

Retiree Community Newsletter

January 2013

USC contributes to AROHE's 10th anniversary conference

Last October, a USC team played key roles at the AROHE Conference (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. AROHE Executive Director **Janette C. Brown**, executive director of USC's

Emeriti Center, co-chaired the conference, presented AROHE survey research, and conducted a pre-conference workshop. She was also instrumental in the American Council on Education's (ACE) participation at the conference and in their joining AROHE as an institutional member. **Bob Scales**, EC associate director, and **Diana Seyb**, EC communications and project coordinator, managed the conference oversight and registration with grace and professionalism; and AROHE Vice President **Jerry Walker**, EC College director, participated as a conference convener.

The AROHE conference was inspirational, informative, and collegial. Three culturally different universities sponsored the conference: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; North Carolina Central University; and North Carolina State University. For three nights, a different campus hosted a unique cultural dining experience. They showcased the President's home, two campuses, two art museums, delicious Southern food, student and retiree singing groups, a jazz group, elegant strings and harpsichord, and offered gracious Southern hospitality throughout. Every morning before the conference, many conference attendees willingly arrived early to network with colleagues over breakfast.

Trudier Harris, Professor of English, University of Alabama and Professor Emerita, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was the conference's keynote speaker who discussed "Outer Space, Inner Space, Creative Space: Riffing on Retirement"

"The keynote speaker was inspirational," said Brown. "She was bold and informative and she put many superb ideas into wonderful context."

The entire conference was packed with useful information, innovative ideas, and enough diverse content to keep everyone engaged. The 2012 AROHE conference can claim superb evaluations, highly qualified speakers and panelists, and the collegiality of the conference participants. Those in attendance were retired faculty and staff from the U.S. and Canada, retiree organization directors, and college administrators representing campus offices such as alumni, benefits, development, and human resources.

For many years, the USC Emeriti Center has played a key leadership role in AROHE. It was the late USC Professor Emeritus **Paul Hadley's** vision to gather colleagues from the United States and Canada to discuss the importance of campus-based retiree organizations, how to establish them, and how to support colleagues who value the contributions of retired faculty and staff.

Hadley began in 1984 with a survey of public and private universities conducted by the USC Emeriti Center and then invited 10 institutions to the "West Coast Conference on Retirement in Colleges and Universities" in 1985. AROHE became a nonprofit organization in 2002 when Paul Hadley became its president and established the association's secretariat within the USC Emeriti Center. ■



Photo credit: Larry Sawyer

Bob Scales, associate director, and Diana Seyb, communications, USC Emeriti Center.

SAVE THE DATES

28th Annual SRA Recognition Luncheon

Thursday, March 21

Town & Gown, 11:30 a.m.

If you retired in 2012, you'll receive an invitation to the Annual Staff Retirement Association Recognition Luncheon to be held on Thursday, March 21, 2013, at Town & Gown. Invitations will be sent out in February. Be sure to RSVP by the deadline, so that you may be recognized by the USC SRA as a retiree. We hope to see all 2012 staff retirees at the luncheon.

Feb. 22 is the deadline for nominations for the J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC, which will be presented at the luncheon. ■

On **Friday, April 19** the Emeriti Center is holding a Hearing Education Symposium in the GERO Aud. from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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USC leads in higher education by valuing retired faculty and staff

As we begin 2013, we are thankful for the many USC retiree leaders and campus colleagues who have made 2012 our most successful year to date. Our USC retirees are a priceless and valued resource for many projects and initiatives, and their unselfish willingness to share time, expertise, and gifts has inspired us and helped us to develop new as well as ongoing programs and resources.

At the AROHE Conference in October, I conducted a workshop for 16 colleagues from around the U.S. who are creating campus retiree organizations. A few attendees were from existing associations but needed ideas to develop them. Listening to the workshop attendees reminded me how much we appreciate the vision of the USC leaders who in 1978 established the

Emeriti Center and the support that we continue to receive from our President and Provost. Our center and the Emeriti Center College are far ahead of what most universities are currently doing. As a leader in the field of retiree organizations, USC shares what we have learned with colleagues from other universities through our AROHE connection. In turn, AROHE members provide many interesting and successful practices that we customize to benefit USC.

There is a growing trend in higher education to value retired faculty and staff. Promoting this trend, the AROHE President, Sue Barnes (University of California, Irvine), and I will be speaking at the March Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) conference in San Francisco. We will

present findings from AROHE surveys and describe successful practices at USC and UCI (both ACE/Sloan Award Winners). Through our survey research, we know what other colleges and universities are doing for their retirees, and this helps the Emeriti Center ensure that it is doing everything it can to remain at the “cutting edge” of university retiree practices in North America. This both secures USC’s position as the leader in this field and benefits our entire USC retiree community. ■



Janette C. Brown

Janette C. Brown,
Executive Director
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Hearing Education Symposium hosts experts on April 19

The USC Emeriti Center, House Research Institute, USC Davis School of Gerontology, and USC Disability Services and Programs are partnering to host a one-day **April 19** Hearing Education Symposium in the USC Andrus Gerontology Center Auditorium. The Symposium will offer three panels, a box lunch in the Gerontology Courtyard, and exhibits on various hearing technologies, audiology, and other hearing related entities.

A panel of experts will discuss: types of hearing loss,

treatments, research and technological advances, support for the hearing impaired, how hearing loss affects relationships, useful coping strategies, advocacy, and assistive listening devices and resources.

All are welcome to attend: the inquisitive lay person, individuals who have a friend or loved one with hearing loss, or those who are experiencing hearing loss.

To register, visit our web site: emeriti.usc.edu. ■



Global intergenerational programs are in development

A mentoring initiative linking retired faculty and staff with USC international students is being planned in cooperation with the International Students’ Assembly.

The first intergenerational program is scheduled for **Feb. 12** with an evening reception sponsored by the USC Emeriti Center for interested students and retired staff and faculty. The event will also begin Global Culture Month sponsored by the ISA that will involve the roughly 20 USC student nationality clubs which plan and carry out separate and joint cultural and informational programs during the month. The annual campus-wide International Food Fair will also take place during February.

