

Emeriti Center

Retiree Community Newsletter

This Newsletter is devoted to news and articles of interest to all USC retirees. The USC Emeriti Center supports the entire USC Retiree Community, the Emeriti College, the Retired Faculty Association, and the Staff Retirement Association.

30th Anniversary Celebration Kicks Off With an Oct. 25 Luncheon

It's Been 30 Years!

The Emeriti Center will begin a year-long 30th Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 25, 2008, at a special Town & Gown luncheon. The luncheon will host not only the USC retiree community, but all attendees of the AROHE Conference.

"The EC/AROHE combination luncheon is fitting," said executive director Janette Brown, "since our former executive director, the late Paul Hadley, led AROHE many years before he helped incorporate it as a non-profit in 2002." Dr. Hadley, Brown said, recognized the need for colleges and universities to share best practices and support one another as they create programs and services for retired faculty and staff. As a result of his efforts, many new retiree organizations have been formed.

This 30th year will begin a tradition of honoring retired USC faculty and staff volunteers. In the USC tradition we have initiated two new awards (see page 8) in the names of Hadley and the

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We have initiated two new awards in the names of Paul Hadley and J. Tillman Hall.

Potential USC Retiree Housing to be Discussed

Monday, Sept. 15, SRA General Meeting – Noon Program follows lunch GER 224

When that house you're now living in seems too big and you yearn for someone else to fix the roof, repair the plumbing and mow the grass, wouldn't it be nice to enjoy life with your fellow Trojans? How might that be possible, you ask?

A discussion on potential USC retiree housing may give you ideas on how in the future you could easily drop by the Norris Cinema Theatre for a new film, hear the Thornton Jazz Ensemble play in Hancock Auditorium, catch a baseball game at Dedeaux Field, or check out the latest exhibit at the Fisher Art Museum – all within a

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AROHE Conference Presents New Research, Resources

What's the newest research on the state of retiree affairs? What are the challenges facing higher education's retirees? How can universities benefit from the knowledge and expertise of their talented faculty and staff retirees who still have much to contribute?

More than 100 retired faculty, staff, and professional administrators from across the nation and Canada will address these issues and more when they gather **Oct. 24 – 26** at the Radisson Hotel for the 2008 AROHE Conference hosted by the USC Emeriti Center.

Highlights of the conference include: AARP/NRTA speaker **Roger Anunsen**, the creator of "MemAerobics," a cognitive intervention program promoting "brain wellness;" **Gerald Davison**, dean, USC Davis School of Gerontology; **Helen Dennis**, author/lecturer

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Our 30th Anniversary Nears; New Staff Member Is on Board

Thanks to **Provost C. L. Max Nikias'** support for many new initiatives, we have a budget that allowed us to hire new staff member **Christopher Curry** who assists us with communication and administrative support. Chris (see page 9) now staffs the GER 220 office front desk daily from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This October, we will "kick off" the Emeriti Center's 30th Anniversary year by hosting a luncheon at Town & Gown for the USC Retiree Community and for AROHE conference attendees. Special invited guests include: **Jim Birren, Debbie Hadley Corazza** (daughter of Paul Hadley), **Bill Faith, Frances Feldman, Norm Fertig, John Hubbard, Anthony Lazzaro, Betty Redmon, Alvin Rudisill, Harriet Servis, Barbara Solomon, and Nancy Sweeney** (daughter of J. Tillman Hall). **Eric Ambler, Claude Zachary, and Sally Emerson** are planning a historical timeline display for the courtyard, and our featured speaker will discuss how to keep our minds sharp. Invitations for this event will go out at the end of September.



Janette Brown

We are extremely grateful to **Bob Scales** for his tremendous work as the Emeriti College director over the past four years. Bob will continue as a leader at the Emeriti Center and the Emeriti College. Bob not only directed the Emeriti College, but played an important role managing and developing the EC retiree database. In addition, he conducted survey research, wrote articles, designed office space for greater efficiency, and is currently helping with new initiatives exploring potential retiree housing. We greatly appreciate Bob's dedicated contributions to the Emeriti College and the Emeriti Center. **Jerry Walker** is now our official Emeriti College director (see page 4). We welcome him and look forward to many new educational endeavors.

