**USC EMERITI CENTER EVENTS**

**MAY:**  
Friday, May 13  
128th USC Commencement, Alumni Park

**JUNE:**  
Thursday, June 16  
11 a.m. SRA Annual Meeting, and election of officers, Gerontology Auditorium.  
Program: Bob Lipson and Saul Jacobs celebrate “The Golden Age of American Popular Music” – lunch at 12:30 p.m. in GER 224; RSVP to ecrsvp@usc.edu, or (213) 740-7122  
Friday, June 17  
Emeriti Center Volunteer Thank You Luncheon

**JULY:**  
Monday, July 4 - Fourth of July Holiday

**AUGUST:**  
Friday, August 5  
The Renaissance of USC’s Campuses  
Check in at 9 a.m., boxed lunch at noon (see page 2)  
Tuesday, August 23  
USC Fall Classes begin

**SEPTEMBER:**  
Wednesday, September 7  
Inamoto Lecture at the Huntington Library: Thomas Elias, Honorary Director, National Bonsai Foundation

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**REMINDERS:**

Stay tuned for news about our upcoming Regional Socials to be held in Oxnard and Pasadena.

These socials are a wonderful way for our retirees to meet and greet their neighbors and to share a potluck lunch and lively conversation.
The Center Helps Colleagues Plan for the Future

“We are colleagues for life,” said Janette C. Brown, executive director of USC’s Emeriti Center, “and we work very hard to help one another.”

With these words of welcome, Brown opened the Center’s “Empower Yourself: Protect Your Family,” a Wellness Seminar that drew more than 130 retirees, faculty, staff, partners, and friends who listened intently to a panel of experts.

The panel evolved because two EC leaders had encountered serious illnesses. “The families were not aware of the many resources and options available to them, and we knew, with a little education, much confusion and suffering could have been avoided,” said Brown.

The panelists spoke on financial and health issues that some retirees are facing now and that others may face in the future. The audience came armed with savvy questions about trusts, the best way to hold real estate titles, and the best places to find resources for other health challenges. The panelists emphasized that the time to plan for the future is now. In that vein, the EC website now provides links to resources as well as documents to aid in planning. The “Empower Yourself” program video with all the handouts is available on the EC web. We hope that this will provide some peace of mind for members of the Trojan Family.

“We are acutely in tune to the needs of our colleagues,” said Brown, “and we welcome USC faculty and staff and their partners (retired or not) to attend and participate in our many educational and social activities.” In addition, the Retired Faculty Association (RFA) and the Staff Retirement Association (SRA) invite retired and non-retired USC colleagues to become members. Both organizations host vibrant and interesting programs and events.
Remarkable Volunteers Enhance Our Programs

It never ceases to amaze me what can be accomplished by the tremendous support and expertise of our retired faculty and staff. Just this past semester, each of these initiatives resulted from caring and concerned volunteer retiree leaders, educators, researchers, editors, and advisors:

• We expanded Trojan ENCORE (TE), thanks to Carole Gustin, June Griffin, Dick Martin, and non-retiree Diana Seyb.

  June devoted three months of her precious time to work for the USC Viterbi School of Engineering to promote the “TE” program; Dick Martin produced a Trojan ENCORE promotional video with Carole.

• We recorded two more “USC Living History” recordings thanks to Dick Martin, Jerry Walker, and student, David Orenstein. James Birren and Sol Golomb are our latest history recordings.

• We sponsored an “Empower Yourself: Protect Your Family” panel presentation providing resources to help when someone is seriously ill (thanks to Gloria Reyes, the entire Benefits and Resources Committee and Shawn Herz).

• We developed handouts to support and prepare families for bereavement. This year, we experienced several untimely deaths; which resulted in special efforts to develop two helpful documents: “After the Death of a Loved One” and “A Record of Documents, Instructions, and Information for My Family.” Both documents are designed to guide us during stressful times. You can find these two documents on our website, and printed copies will be released as well.

