

USC EMERITI CENTER

Retiree Community Newsletter

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At right, cover of "USC Emeriti Center: A Vision for the Future." Above, Standing in front of a slide showing structures for a proposed Emeriti Center are, front row: Heng Du, Victor Fressie, instructors Michael Lehrer FAIA, and Victor Regnier FAIA, Andrea Urmanita, and Alison Greulich; in back, Jared Shier, Jihoon Kim and Alan Hotchkiss. Additional students not shown: Hyunsoo Ha, Yumiko Kuroiwa, Li Li, Mana Mohammadkhani, Dustin Morgan, and Melissa Stinar.

USC Students Imagine an EC Vision for the Future

The imaginative talents of grad students from the USC Architecture School have combined to create several designs for an expanded USC Emeriti Center and campus retiree housing.

"USC EMERITI CENTER, A Vision for the Future," by **Victor Regnier**, FAIA, in association with **Michael Lehrer**, FAIA, is now a 40-page post-graduate studio hard cover publication that details several ideas for providing campus housing for retired faculty and staff. Financial support for the book's publication came mainly from the Emeriti Center, with additional support from the Davis School of Gerontology.

"We were excited to be part of this project from the very beginning. While students designed their Emeriti Center/senior housing projects, several of us acted as consultants, critics, and studio class reviewers to explain the needs of our retiree population," said **Janette Brown**, EC Executive Director. The projects, of course, are unfunded plans, but it was exciting to see their ideas, said Brown.

Regnier, an expert in the design of housing and settings for older people, who holds a joint professorship in the Schools of Architecture and Gerontology, and Lehrer, an adjunct professor, recently presented a slide show of their students' designs at a Retired Faculty Association function (see page 7). Eight innovative design ideas were identified from site visits, interviews with retirees, workshop sessions, meetings with campus master planners, and the bold imagination of the students.

The student projects are timely, as the university is finalizing its building plans for the property north of the University Park Campus, now known as University Village. The concepts and designs resulting from the 13-student studio class could provide ideas for an Emeriti Center with a mixed-use design. This might include

The EC was part of the project from the beginning.

continued on page 8

SAVE THE DATE!

What: 26th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon

When: Thursday, March 17

Where: Town & Gown, 11:30 a.m.

Keep your eyes peeled for your invitation to the Staff Retirement Luncheon that will honor our most recent staff retirees.

The third recipient of the annual J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC will also be announced at the luncheon. See page 9 for nomination information. ■

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USC Emeriti Center Is Not Just for Retirees

“COLLEAGUES FOR LIFE,” the motto of the USC Emeriti Center (EC), exemplifies 32 years of support for USC retirees and active faculty and staff in living healthy and purposeful lives.

Did you know?

- All programs sponsored by the EC are open to the USC campus community.
- About one third of the presenters for the Emeriti Center College are not retired.
- The Retired Faculty Association (RFA) and the Staff Retirement Association (SRA) also invite current faculty and staff to become members.

As part of the Provost’s Office, the Emeriti Center offers opportunities for continued engagement, service, and learning in multidisciplinary and multi-generational ways. The EC is the source of the esteemed retiree Gold Card (courtesy parking, discounts, library and email access), and the Center also offers valuable connections for intellectual, cultural, social, and health-related resources and activities for the entire Trojan Family, including alumni.

The EC has offered annual “Transitions” screenings on pre-retirement education since the 1980’s and continues to collaborate with the Office of Benefits,

offering at least four sessions annually. The Center also supports RFA and SRA initiatives and programs, advocates for privileges and benefits, and supports the USC Living History Project to capture memories of the university’s evolution through video and audio recordings.

The Emeriti Center’s lifelong learning and research arm is the USC Emeriti Center College. It is also a speakers’ bureau for USC, offering community outreach on behalf of the university. The Emeriti Center and the EC College hold more than 200 events and programs each year, including lectures, panels, performances, and multigenerational forums. The EC College also sponsors the interdisciplinary Forum on Global Change for students, faculty, and retirees based upon readings in *The Economist* (London).

Through the Center, retirees mentor new generations of students, enrich the university’s intellectual traditions through ongoing funded research, share knowledge with the community, and support USC through volunteering and contributions.

The USC Emeriti Center is also a national leader in retirement organizations in higher education. It currently houses the non-profit Association of

Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROE), which is dedicated to serving and promoting retiree organizations on college campuses throughout North America. The USC Emeriti Center was the first to conduct on-line survey research on retiree organizations in higher education and is helping drive a national effort to harness the invaluable resource of retired staff and faculty, whose experience and knowledge are needed now more than ever. ■



Janette C. Brown, Executive Director
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Festival of Books Comes to USC!