The EC staff and Executive Committee, along with **John Orr** and **Natalie Cohen** met for two days in June to discuss our vision, values and expectations within the Emeriti Center. With expert leadership and facilitation from **Roberto Blain**, Associate Director, Employee Recruitment Services, and **Leslie Dacruz**, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing, USC Viterbi School of Engineering, we clarified our purpose, appreciated the philosophies and standards established so many years ago, and envisioned the future. All agreed that we need more space for a significant home base with meeting space and offices for retirees to work on projects, research, and mentoring.

We have recently reorganized our current space to accommodate Trojan ENCORE, our new administrative assistant, and many initiatives. Thanks to **Bob Scales** we have created more storage space and have added two more workstations. Please stop by to see how we have managed to expand without acquiring more square footage.

Our latest exciting addition to the Emeriti Center is the recent purchase of an electric cart to transport those with difficulty walking, increase efficient travel to more distant meeting spaces, and to help us transport heavy materials for events. Dean **Jerry Davison** is funding the cart's parking space, another example of collaboration with the Davis School of Gerontology to share resources and support each other's important endeavors.

– Janette Brown, Executive Director; jcbrown@usc.edu;
213-740-7121; www.usc.edu/emericenter

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late J. Tillman Hall, who began our Living History Project (see EC Web site). During our Anniversary year, we will also highlight USC retiree accomplishments, then end the celebrations with a special 2009 event commemorating USC faculty and staff who have inspired students throughout the years.

A Look at the Past; and Moving Forward

This column is being written through the joint efforts of myself and the Executive Committee with help from our Emeriti Center liaison, **Eric Ambler**, since the president and vice president are currently unavailable. As we recently compiled the annual RFA report for **Janette Brown**, it seemed reasonable to share this with our members.

The year 2007-2008 was a year of consolidation and expansion for the Retired Faculty Association. Programs and accomplishments included:

- The annual Provost's Faculty Recognition Luncheon, which featured nearly 50 recent faculty retirees, five deans of schools, and a keynote speech from Provost **C. L. Max Nikias**.
- Renewed commitment to the Caldwell Scholarship Program: meetings with scholarship recipients and university officials to gauge how well the program was working and how it could be improved.
- Contributions to the RFA Endowment fund and annual collection of RFA dues – the Board, with the help of the Andrus Volunteers, sent personalized letters to all faculty retirees and received more than 600 responses with dues and contributions amounting to \$16,000.
- Formation of RFA Executive Committee to break down the implications and logistics of all Board actions.

Overall, the past year displayed the RFA's growing appreciation of how many people it takes for the group to function properly and its commitment to maximizing efficiency to allow for even more exciting new projects in the upcoming year.

2008-2009 promises to be very busy, with joint SRA-RFA events like the Holiday Celebration and breakfast and assisting the Emeriti Center with its Transitions events, as well as preparations for October's AROHE conference and celebrations for the Emeriti Center's 30th anniversary.

But as always, the RFA's major event for the year is the annual Provost's Recognition Luncheon where the past year's faculty retirees are honored by the Provost, Deans, and fellow faculty members. This year's luncheon is on Thursday, Nov. 20, so mark your calendars and save the date. Invitations will go out in October.

– Steb Chandor, RFA Past-President; chandor@usc.edu;
323-442-8589; www.usc.edu/rfa

It's Time for Many, Many Thank Yous!

A BIG THANK YOU to **Lynn Williams** and **Bob and Jeanne Church** for arranging the June program, to **Sadye Lawson** for the annual membership mailing, and to **Dick Martin** for taking on the management of our data files. And thanks, too, to **Frank Chew** for getting checks deposited and for paying our bills.



Carole Gustin

A BIG THANK YOU to those who have renewed their memberships and those who have joined the SRA for the first time.

AN EVEN BIGGER THANK YOU to members who gave a gift – as of July 18, \$3,693 to the endowment and \$740 to operating expenses, a combined \$4,433. There is still time to renew or join, so if you need a form, let me know.

Oct. 24, 25, and 26 are the dates for the AROHE conference. If you can volunteer a few hours for registration tables or to help with some events, let **Chris Curry** know at 213-740-8921. The Saturday luncheon begins the celebration of the Emeriti Center's 30th Anniversary. Please put it on your calendar – it's free for USC retirees.