The retiree community effort is being called: Trojan Global Intergenerational Friends (TGIF, how’s that for an acronym!), is being planned by a steering committee of **Jack Wills, Cynthia**

Berne and Phoebe Liebig of the RFA, and **David Tool** and **Dixon Johnson** of the SRA. This activity takes advantage of USC’s prominence as the top American university enrolling the most international students. Also it fits nicely with the USC Strategic Vision concept of “Connecting the Individual to the World.”

It is envisioned that future activities will match up interested retirees with international students for activities such as tutoring, English conversation, American cultural information-sharing, serving as companions for outings to nearby southern California attractions, and home hospitality visits.

If you are interested in learning more about TGIF, please contact Dixon Johnson or Phoebe Liebig (see page 3). More specific information will be provided as the dates and scope of events are determined. ■

The RFA had a busy Fall

The RFA Board thanks our 755 members and spouses/partners for contributing to your association's operations, endowment and Caldwell Scholars. Between that support and a special budget item, more than \$7,000 was allocated to the Scholars program. The RFA also donated \$2,000 to USC's Good Neighbors Campaign. Fall activities included three Sherry Hours focused on U.S. politics, present and past, and the Middle East; attendance by nearly 25 retirees en bloc at a Visions & Voices medical ethics lecture on overtreatment and unnecessary care; and a regional travel adventure to Sequoia (see page 9). At the Provost's lunch for retirees, a "green card" of RFA Programs & New Initiatives was distributed. The same information can be found on our website: www.rfa.usc.edu. If you have questions, please contact us at rfa@usc.edu or by U.S. mail. We welcome your interest and participation.

A very special tour of the Fisher Museum show, "A Complex Weave: Women and Identity," was led by staffer **Ariadni Liokatis**. The attendees were excited about the exhibit and learning more about the museum. The RFA plans to arrange a tour of the permanent collection in the spring, three more Sherry Hours and other Visions & Voices programs.

The RFA continued to collaborate with the SRA and Emeriti Center on two events: Homecoming and the Holiday Party, as well as the TGIF program (see page 2) and the implementation of the ACE/Sloan Grant program. On a sad note, the USC retiree community mourns the passing of **Bob Baker**, former RFA president. His wise counsel and insights will be sorely missed. Looking ahead to 2014, we'll reach a major RFA milestone, our 65th anniversary! To prepare for this celebration, we are inaugurating the RFA history/archives project. Any RFA member, including former Board members and officers, are urged to send any information/reminiscences to **Bob Stallings** at rstallin@usc.edu. In the meantime, we hope your holidays were happy and we look forward to seeing you in the spring. ■

Phoebe Liebig, RFA President
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rfa.usc.edu

Our Newest Staff Member

We are pleased to announce that Trojan Encore temp, **Diana Seyb** is now an official USC Emeriti Center staff member! Congratulations to all of us for securing an experienced and talented Communications and Project Coordinator. To reach Diana: seyb@usc.edu (213) 740-7424. ■



Left, Phoebe Liebig
Right, Dixon Johnson



SRA accomplishments: recent and future

What a terrific year for the SRA! Let me share some accomplishments with you:

- **Membership Growth:** Our data manager **Dick Martin** reports that the SRA has 642 paid members, 71 more than last year. The SRA Board thanks our chair of recruitment and renewal, **Sue Edwin** for doing a terrific job of attracting new members and keeping active members engaged.

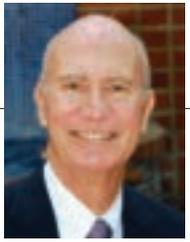
- **Outstanding Programs:** We had a sold-out day trip to JPL (see page 7); Fall's meeting featured a talk on the history of L.A. by retired Law School administrator **Tom Tomlinson**, attended by more than 60 members; and the joint EC, RFA, and SRA December Holiday Party was a terrific program to end the year.

In 2013 we will look at new ways to involve the retiree community and to serve the interests of USC. The new TGIF program described on page 2 is a way to further cross-cultural intergenerational understanding by encouraging and enabling USC retirees and international students to learn about, and from, one another. It also furthers USC's goal of connecting our students with the world – in this case, connecting international students with us!

We want to find ways for current and retired employees living in the immediate campus communities to better access services offered by the USC Departments of Public Safety and Fire Safety Services. While both units have as their primary mission protecting university students and facilities, they can benefit from staff members' knowledge of these neighborhoods while also serving the concerns of USC employee and retiree residents. Such closer connections can benefit all.

As we look to the future, I invite you to become more involved with your Board. We need volunteers now to help compile the history of the SRA. The Emeriti Center has lots of photos of SRA events and related materials that require cataloging to be safely preserved for posterity. I hope to hear from you about this opportunity! ■

Dixon C. Johnson, SRA President
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sra.usc.edu



Jerry Walker

Coming soon to your neighborhood

The USC Emeriti Center College has been offering classes and a series of lectures in Brentwood, San Marino, Irvine and South Pasadena for the past two years to bring continuing education and enrichment opportunities closer to your neighborhood. On-campus and off-campus classes are listed separately on the enclosed course list to allow you to decide what is most convenient.

The Retired Faculty Association, has secured maps showing where retired USC widows and widowers are living.



Speaker Edward Kleinbard, professor, Gould School of Law, addresses attendees at the Skirball Cultural Center lecture series, "American Politics: Hot Button Issues," co-sponsored by the USC Emeriti Center College. Kleinbard spoke about "Federal Tax Policy: Who Should Pay?"

Large clusters are located in Santa Monica/Beverly Hills to the west, Pasadena/South Pasadena to the east, and the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Orange County to the south. A similar map showing where all retired USC staff and faculty members reside will be created soon. We want to provide programs that are accessible to everyone.

For residents of the West Side communities, we have been offering the Great Decisions lecture series on major international crises given by USC faculty at the Skirball Cultural Center. For residents in the Pasadena area, we have been offering the East Asian Gardens Lecture Series at The Huntington Library and the History of Los Angeles at the Senior Citizens' Foundation of South Pasadena. For residents in Orange County, we have been offering the Great American Songwriters lectures at the USC Orange County Center in Irvine.