USC is the new venue for the “L.A. Times Festival of Books,” taking place the weekend of April 30 – May 1, 2011. Formerly at that campus “across town” for its first 15 years, the Festival kicks off its 16th annual event at USC. For general info, and how to obtain tickets to special events and panels on the campus, go to latimesfestivalofbooks.com.

"Empower Yourself: Protect Your Family" – EC Wellness Seminar

Friday, Feb. 4, 2011, Gerontology Aud., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

This Wellness seminar, co-sponsored by the USC Emeriti Center and Los Angeles Caregiver Resource Center, is presented in an effort to increase your understanding of what to do and where to go for resources when a loved one has a serious illness. Many people put off advanced planning until a family member is suddenly facing a serious illness or their situation has reached crisis mode. There are many misconceptions and falsehoods about planning ahead that discourage people from asking questions, gathering accurate information, and making good decisions.

This seminar features a panel of experts who will discuss various topics such as: elder law, care options (care at home vs. facility), financial preparation, and long-term care planning. Protect your family by being prepared and well informed – BEFORE a crisis occurs.

All attendees will receive a packet of resource materials and an opportunity to ask questions and enjoy lunch with the panelists. RSVP to the USC Emeriti Center: ecrsvp@usc.edu or (213) 740-7122. Suggested optional donation, \$10. See flyer insert for additional information.

RFA Plans More Support for Retired Faculty and Caldwell Scholars

The RFA Board recently created a new Ombudsman/Advocacy Committee. The mission of this committee is “to help individual faculty retirees find solutions for university-related problems” and “to address policy and procedural issues that affect all retired faculty.” Prior to his death, **Bob Biller** drew on his vast university administrative experience to serve as the RFA’s ombudsman/advocate. RFA Board members believe that his work should not be allowed to lapse. **Robert Coffey**, Emeritus Professor of Business, will serve as the new committee chair. He will work closely in cooperation with the Emeriti Center. If you would like to identify issues and/or problems that the committee might consider, email us at rfa@usc.edu.

The RFA’s Scholarship Committee, chaired by **Kaaren Hoffman**, is currently developing strategies that will expand the RFA’s support for the Russell Caldwell Scholarship Program. This program, co-sponsored by the RFA and the Office of Financial Aid, provides financial aid for a select group of USC students who have graduated from high schools in the university’s neighborhood. (See the September 2010 issue for an article on the Caldwell Program.) Every year a large number of RFA members contribute to the Caldwell Scholarship Fund, and every year the RFA Board hosts a gathering with Caldwell Scholars. Working with representatives from the Office of Financial Aid, the Scholarship Committee is now exploring ways in which the long-term financial vitality of the program



Left, John Orr
Right, John Hisserich

can be assured. It is also considering new options for enriching the experience of Caldwell Scholars during their years at the university. ■

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SRA Supports the Local Community

I am proud to report that the SRA Board voted to contribute to both the Caldwell Scholarship Fund and the Good Neighbors Campaign. Both are key university efforts to engage with and support the USC neighborhoods surrounding both campuses. Many of us remember when there was serious consideration about relocating to more affluent areas of Southern California. To USC’s credit, the university leadership chose to remain in the heart of Los Angeles and this proved to be a wise decision.

When **Steven B. Sample** became President, he quickly built upon the community involvement begun by Rev. **Alvin Rudisill** and **Bob Biller**. Sample developed the Good Neighbors Campaign to focus staff and faculty charitable giving to support both the University Park and Health Sciences campus neighborhoods. Those neighborhoods are now flourishing and reflect the commitment made by USC to stay in the community and be good neighbors. Our new President **C.L. Max Nikias** gives every indication that he wishes this civic engagement to continue, and the SRA is pleased to join in that effort.

The SRA is a vibrant community. I invite our members to our general meetings and many events such as theatre parties and field trips. Our members enjoyed several events planned and executed by SRA Treasurer, **Dick Martin**. The CARES/L.A. County/USC Medical Center tour was fascinating (see page 11). More than 30 attended the USC production of *Cabaret*. A December highlight included lunch at Pete’s Café with playwright **Velina Hasu Houston**, USC Professor of Theatre followed by a viewing of her new play, *Calligraphy*.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Staff Retirement Association Luncheon on March 17. ■

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EC Student Workers Volunteer at Rally

Lorenzo Tovar and Austyn Castro, Emeriti Center student workers, were volunteers at the Oct 22 appearance on the steps of the Doheny Memorial Library by President Barack Obama. The event was hosted by the USC Political Student Assembly and reportedly drew 30,000 people to campus for the Democratic National Committee rally. Castro is a senior majoring in economics. Tovar, a junior majoring in philosophy/politics/and law, said “I jumped at the once in a lifetime chance to be able to see President Obama. “It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to see so many people, college students in particular, who were involved with and enthusiastic about the upcoming election.”



Jerry Walker

The Play's the Thing

When faculty members retire, their academic lives can continue to thrive in the USC Emeriti Center College.

