

Emeriti Center

Retiree Community Newsletter

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

Health Care, Financial Confidence, Get High Marks from USC Retirees in Survey

USC supports the well being of its faculty and staff while they are working, and continues support once they are retired.

After a full year of survey research, the USC Retiree Situation and Circumstances Survey Report is available on our Web site along with an Executive Summary and statistical report.

The Executive Summary is included in this newsletter for your convenience, but we recommend that you read the full report on line. Recognizing that 64% of USC retiree respondents expressed confidence in health care and 75% noted financial confidence in retirement emphasizes USC's continuing efforts to support the well-being of USC faculty and staff during their working years and into retirement.

Efforts to promote health and financial security are evidenced

by the current programs offered by USC Office of Benefits Administration, USC Health Plans, Retirement Plans Administration, the Center for Work and Family Life, Staff Assembly, Academic Senate, the Provost's Office, USC Credit Union, and others. The USC Emeriti Center supports these efforts and works in partnership with them whenever possible.

Because of what we have learned from our Survey, we have provided more resources on line and offered special workshops throughout the year.

Our next seminar, "Making the Most of your Financial Life," will be held March 25 (see flier for more details).

USC Wants You!

With pilot program Trojan ENCORE underway, several USC units are eager for retirees to fill part-time and short-term needs. These departments understand the importance of retiree experience and highly value university expertise. USC retirees know how to get things done, know the right people to call, and understand how USC systems work.

Retirees interested in participating in Trojan ENCORE determine where and how much they want to work. All positions are less than 50% so that retirement benefits should not be affected (though we recommend checking with your financial advisor to review your own situation).

You may be one call away from picking up some extra money for that vacation you always wanted to take,

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Save the Date!

The 23rd Annual Staff Retirement Retiree Recognition Luncheon for SRA Members, 2007 Staff Retirees, and guests, takes place Thursday, March 20, at Town & Gown (11:30 a.m. check in).

Reservations Required – use reply card that was mailed to you or phone RSVPs by March 14.



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Welcome Support Comes From USC Deans and Directors

I am deeply encouraged and fortunate to have several USC deans actively supporting the EC these past few months by providing meeting locations. Space constraints increasingly impact our work and gatherings for discussion, service, learning, and socialization. We lost use of meeting space in the Andrus Gerontology Center this year and with growing EC programs, we have stretched our space almost to the limit! We are very grateful for the generous outpouring of offers to use conference space by the School of Policy, Planning, and Development, the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, USC Roybal Center, Doheny Library, and the USC Marshall School of Business. However inconvenient shifting locations is, we have enjoyed meeting in different places. A most memorable new location shift was in PPD's Lewis Hall for an RFA board meeting. Dean **Jack Knott** stopped in and shared how he gained an early appreciation of retiree expertise while researching the Federal Reserve (see page 8).



Janette Brown

We also appreciate those deans who have shown a particular interest in honoring and including their retired faculty and staff. Most recently, USC Viterbi School of Engineering Dean **Yannis Yortsos** invited retired faculty to a special holiday luncheon where he updated retirees about Viterbi initiatives and voiced appreciation for years of faculty service to USC. We understand that Deans Knott and Ellis are planning similar events (see page 6).

Trojan ENCORE, our two-year pilot program is now official! **Carole Gustin** (SRA President) is our very first Trojan ENCORE hire! Carole will develop Trojan ENCORE Web site content, coordinate Trojan ENCORE procedures with official USC policies, and assist retirees with new processes.

We are sorry to lose our Assistant Director, **Jennifer Ontai**, who left for Hawaii recently (see page 6). We appreciate all that she has done to promote the smooth operation of the EC and improve the accuracy and dependability of our retiree records and financial reporting. We wish Jennifer all the best!

The Emeriti Center's 30th Anniversary planning is moving ahead. If you have photos or remembrances about the EC, Emeriti College, SRA, RFA, or our former directors, please forward them to us. Our first kick-off event will be a joint luncheon with AROHE conference attendees on Oct. 24 in Town & Gown, so mark your calendars! We are also working with the Alumni Association for another event marking the end of our anniversary year in spring 2009.

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 with a \$500 contribution. For details on how you can participate, call 213-740-8921, or send an e-mail to <emeriti@usc.edu>.