Alice Donahue moved to Temecula, but will continue to coordinate our card program. If you haven't been receiving your SRA birthday card or you know someone who needs a get well or sympathy card, please let Alice know at 951-302-9557.

Homecoming is Nov. 1 – USC vs. Washington – meet four hours prior to kickoff!

THANKS to **Sally Emerson** for managing the EC/SRA/RFA booth for many years! In 2008, **Lucy Brown** will coordinate for the SRA. She will need us to donate cookies. If you are going to be on campus or just want to touch base with some fellow retirees, please stop by. The booth is located in Alumni Park.

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

P.S. See back cover Calendar for "Save the Date" events!

Emeriti College Welcomes a New Director, Jerome B. Walker

Robert Scales to stay on as a member of the Emeriti College Oversight Group.

I am pleased to announce a new Director of the Emeriti College, **Jerry Walker**, who took over on Aug.1, 2008. I look forward to continuing my participation as a presenter in the Emeriti College, as an attendee at College events and serving as a member of the new Emeriti College Oversight Group.



Jerry Walker

Jerry Walker is a former Associate Provost at the University of Southern California where he served as an Accreditation Liaison Officer to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges from 1986 to May 2008. The positions he held during his tenure at USC include: Executive Director of the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement from 1981 to 2001; Assistant Provost, from 1981 to 1986; Director of

USC's Centennial Celebration, 1980-1981; and Special Assistant to the President for Development from 1977 to 1980.

Walker holds a B.A. in Political Science and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration and Policy Analysis from Stanford University. We are honored to have Jerry join us at the Emeriti College.

We hope you will join us in exploring new possibilities at the Emeriti College. Please volunteer to be a presenter, suggest a topic for a presentation, provide a question for discussion, or to identify a community we could serve.

Please contact **Judy Diaz**, Assistant Director of the USC Emeriti College, 213-740-8841, judydiaz@usc.edu or Jerry Walker, Director of the USC Emeriti College, 213-740-1289, jbwalker@usc.edu with your suggestions.

– Robert R. Scales, Past-Director, Emeriti College
rscales@usc.edu; www.usc.edu/ecc

Transitions to Retirement Gets High Marks

The USC Emeriti Center continues to serve our current retirees and to prepare active staff and faculty members for retirement. This past April and July, the Emeriti Center, along with the Office of Benefits Administration, hosted the annual "Transitions to Retirement" seminars on both the University Park Campus and Health Sciences Campus.

Since 2006, these one-day seminars have been held in the spring and summer months to accommodate more individuals. Annually, nearly 200 pre-retirees attend these sessions. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and as one attendee noted recently "This program has been getting better and better."

These sessions are designed to provide information and answer questions attendees might have about retirement. Topics range from income issues such as what one needs to do to begin receiving retirement income and issues such as Social Security, Medicare and USC Senior Care. Attendees also learn about the Emeriti Center, Emeriti College, Retired Faculty Association, and Staff Retirement Association and how they can stay connected to the university community. An added feature is learning about legal issues such as estate planning, trusts and wills, and health care options.

– Gloria M. Reyes, Assistant Director, Retiree Relations
213-740-8175; gmreyes@usc.edu; www.usc.edu/emericenter

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short walk of your new "digs."

Michael Lehrer, American Institute of Architects Award Winning architect and USC adjunct faculty member and **Kristina Raspe**, USC's Associate V.P., Real Estate and Asset Management, will share with us some of the possibilities being considered and answer questions.

Following this discussion, enjoy a SURPRISE MUSICAL TREAT! We won't tell who, but we know you'll enjoy this finale to our program.

Reservations are required, as lunch will be served. RSVP to 213-740-7122 or to emeriti@usc.edu

James E. Birren Is a Case Study in Healthy Aging

The Emeriti Center collaborates with Davis School to honor an important USC retiree.

The USC Emeriti Center planned, organized and executed the USC Davis School of Gerontology's 90th birthday celebration for its founding dean, **James E. Birren**. This included many personal tributes and the presentation of a commemorative scrapbook at the Gerontology Courtyard in early May.

"We were proud to be at the forefront in arranging this collaborative event to honor Jim. He is an active and inspirational member of our USC retiree community," said **Janette C. Brown**, executive director of the Center.