We are extremely grateful to Elaine Steward and Connie Horak, also Art Donovan, Ruberta Weaver, Bob Coffey, and Phoebe Liebig who worked on these resources.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Professor Emeritus Bob Stallings for six dedicated years of Web Master support, web innovation, and experienced contributions to several major retiree web sites including Emeriti Center, the Emeriti Center College, the RFA, SRA, ColleaguesforLife.org, and AROHE. In addition, he has been the leader and organizer for the Computer Help Squad and has taught classes for our retiree population and for the local community. His news articles have educated us, and his vision and commitment to learning new technologies and social media have led all our organizations to increased knowledge, visibility, and communication. This has enabled all of us to function more efficiently by posting events, photos, resources, and videos, to make them widely available for all. Bob has consistently improved upon our existing student-developed (2003) web sites and has created new web pages with his knowledge of HTML.

In a few months, through USC web services, we will have a new format for the original student-designed web sites. Thanks to Bob’s knowledge of technology and understanding of our retiree population, he has provided substantial guidance for the new web design.

Janette C. Brown, Executive Director  
jcbrown@usc.edu; (213) 740-7121

The USC Emeriti Center Presents  
The Renaissance of USC’s Campuses

Friday, August 5, 2011  
Gerontology Auditorium & Courtyard  
9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Please join us for an Emeriti Center Summer Session at the USC Gerontology Center Auditorium. Check in at 9 a.m. A boxed lunch will be served at Noon in the courtyard.

Featured Presentations:

• USC’s Future Campus Expansions - An update by Kristina Raspe, Associate Senior Vice President of Real Estate and Asset Management

• USC Students Envision Campus Senior Housing Developments (A class project) by Victor Regnier, ACSA Distinguished Professor, Professor of Architecture and Gerontology & USC Architecture Students

• Musical Encore by Saul H. Jacobs and Bob Lipson

Program and lunch are complimentary, donation accepted at check in.  
RSVP: ecrsvp@usc.edu or (213) 740-7122

Parking: Enter Gate 6 on Vermont & 36th. Park in Structure A.  
Gold Card retirees have courtesy parking – All others $8.
The RFA Will Tackle a Growing Agenda

At its annual meeting in March, the Retired Faculty Association announced election results for officers who will serve during the 2011-2012 academic year. Robert Baker (education) will become RFA’s new President. Phoebe Liebig (gerontology) will serve as Vice President. John Orr (LAS/religion) will serve as Past President. Robert Stallings (SPPD) will become RFA’s new secretary, and Bill Petak (ISSM, SPPD) will complete his three-year term as Treasurer.

Robert Baker is well-prepared to assume the Presidency of RFA. He served for many years as Director of the Southwest Regional Laboratory for Educational Research. In 1977, he joined USC’s faculty as Professor of Educational Psychology. He has been active in RFA Board activities during the past three years.

As RFA President, Baker will oversee a growing agenda of activities. This past year, for example, the RFA has expanded its ombudsman and advocacy initiatives, concentrating on questions related to retired faculty/staff housing, access to University-related electronic resources, and the process of awarding emeritus/a status. Through its highly successful Sherry Hours, the RFA has offered opportunities for interaction among current members of the USC faculty and members of USC’s retired community. It has also built social events around USC’s Visions and Voices programs. And it has worked cooperatively with the Emeriti Center College in convening the intergenerational Forums on Global Change.

There has been a high level of energy in RFA affairs this year, and we have every reason to expect that this will continue (and grow) under the leadership of our new officers.

John Orr, RFA President
orr@usc.edu, (562) 596-7889
www.usc.edu/ rfa

Stay Involved by Serving and Supporting

This will be my last column as President of the SRA since I have decided not to stand for reelection. For two years it has been my pleasure to work with an enthusiastic SRA Board and to reacquaint myself with people whom I met during my 34 years at USC. When I was elected two years ago, I was working part time for a member of the California Legislature and was able to participate in the meetings and conferences necessary to represent USC’s retired staff. But during the past year my employer was elected to the L.A. City Council and invited me to work on a full time basis, an arrangement that makes it impossible to devote sufficient time to SRA activities.

The Emeriti Center is in important discussions with the university administration and it is important that the retired staff community be active participants in this process. I know that there are devoted members of the SRA Board who are able to represent the interests of our community in these discussions. As immediate past president, I will continue to vigorously support the work of the SRA.

USC is poised to take another important step toward the goal of becoming one of the top ten universities in the nation, and the retiree community can take pride in having helped to lay the foundation for that progress.