Recent Benefactor Donation

Donor: Jo and Art Ochoa
Honoree: Josette Antonelle

AROHE Conference planning is in full swing. Again, mark your calendars as many of you will want to join us for the Conference at the Radisson Hotel Oct. 24-26. We will present our AROHE survey research about what universities are doing for their retirees, and discuss work after retirement, best practices among retiree organizations, and many other interesting topics. To encourage your colleagues around the world to take the AROHE survey and/or to come to the Conference, direct them to: www.arohe.org.

– Janette Brown, Executive Director
jcbrown@usc.edu, 213-740-7121

RFA's Caldwell Scholars Exemplify USC's Commitment to the Community

Last fall President Sample sent a brochure and letter about the university's annual Good Neighbors Campaign. Both he and his wife consider the campaign an important factor in making USC a top university and specifically in garnering *Time Magazine's* distinction to USC as School of the Year in 2000. I think we are all aware of the problems facing many in the communities surrounding USC, but these have lessened as USC has invited our neighbors to be part of the Trojan family. Many components of USC are involved with one or more of the numerous programs listed in the Good Neighbor's Campaign as well as other USC community outreach programs.

The RFA has been part of this effort through the Russell Caldwell Scholarship program. Funds donated by RFA members to the Scholarship are used to financially assist these students – from local high schools designated by the Neighborhood Academic Initiative – during their college years at USC. Caldwell scholars continue to work in their communities to find and mentor potential students.

In November, the RFA had the privilege of meeting several Caldwell scholars for breakfast. All were eager to share their experiences at USC, noting that they were the first in their families to attend college. They also commented how much it meant to them to be in a position to interact with classmates and assist younger students to become members of the Trojan family. The scholars expressed their appreciation to the RFA, and a follow-up lunch is being planned. The RFA, as part of the university, plays an active role in community outreach programs.

We look forward to seeing you at EC events in 2008.



Steb Chandor

– Steb Chandor, RFA President
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www.usc.edu/rfa

Let's Meet for Lunch! Have You Heard About Our New SRA Endowment?

March is the month in which the SRA officially welcomes new retirees from the previous year into the USC Retiree Community. The 2008 luncheon will be held March 20 in Town & Gown.

Louise Ball and her committee are busy finalizing the arrangements.

Thanks to Senior Vice President

Todd Dickey who provides most of the funds for this event. Hope to see you there.

In November 2007, the SRA Board of Directors voted to open a USC endowment account for the Association. An endowment account provides a means to “grow” a source of income in perpetuity. The “corpus” (initial contribution) can never be spent, but can be increased by annual contributions. USC endowments have averaged a growth of 12.6% between 2003 and 2006, much higher than most investments. The annual “spendable” amount will increase as the “corpus” increases. At the end of each fiscal year, the endowment account will be credited with a “spendable” of about 5% that can be used for any proper purpose the SRA Board decides, or can remain unspent and continue to increase. You will note that this year the dues renewal form will allow members to contribute to the SRA Endowment. You still can contribute a “non endowment” gift to the SRA, should you wish to do so. Please let me know if you have any questions about the endowment.

USC's Emeriti Center will host the AROHE conference in October 2008. Volunteers are needed to help with planning and to work during the conference. Please let me know if you are willing or if you have questions.

Trojan ENCORE is a reality (see front page story)! We seek retirees willing to return to campus for temporary, short term, part time positions. Give me a call if you might be interested.



Carole Gustin

– Carole Gustin, SRA President
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www.usc.edu/sra

Emeriti College Evolves, Expands, and Innovates

Exciting innovations are happening – some implemented and others on the way. The Emeriti College has created interesting programs and enrolled new presenters over the past three years. With the assistance of a select leadership team, **Jerry Walker**, **Gib Hentschke**, **Bob Biller**, **Carole Gustin** and **Janette Brown**, we are in the process of reviewing all aspects of the Emeriti College and implementing some new and exciting plans for the future. **Jerry Walker** will assume the position of Director on July 1, 2008 and **Gib Hentschke** has accepted the Chair of the USC Emeriti College Advisory Committee. Plans are in process to create new programs and committees that will assume responsibilities in Emeriti College operations.

Communication, email or post, has been made to all previous program presenters, asking for a renewal of commitment to participate and an update on the topics they wish to offer. New presenters are being recruited from the retiree community – faculty and staff alike. If you are willing to share experiences and/or skills and talents or if you know of someone we should contact, please let us know.