Jim Kincaid, recently retired Professor of English; **Bob Scales**, Professor Emeritus, School of Theatre; and **Michael Arbib**, University Professor of Computer Science, Biological Sciences, and Psychology will teach an eclectic new class titled "The Play's the Thing – Considering Theatre: Literature, Performance, Affect" during the Spring Semester. The class will explore some terrific plays, from classic to modern, such as *Oedipus Rex*, *Hamlet*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Plays will be studied as literature, as historical documents, as vehicles for production, and as a means for attracting our most powerful feelings and attachments. The entire sequence of creative processes involved in writing, staging and experiencing live theatre will be explored. Don't miss this exciting new course.

Bill Thomson, Professor and Dean Emeritus of the Thornton School of Music, is teaching another new course on Vocal Gymnastics. This six-week course is designed to offset changes in vocal efficiency associated with aging and lack of

use, employing simple singing exercises to regain vigor in the vocal cords. One need not be a singer, and precision is not the goal. The goal is proper exercise of our voices and having FUN in the process.

The Huntington Library has agreed to establish a three-part Japanese Garden lecture series in partnership with the USC Emeriti Center College. The first lecture is on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Huntington's Friendship Hall. Professor **Ken Brown** will lecture on "The Evolution and Variety in the History of Japanese Gardens in Pre-Modern Japan and Modern America." Our hope is to incorporate the **Noboru Inamoto** Lecture into the series. ■

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The University Celebrates 2009-2010 Faculty Retirees

Thirty-six faculty retirees who together accounted for 869 years of professional service to USC, were honored in November 2010 at the Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon for their teaching and research and their many years of mentoring students. The average years of service was 24, however, five retirees had more than 40 years of service.

"This annual ritual – retirement – is a very big deal as we come together to honor this elite group," said **John Orr**, President of the Retired Faculty Association, in welcoming his new retiree colleagues. He urged them to join the RFA to contribute to continuing discussions on "a host of issues" from financial viability to health care.

The Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, **Martin Levine**, addressed the gathering, reminding the retirees that "you now have the freedom to set your own agenda," and adding, "do the things you like, but I hope one of the things you want to do is to [stay] active at USC."



Andrew Taylor

Janette Brown, Executive Director, Emeriti Center, welcomed all the retirees into the ranks of the Emeriti Center, with all its privileges, including the coveted Gold Card. Brown also presented the second annual Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC, posthumously, to **Robert P. Biller** (see article page 10).

Brown presented the award to Biller's wife, **Yvonne Biller**, telling her, "You know how much we loved Bob." ■

Faculty retirees at the luncheon included: (back row) Stanley Heifetz, Robert Beart, Edward Finegan, and Richard Sundeen; (middle row): Steve Koletty, Mashallah Goodarzi, Richard Thompson, Maria Goldstein, and Alex Capron (Academic Senate); (front row) Jay Willis, Nancy Dow, Maria D. Appleman, Marty Levine (Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs), and Sidney Stebel. (For a full list of faculty retirees, go to the RFA home page, click on "Faculty Retirees 09-10.")

“Colleagues for Life” Blog Presents More Great Resources

Here are several sites for readers to check out. And there’s a lot more interesting information to be found on my blog at colleaguesforlife.blogspot.com/

- For a comprehensive checklist on fall prevention within the home, check out www.environmentalgeriatrics.com/home_safety/safety_checklist.html
- I have found another site with free on-line college level courses, many from prestigious schools: education-portal.com/ Go to the page and click on free on-line courses in the center of the page. Caveat: in some cases, you may have to buy books or download special software.
- To learn (or teach) a foreign language via webcam, go to learn2lingo.com/Lessons cost \$12 per session, and if you are teaching, you will be paid \$9.50 per session.
- If you are thinking of moving, there’s a “cost of living comparison” calculator at www.bankrate.com/calculators/savings/moving-cost-of-living-calculator.aspx ■



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Graduate Interns on Tap to Assist at the Emeriti Center

For the first time, the Emeriti Center is involved in training graduate school interns. The USC School of Social Work student that chose to work with the EC is MSW candidate **Thomas Franco**.

“Tom brings much experience to the table and has made a wonderful connection between the EC and the Center for Work and Family Life,” said EC Executive Director **Janette Brown**. “Tom has been working hard to provide more resources for our retirees.”

Franco began working with the EC in September and will continue through April 2011, 20 hours per week, reporting to Brown and **Linda Snouffer**, CWFL’s program manager. He has already interviewed all EC staff, students, and volunteers in order to determine how best to use his skills in a way that will mesh his academic studies with the goals and objectives of the EC.