The Emeriti Center and the retiree organizations are a great way to stay connected with USC and the friends made on campus. I urge you all to stay involved with these groups – I certainly will.

John Hisserich, SRA President
Hisserich@sbcglobal.net; (323) 666-4622
www.usc.edu/sra

Pomp & Circumstance Awaits Caldwell Scholars

The sounds of Pomp & Circumstance await two USC Retired Faculty Association Caldwell Scholars scheduled to graduate this Spring. Karen Martinez, an International Relations and Political Science major and Betrand Perdomo-Ucles, a major in Public Policy, Management and Planning, were awarded the Caldwell Scholarship for each of their four years at USC. Both students are high academic achievers as well as devoted USC community volunteers working with neighborhood middle and high school students.

The USC Retired Faculty Association and the Emeriti Center community are proud of our graduating Caldwell Scholars and we give our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Karen and Betrand.
New Enrichment Courses for Fall 2011:
Great American Songwriters and a Poetry Workshop

Saul Jacobs and Bob Lipson have researched the lives and music of the geniuses who produced a “golden age” in American popular music of the first half of the twentieth century. The unprecedented confluence of musical talent on Broadway, on Tin Pan Alley, and in Hollywood has been captured in a series of programs called “The Golden Age of American Popular music,” which has been a hit at more than 50 venues throughout Southern California. Now they will teach an informative and entertaining eight-week course about the songs, the stage and screen musicals, and the lives and times of the leading songwriters of that era: George & Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Rodgers & Hart, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Harold Arlen, Lerner & Loewe, Jerome Kern, and Cole Porter. You will listen, learn, laugh, sing, reminisce, and enjoy. The class will be offered in the Fall Semester.

Jim Kincaid, Professor of English, will add to our dazzling array of classes in Fall 2011 by teaching a six-week “Poetry Workshop: Fun with Writing, Analyzing, and Singing Poems.” This informal workshop will deal with how we read poetry, how it connects to music through old ballads, rhythm and sound, and how to write our own poetry. The class will explore the interpretation of poems, using some well-known and not-so-well-known examples. Please check our website at www.usc.edu/ecc for further updates.

“The Play’s the Thing” class in Spring 2012. Discussions also have started with Leo Braudy, Leo S. Bing Professor of English, and Richard Jewell, Hugh M. Hefner Professor of American Film, offering a course during Spring 2012 on “Classic Film Noir.” The USC Emeriti Center College is striving to expand its offerings for your enjoyment and enrichment. We invite you to join the fun!

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Successful Collaborations with the Huntington and the Skirball Center

A new Japanese arts and culture lecture series at the Huntington Library, proposed by the USC Emeriti Center College and partially underwritten by the Center’s Noburo Inamoto Endowment Fund, began May 4 at 7:30 p.m. with a free lecture: “The Evolution of the World’s Japanese Gardens,” by Asian art historian Kendall H. Brown. Active and retired USC faculty and staff were encouraged to attend.

The Japanese Garden at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino was closed on April 4 to permit renovations to this much loved, 99-year-old landscape. The nine-acre garden will reopen in spring 2012 just in time to celebrate its Centennial. An exciting new addition to the garden will be a traditional Japanese teahouse surrounded by an authentic landscaped tea garden. The lecture series is designed to enhance the centennial celebration.

“Great Decisions: A Current Events Discussion Group” was co-sponsored by the Skirball Cultural Center and the USC Emeriti Center College for the first time this winter. Affiliated with the Foreign Policy Association, which is dedicated to inspiring the American public to learn more about the world, participants read about and discussed important foreign policy challenges and international crises. The Spring Semester discussion group met every other week for sixteen weeks, and benefited from USC faculty who led discussions, including: Alison Dundes Renteln, Erroll G. Southers, Michael Parks, Robert English, and Saori N. Katada. Group discussions were moderated by Adele Lander Burke, Vice President, Learning for Life.

Further collaboration with the Skirball Cultural Center is being explored. Watch for announcements this summer.

Retired Faculty and Staff Contribute to USC’s Strategic Planning Initiative

In early May, USC provided the retiree community with a special Strategic Planning Session hosted by Associate Provost Robin Romans. Retired faculty and staff with a deep understanding of the university offered perspectives that contributed to the planning process. To offer your ideas and follow the process, go to: www.usc.edu/strategic.

