USC’s RFA: The Sixty-Five Club turns 65

The USC Retired Faculty Association, the oldest such organization in the U.S., will celebrate its 65th Anniversary in September and October. Today’s RFA was initiated by nine members of the USC Men’s Faculty Club who wanted to stay connected after mandatory retirement. The resulting “Sixty-Five Club,” led by Lawrence Riddell first met at a Leimert Park restaurant in April 1949. Women faculty joined the organization in the 1950s, and the first female president, Tema Clare, was elected in 1969. Those beginnings evolved into the present-day RFA.

“The RFA leaders have been instrumental in guiding the university on key issues and in advisory roles at the USC Emeriti Center and Emeriti College,” said Center executive director, Janette C. Brown.

As part of the RFA’s Strategic Vision, it connects retired faculty with the university through opportunities for mentoring international students, providing financial support for the undergraduate Caldwell Scholars from neighborhood schools, and serving on university committees. As part of its Vision, it also supports its 1,100 members through advocacy, and by hosting intellectual, cultural, and social activities such as the four-part 65th anniversary celebration.

“The primary purpose of these reunions,” said RFA President Robert Stallings, “is to help members reconnect with old friends and colleagues and to make new acquaintances, especially in areas where many of our fellow USC retired faculty reside. And, above all, to have a good time!”

Invitations have been mailed and many retirees have already RSVP’d for the 65th’s “reunion gatherings” in Pasadena (Sept. 13 at the USC Pacific Asia Museum) and the homes of two retired faculty on the Westside (Sept. 21) and the South Bay (Sept. 28). All gatherings take place from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you haven’t already RSVP’d for the Tutor Campus Center gala on Oct. 24 (2 p.m.-5 p.m.), please do so by Oct. 10. Join us, along with university leaders, for a wonderful afternoon of camaraderie, highlighted by a video presentation, a special publication, and a souvenir of this milestone occasion.

And remember to check the RFA website for updated information: rfa.usc.edu.
Congratulations to the RFA! And more!

This fall we are celebrating our Retired Faculty Association’s (RFA) 65th anniversary. We also celebrate the valuable contributions retired faculty have made throughout the years. Many retired professors are tremendous assets in higher education; and numerous faculty legacies can be found at USC in established programs, scholarships, endowed chairs, endowed professorships, and more.

Collectively and through our RFA, retired faculty represent an immense body of wisdom, knowledge and experience. USC schools and units would be wise to consider numerous and diverse ways to utilize this valuable resource. Frequently, there is a tendency to “re-create the wheel” rather than calling upon those with experience who could provide advice and guidance. Why not call upon experienced retired faculty to provide assistance?

On the RFA’s 65th anniversary and on the behalf of the Emeriti Center, I would like to thank all retired faculty who have contributed their advice and leadership in support of the USC retiree community. Thank you also to our retired faculty and staff who have made financial contributions. Those contributions have provided the backbone to sustain important initiatives that would not have been attempted without additional funding. Most important, the contributions have strengthened our endowment for the future.

Special thanks goes to our major faculty donors (over $10,000) also acknowledging the many spouses and partners who supported their donations: Nancy E. Warner and Douglas C. Basil (see page 9), Barbara Inamoto for Noboru Inamoto, Robert E. Coffey, Walter S. Graf, Guilford Babcock, Lilia Huijing Li, Robert R. Dockson, Robert E. Dougherty, and Paul J. Seifts.

MORE: The September newsletter issue would not be complete without congratulating and thanking our retirees and university colleagues for these accomplishments over the past year:

• Trojans Helping Trojans is celebrating its first year thanks to the diligent work of Carole Gustin. The group is beginning a new project to collect resources for retirees to live healthy and independent lives. (see page 8)

• Trojan Global Friends Network (TGFN) is a new student-to-student networking group mentored by David Tool. It aims to help USC international students break out of their “my culture only” relationships/mindsets by helping them make friends with Americans, providing them with more intercultural social experiences.

• A new wellness “Fit For Life – Physical Fitness Workshop” series by Jackie Dylla has become so popular that we will be hosting a second workshop (see Events, page 12) and maybe more. The first event was recorded and posted on the EC web.

• Dagmar Halamka presented the valuable and very popular “Joy of Law, Avoiding Legal Problems in Life and Beyond” in May. Handouts and recorded video are posted on the EC web.