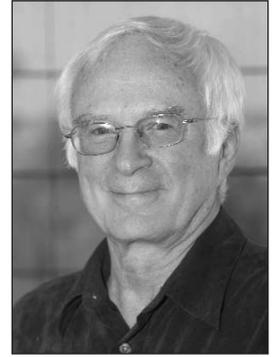
You will note that we speak of “presenters” rather than “faculty.” This is to expand the USC Emeriti College programs to include new topics and presenters, while still offering academic topics from retired/current faculty and staff. Are you a performer, an artist, a community leader? Have you taken on a new career or avocation? We want to hear from YOU. (Please note: As a presenter, you always control the time and place for your presentation and you receive a stipend to cover your expenses.)

We are also identifying new sites for USC Emeriti College programs. Do you know of a retirement community, a senior center, community service group,

alumni association, school, or neighborhood group that would enjoy a USC Emeriti College presentation? Let us know. We represent USC in the community and these outreach presentations are one of the most important contributions of the USC Emeriti College. Typically, presentations are designed to encourage questions and discussions with a diverse audience. The USC Emeriti College Resource Committee reviews the proposed topics and advises the Director on which to pursue.

A new focus for the USC Emeriti College is the creation of “learning communities.” The communities will conduct “big question” discussions. Once licensed by the USC Emeriti College, these groups will function like an independent book club; those who are interested in discussing a question will decide on when, where and how often to meet. The groups will report their experiences to the USC Emeriti College Director. What question would you like to discuss with a group of colleagues?

We hope these new initiatives will encourage you to join us and continue to enrich your life. Please volunteer to be a presenter, suggest a topic for a presentation, a question for discussion, or identify a potential community we could serve. Please contact **Judy Diaz**, Assistant Director of the USC Emeriti College, or **Bob Scales**, Director of the USC Emeriti College, using the contact information below.



Bob Scales

– Robert R. Scales, Ph.D.

213 740-1289; rscales@usc.edu

– Judith C. Diaz, Assistant Director

213 740-8841; judydiaz@usc.edu

Here's an Easy Way to Help Fund Alzheimer's Disease Research in California

We have learned through the USC Memory and Aging Center that you can help fund Alzheimer's disease research in California by participating in the California Tax Check Off Program. Every year thousands of California taxpayers contribute to Alzheimer's disease research when

they file their state income taxes. Over the past 18 years, these donations have added up to \$8.5 million for ground-breaking research projects in California. Simply write in any dollar amount you choose on line 51 of state tax form 540. If you're due a refund, the donation

amount will be deducted from your refund check. If you owe, simply add your contribution to your payment. The California Department of Health Services awards research grants to California scientists through a competitive grant process.

Retiring Faculty Helped to Provide USC's "Rock-Solid" Foundation

Provost Nikias thanks senior faculty retirees for contributing to USC's remarkable growth.

The accomplishments of 48 newly retired USC faculty were celebrated Nov. 14, at Town & Gown.

Steb Chandor, president of the Retired Faculty Association, welcomed the 2006-2007 retirees to the event which brought together colleagues from many disciplines.

When Provost C.L. Max Nikias addressed the gathering, he spoke of the "remarkable growth" of the university throughout the "Sample years," and told the retirees that it was their "commitment, dedication, and passion" over the years that provided the "rock-solid foundation on which we stand today."

RFA President-elect Dagmar Halamka announced newly retired faculty who each received a copy of *The Trojan Gallery, USC 1880-1980*, a photographic history of the university.

In addition to honoring the new retirees, the Emeriti Center presented its 2007



Front, center: Provost C.L. Max Nikias poses with retired faculty; First row, from left: G. Denman Hammond, Kaaren Hoffman, Roger Dingman, Mark Merbaum, Bram Bernstein, Marilyn McIntyre, and Joseph Anselmo. Second row, from left: Atsuko Fujimoto, David Dows, Teh-Lung Ku, Michael Lai, Mervyn Kalman, and Camilla Cobb; Back row, from left, Donald Feinstein; John Crossley; Joan Weibel-Orlando and Paul Alkon.

Faculty Leibovitz Award for Service to Seniors to Robert A. Stallings, professor emeritus, policy, planning, and development (see story page 7).

Nikias exhorted the new retirees to embrace their chang-

ing roles by mentoring junior faculty members, attending USC events, and joining the RFA.

"My words cannot capture the countless ways that you have enriched our community," Nikias added.