In an innovative first event, Franco organized a screening of the 2009 computer-animated film “Up” at the Gerontology Auditorium. After viewing the film – where an elderly widowed man and his house is carried aloft by helium balloons with a young boy aboard – Franco facilitated a Q&A discussion, along with animator and USC Cinema Practice instructor **Tom Sito**; the topics centered around the concerns of older adults.

“I think attendees had an opportunity to share their emotions in a safe environment with their peers,” said Franco, “and to talk about dealing with loss and transition in their lives.”

“Tom is available to talk with our USC retirees and to help them find necessary resources in the community,” said Brown. (Email Tom at tpfranco@usc.edu.)

Also working for the EC is graduate intern **David Orenstein** from the USC Davis School of Gerontology. Orenstein is assisting with the USC Living History Project. ■



Tom Franco will work with the EC through April.

An Editor’s Thoughts

It’s very difficult to “blow your own horn.”

I know that for a fact, because no matter how many times I’ve been prodded since I retired in ‘06, my general sloth jumped to the forefront when I was asked to put my own info up on the EC’s “Mini Bio” page.

But by the time you read this, my own Bio will join the more than 20 already posted, and I encourage you join the group!

Go to the EC’s web site, www.usc.edu/ec, click on Mini-Bios to the left, and take a look at the short bios that are there, as well as the “Lessons Learned” section.

It’s interesting to see what our staff and faculty colleagues are doing in their retirement, and what they did in their careers. But don’t be intimidated by what others have posted – we’ve all had careers and jobs at USC, just different experiences and now we’re all in a whole new stage.

We also welcome contributions from widows or widowers of USC staff or faculty, so let us know who your spouses were, and what’s going on in your life so we stay in contact.

If you need some help in writing your Bio, I’d be happy to use my writing/editing skills to assist you. We can chat on the phone, I’ll write something up, and once you approve it, it can be posted. If you’d like to include a photo, we encourage that. Some Bios have them, others don’t. Who knows? I might post a photo of my dog, Bella! ■

– **Christine Shade**
shade@usc.edu



Help the EC Stay Connected With You

When the Emeriti Center's Email List Serve was initiated several years ago to enable frequent and timely communications with our colleagues, it included about 500 retirees and was utilized sparingly. We now send out messages as often as several times a month to more than 1,100 retirees. Our Email List Serve has become a major tool in keeping in touch with our members.

Recent communiqués included notices of the appointment of USC's new provost and of the memorial service for **Robert Biller**. If you are an active email user and have not received these notices, please send a message to emeriti@usc.edu requesting your inclusion. Also please let us know whenever your email address changes.

We welcome your suggestions for improving our utilization of this important communications tool. ■

– Mike Halloran
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In the News

Sharing Expertise: USC retirees in the news, include:

• *The Quad-City Times* noted that **Curtis Roseman**, professor emeritus (*history*), is president of the board for the nonprofit Heritage Documentaries Inc., which produced the documentary "When Farmers Were Heroes: The Era of the National Corn Husking Contests."

• *The Daily Breeze* quoted **David Lopez-Lee**, professor emeritus (policy, planning, and *development*) about what some perceive to be excessively high pay for city officials.

• *The Jewish Journal* reported that **Susan Laemmle**, emeritus dean (*religious life*), moderated a panel on the moral, practical and historical implications of rabbis and congregations addressing political issues.

• *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* quoted **H. Richard Lamb**, professor emeritus (*medicine*), about his decision to step down from the board of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, which he helped create.

• *The Wall Street Journal* quoted **Malcolm Klein**, professor emeritus (*social work*), about L.A.'s Summer Night

Lights program, which keeps the lights on until midnight at parks in high-crime neighborhoods.

• *Stuff* (New Zealand) cited **Constance Ahrons**, professor emeritus (*social work*), regarding the possibility of non-combative divorce, and noted that she wrote the books "The Good Divorce" and "We're Still Family" and coined the phrase "the binuclear family."

• *The Daily Times*, *York Daily Record*, and *Sunbelt Newspapers*, cited research by **Kaye Kilburn**, professor emeritus (*medicine*), on hydrogen sulfide, which can cause lasting damage to the nervous system even when released in low concentrations.

• **Lillian Hawthorne** (*retired/social work*) wrote a "My Turn" column for the L.A. Times about her diagnosis for early state breast cancer, which she said was "unexpected and shocking" because she had assumed "that at my age – over 80 – I had passed that danger." Before beginning a medical journal, she said she needed to take time for personal reflection and reaction.

• *The Toledo Blade* quoted **Malcolm**

After the Death of a Loved One

The Emeriti Center recently had a gathering of widows and widowers in order to listen to their concerns and to learn of ways we can be of more help in times of need.

The EC has collected a list of suggestions of what to do after the death of a loved one. If you think that this might be helpful to you, we will be happy to send it to you by mail or email. It is also posted on the Emeriti Center web page: www.usc.edu/ec. Go to the left side and click on Resources.