• Assistive Listening Systems are being purchased for USC with leadership by USC’s ADA Coordinator Jodi Shipper with guidance by RFA past-president John Orr.

The AROHE Conference at the University of Minnesota had great USC representation by our retiree leaders in August. Thanks go to Bob Scales, John Casagrande, and Elaine Steward for presenting on panels and networking tables, staffing the USC Showcase table, and assisting with AROHE Conference management and registration (see article on page 11).

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

Key USC committee salutes outgoing members

The USC Retired Faculty/Staff Benefits and Resource Committee honored and thanked committee chair, Art Donovan, during the committee’s meeting and special lunch on June 26. Donovan served as chair for six years providing strong leadership and advocacy. He also established travel trips for the USC retiree community. Committee member, Bob Coffey, also stepped down and was thanked for his years of service and valuable contributions.

There are now three openings on the Benefits and Resource Committee and we need retired faculty and staff to fill them. If you are interested in joining this important committee, please contact Janette Brown at jcbrown@usc.edu.
Field trip to Washington, D.C.: finding the heart of America

Professor Emeritus
David Marsh
explores the noble ideas that shaped our nation in a popular Emeriti College course focused on “Finding the Heart of America.” Marsh uses U.S. Highway 50 as the organizing metaphor for this journey through history and as a pathway across America in which to make this journey both specific and real. Highway 50 extends from Maryland’s eastern shore to Sacramento, California; and it passes through the heartland of America.

Our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C. is the perfect location for exploring America from its founding and early development through the Civil War and westward expansion, to our current life as a democratic nation. Highway 50 is the backbone of Washington, including Constitution Avenue, 6th and 9th streets, and New York Avenue. Along this route are the important buildings of our government; the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History; the National Archives, which houses key documents that reflect the noble ideas of our nation; and the National Academy of Sciences, which is the core of our national identity in science.

Please join us for an exciting five-day exploration of Washington, D.C. from April 25-April 30, 2015. The tour will be led by David Marsh and Marlene Wagner, who teaches another popular EC College course on thematic autobiographical writing. They will focus on meaning and perspective as well as historic events and places, and will draw on the expertise in the USC tour group. As well, they will arrange for special tours that fit the core themes of the two courses.

The tour will include a visit to Harriet Tubman’s courageous underground railroad in eastern Maryland, and the sesquicentennial of President Lincoln’s assassination at Ford’s Theatre. We’ll visit the site of the Civil Rights March on Washington at the Lincoln Memorial, the Kennedy Center for the Arts, and feast on crabs along the Maryland shore.

Join this intimate, 30-person tour group and have a lot of fun. We need to register the tour group soon, so your expression of interest is needed right away. For more details and to register for the tour, please visit our website at http://emeriticollege.usc.edu.

– Jerry Walker, Director Emeriti College
(213) 740-1289; jbwalker@usc.edu

– Judith C. Diaz, Assistant Director Emeriti College
(213) 740-8841; judydiaz@usc.edu
emeriticollege@usc.edu

Professor John P. Crossley to lecture on ancient civilizations cruise

John P. “Jack” Crossley, Professor Emeritus of Religion, and RFA board member will join Trojan Travel as a guest lecturer on June 15 -23, 2015. Crossley was recommended to Trojan Travel by the Emeriti College as someone who will enhance the educational travel experience for retired faculty, staff, alumni and friends from USC and other universities.

Crossley will serve as a USC ambassador and lecturer on our Athenian Heritage: the thought of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle; and the rise of Greek rational/political thought, one of his areas of study. His second lecture will focus on the Roman Empire and how the Romans adopted and modified Greek thought.

The seven-night cruise “Coastal Life from the Adriatic to the Aegean – an Odyssey of Ancient Civilizations” will visit Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and Greece, the Dalmatian coast, and up to eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, exploring the cultural influence of the Roman, Greek, Byzantine, Venetian and Slavic civilizations.

For details on this opportunity, contact USC Trojan Travel, at (213) 821-6005. The booking deadline (with an approx. 20% discount) is Nov. 24. The cost per person starts at $3,995. We hope you’ll explore this travel adventure!

Emeriti Research Fund supports Plenary Address

Carmen Silva-Corvalan (Spanish & Portuguese and Linguistics) has received a grant of $1,500 from the Emeriti Research Fund to travel and expenses to present the Plenary Address at the Linguistic Society of America’s 89th Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon in January 2015. Her address is entitled “The Nature of Bilingual Children’s Early Speech.” Silva-Corvalan is the author of Bilingual Language Acquisition: Spanish and English in the First Six Years.