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For those who are still having withdrawal symptoms from the wonderful class, “The Play’s the Thing,” co-taught by Professors Bob Scales, Jim Kincaid, and Michael Arbib, we have great news! Bob and Jim have agreed to teach another
Three Distinguished Emeriti Are Honored

The Faculty Lifetime Achievement Awards are presented annually at the President’s Academic Honors Convocation to retired faculty for their notable contributions to the university, to their profession, and to the community. This year three distinguished colleagues were honored:

Jack Borsting, an exceptional educator and administrator, played a pivotal role in advancing the USC Marshall School of Business as its dean from 1988 to 1994. Under his leadership, the USC Leventhal School of Accounting received its naming gift, the undergraduate business program was ranked in the top 10 by U.S. News and World Report, and the M.B.A. program was rated in the top 20. Among his many other accomplishments, he was appointed assistant secretary of defense for the U.S. Department of Defense by Presidents Carter and Reagan, and he twice received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

USC alumnus Ken Price is an internationally renowned ceramic artist. He has created an astonishing body of work, and his pieces have been collected by some of the most significant museums in the United States and Europe, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. As a faculty member of the USC Roski School of Fine Arts, he developed and strengthened the role of ceramics, and inspired countless students with his thoughtful guidance and infectious passion for art.

Richard Thompson is a towering figure in the field of neuroscience. His long and distinguished career has been devoted to studying the neurobiological mechanisms underlying learning and memory. His theoretical brilliance and experimental virtuosity have yielded discoveries that have revolutionized his field. Beyond his research accomplishments, he has made profound contributions to the university. A professor at USC for over two decades, he was responsible for building the neuroscience program, and he has been a beloved mentor for a generation of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

An Editor’s Thoughts

I set my recycling bin out on a recent morning, full to the brim with mostly paper goods. I imagine those who invented paper in China 2,000 years ago or so couldn’t have imagined what my office would look like today – paper, paper, everywhere.

It’s amazing to think that one person could have so many paper goods that could be parted with each week. But I’m a writer, editor and sometimes poet who has lived in the same house for more than 25 years.

But I’ve been dutifully filling my bin up for three weeks now, and I breathe a sigh of relief when each shredded batch is hauled away.

I got serious about letting go of unneeded paper after helping a good friend move to a smaller house. She’d been in the same place for a dozen years, and had a paper problem, too. We both had books on “organizing” and “taming the paper monster” that sat on our shelves as paper still piled up.

When I retired from USC, paper goods I was unwilling to throw out then came home with me, destined to live in boxes “until I could get to them.” That time is long past. And you only have to go to a few “estate” sales to learn that if you don’t cull your own “stuff” now someone else will do it for you.

And, as much as I love them, books represent paper, too, so I’ve trimmed my personal collection and I’m now a faithful library patron.

It all feels good.

– Christine Shade
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Elaine Steward
esslady@gmail.com

More Resources From “Colleagues for Life” Blog

Here are more sites for readers to check out. And be sure to go to my blog at colleaguesforlife.blogspot.com/

• For a website which collects recipes, go to foodily.com/. A nice feature is that there is a “without” (salt, gluten, peanuts, etc.) field as part of the search.

• If you have a dog, perhaps you’d like to subscribe to the “Woof Report,” a weekly newsletter that covers such things as training tips, dog accessories, etc. Go to www.woofreport.com/
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:

John P. Allen (medicine); Samuel P. Bessman (medicine/pediatrics); Raymond Bowens (School of Architecture/woodshop director); Ruth Britten (social work); Clarence Crowell (electrical engineering-electrophysics/material science); Francis C. Hertzog; Donald J. Lewis (psychology); Francis Morris (medicine/otolaryngology); Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. (history); Gabriel Romero Gonzalez (transportation service); Annabel Teberg (medicine); Joyce “Sandy” Toscan (library); Diane Talmage Van Iden (Office of Protocol/event planner); John Viljoen (medicine/anesthesiology); Jean-Roger Vergnaud (humanities/linguistics); Harold von Hofe (German/Feuchtwanger Institute for Exile Studies); Anna Ward (Student Affairs); and W. Ross Winterowd (English).