Please tell us what kinds of programs you want us to provide in YOUR neighborhood. If your neighborhood is being overlooked, we need your help finding a community organization to host our programs. ■

Jerry Walker, Director
USC Emeriti Center College
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Half Century Trojans "Going Back to College Day"

This **February 27** event provides an annual opportunity for Half Century Trojans to return to campus on a typical school day to engage in academic, cultural and spirit-related activities. The USC Emeriti Center College speakers often contribute to the array of classroom lectures. For more information visit: alumni.usc.edu/groups/age/hct.html ■

Forum on Global Change meets monthly at Honors House

This intergenerational group meets monthly to discuss international issues. USC retirees are welcome. Spring meetings will be held on Thursdays, **Feb. 7, March 7** and **April 11**. The following individuals attended the Nov. 15 Forum: of USC retirees, faculty, staff, and students (L to R) **Martin Gawecki** (Graduate Student in Electrical Engineering), **Mike Bertch** (Undergraduate in Economics and History), **Howard Saperston** (Registrar Emeritus), **Jim Moore** (Prof. of Industrial and Systems Engr, and Public Policy, Resident Faculty at Honors House), **John Wills** (Prof. Emeritus, History), **Christin Thompson** (alumnae, Ph.D. Student in Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy), **Rachel Jones** (Undergraduate in Political Science and Archaeology), **Benjamin Graham** (Assist. Prof., International Relations, Resident Faculty at Trojan Hall), **Charlotte Furth** (Prof. Emerita, History), Julie Albright (Research Scientist, Information Sciences Institute, Resident Faculty at Founders Hall), and **Diana O'Brien** (Assist. Prof., Political Science). ■



Provost's luncheon celebrates 2011-2012 faculty retirees

The figures at the Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon are always impressive: 58 newly retired faculty members had served a total of 1,563 years at USC, in a dozen different schools, from one in the USC Rossier School of Education to 24 in the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Close to two dozen honorees and family members attended the annual event on Nov. 13 in Town & Gown, along with administrators and retired faculty. More than 120 attended.

Phoebe Liebig, Retired Faculty Association (RFA) President, greeted the 2011-2012 honorees, welcoming them into the growing family of USC retirees, noting that "The retired faculty family is thriving!" She invited them to join the RFA and to look into opportunities and initiatives they could become involved in.

William Petak, president-elect of the RFA, said the average length of service for the 2011-2012 retirees was slightly more than 27 years, with one faculty retiree having served 50 years, and another for 49 years. "It's important that we invite these members to continue their support of the university by becoming an active member of the Retired Faculty Association," he added.

Elizabeth Garrett, Provost and Senior Vice President, expressed her

appreciation for the commitment to education and the university that the retirees had shown over their years of service.

"Today, we honor your careers and your contributions that have helped shape USC into a world-class institution that has grown steadily in academic renown and societal influence," said Garrett. "You reflect the virtues of respect and commitment to service that are part of USC's DNA. As valued colleagues, you are always welcome."

Janette C. Brown, executive director of the USC Emeriti Center, also welcomed the new faculty retirees, noting that they automatically become members of the Emeriti Center with all of its attendant benefits, such as the Gold Card, which provides valuable parking privileges and more.

Brown presented the 2012 Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC to Emeritus Professor **Robert E. Coffey**, who retired in 1998 from the Department of Organization and Management in the USC Marshall School of Business (see page 8).

The luncheon is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and hosted by the USC Retired Faculty Association and the USC Emeriti Center. ■



Photo: Maricela Hinojosa

Faculty retirees and administrators who attended the luncheon included, Front row (L to R): USC Emeriti Center Executive Director Janette C. Brown; Timothy M. Chan; Shan-Rong Shi; Marsha Kinder; Peter Marsh; Vice Provost and Senior Advisor to the Provost Marty Levine; Retired Faculty Association President Phoebe Liebig; Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Garrett; Anna M.

Pattison; and Ronald F. Hock. Middle row (L to R): Nora L. Hamilton; George M. Simpson; Daniel Levy; Alvin B. Rosenblum; Calvin Lau; Elaine Anderson; and H. Edward Ransford. Back row (L to R): Steven Tudor Charles; Michel Baudry; Allan V. Abbott; Henry R. Cheeseman; and Frank X. Acosta. At the luncheon, but not pictured: Fernando Torres-Gil; Kathryn Rich; and Chester A. Newland. For a list of all 2011-2012 faculty retirees go to: <http://rfa.usc.edu>.

An Editor's Thoughts

A month or so ago there was an unusual blackout in my neighborhood. In the 30+ years I've lived in the San Fernando Valley, I've been lucky, because when the lights have gone out it's never been for more than a few minutes. But this time power was out for two hours.

I was proud of myself that I could walk in the dark to the door where I'd hung a small flashlight on the knob (there's also one in my auto's glove box), and I knew where my crank-operated NOAA radio was, as well as my camping lantern (by the back door).

This worked well for this short-term power outage (I read a novel using a flashlight), but it also reminded me that the anniversaries of L.A. area earthquakes I experienced of 1971 and 1994 are in January and February, so it's a fine time to remind myself to refresh my earthquake kits. Do I have sufficient water and food for myself and my dog for a week or more? Do I keep the gas tank in my car filled to the halfway point? Do I have a supply of small bills in order to purchase goods (ice?) at stores that will have no electricity and won't be able to make change? Do I have a landline that might work when cell service isn't available? Have I designated an out-of-state person to be a contact for information?

There are various sources to help folks be prepared prior to a big earthquake, including: emergencyprep.usc.edu, ready.gov/earthquakes, and/or fire.lacounty.gov/safetypreparedness/safetypreearthquake. Take a look at

these sites while it's quiet and the coast is clear – you'll be glad you did. ■



– **Christine Shade**, shade@usc.edu

Humor from the tech guy

As someone who wishes there were room for some humor and other offbeat items in this newsletter, I will devote this column this time to that end. These are from the latest Signals (signals.com) catalog.