Research funds available for retired faculty

The USC Emeriti College has up to $4,000 available to assist retired USC faculty with expenses related to research, publication and life-long learning projects.

Originally supported by the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, and now funded through an endowment from the Office of the Provost, one grant, or two to three grants, may be awarded up to the total available funding of $4,000 per year. Previous recipients may reapply after three years. Grants also may be used to fund undergraduate or graduate student research assistants.

Guidelines and application forms are available on the USC Emeriti College website.

www.emeriticollege.usc.edu/research-fund
2014: Anniversaries & reunions

The year 2014 is full of important anniversaries. Among other world-changing events, consider these: in 1914, Gavrilo Princip shot Franz and Sophie Ferdinand, and the “War to End All Wars” broke out; in 1964, the Beatles had their first No. 1 U.S. hit (“I Want to Hold Your Hand”); in 1989, East German officials allowed East Berliners to visit West Berlin, known today as the fall of the Berlin Wall. And, most significant of all: in 1949, Gavrilo Princip shot Franz and Sophie Ferdinand, and the “War to End All Wars” broke out; in 1964, the Beatles had their first No. 1 U.S. hit (“I Want to Hold Your Hand”); in 1989, East German officials allowed East Berliners to visit West Berlin, known today as the fall of the Berlin Wall. And, most significant of all: in 1949, nine retiring USC faculty members held the inaugural meeting of the Sixty-Five Club. In case that name doesn’t ring a bell, perhaps it would help to know that in 1976 its name was changed to the USC Retired Faculty Association.

To celebrate this most significant 65th Anniversary, the RFA has scheduled a series of reunions, including one on campus (Oct. 24 in Tutor Campus Center, UPC) and three off campus (Pasadena, Sept. 13; Brentwood, Sept. 21; and Rancho Palos Verdes, Sept. 28 – see details on the RFA website.)

Other significant events in 2014 include the election of RFA officers for 2014–2015. Yours truly (retired from the Price School) becomes president, William Petak (Price School) becomes Past President, and Kaaren Hoffman (Keck, Medical Education) succeeds Jim Halls (Keck, radiology) as treasurer. John Sanders (USC Ostrow School of Dentistry) continues as secretary. Newly elected at-large board members are: Cynthia Berne (Keck, spouse), Peter Nichols (Keck, pathology), Arnold Platzker (Keck/Children’s Hospital, pediatrics), Kenneth Servis (Dornsife, Chemistry; former Registrar), and Beth Shube (Dornsife, widow). Departing in 2014 are Arthur Donovan (Keck), Mildred Milgrom (Keck), and Phoebe Liebig (Gerontology).

You can keep up with the RFA on our main website, rfa.usc.edu, and on our “ unofficial” website, uscrfa.org, our blog, uscrfa.blogspot.com, and Twitter, twitter.com/USCrfa.

See you at the reunions.

– Robert Stallings, RFA President
rstallin@usc.edu; (626) 319-2536
rfa.usc.edu

Meet RFA Caldwell Scholar Jennifer Cardoza

Jennifer Cardoza is a product of USC’s neighborhood. As a child, she passed by USC and told her mother she would “go there.” That idea was reinforced by a teacher at Western Avenue Elementary School who held a raffle with a USC football game as a prize. Jennifer didn’t win the raffle, but the “get to USC” seed was planted. At Manual Arts High School, she took advantage of USC’s enrichment programs offered via the TRIO and Upward Bound programs. Though she received other admission offers, USC was her first choice.

As she prepares for her senior year with a double major in political science and American Studies & Ethnicity/Chicano/a Studies, Jennifer looks back on her USC experience as a fulfillment of her dreams. Since her freshman year, she has participated in Chicanos for Progressive Education, where members serve as models and mentors to high school students through tutoring and on-campus tours. In gratitude for her experience with the USC Upward Bound program, each summer she served as a Residential Advisor for their on-campus summer program; recently, she worked with the Shoah Foundation helping edit and prepare video testimonies from Holocaust survivors.

Jennifer wrote to the RFA: “You have all done your parts in your respective careers and you still choose to work by insuring that students like me can receive a college education … You have taught me something that cannot be learned in a classroom: that the power of education can impact people [in ways] never imagined. Thank you for helping me leave my mark on this world.”