Honored Faculty Retirees for the year 2006-2007

and their schools are: **USC Marshall School of Business:**

Dennis W. Draper (finance and business economics). **USC School of Cinematic Arts:** Gerald I. Isenberg (Peter Stark Producing Program); Mary F. Jansen. **College of Letters, Arts & Sciences:** Paul K. Alkon (English); John P. Crossley and William W. May (religion); Roger V. Dingman (history); David Dows (chemistry); Joseph B. Hellige, Michael P. Maloney and Denis Mitchell (psychology); Sheldon Kamieniecki* (political science); Paul K. Knoll (history); Jon P. Miller (sociology); Teh-Lung Ku (earth sciences); Cornelius Schnauber* (German); Douglas Joel Sherman (geography); and Joan Crofut Weibel-Orlando (anthropology). **USC School of Dentistry:** Joseph A. Anselmo (oral and maxillofacial surgery); Daniel Brostoff (health promotion, disease prevention, and epidemiology); Terence E. Donovan (restorative dentistry); Wen Luo (Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology); and Donald Brian Phillips (diagnostic sciences). **USC Rossier School of Education:** Douglas M. Towne (Center for Cognitive Technology); and David

B. Yaden* (Undergraduate Teacher Education Program). **USC Viterbi School of Engineering:** George V. Chilingar (civil and environmental engineering). **USC Davis School of Gerontology:** Vern L. Bengtson and Phoebe Liebig.* **USC Libraries:** Mark E. Merbaum (Cinema Library). **The Keck School of Medicine of USC:** Robert L. Baehner, G. Denman Hammond*, Kaaren I. Hoffman, and Atsuko Fujimoto* (pediatrics); Bram Henry Bernstein (pediatrics/ Childrens Hospital); Camilla J. Cobb* and Leslie A. Khawli (pathology); Bala Sekhar Chandrasekhar and Gholam Hossein Mahour (surgery); Clyde William Dent* (preventive medicine); Donald I. Feinstein (internal medicine); Michael M.C. Lai (molecular microbiology and immunology); and Jeffrey S. Weber (oncology). **USC Thornton School of Music:** Gilbert L. Blount (music history); William J. Dehning (choral music); and Joseph Diorio (studio/jazz guitar). **USC School of Pharmacy:** Mervyn K. Kalman (clinical pharmacy). **USC School of Social Work:** Maura E. O'Keefe. **USC School of Theatre:** Marilyn McIntyre.

*2005-2006 Honored Faculty Retirees not recognized at last year's program.

Viterbi School Dean Yortsos Hosts First-Ever Luncheon for All Retired Faculty

Engineering dean leads the way, and plans to make retiree luncheon an annual event.



IN A SALUBRIOUS DEC. 14 LUNCHEON in the Dean's Suite of the new Ronald Tutor Hall, Dean Yannis C. Yortsos, with Deans Cauligi Raghavendra and John O'Brien and Department Chairs Jean-Pierre Bardet, Dan Dapkus, Michael Kassner, James Moore, Alexander Sawchuck and Theodore Tsotsis, welcomed 20 Viterbi School of Engineering faculty to campus for a report on the current state of the School.

Dean Yortsos recognized and thanked the faculty for their outstanding work bringing the School to its present position – "where we continue to strive to be first at USC, a leader of the nation, with constantly rising quality and excellence in all of our endeavors," he said.

With many spouses in attendance, invited faculty included: Mihran Agbabian, Clinton Ancker, Daniel Antonelli, Joe Baker, George Bekey, Ed Bidwell, Bob Brodsky, George Chilingar, Roy Choudhury, Vivian Churness, Clarence Crowell, Alvin Despain, Elmer Lloyd Dougherty, Gerald Fleischer, Carl Roger Freberg, Antranig Gafarian, Robert Gagliardi, Murray Gershenson, Mel Gerstein, Richard Haskell, Clarke Howatt, Richard Kaplan, Hans Kuehl, Seymour Lampert, Kurt Lehovc, Robert Mannes, John McIntyre, George Moore, Gerald Nadler, Mike Nosanov, Bill Perskowski, George Petrovay, Mary Pruitt, Irving Reed, Ronald Salovey, Paul Seide, Donald Shemansky, Martin Siegel, Jan Smit, Doris Uncapher, George Vassilakis, Victor Weingarten, Lloyd Welch, Sidney Wielin, and Hsun-Tiao Yang.

A copy of the Dean's Report for 2007 is available at Viterbi.usc.edu/deans report.

Aloha to Jennifer Ontai

After eight years of supporting the retiree community and USC Emeriti Center staff, Jennifer Ontai left USC in early March to pursue new adventures in Hawaii.



Retirees probably know her best as the person who sent out the coveted Gold Card, but her contribution and dedication to the EC extended far beyond that.