Birren, blue eyes gleaming, looked fit and trim and was wearing his signature striped cardinal and gold tie. Without using note cards, the talented orator dazzled a crowd of gerontology faculty, former students and luminaries in the field of aging.

Forced to overcome long-held dogmas about human development and aging, Birren discussed the gradual growth of gerontology into the indispensable academic discipline it is today.

"The idea of what it means to grow old has changed so much in my lifetime," he said. "The elder years used to be looked at as a time to 'find a new rocking chair,' now the idea is 'use it or lose it.'"

An expert in the areas of neurocognition and psychology, Birren established much of the framework of modern gerontological theory. His notion of "quality of life" as a multidimensional concept involving biological, psychological and socio-cultural domains is one of the core principles of the USC Davis School curriculum.

In 1950, Birren joined the National Institute of Mental Health and created the first section on aging. He came to USC 15 years later as dean of the Davis



Jim and Betty Birren relax at the USC Emeriti Center.

School and executive director of the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center, where he served until 1989.

Current Davis dean **Gerald C. Davison** described Birren as "iconic, visionary, strategic and supportive to students, staff and faculty."

In 2006, Birren returned to the USC Davis School to instruct a course on autobiographical writing. Using his own approach known as the Guided Autobiography Method, he helped a diverse group of students and Andrus Center volunteers to recall, organize and share life experiences.

"The vitality of the young intrigued the older people and in turn young people were inspired by the stories of the aged," Birren said.

Following his birthday presentation, an open microphone was available for friends, students and colleagues to comment.

Jon Pynoos, UPS Foundation Professor of Gerontology, said Birren "is not only supportive and productive, he's an example of what creative aging is all about."

Merril Silverstein, professor of gerontology and sociology, said "reaching 90 as lucid and as good of shape as he's in is as much of an inspiration as his contribution to the field."

This article is an edited version of a May 2008 USC News Web site article by Athan Bezaitis.

Jim and Betty Birren endowed the Autobiographical Studies at the USC Davis School of Gerontology with a \$100,000 donation. Subsequent donations to the endowment in honor of Jim Birren to date include an additional \$17,000.

The AROHE Survey Is Making Great Progress

The AROHE survey in progress will provide AROHE Conference attendees with the latest data from across the U.S. and Canada. At press time (Aug. 1), we had more than 110 institutional survey responses with 63% AAU participation. In addition to quantitative data, we are analyzing qualitative responses reflecting best practices and challenges faced by campus based retiree organizations. The preliminary data offers interesting insight into institutional practices for retired faculty and staff.

- Of those responding to the AROHE Survey so far, 94% represent universities and 6% represent colleges.
- Regions Represented: 31% South; 25% West; 17% Canada; 16% Midwest; and 12% Northeast.

Here's a sample of preliminary results of privileges/benefits provided for retired faculty and staff:

95% Library facilities usage	67% Recognition dinners/luncheons/receptions
85% Institutional e-mail services	56% Serve both faculty and staff retirees
82% Identification cards	30% Emeritus/Emerita Professor status is automatic at retirement
79% Free or reduced parking fees	15% Have retirement communities or senior housing affiliated with campus
71% Include spouses/partners/widows of retirees	
68% Emeritus/Emerita Professor status granted only after review	

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and national expert on aging, employment and retirement; **Jack Rothman**, comedian & UCLA Professor Emeritus; **James Birren/Cheryl Svensson** on Autobiography Programs, **Todd Dickey**, USC Senior Vice President on Celebrating the Emeriti Center's 30-Year Anniversary, and senior housing panelist **Patricia Will**, president and CEO of Belmont Village Senior Living.

Conference subjects include use of technology, housing issues, campus retiree re-employment programs (such as USC's new Trojan ENCORE program), educational and creative programs for retirees, service and volunteerism, and trends in lifelong learning.

"In addition to the important exchange of ideas," said Janette Brown, "we are excited that conference attendees will be able to explore venues on our USC campus." These include a USC Fisher Museum of Art exhibit "Phantasmagoria: Specters of Absence," and unique USC Doheny Library exhibits "A Sound Design: The Art of the Album Cover" and the library's Treasure Room exhibit, "The Assault on Ideas from Homer to Harry Potter."

In addition, there are two Saturday night options available to attendees: a visit to the Getty Center Los Angeles, or a Concert at Disney Hall.