Jennifer is on target to graduate in May 2015 and is considering a study abroad semester. She’d like to go to Italy and experience life in a different culture. Her long-term plan is to attend law school with an emphasis on civil or immigration law. Jennifer is another outstanding RFA Caldwell Scholar. We wish her well!

Our two new Caldwell Scholars for the 2014–2015 academic year are Silva Gomez (business major), and Gwang Kim (undeclared). Both are graduates of Belmont High School, and we welcome them to USC.

– Victor Marchand Webb
RFA Board

Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award Call for Nominations

The deadline to submit nominations for the USC Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award is Friday, Oct. 17, 2014. Outstanding retired faculty members are honored for their “notable contributions to the University, their profession and community.” Awards will be conferred at the 2015 Academic Honors Convocation in April.

Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award Call for Nominations

The deadline to submit nominations for the Emeriti Center’s Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC is Friday, Oct. 3, 2014. This award recognizes a retired faculty member who has significantly contributed to USC after retirement. The award is conferred at the annual Provost’s Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon honoring recent retired faculty on Nov. 12.

For specific criteria and additional information on these awards, go to http://emeriti.usc.edu/ and click on “Awards” or call Gloria M. Ortega at (213) 740-8175.
A successful June meeting; about the stipend; and campus safety

Slip-Slap-Slop-Slide-Seek. If that doesn’t mean anything to you, it means that you were not among the full house crowd for the June 11 SRA meeting and luncheon that featured Professor of Clinical Dermatology, David Sawyer, speaking on how to avoid skin cancer, identification of skin cancer, and how to treat it. Many thanks to new Program Chair and SRA board member Leslie Pittman for arranging this important presentation. More about the five “S-words” at the end of this column.

Unfortunately the next two items are of a less positive nature. As we are all aware the end of June brought the last USC Retiree Health Stipend checks. Despite the best efforts of the SRA and the Retired Faculty Association, USC has eliminated this modest assistance with health care costs for most retirees. Yet all is not lost: a provision has been made for a one-year stipend extension for those who can demonstrate great need. Extensions had to be requested by the end of June and successful applicants will be notified when all applications are reviewed by the USC Benefits Office. Additionally, two new Navigator positions have been established by the university to assist active faculty and staff with the transition to retirement and to help both current and retired employees address life issues. The office serving current faculty is located in the Provost’s Office and the other is in the Benefits Office. Both offices will work closely with the Center for Work and Family Life and the Emeriti Center. The SRA, the Center for Work and Family Life, and the EC have been invited to participate in interviews of the final candidates for the Benefits Office position.

Sadly, in July, we learned of the senseless killing of Xinran Ji, a USC Viterbi School graduate student living in the North University Park neighborhood, by assailants who were identified and arrested. This is all the more chilling as it involved a first semester student from China who was walking home from an evening study session. SRA board member David Tool, a North University Park resident, has taken the lead in trying to address student/resident/police relations and safety needs. Dave is also working with the Chinese student community to increase USC’s commitment to achieve a safe, peaceful and harmonious North University Park community.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the SRA and I hope to see you at our Fall meeting on Sept. 18 featuring Prof. George Salem of the Department of Kinesiology and Exercise Science speaking on healthy aging and Yoga for seniors.

Oh yes, the five S’s for reducing sun damage to your skin: Slip on a long sleeved shirt; Slap on a hat; Slop on sunscreen lotion; Slide on sunglasses; and Seek shade!

Happy fall to one and all.

– Dixon Johnson, SRA President
dixonjob@usc.edu; (562) 985-3304
sra.usc.edu

Three SRA Day Trips in the works

Bill Givens will lead a tour of the Downtown Broadway Historical Theatres. We are looking for either a Thursday or Saturday. It would be nice if we can coordinate with the opening of the renovated Clifton’s Cafeteria (don’t be alarmed, the waterfall and redwood forest have survived, promised to be better than ever), supposedly in October.

Also, USC is now responsible for the USC Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena. A tour on Public Transportation with a lunch is being planned.

And Rosie Sunden has proposed a free tour of the Red Line Art in the different stations en route to the Hollywood/Highland Station, usually conducted on Saturdays by a docent from the MTA. I thought it would be nice to combine the tour with a nostalgic lunch at Mel’s Drive-In in Hollywood, located adjacent to the Hollywood Museum, a half block from the station.

Email and postcard invitations will be sent out 3–4 weeks prior to each event.