Twitter: What It Does, and Why You Need It

Forget everything you’ve heard about Twitter. You don’t have to tell the world what you had for breakfast nor must you follow Ashton Kutcher or Charlie Sheen.

What you can do is receive news in real-time (about Japan, Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, etc.) from the New York Times (@nytimes), CNN (@CNN), NPR (@nprnews), PBS (@NewsHour), and more. If you want local news, you can follow the Los Angeles Times (@latimes), KTLA (@ktla), Channel 7 Eyewitness News (@abc7), and the like. What these organizations provide in their 140-character tweets are headlines, sometimes with a little text, and shortened links that take you directly to complete stories, photos, and videos on their websites. Interested in the entertainment industry? Try following The Hollywood Reporter (@THR) and the Internet Movie Database (@IMDb). Want to stay connected with USC? Numerous units and groups from across the university (@USCedu) tweet regularly including KUSC (@ClassicalKUSC), the College (@usccollege), and the library system (@USCLibraries). Don’t forget to follow the Retired Faculty Association’s (@USCrfa) and the Emeriti Center College’s Social Media (@eccssocialmedia) tweets.

No, you don’t have to follow me! I rarely tweet, but I frequently retweet (sort of like forwarding e-mail messages).

@RobertStallings

In the News

Sharing Expertise: USC retirees in the news, include:

• The Washington Post, in an op-ed, wrote that USC President Emeritus Steven B. Sample should be nominated as one of the best leaders of 2010. Sample, who stepped down last year, transformed USC into a top-notch undergraduate and graduate university in just 20 years, the article stated. USC has become much more sought after and selective, has seen the caliber of its faculty soar, and has experienced great growth in alumni giving, endowment size and grant revenue, the story added.

• The Washington Post ran a January op-ed by Stephen Krashen, professor emeritus (education), on a rewriting of the No Child Left Behind act proposed by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “The plan presented in the Department of Education’s Blueprint for Reform calls for an astonishing amount of testing, far more than we have now with No Child Left Behind,” Krashen wrote. “We are about to make a mistake that will cost billions and make school life (even more) miserable for millions of teachers and students.”

• KFNX-AM interviewed Gordon Berger, professor emeritus (USC College), about the Japanese mindset in response to disasters.

• Los Angeles Daily News quoted Robert Scales, professor emeritus (theatre), about Syracuse University’s new L.A.-based acting program, as well as the established theater programs of USC and UCLA. The L.A. Weekly and the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin also cited Scales.

An Honor for Nadler

Gerald Nadler, professor emeritus (engineering), was honored as one of 22 alumni (from a field of more than 200) and faculty/administrators chosen for inauguration into Cincinnati, Ohio’s Walnut Hills High School Hall of Fame.

Would you like to join a widows/widowers group for lunch sometime? If so, please call or email our office.
A Celebration for Birren
The USC Davis School of Gerontology celebrated Jim Birren’s 93rd birthday on April 5 with a cake and video that includes the construction of the Andrus Gerontology Center. May Ng found the old photos in the basement of the Center and used them to produce the slide show video. It can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnAlJC5soio. If this link doesn’t work, go to YouTube and search for Jim Birren 93 Birthday 2011.

Congratulations to our Students!
Congratulations to our EC student staff members who graduate this year. They are, left, Jessica Gima (aerospace engineering), Austyn Castro (economics) and, not shown, Tom Franco (MSW social work). We’ve greatly enjoyed working with them and wish them the best for the future.

2010 Staff Retirees Averaged 28 Years of Service
Sparkling Shamrocks greeted attendees at the 26th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon on March 17 at Town & Gown. Martha Harris, Senior Vice President, University Relations, offered congratulations and appreciation from USC for years of dedicated service. She urged the retirees to maintain connections with our Trojan Family in some way. Seventy-six members of the staff retired in 2010, serving a total of 1,762 years, an average of almost 28 years.

SRA President, John Hisserich, introduced the 2010 retirees in attendance. Gabriel Romero Gonzalez was honored posthumously for his 22 years of service. His widow, Angelina, and daughter, Margaret Turner, represented him.