Jennifer started at the Emeriti Center under the direction of Paul Hadley and saw several transitions and advancements of the Center over the years.

Not only did she maintain retiree records for the entire university, manage the printing of the quarterly EC Newsletter, and set up e-mail addresses, etc., she also ensured that the EC office ran smoothly and supported the RFA and SRA with membership and account maintenance.

There is not enough space here to detail all of the responsibilities that Jennifer took on over the years.

She will be greatly missed, and we wish Jennifer all the best in her endeavors as she moves to Honolulu.

USC Wants You! ...continued from page 1

contributing to your grandchild's college fund, or simply getting the chance to be back on campus, meeting long-time friends for lunch. Most important, you will be making a significant contribution to the university community, and working with students, faculty and staff.

We are using a very powerful new software system that allows easy pairing of those seeking employment and those seeking employees. Soon, we will be able to

send interested retirees information on how to use the Trojan ENCORE Web site. In the meantime, please take time to prepare a short resume listing work history, skills, interests and contact information. We will be sending information via e-mail to those who express an interest in the program. If you are interested in getting on the e-mail notification system, please send me your e-mail address.

I look forward to working with our Trojan ENCORE colleagues.

– Carole Gustin cgustin@usc.edu

Web Master Extraordinaire and More Wins Faculty Leibovitz Award

Robert A. Stallings, professor emeritus, policy, planning, and development, was awarded the 2007 Faculty Leibovitz Award for Service to Seniors at the annual Faculty Retirement Ceremony held at Town & Gown in November.

Stallings is an active member of both the Emeriti Center and the Retired Faculty Association making significant contributions to the retiree community through his self-taught expertise with personal computers (PCs). While Bob has spent a significant amount of time keeping up with the latest in computer technology and web design for personal fulfillment, he has also dedicated many hours to helping fellow members of the USC retiree community learn how to use this technology as well.

“Bob Stallings is a perfect example of a professor becoming passionate about a new field upon retirement,” said Janette

Brown, executive director of the Emeriti Center. “Bob became so interested in learning new things that he continuously tries new ways to communicate with the USC retiree community. In addition to donating numerous hours improving five different web sites for the USC Emeriti Center, he developed and operates the computer help squad, teaches computer workshops for retired faculty and staff, writes articles for the EC newsletter, posts informational resources on-line, interviews staff and retirees for oral Web updates, and continuously discovers ways to engage retirees to use the Internet for communication and learning.”

In the spring of 2007, Bob organized the USC Retiree Computer Help Squad, a group of computer-savvy retired faculty and staff, which allows USC retirees to receive free help with computing needs. Additionally, Bob volunteered his time last fall to co-teach a series of computer literacy workshops that were available free of charge to USC retirees through the Emeriti College.

The expertise that Bob provides is not only direct



Bob Stallings accepts the 2007 Faculty Leibovitz Award. His computer expertise has been invaluable to USC retirees.

but indirect through his services to the Emeriti Center, Emeriti College, Retired Faculty Association, Staff Retirement Association, and Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROE). His dedication to these organizations has helped make their websites more user friendly and information more accessible to not only the USC community but the community at large.

Outside of his computing projects, Bob has made significant contributions to seniors around the world through his research on the social dynamics of disasters (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, fires, etc.) which disproportionately affect the very young and very old. His expertise in this area has highlighted the ways in which disasters and their consequences affect society as a whole and thereby taught others how our societies can better deal with the consequences of these catastrophes and their inequitable effects.

Bob has been honored with the title of Professor

Emeritus of the USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development where he joined the faculty in 1975 as a member of what was then the School of Public Administration. Holder of a

Ph.D. in sociology, Bob enjoyed the courtesy of a joint appointment with the USC Department of Sociology. He served as president of the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee on Disasters from 2002 to 2006 and was editor of the International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters from 1997 to 2002. He is the author of “Promoting Risk: Constructing the Earthquake Threat” (1995) and editor of “Methods of Disaster Research” (2002).

“Bob Stallings is a perfect example of a professor becoming passionate about a new field upon retirement.”

– Janette C. Brown

2008 USC Directories Are Here! Are You In?

You may stop by the Emeriti Center office, GER 220, for a free copy of the 2008 USC Directory. If you prefer us to mail you a copy, please send a check for \$10, made out to the USC Emeriti Center, to cover the cost of postage and handling (see address on back cover). The directory is also available electronically at: www.usc.edu/



Dean Knott Hosts RFA Board Meeting, Shares His Views on Value of Retirees

Jack Knott, C. Erwin and Ione L. Piper Dean and Professor of the School of Policy Planning, and Development, hosted the January RFA Board meeting in Lewis Hall. In welcoming the Board he told how he first understood the value which retirees of an institution could provide. Early in his career as a scholar, he had committed to doing a research project on how the members of the Federal Reserve Board went about their work.