- Every time you call Tech Support, a butterfly dies.
- No, I don't know what's wrong with your computer.
- Let's eat Grandma. Let's eat, Grandma. (Commas save lives!)
- LISTEN & SILENT have the same letters. Coincidence?
- Who says nothing is IMPOSSIBLE? I have been doing nothing ALL DAY!
- A shelter dog rescued this family.
- I'm on the endangered species waiting list.
- I dream of a society where a chicken can cross the road without its motives being questioned.
- Earth without ART is just "eh"
- KNOWLEDGE is knowing a tomato is a fruit. WISDOM is not putting it in a fruit salad.

80-year old Cynthia bursts into the rec room at the retirement home. She holds her clenched fist in the air and announces, "Anyone who can guess what's in my hand can have sex with me tonight!" (For the punchline to this joke, go to www.winesland.net/sra/ and click on the Senior Humor tab). ■

— Len Wines
wines@usc.edu

IN MEMORIAM

We honor and mourn our university colleagues who have died. Those whose names were recorded at press time, and who were not noted in previous newsletters, are:

Robert Lee Baker (education); Luanne Clayton, spouse of Tyrus Ross Clayton (public policy); Herman Haymond (radiology), spouse/Patricia; Kathleen Johnson (pharmacy); Ernest Koenker (history), spouse/Bernadette; Gregson Dwaine Lawrence (pharmacy); Denis Mitchell (psychology); David A. Peterson (gerontology); Irving S. Reed (electrical engineering); and Philip J. Stephens (chemistry). ■

Festival of Books returns to USC!

If you love books, reading, or listening to fiction and non-fiction authors speak about their works, the Festival of Books is for you and your family. USC is the venue again for the "L.A. Times Festival of Books," taking place on campus the weekend of April 20-21. The Festival kicks off its 18th annual event, held for the third time at USC. For general info, and how to obtain tickets to special events and panels on the campus, go to latimesfestivalofbooks.com as the event date nears. ■

In The News

- *The Los Angeles Times* ran an op-ed about the life and career of the late professor emeritus **Norman Corwin** (USC Annenberg School) who was known as the "poet laureate of radio." "Generations ahead of ours will discover his work and delight in it, and think, as we now do of people like Mark Twain, 'Oh, I wish I had known him,'" the column stated.
- *The Star-Telegram* quoted **Stephen Krashen**, professor emeritus (education), about the link between kids' reading proficiency and information retention.
- *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, and the *AP* reported that a gift from philanthropist Glorvina Kaufman will establish the USC Glorvina Kaufman School of Dance, the first new endowment-funded school to be created at USC in nearly 40 years. Kaufman's donation will support all aspects of the school, including hiring faculty, designing a curriculum, and constructing a new building.

An avocation as research

RFA President/gerontologist **Phoebe Liebig** was at the Gerontological Society of America in San Diego in November. Her presentation, "Memento mori: Celebration and Lament in Renaissance Music," was an analysis of commemorative songs written by four generations of Franco-Flemish composers to eulogize their colleagues/teachers/mentors. "This allowed me to use my avocation (singing medieval and Renaissance choral music) as the basis for a new area of research," said Liebig.

Brown to speak at CASE

In March, EC Executive Director **Janette Brown** will speak at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) conference in San Francisco.

Gathering at the theatre

In December, **Bob Scales, Diana Seyb, Janette Brown, Shawn Herz, Mike and Skip Halloran**, attended the East West Players world-premiere musical of "Tea with Music" along with **Dick Martin** who managed the outing. Before the show the group had lunch with USC professor and playwright, **Velina Hasau Houston** who wrote the musical and its lyrics based on her 1987 play, which focuses on five Japanese "war brides" in Kansas. ■



It was a Cardinal & Gold Social

An Emeriti Center Regional Social was held in October, hosted by USC Davis School Dean Emeritus, **James "Jim" Birren**, at University Village in Thousand Oaks. The Social was well attended by USC retirees and USC alumni alike. Many attendees wore cardinal and gold attire which went well with the USC decorations, which included USC decorated cupcakes for dessert. Jim (at far left) spoke for a few minutes about change over the past decade and introduced a couple



Photo credit: Janette Brown

preparing to celebrate their 80th wedding anniversary. Jim and **Betty Birren** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last December. ■

New Textbook is Celebrated in India

USC Professor Emerita **Vivian Churness** and Dr. **Leah Macaden** published a textbook, "Nursing Management Concepts and Skills", in Chennai, India, funded in part with a grant from the USC Emeriti Center's Kenneth and Eileen Norris Foundation research fund. The book was released by Mr. P.K. Pradhan, Secretary of Health and Family Welfare in the Government of India, at a national nurses' conference in New Delhi in October 2012. Churness and Macaden wrote the textbook at the request of the South India Board of Nursing Education of the Christian Medical Association of India. Churness wrote, "This book has been a labour of love by many people, all working as volunteers so that this book may be affordable for many." It will be used in educational programs for General Nurse Midwifery and Bachelor of Science degrees throughout India. ■

Roving around JPL made for a great day

The SRA Day Trip to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena in September to view the facility and the mock up of the Mars rover Curiosity was immensely successful, with 37 in attendance. Before arriving at JPL, we had lunch at the Hill St. Café. At JPL we first viewed a film about the history of CalTech, JPL and NASA and had a presentation about the earlier space craft models on display before climbing a flight of stairs to an upper level where we could look down on the mock up of the Mars rover in the sand pile area which is used to troubleshoot problems the rover might encounter. Later, as we sat in the observation area we saw live material incoming from Curiosity and then viewed the "clean room" where the space crafts are sterilized and assembled before launch.

Almost three dozen people were on this Day Trip's reserve/wait list, so I've scheduled a JPL 2 trip for June, where hopefully we'll get to go to the Museum, which we missed this time because of time constraints.