– Dick Martin, dickmar@msn.com

Join us on the 18th, learn about yoga

The September SRA meeting will be held on the 18th at the Ronald Tutor Campus Center - 4th floor “Forum Room.” The topic will be “Yoga for Seniors - Understanding the Benefits and Risks of Participation,” by George Salem, associate professor of Biokinesiology & Physical Therapy at the USC Health Science Campus. Salem was one of the guest speakers for The Fit for Life Symposium in February. He will follow up his previous presentation with additional information.

For our younger SRA members, don’t let the word “Senior” deter you; all can benefit from this presentation. You will be able to pass this valuable information from this lecture to a “Senior” friend or member of your family.

Students will be back in full force so please give yourself plenty of time to park and to arrive on time. The Ronald Tutor Campus Center is located in the middle of campus on Trousdale Parkway. We encourage you to park in structures A or D (elevators). Our electric cart will be available between structure A and the Tutor Center. Check-in is at 10:30 a.m., the meeting starts at 11 a.m., and after the presentation, box lunches will be served. For additional information, contact the Emeriti Center at (213) 740-7122.

– Leslie Pittman, SRA program chair
10 Smartphone apps I can’t get along without

My iPhone 4S is one of three devices that give me access to the Internet, the other two being my Dell desktop and my iPad Mini. Therefore, apps that I use must be accessible on all three platforms, so I’ve chosen:

1. Gmail (Office 365 forwards all my USC e-mail to my Gmail address)
2. Calendar (linked to Google Calendar so my daily schedule is always with me)
3. Clock (great as a portable alarm clock; free alarm clock apps available from Google Play)
4. Google Drive (for accessing documents stored on my PC)
5. Chrome (preferred browser on all platforms)
6. Weather Channel (for finding current and forecast temperatures)
7. TV Guide or What’s On?/Zap2It.com (whichever works on your device, to find TV episode names, dates)
8. IMDb (to find names of familiar-looking actors in movies, TV episodes);
9. Google Maps (to find exact locations of crime scenes on local news shows)
10. Yelp (to find restaurants, take-out with customer reviews)

— Bob Stallings
rstallin@usc.edu

In the News

• The Los Angeles Downtown News quoted former RFA board member Robert S. Harris (professor emeritus, landscape architecture) in May about plans for the former L.A. Police Department Parker Center headquarters in downtown L.A. He called the project a “fantastic opportunity” for the city to turn the area into a significant public magnet. Being largely vacant for five years has left the area around the Center inert, Harris said. The development could reawaken the Civic Center and create a place that is “extraordinarily useful to the public,” he said, noting that a connection to Little Tokyo is a good start.

• The April issue of Currents, the periodical of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), contained an article on retired faculty who help their universities with fundraising and alumni relations. The article contained comments from RFA member Victor Marshand Webb and EC Executive Director Janette Brown. The article also contained a group photo of Webb, RFA Past President Phoebe Liebig, RFA Treasurer Jim Halls, and an unidentified recipient of an RFA Caldwell Neighborhood Scholarship.

Raising scholarship money from fellow USC retirees allows former journalism instructor Victor Webb, far right, to keep his relationships with former co-workers while supporting L.A. students. He’s shown here at a luncheon with retirees Phoebe Liebig and Jim Halls and a recipient of a RFA Caldwell Scholarship.

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:

Frank Arnold Baer (cinema); Warren Bennis (business); John A. Biles (Dean Emeritus, pharmacy); Robert K. Cole (physics and astronomy); Gerald Nadler (industrial and systems engineering); James Higginbotham (philosophy and linguistics); John E. Fleming (business); Ed Mooney (SPPD); Florence Omens (spouse of Sherwood Omens/cinema-TV); Steve Orr (son of John and Thelma Orr/religion); Michael Preston (political science); Paul Salamunovich (choral conducting/music); Conrad Wedberg, Jr. (admissions); and David Weiss (oboist/music).

Utah beckons, USC retirees respond

The majestic red sandstone of Utah’s Zion and Bryce National Parks and the Valley of Fire’s 3,000 year-old Indian petroglyphs were a feast of nature last May for 20 USC retirees and friends. The four-day “Color Country Escape” featured tours with local guides that greatly enhanced the group’s experience.