He was well launched on the project when he was disconcerted to find that none of the Board members would talk with him. They were too busy or too concerned about the confidentiality of what they did to welcome an interview with a young scholar still in his twenties. Before giving up on the project he tried instead to interview persons who had already retired as FRB Governors. He found they were quite willing, enormously informative



Jack Knott, C. Erwin and Ione L. Piper Dean and Professor.

and very helpful. The project he had thought doomed turned out well. Since coming to USC a bit more than two years

ago (from the University of Illinois) Dean Knott noted how central he had found the help of the retired faculty of SPPD to be in his own work as new dean. A very important contribution of \$500,000 from retired SPPD faculty Prof. Hugh Flournoy (who died in January), is the largest financial contribution yet made to the School by a retired faculty member for important work at USC's Sacramento Center.

How to Make a Hospital Stay Safer – Speak Up, Ask Questions!

Helen Dennis, a specialist in aging, with academic, corporate and nonprofit experience says that one of the best ways to make a hospital stay safer is to be an active member of the health-care team.

The tips below are important for all ages, but we know with age our immune systems are not as strong, and it takes us a bit longer to recover. So how can someone, at any age, help to limit medical risks and prevent medical errors?

Many hospital errors are a result of miscommunication, so be alert and be involved in every decision about your health care, or the care of a loved one. Research shows that patients who are more involved with their care get better results.

Here are some suggestions Dennis has gleaned from Health and Human Services:

- **Hospital stays:** Assuming you have a choice, go to a hospital that has experience with your condition. People who do so tend to get better results.
- **Hand washing:** Don't be shy about asking all health-care workers who have contact with you if they

have washed their hands. Unwashed hands are one source of the spread of staph infections.

- **Upon discharge:** Understand the treatment plan to be used at home, including learning about the medicines and finding out when you can return to normal activities.

- **Surgery:** Although performing surgery on the wrong site is rare, Dennis says the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons urges patients to sign their initials on the site to be operated on.

- **Medicine:** Be sure all of your doctors know all of the medicines (Rx and over the counter) you are taking; state your allergies to medications; make sure you can read your doctor's Rx; ask specific questions about medications. "What is it for?" How am I supposed to take it, and for how long?" "Is it safe to take with other medications or supplements?"

- **No news:** Don't assume that no news about a test means the test was negative. Always call.

(This article was edited with permission.) Send Dennis your questions and concerns in care of the Daily Breeze, 5212 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503-4077.

A Savvy Team Improves Medicare D Experience for Many

What do you get when you mix USC School of Pharmacy expertise, USC retirees, and a confusing Medicare drug plan? At USC, you get a prescription for saving money.

As anyone enrolled in Medicare Part D can vouch, the process can be complicated, confusing and overwhelming. With this in mind, the USC School of Pharmacy partnered with USC Senior Care and the Emeriti Center to assist USC retirees as they maneuvered through the enrollment process. USC School of Pharmacy faculty, residents and students, offered free, one-on-one assistance to USC retirees in navigating the Medicare Part D Plan Finder on-line tool.

Customized sessions were conducted in November and December 2007 on both the Health Sciences Campus and University Park Campus. Nearly 50 retirees received help in selecting a Medicare Part D plan as well as information about their medications. Many reported annual savings in prescription



Far left, Brad Williams, community pharmacy specialist expert at the USC School of Pharmacy, helps a USC retiree select a Medicare Part D plan.

Below, Jeff Goad is the Principal Investigator of the *Partners in D* program at the USC School of Pharmacy.

drug costs.

This event is part of the *Partners in D* program, an innovative outreach initiative designed to help seniors understand and navigate the complexities of Medicare Part D. *Partners in D* is a statewide program that engages all seven California schools of pharmacy.

The USC School of Pharmacy plans to incorporate this program into their curricu-



lum and continue to offer this service to seniors on an on-going basis.

Colleagues Share Food, Fun and Song at Annual Galen Center Gala

About 150 retired staff, faculty, and family members gathered at USC's Galen Center on Dec. 13 to celebrate the holidays with a breakfast buffet and conversation with friends. The 2nd Annual Retiree Community Holiday Celebration was an opportunity for many colleagues who hadn't touched base in a while to get together, sing songs, and share news about their recent activities.