On April 6, we'll attend the School of Dramatic Arts musical, "The Most Happy Fella." See Calendar on page 12. ■

— **Dick Martin**, dickmar@msn.com



Photo credit: Bob Church

SUCCESSFUL AGING

Clutter! It is easy to accumulate a lot of "stuff" after living in the same home for many years. So what to do? There are at least two approaches: hire a professional organizer or bite the bullet yourself. Here are a few pointers for the latter.

1. **Select a date.** Make an appointment with yourself to get started.
2. **Find an organizer buddy.** If motivation is an issue, find a buddy.
3. **Evaluate.** Determine what is working and what is not. The file system may work but the space is inadequate.
4. **Sort and gather "like with like" items.** That might be paper work, clothing or kitchen items.
5. **Make a decision.** Decide to keep, donate, toss...or if unsure, a maybe pile. In combining like items you may find that you have duplicates that make tossing easier. If you can't part with something, think about donating the item or giving it to someone who can use it. The act of tossing often starts a positive momentum.
6. **Contain the materials.** Purchase or use appropriate containers, cabinets and files for the items. And use labels.
7. **Schedule periodic maintenance.** If the system is not working, tweak it until it does.

To find a professional organizer near you, go to the National Organization of Professional Organizers (NAPO) <http://www.napo.net/> or the Institute for Challenging Disorganization at www.challengingdisorganization.org.

English artist and writer William Morris offered some good advice (paraphrased): Have nothing in your home that is not useful or beautiful. ■



— **Helen Dennis**,
Specialist on aging,
employment and the new
retirement, helendenn@aol.com

Robert E. Coffey receives Faculty Award for Service to USC

Professor Emeritus **Robert E. Coffey** was presented with the 2012 Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC at the Nov. 13 Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon.

Janette C. Brown, USC Emeriti Center Executive Director, presented Coffey with the coveted award.

"Bob Coffey deserves an enormous amount of credit for expanding and strengthening the spirit of unity within the USC retirement community," said Brown, "and he is held in high regard by all his colleagues."

Coffey was touched by the honor. "When I first heard I was going to receive this award," said Coffey, "I was greatly humbled and delighted. I knew Paul Hadley, and I feel honored to be associated with his name. I have a great deal of affection and respect for the RFA and the Emeriti Center."

Since his 1998 retirement from the Department of Organization and Management in the USC Marshall School of Business, Coffey has been an important contributor to the quality of life and the positive collegial spirit for USC faculty and staff retirees.

Coffey joined the Retired Faculty Association (RFA) immediately after retiring, and as RFA president in 2005 he fostered collaboration among the RFA,



Photo credit: Marcela Hinojosa

Janette Brown and Bob Coffey

the Staff Retirement Association (SRA) and the USC Emeriti Center. He asked the SRA to consider inviting retired faculty to the SRA's annual holiday celebration. The joint holiday party began a tradition of cooperation that continues today.

To assure even greater inclusiveness, Coffey proposed having the two retiree association presidents sit as ex-officio members of the other's board, a practice which both boards approved and still continue. This led to joint programs and events that have benefited all USC retirees. Both presidents also sit on the executive committee of the Emeriti Center.

When Coffey chaired the President's

Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award committee in 2006, he significantly improved the process of evaluating and ranking applicants.

Coffey has also been instrumental in supporting Brown as executive director of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). To support Brown in her complex dual administrative role, he has served as volunteer treasurer of AROHE for the past four years, providing timely financial reports and sound advice to Brown and members of the AROHE Board. In another typical display of generosity, Coffey hosted a 2011 AROHE strategic planning retreat at his home.

Currently, Coffey co-chairs the RFA's Outreach Committee to extend social support to widows and widowers. He helped in the development of the Emeriti Center booklet, "Upon the Death of a Loved One," that assists surviving spouses and partners. When the Center sought to connect retired faculty and staff throughout the vast L.A. metropolitan area, he hosted the first EC Regional Social in his home.

"His infectious smile and warmth make him an ideal host," said Brown. "He personifies the USC Emeriti Center's motto: Colleagues for Life." ■

USC retirees invite international students for Thanksgiving



Joining Bob Scales, Dean Emeritus, School of Dramatic Arts, at his home near USC, were Chinese students, (L to R) Yuxin Zhang (pharmacy), Meng Dai (policy, planning and development), and Dengke Li (engineering) and Scales. Also at the dinner were the Emeriti Center's Diana Seyb, and her daughter Casey.

Last year the SRA and the RFA were actively involved in increasing retiree involvement in the Office of International Services' Thanksgiving Match-Up Program. "This year we were identified as 'awesome' by program coordinator, Becky Peterson," said SRA President Dixon Johnson who hosted three students from India along with his wife, Carrie Jo. More than 180 students were placed with 63 families. The retiree community was crucial in bringing in 23 hosts and making the program available to more international students than ever before. ■

From left: Dixon Johnson; Prasanth Koganti (civil engineering); Pallav Rustogi, (computer science); and Keerthi Channegowda, (computer science).



Benefactor Recognition

Through the Emeriti Center's Benefactor Recognition Program, we thank those who have recognized honored colleagues, friends, and family with a \$500 or more contribution:

Donor

Leonard R. Wines

Honoree

Senator Bernie Sanders

A primer on USC Senior Care

USC Senior Care is a program for faculty and staff who are no longer employed by the university. To be eligible you must have worked for USC in a benefits-eligible capacity and have both Medicare Part A and Part B. (You will also want to enroll in Part D, the Medicare prescription drug program). USC Senior Care supplements Medicare and covers all of the co-payments and deductibles if you seek care from Keck Medical Center of USC doctors and hospitals. If you see non-Keck providers *anywhere in the United States* who accept Medicare Assignment, Senior Care pays all but a combined (Part A and Part B) deductible of \$200 per calendar year and a 2% co-insurance. Senior Care also includes dental and vision benefits. The \$195/person/month premium continues for the fifth consecutive year. Spouses and registered domestic partners are also eligible. You must submit your application at least thirty (30) days in advance of the month in which you would like to be effective and you may dis-enroll in USC Senior Care and re-enroll at a later time. ■

– Lisa Macchia

Multi-day trip includes Sequoia, big cats and a monastery

In October, Emeriti Center enjoyed a three-night trip to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Part of a larger group, they traveled by bus from Long Beach on a tour conducted by Good Times Travel. They stayed at Wonder Valley Ranch, located outside the Parks. The setting was scenic, the rooms well appointed, the food quite satisfactory, and the weather was perfect.