The trip included transportation on a deluxe motorcoach, a stay at a casino resort in Mesquite, Nevada, and a brief tour of St. George, Utah.
Thriving, giving back, in retirement

Earlier this year, Bob Scales (dean emeritus/dramatic arts) was interviewed by radio talk show host Jan Fowler on AM 1520’s “Senior Living at its Best.”

Scales had a long career as a theatre arts professor and dean at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. He discussed his post-retirement life, and how he keeps his connection to USC through the Emeriti Center. As an associate director in a volunteer position, he keeps the EC’s databases in order, tracks where faculty and staff retirees are located, and custom designs surveys.

Fowler asked Scales how he uses his creative talents in retirement. “I have so many projects that I sometimes get tangled up in them,” said Scales. “I’m accused of being a workaholic, but I enjoy doing so many things.”

Scales said he worked with the new Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, and recently took part in its open house. He has also consulted for theatres in San Jose and Palm Springs.

He joined the L.A. Philharmonic Associates speaker’s group, even though he knew little about music. But he did have production expertise and volunteered to lead tours of Disney Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.

“But I didn’t know it was for 3rd graders!” he laughed. The kids weren’t very interested in the Bowl, Scales told Fowler, but they were excited to be on a field trip. And that was the point, said Scales, “This is a place that they will be interested in coming to in the future, and they can say, ‘I’ve been there!’ I think it’s really important.”

Fowler asked Scales if he still did theatre tech work. “I’m fortunate,” he said, “that within about five blocks of my house there’s a theatre and I helped them get started back when I was the dean. It’s the 24th Street Theatre, and I try to keep their old lighting system working.” Keeping the 99-seat theatre’s aging equipment working is sometimes a chore, but he’s up for the challenge.

Fowler asked Scales if he had any special causes. “I’m involved with something called ‘Behind the Scenes’ which is a fund used for anyone who’s worked in production, movies, or theme parks, whose had a hard time. One of the symbols for the fund is a ‘ghost light’ – the ghost light is what you put on the stage when there’s nobody there.”

The radio interview revealed that Scales is as active in retirement as he was when he was “working” – by contributing to the EC, attending events with EC colleagues, and staying connected with theatre through his technical skills and consultations.

SUCCESSFUL AGING

Consider an Encore Career

Retirement is rarely an exclusive venture. Rather it’s a time of opportunity to experience many aspects of a rich life. For some that opportunity is an encore career, one that embraces purpose, passion, a paycheck (often) for the greater good. Launched by CEO Marc Freedman of Encore.org., its focus is to harness human talent in the second half of life to help solve society’s greatest problems.

The interest is high. A survey by the MetLife Foundation and Encore.org found half of that among those 44 to 70 years want encore careers. Additionally, nine million Americans in that same age group currently are in an encore career with 31 million expressing interest in pursuing one.

The timing and rationale are clear. According to economists, there will be too few workers for the many projected jobs, given the retirement of the baby boomers. At the same time we have complex problems in education, healthcare, the environment and more that require the creativity and talent of many. Retirees are part of that talent pool. Longer life expectancy combined with retirees’ experience, skills and drive provides the perfect time for encore careers to flourish.

Opportunities currently are dominant in five areas: health care, education, the environment, non-profit organizations and government.

See www.encore.org and The Encore Career Handbook: How to Make a Difference in the Second Half of Life by Marci Alboher (Workman Publishing, 2013). “To find joy in work is to discover the fountain of youth,” writes Pearl Buck. If that work is for the greater good, that’s a bonus for everyone.

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

Join us for a seminar, and an exercise workshop

Join your EC colleagues and friends on Friday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. Helen Dennis, a specialist in aging, will present a seminar: “The Next Chapter: Well-Being, Fulfillment and Joy” (see her EC column, at right). Dennis will provide information and tools to help make the next chapter of life – the best chapter.

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon, join us for “Fit For Life – a Physical Fitness Workshop,” with USC Physical Therapy Director, Jacquelyn Dylla. This hands-on workshop offers information on practical ways to keep physically fit, and Dylla will answer your questions and demonstrate exercises. Wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear to practice simple exercises.

Both events are free and take place in GER 224; visit the EC web page for more information, or contact (213) 740-7122; to RSVP on line, go to ecrsvp@usc.edu.
A call for greater retired faculty and staff participation

During the past two years, it has become more apparent just how much our international students would like to develop more personal “connections” so as to better understand Americans, American life and get some guidance with concerns related to their lives while at USC. Many issues arise: how to deal with aggressive proselytizing, understanding American perceptions of male-female relationships, and mundane issues such as buying a car, getting insurance, or knowing where to shop.