Performances by USC Thornton School of Music students (from left) Sean Kranz and Penelope Yates with Parmer Fuller, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Vocal Arts, entertained the crowd.



Above, from left, Alice Donahue and Art and Jo Ochoa share a table.

In the News

Sharing Their Expertise: USC retirees who were called upon for their comments on news topics in recent months, include:

In late 2007, **A. Michael Noll**, professor emeritus (Annenberg), was quoted in *The Star-Ledger* about Alcatel-Lucent's efforts to improve its stock value. The French telecom equipment maker expects a ramp up in sales in the fourth quarter [of 2007], but belt-tightening efforts alone won't get the job done," the story stated. "If I was one of their customers, my reaction would be, 'What does this do for me?'" Noll said.

Carol Kasper, professor emerita (medicine), was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* about cultural differences in acceptable business attire. As the former medical director of the World Federation of Hemophilia, Kasper has spent years jetting around the world to address medical conferences and has developed a set of sartorial rules for professional women, including avoiding flowered prints in Germany, choosing skirts in Japan and wearing pants in China, the story stated. "I need to 'look respectable, professional, reliable,'" Kasper said.

An article in *The Tribune* noted that **George Bekey**, professor emeritus (computer science), was among keynote speakers at a graduation ceremony at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo last May. The article noted that Bekey, who now teaches at Cal Poly, founded USC's robotics research and teaching program.

Stephen Krashen, professor emeritus (education), was quoted in the *New York Times* about the declining time people spend reading, according to a report by the NEA. Based on his analysis of other data, reading was not on the decline, Krashen said. The "NEA appeared to be exaggerating the decline in reading scores and according to federal education statistics, the bulk of decreases in 12th-grade reading scores had occurred in the early 1990s, he added. Krashen was also cited twice in *Education Week*.

Constance Ahrons, professor emerita (sociology), was quoted in a *Washington Post* story about creating a "good divorce." During the process, divorcing spouses should take good care of themselves, Ahrons said. "Be with close friends when you can ... find a safe haven where you can talk. If you can't get out of feeling very depressed, lonely or angry, get professional help." A story in the *Shakopee Valley News* (Mn.) noted that Ahrons would deliver a talk based on her books.

In 2008 **Malcolm Klein**, professor emeritus (sociology) was quoted in an *L.A. Times* article about crime

rates in LA County. The Sheriff's Department issued a report for 2007 which indicates that, although homicides fell sharply, the rate of other serious crime had increased 4 percent during the year. Sheriff Baca pointed out that socioeconomic factors may be involved. Klein said that it is overly simplistic to draw a direct connection between unemployment and the crime rate. "The answers are more complex," said Klein, who was also mentioned on KPCC-FM's program "Zocalo" as a leading authority on gangs.

Edwin Perkins, professor emeritus (history), was quoted in the *Bloomberg News* about Charles Merrill, founder of brokerage firm Merrill Lynch. Merrill, who burnished his reputation by telling customers to sell stocks just before the 1929 crash, would be appalled at the firm's "bubble mentality" in recent years, Perkins said. "Things just get out of control, and once you're involved in it, there's no way to get out of it gracefully," he explained.

Lillian Hawthorne, professor emerita (sociology), wrote an op-ed in the *L.A. Times* about health care for senior citizens. "Although as older patients we may have more time in our days for care, we have less time in our lives for cure," Hawthorne wrote. "My husband and I are senior citizens, and we estimate that we now spend approximately 20 percent of our time seeing or waiting to see our doctors," she added.

John Wills, professor emeritus (history), was quoted in *The World Journal* about the differences between his generation of China specialists and younger scholars. In 1958, when Wills entered graduate school, American students couldn't visit China, Wills recalled. As a result, those interested in Chinese studies pursued them in Taiwan. Even though students are now able to visit China, the Academia Sinica and other institutions in Taiwan remain vital centers for scholars, the story stated.

In Memoriam:

We honor and mourn our university colleagues who have died. Those who were recorded by press time, and whose names were not noted in previous newsletters, are: *Herman Fae (physics, 2007); Houston "Hugh" Flournoy (policy, planning, and development); William Golden (personnel); John Mohr (biological sciences); Aurelius Morgner (economics, 2006); and Mary Louise Somers (social work).*

* 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> or <shade@usc.edu>.