The first full day began with a visit to a fascinating Cat Haven, the home of numerous exotic cats including jaguars, tigers, lions and other species. Lunch and the afternoon were spent at a Greek Orthodox Conference Center and monastery. The second day was spent in the Parks with a trip into Kings Canyon for lunch by Grizzly Falls and a tour of the impressive Grant's Grove of giant sequoias.

Another multi-day tour is being planned for the Spring. ■

– Art Donovan, RFA, Chair, Retired Faculty and Staff Benefits and Resources Committee

Trojan Encore successes

Through Trojan Encore, recent retirees have signed up for part-time or short-term positions at USC. And now we have even more hiring managers requesting access to retiree resumes. A successful outcome is the hiring of three of our "Encore" retirees as "regular" USC employees – two for full-time positions and one for an 80% post.

Signing up to join your Trojan Encore colleagues is simple. 1) Go to the USC Emeriti Center web page [emeriti.usc.edu]. 2) Click on the Trojan Encore button. 3) Click on "For Job Seekers." 4) Complete the application and submit.

For any questions, contact **Carole Gustin**, Trojan Encore Coordinator, at <encore@usc.edu>. ■

Sherry, colleagues, and conversation



An RFA Sherry Hour on Jan. 11 features Prof. Josh Lockman, lecturer at the USC Gould School of Law, speaking on "The U.S. and the new Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities."

The "February" Sherry Hour will actually be **March 8**, and the March Sherry Hour is on **March 22**. All take place from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Academy Room of Doheny Memorial Library.

At the RFA's November event (see photo), **Steven Ross**, Professor of History at USC, presented insights from his new book, "Hollywood Left and Right: How Movie Stars Shaped American Politics," which received a Pulitzer Prize nomination. Ross spent 10 years researching the book, personally interviewed scores of actors with political interests, and is a goldmine of information on the ways in which movie stars influence politics. Contrary to popular opinion, which thinks of Hollywood as leftward leaning, support for right-wing politicians and causes has been even stronger than support for the left, he said. Discussion was lively. Ross also spoke about his latest project, a study of support in Hollywood for the Nazi regime in the 1930's, and how other Hollywood figures attempted to expose Nazi support groups.

Sherry Hours are a wonderful venue in which to hear what some of our most distinguished colleagues are engaged in, as well as a way to get to know your retired colleagues. Whatever your taste in sheries, it's there. Or sparkling cider or Perrier for those who don't drink sherry. Join us! ■

– Jack Crossley, RFA

RFA Honors Caldwell Scholars at annual lunch

Retired Faculty Association Board members gathered to honor Caldwell Scholars in September. Each year the RFA invites the scholars for a lunch conversation about USC experiences and graduation plans. **Kaaren Hoffman** and **Victor Marshand Webb** planned the event.

Three scholars attended: **Eva Guadalupe Ortega** (center front), **Jazmin Owens**, and former scholar, **Shaveonte Graham**. Attendees also included USC administration officials: **Craig Keys**, USC Civic Engagement; **Thomas McWhorter**, Financial Aid; **Lisa Rhone**, USC Admissions; **Karen Ammons**, USC Neighborhood Academic Initiative and **Janette Brown**, USC Emeriti Center.

In honor of the late **Russell Caldwell**, professor of history, who was a resident in USC's neighborhood, USC's Office of Financial Aid and the RFA co-sponsor the Caldwell Scholars Program. ■



A jolly holiday breakfast

Retirees and friends gathered for breakfast on Dec. 5 for the USC Retirement Community 7th Annual Holiday Celebration at Town & Gown. Almost 200 connected with colleagues at the complimentary breakfast. The USC Thornton School of Music entertained the audience with Prof. **Parmer Fuller** on piano and six talented vocal students. Parmer's program about the original St. Nick – and some of the seven deadly sins – was rakishly delightful. In photo (L to R) are: **Caroline Spinola**, **Camille Alcala**, **Kathleen Porter**, **Kimberly Hessler**, **Jade Johnson**, **Haley Fletcher**, and Fuller.

Gently used professional clothing, shoes, and accessories were collected to support USC's Professional Clothing Drive benefitting residents in surrounding neighborhoods.

SRA Hospitality chair **Carolyn Watanabe** thanked those who helped arrange the event, including: **Jo Ochoa**, **Bob** and **Jeanne Church**, **Dixon Johnson**, **Phoebe Liebig**, **Mark Aliano**, **Bob Stallings**, **Ruberta Weaver**, **Jack Wills**, and the EC Staff. ■



Photo credit: Maricela Hinojosa

J. Tillman Hall Staff Award nomination deadline

The deadline to submit nominations for the USC Emeriti Center's **J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC** is **Friday, Feb. 22, 2013**. The award recognizes a retired staff member who has significantly contributed to USC after retirement. The award will be presented at the 28th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, March 21, honoring recent retired staff. For specific criteria and additional information, go to <http://emeriti.usc.edu> and click on Awards or call Gloria M. Reyes at (213) 740-8175. ■

RFA is online; send news to post

- Check out the redesigned RFA website at rfa.usc.edu. Let us know what you like and what you don't like about it at rfa@usc.edu. To see photos and other items of interest, visit our blog at uscra.blogspot.com. And, follow the RFA on Twitter @USCrfa. ■

- The RFA welcomes information from retired faculty about their continued professional activities including current research, publications and service. Please send your news to rfa@usc.edu. ■

Thank you to USC film student, Tyler Moore, who designed the EC's 2012 Holiday Card.

Question: Why Do I Need Twitter?