Please call or email if we can be of assistance: emeriti@usc.edu, (213) 740-8921.

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:

David J. Amescua (*mailing and material management services*); Hans Ludwig Beer (*music*); Robert P. Biller (*policy, planning, and development/USC administration*); Richard J. Bing (*medicine*); Eura Duplessis (*music and financial aid*); Nurettin Erturk (*cinematic arts*); Fannie S. Fishlyn (*law*); John Gerletti (*policy, planning, and development*); Earl Harrison (*medicine/dentistry*); Irvin Kershner (*cinematic arts*); Donald C. Kingsbury (*engineering*); Thomas Ely Lasswell, Sr. (*sociology*); Herbert Lloyd (*engineering*); Walter Coles Lusk II (*medicine*); Tim Miller (*facilities and technology/Annenberg*); John Richman (*medicine*); James F. Smith (*music*); and James Tyler (*music*).

Would you like to join a widows/widowers group for lunch sometime? If so, please call or email our office.

Klein, professor emeritus (*sociology*), on why gangs borrow the well-known names of other gangs.

In Print

Alice Bessman, Professor Emerita (*medicine*) was a co-author of a chapter entitled, "Understanding Diabetic Retinopathy and Its Visual Implications" in the book "Diagnosis and Treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy," published by Jaypee Highlights Medical Publishers, Inc.

Solomon Honored

Barbara J. Solomon, Professor Emerita (*social work*), a leader in social work practice, research and education, was honored at the 2010 Induction Ceremony and Reception in October 2010 for the California Social Work Hall of Distinction. ■



The Sherry Hour

At the Nov. 12 Sherry Hour, 40 RFA and SRA members were treated to a presentation on a proposed Emeriti Center (EC) building as part of USC's master plan for a mixed-use student housing and retail expansion of the campus to the north (see also page 1). The discussion was ably led by Professor **Victor Regnier** of the Schools of Architecture and Gerontology, aided by **Michael Lehrer**, adjunct professor, and seven of their 13 studio course students. They identified how an expanded EC could serve as a nexus for housing, community-based lifelong learning and a public space for socializing and studying by using the talents of retired faculty and staff. The proposed 56,000 square foot structure would include retiree housing, emeriti faculty offices, classrooms, auditorium and a coffee shop to support lifelong learning/continuing education, mentoring and enhanced engagement with USC's neighboring communities.

The proposal generated great enthusiasm, as evidenced by the Q&A session, and plans are afoot to explore how this plan might become a reality.

Sherry Hours in 2011 will be held on Jan. 28 (see back page for speaker), March 11 and April 15. Additional information will be provided prior to each event. ■

- **Phoebe Liebig**, RFA Program Co-Chair

EC Members Contribute at "Purpose and Passion in Retirement" Conference

The Fifth International Conference of AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education), held October 2010 at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, was noteworthy in that six USC Emeriti representatives presented and volunteered. The only non-retiree attending from USC was EC Executive Director **Janette Brown**, who also served as co-chair of the conference. The conference was titled "Purpose and Passion in Retirement."



Attending the conference were (front row) Bob Coffey, Janette Brown, Mitzi Tsujimoto, (back row) Bob Scales, Jerry and Lora Walker. Janette is holding the plaque that her colleagues presented to her.

USC's contingent and their conference roles, included: **Jerry Walker**, AROHE vice president, who convened "Perspectives and Approaches to Lifelong Learning;" **Bob Coffey**, AROHE treasurer, moderated "Essential Ingredients for Successful Retiree Organizations: Practices for Planning and Determining Outcomes;" **Bob Scales** moderated "Senior Housing;" **Janette Brown**, AROHE executive director, presented preliminary data from the "2010 AROHE Survey of Higher Education Retirement Organizations." In addition, **Mitzi Tsujimoto** managed the registration and moderated the Staff Retiree Networking Group, and **Lora Walker** assisted with registration.

"Fifty institutions were represented at the Conference," said Brown. "Those attending shared best practices and generated new ideas designed to help retired faculty and staff enjoy productive and satisfying retirement." She reported that survey feedback indicated a highly successful conference. ■

Have a Chuckle:

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

Reaching West, the ECC Partners With the Skirball Cultural Center

There's plenty of disquieting news in the world – the continuing crisis in Haiti, rogue nations, nuclear proliferation, and global financial worries – to name just a few.

But a new collaboration between the USC Emeriti Center College (ECC) and the Skirball Cultural Center will offer an eight-week “Great Decisions” class designed to promote understanding of issues making headlines in the world today.

“Discussing important topics of the day with reliable sources is a start to understanding some of the world's problems,” said **Jerry Walker**, executive director of the ECC. “This series of seminars is a natural extension of the Forum on Global Change organized by the EC College. The course will provide an opportunity for in-depth discussions of eight key international foreign policy challenges with the guidance of leading USC faculty members.”