For more information: www.arohe.org/conference

The Importance of the AROHE USC Emeriti Center Connection

In 2002, the late **Paul Hadley's** efforts established the "Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education" (AROHE).

AROHE is a nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers throughout the United States and Canada.

The USC Emeriti Center houses the AROHE office and records. **Janette C. Brown** is the executive director of both the USC Emeriti Center and AROHE.

The USC Emeriti Center is especially honored to host the 2008 AROHE Conference – "Retiree Organizations in Higher Education: Values and Opportunities" – Oct. 24 - 26, 2008, during the Center's 30th Anniversary year and will be sharing an anniversary lunch with the USC retiree community during the AROHE Conference.

How the Retired Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee Works for You

Our 30th Anniversary historical review will highlight this important advocacy by the EC.

Health insurance and health care coverage has been an ongoing concern for USC retirees. The Retired Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee was formed in 1990 as a result of concern for health insurance benefits for retired faculty and staff. **J. Tillman Hall**, who was then director of the USC Emeriti Center, convened individuals from the Faculty Senate (now the Academic Senate), Staff Assembly, Retired Faculty Association and Staff Retirement Association to explore ways to address this concern. The group, called the Special Committee for Retiree Health Benefits, explored ways to address the need for health insurance coverage after retirement and found that, unlike other universities, USC did not provide retiree health coverage.

Originally chaired by the late **Eli Glogow** (public administration), this committee was instrumental in proposing that the retiree health stipend be extended to all USC retirees age 65 and older with at least 15 years of service. Prior to the committee's involvement, the stipend was only available to those who retired in 1984 and earlier.

Over the years retiree benefits have been enhanced in part, by the efforts of the Retired Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee, such as increases to the retiree health stipend. Additionally, the committee informs USC retirees about health-care options such as Medicare Part D plans and Social Security. A member of the committee also serves as a representative on the university's Employee Benefits Advisory Committee which reviews, evaluates and recommends on USC health plans and benefits for all employees.

Although the focus of the committee has been on health care, the committee also addresses other issues. Under the auspices of the Emeriti Center, the committee collaborates with other departments and units on campus to provide educational seminars to USC retirees. For example, they conducted seminars along with the USC Credit Union on financial planning and identity theft and co-sponsored a Healthy Living Lecture Series with the Emeriti College. Currently, the committee has been discussing the issue of senior housing.

The committee was chaired by Glogow from 1990-2002, followed by **Gil Siegel** until 2008. The committee is looking for new chair and looks forward to continuing in its role of education and advocacy for all USC retirees.

What's In a Name? *n. pl. e-mer-i-ti*

Did you know that when the Emeriti Center was established 30 years ago it was meant for *both* staff and faculty retirees?

For 30 years the EC has supported and served both staff and faculty – why then, do we call our Center “Emeriti?”

The Collaborative International Dictionary of English defines “Emeriti/Emeritus” as a person who has been “honorably discharged from their performance of public duty on account of ... long and faithful services.” A perfect description of our Emeriti Center colleagues!

Trojan ENCORE Program Sparks Retirees' Interest – Want to Sign Up?

Trojan ENCORE program coordinator, **Carole Gustin**, is hard at work with interested retirees who are willing to support USC units with their knowledge and expertise.

USC hiring managers also work with her to post short-term and part-time campus positions. **Diana Seyb**, from Employment Recruitment Services, has been a great source of help and expertise by connecting us with interested managers. The Trojan ENCORE Pilot is building slowly to ensure a quality program for all participants.

We are pleased that more than 20 retirees have expressed an interest in participating in the pilot program. We held a training session for those who have not yet entered their information in July.

This time of year, there may be “beginning of semester” positions available, so if you would like to join our “ENCOREES,” please let us know. It's easy to enter your resume/profile in the system. Remember, if you are called about a position, it's up to *you* to decide if it fits your schedule and interests.

Please let us know if you have questions. Carole Gustin is available in GER 221 on Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (phone 213-740-5256 or 213-740-8921) and the rest of the week by e-mail at cgustin@usc.edu.

Despite a Glitch in USC's Online Directory, Listings Are Still Available

Over the past several months, USC Information Technology Services (ITS) has been working on a new USC online directory. As many have noticed, the new online directory still does not include retired faculty and staff listings. We are working closely with ITS as they work on a new method for uploading retiree contact information. Until the problem is fixed, you can still use the old Faculty and Staff Directory located on the sidebar under "other searches." Please continue to call or e-mail the Center with any changes.

