” (UPC) 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., Gerontology Aud. Sponsors: USC Emeriti Center and USC Benefits Office.
- Sept. 28 and Oct. 26 (Thursday):** USC Retiree Book Club 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., GER 219. RSVP to Eileen and Glenn Hamor, at (310) 645-9453.
- Sept. 29 (Friday) to Dec. 11 (Friday)** A Guided Autobiography course with Jim Birren. (See article at right. Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reservations required.
- Oct. 24 (Tuesday):** Medicare Part D Update 10 a.m. to Noon, Gerontology Aud. Sponsors: SRA and RFA (For details, see page 1).
- Nov. 1 (Wednesday) and Nov. 2 (Thursday):**
The Emeriti Center’s Annual Phone Campaign
- Nov. 16 (Thursday):** Provost’s Faculty Recognition Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., USC Town & Gown. Sponsors: RFA and Office of the Provost. Reservations required.
- Dec. 4 (Monday):** SRA General Meeting and Holiday Party, 11:30 a.m., GER 224

This Is Your Life!

USC’s Emeriti Center is pleased to offer a course on autobiography writing conducted by Dr. James Birren, founding dean of the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology.

The course consists of nine Friday sessions from Sept. 29 through Dec. 1 (no meeting Nov. 24), from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Rm. 244 of the Andrus Gerontology Center.

There is a \$50 fee to cover materials and light beverages.

Dr. Birren will use a method he developed – the Guided Autobiography Method (GAB) – to help individuals recall, organize and share life experiences.

His program uses a combination of writings and group discussions to organize and put into words the details of participants’ lives.

Space is limited to the first 24 persons who respond. To confirm your space, please RSVP to the Emeriti Center via phone or e-mail by calling 213-740-7122 or emeriti@usc.edu. Arrangements will then be made for payment.

Visit this link for more information about this course: <http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/stories/12396.html>

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to find out more about.

The Emeriti Center Retiree Community Newsletter is a publication devoted to news and articles of importance to the USC Emeriti Center, Emeriti Center College, Retired Faculty Association, and Staff Retirement Association.

The Emeriti Center, an advocate and active supporter of USC retirees since 1978, celebrates 28 years of service.

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