Janette Brown, Executive Director of the Emeriti Center, presented Carole Gustin with the “2011 J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC.” Gustin thanked the Emeriti Center and acknowledged the support she received from her retiree colleagues. She also gave special thanks to her mentor, the late Bob Biller, and expressed how much he is missed by the entire retiree community.

Attendance Up at "Going Back to College Day"
The USC Alumni Association presented the third annual “Going Back to College Day” for the Half Century Trojans (those who graduated at least 50 years ago) on Feb. 17.

Retired USC faculty and staff are “honorary” Half Century Trojans and are welcome to participate. Attendance was up 65% this year. Part of the program’s popularity is the result of the high-quality faculty speakers who are identified and recruited by the USC Emeriti Center College.

This year, four talks were presented, including: Abraham F. Lowenthal, “Rethinking U.S. Interests in the Americas;” Rob S. McConnell, “Environmental Contributors to Chronic Disease – New Approaches to Prevention;” Sharon L. Walker, “Water Quality Issues in California and Israel;” and Dowell Myers, “Planning the Future of California.” Please join us next year for more high quality presentations.

- Jerry Walker, Director, EC College

Here’s Some Chuckles
A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lives. “Oh,” he said, “she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we’re done having her visit, we take her back to the airport.” When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, “I’m not sure.” “Look in your underwear, Grandpa,” he said.

- A backward poet writes inverse.
- Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana.
- Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
2011 J. Tillman Hall Staff Award Is Presented to Carole Gustin

The 2011 J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC was presented to Carole W. Gustin at the 26th annual Staff Retirement Luncheon on March 17 at Town & Gown.

Gustin started her career at USC in 1980 as the senior secretary of the Freshman Writing Program. From there, she progressed to administrative assistant in Transnational Studies, to Director of Student Affairs and to Associate Director at the School of International Relations. While working at USC, Gustin served on the executive board of USC Women in Management and was a founding member of the USC Council of Academic Advisors, and in 1997, she received the USC Staff Assembly’s Staff Recognition Award. Gustin retired from the position of executive assistant to the Dean in the School of Architecture in 2001.

Upon retirement, Gustin has been an untiring supporter of the Staff Retirement Association (SRA). She became Program Chair in 2003, and was elected President in 2005, holding that post for four years. As President, she envisioned a dynamic Board of Directors to benefit staff retirees and expanded the size of the Board while recruiting highly motivated, energized retirees to various board positions. She also increased the number of Members-at-Large. In her tenure as President, Gustin elevated many events, outings, and programs for USC’s retirement community. As an example of her Board’s successes, the Retired Faculty Association emulated some of the accomplishments of the SRA within their own organization. Through Gustin’s efforts, the two associations have collaborated on many occasions and have become a united voice advocating for USC retirees.

Gustin is the Coordinator of the Trojan ENCORE Pilot Program, which brings retirees back to USC on a voluntary or paid part-time basis, and is a member of the Executive Committee for the Emeriti Center. She volunteers in the Emeriti Center office and continues to serve on the SRA Board of Directors as Immediate Past-President. She is the epitome of unselfishness, volunteering and assisting whenever the need arises.

Outside of USC, Gustin serves as President of her homeowners association, a position she previously held from 2004-2006, has served as a voting inspector at various elections, and as an elementary school volunteer.

Through her enthusiasm, knowledge, love of USC, and just plain hard work, Gustin has greatly increased recognition of retired staff on the USC campus.

What are YOU Doing?

Are you a faculty or staff retiree writing a book or conducting research, either through grants or on your own? Do you have an interesting job or volunteer position that you are willing to tell us about? If so, contact our newsletter editor, Christine Shade: shade@usc.edu, or call the Emeriti Center: (213) 740-8921 and let us know about your projects and activities.

Vocal Gymnastics Add Vigor to the Cords

The Emeriti Center College’s first “Vocal Gymnastics” class started off with gusto on March 7, loaded with songs and readings and singing exercises that were well calculated to bring life back to “retired” vocal cords. Led by former USC Thornton School of Music Dean, Bill Thomson, and assisted by Gerontology major and musical studies minor in voice, Emily Loynachan (see below), the class ended with its sixth meeting on April 11. Subsequent classes have been packed with solo and group renditions of everything from such old pop standards as “Mairzy Doats and Dozy Doats” and “Sentimental Journey,” to readings of Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address” and Poe’s “The Cask of Amontillado.”