Retiree of the Quarter: In each issue of the newsletter, we highlight the contributions of a member of the USC retiree community. This month we honor staff retiree **Dick Martin**.

Lights, Camera, Flights, Voyages ...

Dick Martin, guide extraordinaire, has organized Staff Retirement Association day trips and special events for the past four years. With his outstanding skills we have ventured to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, the Nixon Library, and the Southwest Indian Museum using the southern California public transportation systems – Dash, MTA, Amtrak, etc. We have enjoyed USC student productions in Bing Theatre, a walking tour of Los Angeles, a visit to the Disney Concert Hall (including a concert for some), and the rejuvenated Griffith Planetarium.

Dick's contributions to the SRA Board go beyond arranging visits to interesting places. He is always ready to help out with the SRA March Recognition Luncheon and is an important member of the group planning activities for the October 2008 AROHE conference.

His academic career at USC began in the fall of 1957 when he was admitted to graduate studies in the Department of Cinema, but soon Uncle Sam called him to join the Signal Corps. In 1960, released by the Army, Dick returned to USC to finish his graduate degree.

In 1961 and 1962, he zipped off to Dallas to shoot and edit TV commercials and documentaries, but in 1963 he was called back to Los Angeles to serve as Production Manager of the TV series "The Hour of St. Francis." He worked at NBC-TV in broadcast operations and served as Director of Broadcast Standards for the West Coast.

In early 1989, Dick returned to USC and its then School of Cinema-TV where he served as Director of Operations and Facilities until his retirement in January of 2003. The American Cinematheque snatched him up in 2004 to help with the remodeling and equipping of the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica. The "new" Aero opened in January 2006. He continues his affiliation with American Cinematheque as a Technical Volunteer, assisting in maintenance, repair and equipment testing and installation for the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood and the Aero.

In his spare time, he is Treasurer (four years of service) of the Little Ships Fleet Yacht Club, founded 1937, now in Alamitos Bay, which he joined in 1971, and is a Principal Race Officer for the Club. He is a Past Commander of the Los Angeles Power Squadron and taught Safe Boating for 15 years at the Beverly Hills Adult School. He enjoys flying, using his time-share in Avila Beach and spending time with his sister and her family.

He continues to serve the School of Cinematic Arts (Cinema-TV's new title) as a consultant on the planning and construction of new facilities, and has added his expertise to the Emeriti Center's Living History Project. WOW!

**If you would like to nominate a retired staff or faculty member for "Retiree of the Quarter" in a future newsletter, please pass your suggestion along to emeriti@usc.edu or call 213-740-8921.*



As the saying goes, "if you want something done, just ask a busy person" – Dick Martin is a perfect example of that as he comes through time and time again to lend a hand.

SAVE THE DATE for a theatre party matinee performance of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic "CAROUSEL" on Saturday, April 5, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets were not available through the USC Box Office at the Newsletter deadline, but the SRA will purchase 50 tickets.

If you are interested, please send your contact information before March 28 (e-mail with CarouselTix in the subject line or phone) to Dick Martin (dickmar@msn.com – 323-343-1146). Two tickets per member maximum and first come, first served. We anticipate tickets will cost \$10 or less per person, and will be available for pickup at the door.

USC Emeriti Center – Emeriti College
Phone: (213) 740-8921 – Phone: (213) 740-8841
Fax: (213) 740-7120 – www.usc.edu/emericenter

For a full listing of EC, RFA and SRA Board officers/members-at-large, and their contact information, go to www.usc.edu/emericenter and click on the group you want to find out more about.

USC Emeriti Center Spring Events

- March 20 (Thursday):** Staff Retirement Association Luncheon for New Retirees, Town & Gown; 11:30 a.m. RSVP required.
- March 25 (Tuesday):** “Making the Most of your Financial Situation” – presented by Elaine Staber Steward, USC Staff Retiree, 10 a.m., see flier
- March 26 (Wednesday):** “Twenty-Five Foods That Can Change Your Life,” presented by Patrice Barber, R.D., OC Distinguished Speakers Series, see OC flier
- April 5 (Saturday):** SRA Theatre party performance of “Carousel” (see page 11)
- April 23 (Wednesday):** “Alzheimer’s Disease: Beating the Odds” – presented by Dr. Roberta Diaz Brinton, OC Distinguished Speakers Series, see Emeriti College presenter listing
- May 16 (Friday):** USC’s 125th Commencement

The Emeriti Center, an advocate and active supporter of USC retirees since 1978, celebrates 30 years of service.

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