“I'm eagerly looking forward to participating in the discussions,” said Walker, who noted that the ECC is extending its class offerings to a new geographical area for the convenience of USC retirees. These classes will be held at the Westside's Skirball Center during the 2011 Spring Semester, and will be easily accessible to retired faculty and staff, alumni and friends of the university living in Brentwood, Santa Monica, Inglewood, Culver City, West L.A., Beverly Hills and Van Nuys.

Discussions will be led by USC faculty and will meet at the Skirball



Above, Dr. Uri Herscher, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, and Adele Lander Burke, Vice President, Learning for Life, Skirball Cultural Center; Dr. Jerome Walker, Director, USC Emeriti Center College; and Professor Warren Bennis, USC. Right, Skirball Center main entrance.



every other Thursday from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. between Jan. 27 and May 5.

Participating USC faculty includes: **Mark Bernstein** (USC Energy Institute/political science), **Saori Katada** (international relations), **Michael Parks** (Annenburg School/journalism), **Alison Renteln** (political science), **Jeffrey M. Sellers** (political science), and **Erroll Southers** (Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events/CREATE).

Topics will include: Rebuilding Haiti; U.S. National Security; the Horn of Africa; the Global Financial Crisis; Sanctions and Nonproliferation (impact on N. Korea and Iran); the Caucasus (in the shadow of Russia, Iran and Turkey); Global Governance; and Germany Ascendant (leader in dealing with Russia, Eastern Europe and Iran).

The discussion group is affiliated

with the Foreign Policy Association of New York, which is dedicated to inspiring the American public to learn more about the world. Class members will read a 2011 Great Decisions Briefing Book prepared by the Foreign Policy Association for background information before each of the meetings.

The class is limited to 30 participants. You can register at www.skirball.org and click on Courses under “What's On,” or by calling (877) 722-4849. The fee is \$200, Skirball members pay \$160. Emeriti Center members also can receive a \$40 discount and pay \$160 through use of a special registration code (for EC discount information, contact Walker at jbwalker@usc.edu).

If you have additional questions, please call the Skirball's Learning for Life hotline, (310) 440-4651. ■

"EC Vision" ...continued from page 1

retiree housing for visiting scholars, meeting spaces for intellectual exchanges, offices and a cafe, along with space for community programs.

“The retired USC faculty and staff represent the largest untapped resource for expanding lifelong learning activities and creating student partnerships to engage important civic projects. A building that acts as a catalyst to tap and focus this energy is a great investment in the university's future,” said Regnier.

“To visualize ideas for senior housing and expanded Emeriti Center space that enhances intergenerational and interdisciplinary collaborations among retirees, the university, and the community is gratifying,” said Brown. “It was fun to imagine how much more we could accomplish having the retired faculty, staff, and alumni living on or near campus and participating on a daily basis. There are so many educational, cultural and volunteer opportunities on campus, the possibilities are endless.” ■

We Thank Our Benefactors

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

Donor

Eve Kingsbury

Honoree

Donald C. Kingsbury

We thank **Andy Mosich** for contributing \$2,500 to the Emeriti Center from the Hannon foundation to honor **Jim** and **Gail Ellis**.

We also thank our many generous donors who have contributed to the EC and its endowment fund. As our endowment grows, it ensures that our Center will continue its excellent programs and services and prepare for the future.

Dental Pioneer Receives Hall of Fame Award

Rex Ingraham, who is known to many as the "Father of Restorative Dentistry," received the USC Alumni Association's "Half Century Trojan Hall of Fame Award" at a gala Town & Gown dinner in October. The event was attended by nearly 600 members of the alumni group.

Avishai Sadan, Dean of USC's Ostrow School of Dentistry, presented the award noting that the now 95-year-old Ingraham "shaped the lives of thousands of students, introduced ... clinical breakthroughs to the field of dentistry and accumulated several high-profile awards ... and left an indelible mark on this School that would endure perpetuity."

In Ingraham's more than 40-year tenure as a faculty member at the USC School of Dentistry he taught both students and professors and pioneered the use of gold foil and cast gold restoration procedures. He has contributed to modern-day dentistry by lecturing throughout the world on the use of advanced technology, including the use of high-speed dental instruments.

Ingraham said he was proud to have contributed to the School of Dentistry's "strong clinical school," and said that as he traveled around the world "everybody looked up to us USC graduates as top dogs."