The class’ guiding goal is to acquaint retirees with ways and means for combating vocal cord inflexibility, a condition brought on by the reduced vocal demands of aging. Results thus far seem promising. Emeritus Professor Paul Ille confirmed that “the Monday classes have been fun and illuminating as well as helpful.” Emeritus Professor Warren Erickson’s prognosis of long term results notes that “all the things we learned are easy to do, and easy to continue doing long after the class ends.”
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 $500 or more contribution.

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Cats and dogs can be both loyal friends that provide unconditional love, as well as pets that create fall hazards. A cat can dash between your legs as you’re moving down a hallway, or a dog can jump up without warning and knock you to the ground.

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied falls data from 2001-2006,” said Emily Nabors, program coordinator and evaluator at the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence at USC. “Each year an average of 86,000 fall injuries involved dogs and cats, with the highest fracture rates among adults age 75 and older.”

Here are some tips to prevent injuries, to keep your pet a pal, instead of a peril:

- Keep pet items like toys and pet bowls out of paths and walkways to avoid tripping over them;
- For cats and smaller dogs that may run under your feet, place a bell on the pet’s collar to let you know when your pet is nearby;
- Be aware of your pet when people of all ages visit your home. Older adults with balance problems or children may be at risk of falling when around a pet. And when outside, keep control of your dog to protect those around you – a dog that barks could startle a person with balance problem;
- Know your dog’s behavior. Some dogs can knock you over if they get excited or pull you down if they run towards other dogs; and;
- Walk in familiar well-lit areas with level ground, use two hands on the leash, and increase stability by placing one hand on the leash loop and the other hand lower down on the leash.

For more information on preventing falls around pets, as well as other simple steps to prevent falls, visit the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence website, www.stopfalls.org.

A Giving Opportunity to Act on Now

It’s Back! A practical way to make tax-free charitable gifts from an IRA to the USC Emeriti Center or to any USC unit or initiative.

Act Now!” Through the end of the 2011 calendar year, individuals over the age of 70 ½ can make an impact at USC by transferring funds directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to the Emeriti Center. Check with your professional advisor about the best ways to take advantage of this giving opportunity.

Example: Barbara, age 72, lives comfortably on her pension, savings, and Social Security. When she takes withdrawals from her IRA, she is taxed on those funds and the additional income also means that her Social Security income is taxed. She was pleased to learn that by having her charitable gifts made directly from her IRA this year, she avoids reporting that amount as income, pays no taxes on those funds, bypasses additional tax on her Social Security benefits, and supports USC.
I am now almost finished with my journey of medical treatment for breast cancer. I have been given examinations, explanations and expectations; I have gone through and successfully recovered from surgery; I have just completed a schedule of radiation therapy; and I will now be starting on a special prescribed medication.

So far, I have coped well, made progress, experienced only moderate discomfort or disruption.

Indeed, during this time, I have come to be regarded as almost a “model” older patient. I followed instructions, I kept appointments, I made adjustments, I tolerated the demands of the schedule, I accepted the fatigue of the treatments. I didn’t express anger or envy of others or pity for myself – at least, not too much.

I remember that, at first, I worried that my age – over 80 – would be a problem in coping with cancer treatment, but instead I found that, in some ways I coped well because of my age, not in spite of it. That’s not to say there’s any “good” or “better” age to have breast cancer. But different skills and strengths can be found at different ages.

I am not talking of any unusual or profound wisdom I’ve discovered over my years, but of the practical realities I’ve experienced over my years.

There are three long-ago learned lessons that have been especially important for me in my cancer treatment.

First, I know not to expect many straight, smooth paths on any journey. Life presents happenings that I may not seek or anticipate or want. I do not have a choice about these, but I do have some choice about what I do about them – not necessarily how to “fix” them, but how to face them.

Second, I know through long experience that there are few safe or sure shortcuts. If I do some things only partially or occasionally, or alter or “forget” other things, I may save myself time or inconvenience – but I also may bring risk or harm. And I will be the one who pays the highest cost.