Please note that home addresses are not listed on the online directory. It is possible to have your home address listed in the printed USC directory. For your convenience, and to keep your contact information accurate, we have created a new online option on the Emeriti Center Web site where you can inform us of changes of address, phone number, e-mail address, or any other information you wish to provide.

Another new helpful option is the opportunity to provide us with emergency contact information to keep on file for family and friends (we do not give out your contact information without your permission – our EC policy is to contact you first before we give out any information).

If you'd like a hard-copy version of the campus directory, it's still available for a \$10 mailing fee, or free if you pick it up in person. Call the EC office for information.

Funding Supports Retiree Research

Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation Grant Is Available to Retired USC Faculty

Important research continues long after many faculty members retire, and up to \$2,000 is given out each year through the Emeriti College due to generous funding from the Norris Foundation. These funds assist retired USC faculty with expenses for research and publication. More than 20 research grants have been awarded over the past several years. For a complete list of past award recipients go to www.usc.edu/ecc and click on funded research.

Previous research grants were awarded to **Peter Berton** for travel to Tokyo and research materials for completion of a study of the Japanese Communist Party; to **Joy G. Cauffman** for completion of a manuscript, *The Effect of Continuing Medical Education Interventions on Physician Performance and Patient Health Care Outcomes: A Ten Year International Study of Randomized Controlled Trials Involving Family Physicians and General Practitioners*; and to **Michael G. Fry** for research for publication of the second volume of a two-part study entitled *Lloyd George and Foreign Policy, 1916-1922: 'And Fortune Fled.'* One grant will be awarded this academic year.

All retired faculty are welcome to apply and applications will be submitted to a committee for consideration. For further information, please contact the Emeriti College at 213-740-8841.

To download a copy of the application form, please refer to the Emeriti College Web site at www.usc.edu/ecc and click on Norris Foundation Application Form.

– Judith C. Diaz

Assistant Director, Emeriti College

213 740-8841; judydiaz@usc.edu; www.usc.edu/ecc

Two New Awards Honoring J. Tillman Hall and Paul Hadley Will Be Given Out in 2009

In keeping with our 30th Anniversary Celebration and honoring the past, we are initiating two new awards that will be given out every year beginning in 2009 at the Staff Retirement Luncheon in March and at the Provost's Faculty Recognition Luncheon every November:



J. Tillman Hall

the "J. Tillman Hall Service to USC – Staff Award," and the "Paul Hadley Service to USC – Faculty Award."

These special honorary awards recognize dedicated service to USC by retired faculty and staff. Both **Paul Hadley** and **J. Tillman Hall** were known for their major contributions to USC and to the USC Emeriti Center. These awards acknowledge volunteer contributions to USC by members of the USC retiree community. Nominations can be made by anyone in the USC retiree community or anyone from the USC community at large. For more information, click "Awards" on the EC



Paul Hadley

We Welcome Christopher to Our EC Team

We are pleased to welcome our new Emeriti Center administrative assistant **Christopher Curry**.

Curry, an English major who graduated from USC in 2001, has a strong background in writing and communications. He has been a sportswriter for *The Pasadena Star News*, as well as an assistant in the public relations office of the Los Angeles Lakers. With the Lakers, he conducted numerous player and coach interviews, organized community outreach



Christopher Curry

events, and assisted local and national media in numerous ways. Trojan blood has long run through Curry's veins, as his father and stepmother were both long-time university employees.

An avid Trojan football fan, he has missed just four home games since 1983. His organizational and communication skills will help contribute to an efficient and productive Emeriti Center.

You can reach Christopher at 213-740-8921 or ccurry@usc.edu.

Energize Your Mind and Spirit, Serve With the SRA

In June 2009, the Staff Retirement Association will greet a newly elected Board of Directors. As Immediate Past President, I must convene a nominating committee to select a slate of officers for the SRA for 2009-2011.

Wow, that seems a long time away, but the current president and secretary will have completed two terms and cannot be re-elected to those offices and we do not know if the treasurer and vice president want to serve second terms, so it's time to think about the future.