Answer #1: To know what's going on at USC. Sign up for a (free) Twitter account at twitter.com and begin by following the main USC account, @USC. Most university units post "tweets" (think public text messages with links to webpages), so you also can get updates from the Davis School of Gerontology (@USCDavisSchool), the Keck School (@USCHealthNews), the Thornton School (@USCThornton), Cinematic Arts (@USCCinema), and Visions and Voices (@VisionsnVouces) as well as the *Daily Trojan* (@dailytrojan), KUSC (@ClassicalKUSC), the USC Athletic Department (@USC_Athletics), plus many others.

Answer #2: To keep up with local, national, and international news. Simply follow accounts such as the *Los Angeles Times* (@latimes), KTLA Channel 5 (@KTLA), and KABC Channel 7 (@ABC7) for headlines and links to local stories and the *New York Times* (@nytimes), CNN (@CNN), the Associated Press (@AP), and Reuters (@Reuters) or dozens more for national and international news. ■

– **Robert A. Stallings**, Secretary, RFA Board of Directors

Emeriti Center survey research helps us help you

The Emeriti Center's survey research explores realities and informs us about our USC colleagues' thoughts and perceptions; and throughout the years, EC surveys have been very informative and valuable. They guide our Center leaders and they help us to better serve our USC retiree community. Recently, both **Bob Scales** and **Bob Stallings** have surveyed our retiree database to inform us about how we might be more helpful when making decisions about EC initiatives and projects (See below, 'Did you know?..'). The ACE/Sloan survey last year, although not our own, helped USC win the prestigious ACE/Sloan award. In past years, the EC has conducted senior housing surveys, volunteer surveys, and a situation and circumstances survey to inform us about our retirees' wishes, accomplishments, and activities.

Last year, we were able to assist the new Davis School Dean, **Pinchas Cohen**, with an Internet and social media survey to promote the development of digital resources for retirees. In the future, we will use data from the EC's "New Life Stage" lunch conversation initiative with **Helen Dennis** to transform her important work into a survey that will further enlighten us about how to engage and support USC colleagues over age 50.

Thank you for helping us by answering surveys when called upon. Completing our surveys is just another way that you provide valuable contributions. ■

Did you know? . . .

... that there are 1,117 retired faculty and 1,314 retired staff from USC and that most live within 60 miles of the University Park Campus (81% of staff and 75% of faculty)? Only 7 faculty retirees live outside the U.S., while no retired staff have a foreign residency.

... that the average age of USC retired faculty is 79 years and staff is 74? About 30% of faculty are 85 years of age or older as opposed to 14% of staff. Only 18% of faculty retirees are under the age of 70.

... that only 52% of all USC retirees report having an e-mail address? Retired faculty were more likely to report having e-mail addresses (70%) than were retired staff (46%).

Having an active e-mail address declines with age. This decline is more pronounced among retired staff than among retired faculty. 75% of retired faculty ages 75 through 84 had e-mail accounts compared to 56% of retired staff in the same age category; 55% of faculty retirees 85 and older had e-mail accounts compared to 40% of retired staff.

Want to keep up with EC news and change our statistics above? Send us your email address as we suspect that many of our "with it" retirees have e-mail addresses but we just don't know about them. Send your name and email address to: emeriti@usc.edu

- **Bob Stallings**, rstallin@usc.edu
- **Bob Scales**, rscales@usc.edu



Homecoming 2012

We were heartened by the large group of retirees and their family and friends who joined us under our Homecoming tent in November prior to the big game. Every year we always enjoy the delicious contributions provided by our retirees. ■

THE EC'S BOOK NOOK

"Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys, an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make This Country Work" (2012)

by Jeanne Marie Laskas

In the style of Studs Terkel, Laskas finds and listens to people we can't do without, yet know little about: We send heaps to landfills, yet know nothing of the man there who takes pride in his work or the lady working the gate who watches wildlife and writes poetry; and pass long-haul truckers on the highways moving goods we take for granted will reach their destination. Laskas also introduces us to workers on oil rigs, in migrant labor camps, at a gun shop, and in air traffic control. There's a host of people out there with families and dreams who make the world go 'round. ■

Are You Interested in an EC Book Club?

The Emeriti Center hosted a book club for many years. When our book club leaders stepped down, our club stopped its activity. There is renewed interest in having a book club again, so any interested parties should contact us about preferred days and times for a new book club. Call (213) 740-8921 or email emeriti@usc.edu and we'll keep you posted. ■

Is USC remembered in your estate plan? Please let us know!

The EC wants to thank you for your generosity during your lifetime and to understand your gift intentions. Bequest gifts made through wills and living trusts, beneficiary designations for retirement plans, and more, make a great difference; you can support special programs, honor the memory of a loved one or colleague, name a program or directorship, or help build an endowment.

For information, call: (213) 740-2682 or email: plannedgiving@usc.edu or go to: www.usc.edu/plannedgiving



RETIREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

- JANUARY:** **Tuesdays, January 29 (also Feb. 19 and March 19), 7:30 p.m.**
The Japanese Arts and Culture Lecture Series co-sponsored by the USC Emeriti Center. “Creativity as Splendid as Brocade: Chinese Letter Paper Designs and Some Japanese Parallels.”
Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino (Free)
- FEBRUARY:** **Wednesday, February 27**
Half Century Trojans “Going Back to College Day” – UPC
- MARCH:** **Fridays, March 8, March 22**
RFA Sherry Hours (see page 9)
- Thursday, March 21**
28th Annual SRA Recognition Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
- APRIL:** **Saturday, April 6** - SRA outing
USC School of Dramatic Arts musical, “The Most Happy Fella”
- Friday, April 19**
Hearing Education Symposium, 9:30 – 2:30 p.m.
USC Andrus Gerontology Center Auditorium (see page 2)
- MAY:** **Friday, May 17**
USC’s 30th Annual Commencement
- Sunday, May 19**
A 3-day, 4-night Monterey/Carmel trip. Details TBA.