Third, there few absolute guarantees. Even if I try my hardest, do my best, care the most, I may not necessarily see the “happy” ending I hope for, or believe I deserve. All I can do is all I can do, and hope that it works out well – or, at least, well enough.

These lessons may seem negative, because they teach what cannot be done. But at the same time, they teach what can and should be done.

And finally, at my age, I have lived long enough to not feel the same terror of threat to my lifespan that a younger person may feel. I’m not saying that I don’t care about how long I live, that I don’t want or won’t try to do all I can, but it does mean that I can think differently about my life.

I can think less about counting the time I have left in my life and instead think more about making the time I have left in my life still count. ■

Hawthorne is a retired clinical social worker and emeritus faculty member of the School of Social Work at USC.

Be Alert for Bicycles

While walking on campus, please be alert for riders on bicycles. An EC member recently had a near miss with a bicyclist who was in a hurry and turned a corner without warning. Listen, too, for the sound of approaching skateboards. So be sure to be aware of your surroundings and stay safe while visiting our campus. ■
**June Brown Honored With Prestigious Award**

The California Social Welfare Archives (CSWA) presented June Brown, Associate Professor Emerita (social work) with the 2011 Frances Lomas Feldman Excellence in Education Award at an April luncheon at the Galen Center Founders’ Room.

Brown has provided the School of Social Work and the field with invaluable leadership and vision through her many professional and academic accomplishments.

Brown earned an MSW in 1961 and a DSW in 1970 at USC, and was a social worker with the L.A. County Bureau of Public Assistance for 16 years before teaching at the USC School of Social Work. She became an instructor in 1969 teaching in the master and doctoral programs, and rose to the position of assistant dean for academic affairs in 1987.

Brown served students through her role as chair of the Social Policy sequence at the School of Social Work (1971-1975 and 1984-1985), and also chaired the Family and Children’s Services concentration (1979-1991). She organized and coordinated faculty development, revision of courses, curriculum design, and development of core concentration courses. Brown’s exceptional service to the community and the profession is evident in one of her biggest accomplishments, in which she testified before the L.A. County Board of Supervisors in 1984 recommending that child welfare services be consolidated into a single department. This led the way for the establishment of the Department of Children’s Services that same year.

Brown is also a prolific writer who has contributed to numerous publications on the topics of social work education, especially the integration of race and ethnicity into curricula, and the intersection of race and ethnicity with child welfare, mental health treatment and social services access.

**USC Living History Project is Alive and Well**

Professor Emerita Natalie Cohen, RFA representative on the Academic Senate Board, asked, “Is the Senate interested in the Living History Project?” on March 23. The answer was an immediate and resounding chorus of “Yes!” from Vice Provost Marty Levine, Senate President Peter Conti, Alex Capron, Sandeep Gupta and many others.

You will be pleased to know that Jim Birren, founding Dean of the Davis School of Gerontology, and Solomon Golomb, Distinguished University Professor, have recently been interviewed.

Invitations to participate in the Living History Project have been sent to University Professor Warren Bennis and Marshall Cohen, University Professor, Emeritus, and Walter Wolf, Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences, also has been invited to participate.

**Trojan ENCORE Update**

In the last few months several retirees have filled part-time or short-term positions for several USC units – the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, Master of Professional Writing, and Department of Architecture History among them. We are pleased to report the following achievements:

- June Griffin has joined our task force as a consultant
- Four retirees have filled six (6) paid positions in the last six months
- Two retirees have filled two volunteer positions
- We have two new brochures: one for hiring managers, and one for retirees
- We filmed a video that is shown at Transitions Seminars and other programs
- One of our retirees stated, “I earned a wage and was able to give back to a community I care about. It was a wonderful experience.”

It’s easy to become part of our pool of potential workers/volunteers. For more information, contact Carole Gustin (cgustin@usc.edu).

**THE EC’S BOOK NOOK**


The railroads opened up vast territories in the American West in the late 1800s. There were few people but great agricultural potential, and with that came a need for many hands to do the picking. These workers weren’t needed year round, so transient harvesters – men, women and children – moved across the country to do the work, and no one expected them to stay in town and become residents. In fact, once their work was done, they were often run out of town. But they helped to build the West, and this is their story.

– Christine Shade