Consider a position with this dynamic SRA organization; in particular, the President's position. He/she is the key who manages the operations of the SRA in consultation with the rest of the Board.

The SRA is a vital organization, collaborating with the Emeriti Center and the Retired Faculty Association. Serving on the Board is an opportunity to make a difference and to be an active decision maker in YOUR association!

The Emeriti Center, Emeriti College, Retired Faculty Association, and Andrus Gerontology Center, provide many opportunities in partnership with the SRA for building a USC Retirement Community. Revitalize your connection with USC; energize your mind and spirit by serving the SRA.

You can reach me by phone or e-mail.

– Harriet Servis; 310-823-3791
hservis@usc.edu

Senior Cyber Tips* Options for Backing Up Files

You know you *should* regularly back up the documents, photos, and other files that rest peacefully in their digital parking spaces on your computer's hard drive, but you continually put it off. If the back-up process were easier and took less time, you'd do it more often. Here are two options that may help you.

Consider investing in an external hard drive. These plug into any USB port and have become increasingly cost effective, hold massive numbers of files, and typically come with software that can back up your documents as frequently as you like. Two hundred fifty gigabyte external drives now sell for as little as \$85, and 500 gigabyte drives cost in the \$100 to \$150 range. External drives can store the entire contents of a 40 megabyte internal hard drive with ample room for backing up new documents and folders at times and intervals that you can set.

Another alternative is to subscribe to an online back-up service such as Carbonite (www.carbonite.com), IDrive (www.idrive.com), or Mozy (mozy.com/home). Carbonite and IDrive offer unlimited storage to individuals for about \$50 a year.

– Bob Stallings
rstallin@usc.edu

*My thanks to Len Wines for his help with this tip. If there is a tip that you would like to read about in a future issue please e-mail me.

NEED COMPUTER HELP?

The Emeriti Center's Computer Help Squad is ready, willing, and able to lend their expertise.

Simply go to the EC Web site and click on "Computer Help Squad" to learn who to contact for PC/Mac assistance.

Making News

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

- A story in the summer issue of *Strings* magazine noted that professor emerita/violinist **Alice Schoenfeld** and her late sister **Eleonore Schoenfeld** of the USC Thornton School were recognized at the 2008 American String Teachers Assoc. Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. Eleonore was recognized with the Artist Teacher Award, the article reported.

- A June *Los Angeles Daily News* article noted that **Malcolm Klein**, professor emeritus (sociology) has been advising L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the city's gang czar on anti-gang programs. The city recently passed laws allowing officers to evict gun-wielding gang members from apartments and seize their cars, the story noted. "The evidence on the effectiveness of these things are weak," Klein said. "You can pass all sorts of laws, but the deterrent effect is very slight."

- **Max Harry Weil**, professor emeritus (medicine), wrote an op-ed in a June issue of *The Desert Sun* about the need for earthquake preparedness. "The horrific injuries and loss of life reported from China [in May] highlight the need for preparedness," Weil wrote. "As a physician who was chairman of county Emergency Medical Services in L.A.,

which included during the 1971 San Fernando earthquake, I believe it to be essential to be ready."

- A *Los Angeles Times* column cited an op-ed by **Robert Tranquada**, professor emeritus (medicine/policy, planning, and development). "L.A. County has lost 12 hospital-based emergency rooms in the last decade, and 11 of 23 trauma centers have closed in the last 20 years," Tranquada wrote. [The recent] earthquake should be a wake-up call, 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: *John M. Leedom (medicine); Harold E. Pearson (medicine); Ward Warren (medicine); Helmut Wursten (medicine); and Murry Zimmerman (medicine).*

Note: Our December issue noted the passing of **Norman Cliff** — we are happy to report that this was an error and he is still playing bridge.

* 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>.

Meet Our Emeriti Center Student Colleagues



Erica B.

The Emeriti Center values the hard work of our dedicated student colleagues. Senior **Eric Ambler** is a history major; junior **Erica Baker** is a math major; junior



Eric

Vanessa

Portillo is a business

major; junior **Erika Smith** is a political science major; junior **Jennifer Schoendorf** is a psychology major; senior **Geri Toscano** is a health promotion and disease prevention major; and



Vanessa



Geri



Erika S.



Shawanda

senior **Shawanda Walker** is a psychology/broadcast journalism major.