USC Emeriti Center

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USC Retiree Community Newsletter

Janette C. Brown, Ed.D., Executive Director

Christine Shade, Editor

Diana Seyb, Associate Editor

Contributors: Retired Faculty Association and Staff Retirement Association members; and Emeriti Center leaders and staff.

SAVE THE DATES!

The Emeriti Center hosts a Hearing Education Symposium on **April 19** in the GERO Aud., from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A box lunch will be provided. See RSVP info on page 2.

USC Emeriti Center

USC Emeriti Center College

Enrichment Courses – Spring 2013

www.usc.edu/ecc All are welcome! RSVP: ecrsvp@usc.edu or call (213) 740-7122

On-Campus Programs: *Schedule subject to change pending room availability.

American Songbook: Singers, Bands & Disney, Multi-Media Class

(5 Sessions) USC Campus, UPC

Mondays, February 25; March 4, 11, 18; and April 1, 2013; 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Join us for *the Music of the Rat Pack, the Musical Kingdom of Walt Disney, Legendary Singing Stars, Big Hits of the Big Bands, and TV Stars of the 1950's*, and the stories about their lives that inspired the music.

Instructors: Saul H. Jacobs and Bob Lipson; **Course Fee:** \$50

Reading, Writing and Singing Poetry – (6 Sessions) USC Campus, UPC

Tuesdays, February 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 2013; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

A FUSION course that engages us in all manner of poetry-including your own-- as we EXPLORE the connections between poetry and music (aural and philosophical), read some great poems, and try our hand at some fun poetry writing.

Instructor: James Kincaid, Ph.D., Aerol Arnold Professor of English, USC; **Course Fee:** \$60

USC Book Club – (monthly) USC Campus, UPC

Co-sponsored by the USC Emeriti Center College and the USC University Club

Wednesday, February 20, 2013; 11:45 a.m. Lunch; 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Discussion

Join active and retired USC faculty, staff and students for the newly formed USC Book Club led by Beth Shube. The group will meet once a month for a no-host luncheon at the USC University Club, King Stoops Hall. Please join in the lively discussions and suggest future reading materials. Each member will be offered the opportunity to review and discuss a book which s/he has recently read or would like to read. Faculty authors are encouraged to introduce their latest books.

Discussion Leaders: Beth Shube and James Kincaid, Professor of English, USC

Reservations required: ecrsvp@usc.edu **Location:** USC University Club, 705 West 34th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90089-1541; Courtesy parking with USC Gold Card, all others \$10. **Fee:** Cost of books only. **Lunch:** \$15.50 at the Club (including tax and service).

Intergenerational Forum on Global Change – Honors House Residence

(monthly) **Thursdays, February 7; March 7; and April 11, 2013; 5:30 p.m. Dinner; 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Discussion.** Join us for great conversations about pressing contemporary issues. Active and retired professors and staff, and current USC students meet during and after dinner to discuss world events. The *Economist* (on-line) is suggested as a common source of topics and information. Dinners and discussions are free. **Reservations required:** ecrsvp@usc.edu

Location: Honors House Residence, 2710 Severance St., Los Angeles

Hosted by: Jack Wills, Ph.D., James Moore, Ph.D., and Jerry Walker, Ph.D.

Off-Campus Regional Programs:

The Huntington Library: Chinese and Japanese Garden Programs

(3 Sessions)

Tuesdays, January 29; February 19; and March 19, 2013; 7:30 p.m., Ahmanson Room

Co-sponsored by the USC Emeriti Center

Professor **Suzanne E. Wright** will speak on *Creativity as Splendid as Brocade: Chinese Letter Paper Designs and Some Japanese Parallels*. In February, curator **Karen Higa** will speak on *Ikebana and Contemporary Art*. The final lecture, *Three Laughters and Six Friends: Designing Contemporary East Asian Gardens* will be given by garden designer **Marc Keane**.

The Lecture Series is made possible by the Emeriti Center's Noboru Inamoto Endowment and the Lilia Li Charitable Trust, the Justin Vajna Memorial Fund for Educational Programs in the Chinese Garden, and The Langham Huntington Hotel.

Location: The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108; **Fee:** Free

The History of Southern California and Los Angeles: 1880–1930 (5 Sessions)

In collaboration with Navigage: Ageless Living University, Marguerite Gardens

Wednesdays, February 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 2013; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

An avid student of Los Angeles history, Dr. Tomlinson will present cameos of the people who built this great city. He will share original publications that contain their visions of the future for the vast southern California region. He also will share an extensive collection of photographs and postcards.

Instructor: Tom Tomlinson, Ph.D.

Reservations required, please contact: Mike Townsend (626) 270-3803 or mtownsend@navigage.org

Location: Marguerite Gardens, 700 N. Stoneman Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801

Fee: \$30, payable to Navigage: Ageless Living University

Guided Autobiography – USC's Orange County Center, Irvine - (10 Sessions)

Wednesdays, February 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Write nine short chapters about yourself and share stories from your life with others as a way to find new meaning, as the uncertainties, paradoxes and events of life are put into perspective. Participants will gain a fresh and richer appreciation of their lives.

Instructor: Patricia Bronzo, RN, BSN, Certified Instructor, The Birren Center for Guided Autobiographical Studies

Location: USC Orange County Center, 2300 Michelson Drive, Irvine, CA 92612; Free on-site parking. **Course Fee:** \$100

Foreign Policy Issues – Skirball Cultural Center (7 Sessions)

Thursdays, January 31; February 14, 28; March 14, 28; April 11, 25, 2013; 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

The USC Emeriti Center College in collaboration with the Skirball Cultural Center is offering a series of seven discussions with USC faculty. Topics will include *The Future of the Euro, Egypt, NATO, Myanmar and Southeast Asia, Iran, China in Africa, and Threat Assessment*.

Registration Deadline: December 26, 11:00 a.m., online, on site and by phone: Visit www.skirball.org, *Spring 2013, What's On*, and enter discount code 99753 or call (310) 440-4651 and press "2".

Fees: USC Retirees and Skirball Members \$100; General Public \$125

Location: Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., L.A., CA 90049; Free on-site parking.