Ingraham's career began in 1941 following his graduation from the School of Dentistry with a doctorate in dental surgery. After a few years as a teaching assistant at USC, he rose from teaching assistant, to chairman of the department of operative dentistry, to interim dean, and eventually, in 1975 he was named to lead the school's clinical operations as associate dean of clinical affairs. After he retired in 1983, he remained active by helping to recruit alumni donations that contributed to a new second floor in the School's building, named the Rex Ingraham Second Floor Clinic in appreciation of his efforts. ■



Nick Clark

Dr. Rex Ingraham

J. Tillman Hall Staff Award Nomination Deadline – Feb. 25

The deadline to submit nominations for the USC Emeriti Center's J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC is **Friday, Feb. 25**. The award recognizes a retired staff member who has significantly contributed to USC after retirement. The award will be presented at the 26th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, March 17 honoring recently retired staff. For specific criteria and additional information, go to www.usc.edu/ec and click on Awards or call **Gloria M. Reyes** at (213) 740-8175.

Norris Foundation Research Fund Applications Invited

The USC Emeriti Center maintains a fund to assist retired faculty with the expenses of research and publication made possible by a grant from the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation. One grant of up to \$2,000, or two or three grants totaling \$2,000, may be awarded during the academic year. Previous grant recipients may reapply for funds after a period of three years.

Application forms can be obtained from the Emeriti Center College web page, www.usc.edu/ecc. A project description and a simple budget are requested. The deadline for applications is **Feb. 15**. If you have questions, please contact **Jerry Walker** (213) 740-1289 or **Judy Diaz** (213) 740-8841.

Joint RFA/SRA Day Trip: A day trip to the Autry National Center is being planned for February. Check the web sites www.usc.edu/rfa or www.usc.edu/sra in January for details.

A Coveted Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC Is Awarded to Bob Biller

The 2010 Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC was awarded posthumously to **Robert P. Biller** at the Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon in November

The award, presented by **Janette Brown**, executive director of the USC Emeriti Center, was accepted by Biller's widow, **Yvonne Biller**.

"Bob epitomized our motto of 'Colleagues for Life,'" said Brown. "The culture of the Emeriti Center changed for the better since he began working with us. He will be dearly missed."

The award of \$500 that accompanied this honor was generously donated back to the EC by Yvonne.

Biller, who died in August, was a Professor Emeritus of Policy, Planning, and Development and had received the Presidential Medallion in 1998 for being a "creative and visionary administrator" who was willing to take on difficult tasks.

He was a longtime USC administrator (dean of public administration, executive vice provost, dean of fine arts, vice president for external affairs) who remained active in university life even after retiring from full-time status in 2001. He was president of the USC Retired Faculty Association from 2005 to 2007 and continued to serve on its board of directors until



Professor Emeritus Robert P. Biller

2010. Through his leadership, he raised the visibility of the retired faculty and staff in the university community. He encouraged faculty retirees to maintain connections with their colleagues and the university, and he promoted service to USC and the larger community. In retirement, Biller served on several USC committees where he advocated for increased recognition of faculty retirees, and for their participation in university committees and other activities.

Biller also served as a volunteer associate director and as a member of the executive committee of the USC Emeriti Center from 2005 to 2009. He was a valuable advisor to the EC and a major advocate for Center activities and for increasing the financial support of the USC administration for the EC. He also served as an important resource and advisor to the Staff Retirement Association. All of these activities resulted in greater visibility, recognition and appreciation of individual retirees, of the EC, and of the RFA and SRA as important components of the greater university community.

During the 2007-08 academic year, he served as a member of the Academic Senate's Faculty Environment Committee and USC's Committee on Academic Policies and Programs, where he focused on the important contributions of retirees and retiree housing on or near campus.

Biller also cared greatly about students. During his chairmanship of the California Student Aid Commission, he successfully lobbied, together with then USC president **Steven B. Sample**, for significant increases in state-supported financial aid for California college students.

"Bob spent his retirement years in continued, meaningful, and successful service to USC retirees and to the entire university," said Brown. ■



Tim and Anna Sui attended last Fall's seminar.

Fall 2010 Medicare Seminars Inform Retirees

Last fall, the USC Emeriti Center hosted two seminars on Medicare as part of its Wellness series.

The first, entitled "Medicare Provisions of the Health Care Reform Law," discussed the key provisions of the new Health Care Reform Law and changes in the Medicare Part D enrollment periods.

The second, entitled "2011 Medicare Part D Drug Coverage Updates," explained changes in Medicare Part D Drug coverage benefits and cost sharing for 2011.

Both seminars were presented by **Stephanie Lee**, staff attorney for the Center for Health Care Rights, a non-profit health care advocacy organization.

Tim (*emeritus, medicine/anesthesiology*) and **Anna Sui** attended the Part D seminar, one of the first EC seminars they've attended. "This one suits our purposes, because we hadn't yet enrolled in the drug portion of Medicare," said Anna, and they wanted to learn more about it. She said they found the information provided by Lee to be very helpful

You may view both Medicare programs on our website at www.usc.edu/ec by clicking on the link Video Recordings. ■

Berton Is Awarded Order of the Rising Sun

Peter Berton, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Ray with Neck Ribbon, by the Emperor of Japan for his scholarship and long service in the promotion and study of Japanese culture. Berton received the award at a ceremony at the Japanese Consulate in Los Angeles on the afternoon of Nov. 17, which was attended by more than 50 guests, including USC Emeriti Center colleagues **Janette Brown**, **Jerry Walker**, and **Jack Wills**.