Jennifer

The EC's Book Nook

An occasional column: If you've read something not too weighty on any topic that is among the best of what you've read in the last year or so, pass along a 75-word review to the Editor for consideration in an upcoming Newsletter issue, and for eventual EC Web posting. Here's our Fall selection:

"Murder at the Opera" by Margaret Truman (2007)

Ms. Truman takes Annabel and Mac Smith, former attorneys now on D.C.'s A-List, on an adventure involving murders, international intrigue and the opera in the nation's capital. Truman's knowledge of Washington, the political players and their social lives adds sparkle to her mysteries. She does a great job of developing her characters. A quick and enjoyable read. You'll want to read another "Capital Crimes Novel."

— Carole Gustin

(Send your 75-word selection to 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 **Oscar Mendoza**.

It is a pleasure to recognize **Oscar Mendoza** as our Staff Retiree of the Quarter.

Many of us remember Oscar's smiling face welcoming us to the Faculty Center. Perhaps you remember that urgent call to have lunch for 5 or 10 delivered to our office in an hour and him kindly saying, "No problem." How many of us ate "Tostado Oscars" for lunch? Always a gracious host, he treated each of us as a very special guest, from celebrities like Michael Landon to the newest staff member making his or her first visit to the Faculty Center.

Oscar became a member of the USC family on Jan. 5, 1965, and proudly became a citizen of the USA in 1975. He spent his entire career at the Faculty Center, 23 of those years as its Director.

Oscar gave generously to USC – both in service and in "extra" ways. He is a "Lifetime" donor to the Emeriti Center and a Life Member of the Staff Retirement Association. For a number of years, Oscar provided the luncheon for about 80 attendees of the June SRA program. The Staff Club named him a "Member of the Year."

Perhaps his generosity to our Trojan Family is more widely known as "Caterer to the Swim with Mike Program" for 25 years. He was recognized with the "Claire Snow Volunteer of the Year Award for feeding more than 1,500 swimmers and attendees during his first 20 years. Oscar spent 2 to 3 months preparing each year, collecting donated food and recruiting volunteers to help. In the words of **Ron Orr**, Founder and Director of SWM, "I would say that the success of Swim With Mike over the past 28 years is because of volunteers like Oscar and Rebecca Mendoza. Since the very beginning we have never had to ask Oscar if he would be willing to cook for the 1500-2000 participants, donors and volunteers. In addition he gets all the food donated from his various friends in the food and beverage business. He recruits the volunteer cooks and servers and we do not have to worry about anything. Everyone looks forward to the "OSCAR BBQ" including the entire football team following their spring practice and "Swim With Mike." More than \$8.5 million raised helping 75 physically challenged students would not be possible without Oscar and Rebecca Mendoza."

Shortly before his retirement in June 2000, Oscar commissioned Graeme Moreland, USC School of Architecture, to design his dream house in Mexico. While Oscar and his wife spend most of their time in Los Angeles enjoying their grandson, they visit "Casa Mariposa" twice a year to enjoy their "most elegant house in the area."

Besides continuing his activities with USC, Oscar has been delivering meals through the "Meals on Wheels" program at St. Vincent's Hospital for the past eight years.



From left: Ron Orr; Mara Hunter Redden, one of the Swim With Mike event volunteers honored when she was going through cancer treatments; and Staff Retiree of the Month, Oscar Mendoza.

**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.*

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 Fall Events

- Sept. 15 (Monday):** SRA General Meeting and Lunch (see page 1); Noon, GER 224
- Oct. 7 (Tuesday):** SRA Trip to Egyptian Theatre (flier enclosed)
- Oct. 24-26 (Fri.-Sun.):** AROHE International Conference (see page 1), USC Radisson Hotel, UPC
- Oct. 25 (Saturday):** Emeriti Center's 30th Anniversary Kick-Off Luncheon, Town & Gown
- Nov. 1 (Saturday):** Homecoming, SRA/RFA/EC cookie/coffee tent; prior to game
- Nov. 20 (Thursday):** Annual Provost's Faculty Recognition Luncheon, Town & Gown
- Dec. 10 (Wednesday):** SRA/RFA/EC "Holiday Celebration" at the Galen Center; 9:30 a.m.

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

**USC Emeriti Center
Emeriti College
University of Southern California
3715 McClintock Avenue, Room 220
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191**

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