Distinguished Professor Emeritus Peter Berton holds the Order of the Rising Sun scroll, which was presented to him by the Consul General of Japan.

Professor Emeritus **Gordon Berger**, who received this honor in 2009, participated in the ceremony. Before the Japanese Consul General presented the gold medal, Berger praised his colleague:

“Peter was a giant among us, a great scholar of international repute and certainly everyone’s SEMPAI (one with the most experience) at USC. Peter went beyond USC as a generator of interest in progress among Japanese studies specialists in the entire Southern California region... Peter does research in more languages than I can count, it appears that he still doesn't understand the meaning of the word retirement!”

The Order of the Rising Sun was established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji of Japan, and was the first national decoration awarded by the Japanese Government. It is the second most prestigious Japanese decoration after the Order of the Chrysanthemum. Before 1981, the Order was only presented to Japanese men.

Berton’s international honor was celebrated a second time by his faculty colleagues at the Provost’s Faculty Recognition Luncheon on Nov. 18. ■

The SRA and RFA Tour the New Medical Center

Last fall, 10 SRA and RFA members toured the new LAC+USC Medical Center. Many thanks to **Martha Galaif** and the CARES (Center Auxiliary for Recruitment, Education, and Service) group for a tasty lunch and the tour. Organized by staff retiree **Dick Martin**, the group toured the Outpatient Clinic tower and the art being gathered by CARES for hanging in the hospital, the Diagnostic and Treatment facility, consisting of labs, emergency rooms, surgery, and radiology, as well as the Inpatient Tower with its 600 beds, Obstetrics, Intensive Care, the jail unit, and most significantly, the Day Care Center operated by CARES. Also fascinating was the Automated Guided Vehicle System, robots which deliver and pick up items, both sterile and non sterile. ■



In the photo, the group stands on the helipad of the new Medical Center, with the old hospital in the background. Back row, from left: Louise Ball, Jane Page, Bob Church, Dick Martin, and Zoila Martir; front row, from left: Alfred and Virginia Hurtado, Sylvia Lamont, Aurora Oligane and Betty Caldwell.

Help Revive Our Book Club!

As electronic media expands, some say the printed word is fast becoming a dinosaur. But if you believe the practice of curling up with a good book is still alive and well, we’d like to hear from you.

The Emeriti Center once had an active Book Club which met monthly to discuss books both fiction and non-fiction. We’re considering rejuvenating this group, so we’re weighing interest in this project.

If you’d like to meet with like-minded book lovers to discuss a tome or two, or if you have experience forming or leading a group, email emeriti@usc.edu with the subject line “Book Club.”

Don’t Forget Your 10% Bookstore Discount!



One of the EC Gold Card perks for retirees that have served 10 years or more is the 10% discount you can receive at the USC Bookstore when you show your card (plus courtesy parking, library, and email access)!

THE EC’S BOOK NOOK

“Bottled & Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession With Bottled Water”

by Peter H. Gleick (2010)

Bottled or tap? Water, a basic necessity of life, has gone from being a free natural resource to a successful business commodity, where in the U.S. every second of every day 1,000 people buy a plastic bottle of water.

The author, a world-renowned scientist and freshwater expert – who, by the way, drinks tap water – explores this phenomena, as well as industry claims about the safety, convenience, and taste of bottled versus tap water.

– Christine Shade

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USC EMERITI CENTER EVENTS

- JANUARY:** **Friday, January 28**
Sherry Hour – the speaker is Alexander Walsh, Doheny Eye Institute, on diseases of the retina and early detection.
3 to 4:45 p.m., Doheny Library, Friends of the Library Room
- FEBRUARY:** **Friday, February 4**
“Empower Yourself and Protect Your Family” (see details, page 2)
- Thursday, February 17**
Half Century Trojans – Going Back to College Day
- MARCH:** **Thursday, March 17**
26th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon
11:30 a.m., Town & Gown
- MAY:** **Wednesday, May 4**
“The Evolution and Variety in the History of Japanese Gardens in Pre-Modern Japan and Modern America,” a lecture by Prof. Ken Brown; 7:30 p.m., Huntington Library, Friendship Hall, San Marino
- Friday, May 13**
127th USC Commencement

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REMINDERS:

Applications for Norris Foundation Research Funds due Feb. 15 (see page 9)

Send J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC nominations in by Friday, Feb. 25 (see page 9).

Upcoming Sherry Hours: March 11 and April 15.

USC EMERITI CENTER