Trojan Global Intergenerational Friends (TGIF) was first established by SRA and RFA members to help meet this need through a few Tutor Campus Center “Meet and Greets.” One challenge is that few faculty or staff live near campus and commuting to mentor lacks spontaneity. Inviting students to your home from time to time or connecting with the students via email, phone, or Facebook/Twitter can go a long way toward helping our international students.

This fall, we hope to have another “Meet and Greet.” We hope you will also consider taking part in the Thanksgiving Match-Up Program through the Office of International Services (OIS) (213) 740-2666 or email ois@usc.edu.

Contribute to the positive experience our international students can have while studying at USC. Help personalize that experience by becoming a mentor and a friend to enrich both their lives and your own.

To learn more and to register to become a TGIF mentor go to: emeriti.usc.edu/programs/tgif

– David Tool, dtool42@yahoo.com

Trojans Helping Trojans has an active first year

Trojans Helping Trojans (THT) completed its first year in June 2014. An active committee of staff and faculty, mostly retired, meets monthly to find ways to help and to continue their connections to USC during retirement.

Year One:

• Committee members contacted recent retirees to make sure they had received retirement documents and were able to complete them.
• The Committee assisted the Emeriti Center with special mailing projects throughout the year.
• THT members encouraged retirees to attend some of the Emeriti College outreach programs in local library branches. In Palos Verdes, more than 60 attended the program and 17 retirees attended no-host luncheons.
• Currently, the committee is creating a survey to identify programs our retirees would find interesting and helpful.
• A new committee is creating a resource guide for USC retirees on how to stay safe, especially those living alone.
• A THT committee member and the SRA special events coordinator are organizing a tour of historic theaters in downtown Los Angeles.

For more information, please email: encore@usc.edu

– Carole Gustin, cgustin@usc.edu

Visitors from Taiwan

Prof. Meng-Ching Hu, President of the Taiwan Active Aging Association and Prof. Hui-Chuan Wei, Director of the Center of Senior Education, visited the USC Emeriti Center in June. Both are Adult and Continuing Education professors at National Chung Cheng University in Chia-Yi, Taiwan. Hu was a leader for the March 2014 International Conference of Elder Education and Intergenerational Learning in Taipei where Janette Brown spoke. Hu conducts research for the Taiwanese government on retirement transition courses, harnessing the talents of retired faculty and staff, and retiree volunteerism. “My colleagues and I were all impressed [with] your presentation and would like to learn more,” said Hu.

SRA Board member David Tool joined the meeting as his volunteer work was exemplified in Brown’s presentation; Tool also has extensive China experience.
We are very grateful for a recent $10,000 donation made to the USC Emeriti Center by Professor Emeritus Douglas Basil and we thank him for his generosity in support of the USC retiree community.

“My philosophy is that it was a university education that allowed me to be a professor and that I must give back to university education,” said Basil. “It was my good fortune to win a magnificent scholarship to attend the London School of Economics from all business schools nationwide. After receiving my PhD from Northwestern, I had the great opportunity to be on the faculty of Northwestern, Marquette, and University of Minnesota; and was fortunate to become a professor at USC. This allowed me to publish books in England, France, USA, Japan, Argentina, and Brazil.

As an elected USC Academic Senate member, I was able to present a Senatorial plan for faculty retirement. This cleared the way to acquire new faculty. Although it was difficult to give up my graduate students and interaction with my fellow faculty, I decided to retire at age 66.

I have great admiration for my fellow Emeriti, and wish to provide some assistance to sponsor their research and contributions. I have not had the good luck to receive an inheritance, but wish to use my funds earned over the years for retired faculty.

I wish to thank USC faculty, students, and administration for a wonderful life and the opportunity to contribute to my students and to USC.”

We honor Professor Emerita Nancy Warner

This Fall, we are honoring Nancy Warner, Professor Emerita, USC Keck School of Medicine, with a bronze plaque installed below the Emeriti Center’s park bench outside the USC Davis School of Gerontology. This is a permanent way to thank Dr. Warner who recently contributed $20,000 to the USC Emeriti Center endowment and who has been supporting the Emeriti Center (EC) and the Retired Faculty Association since 1998, amassing more than $68,000 in contributions.

“I aim to support programs that are unfunded or underfunded [in support of] women faculty and retired faculty,” said Warner, who noted there is also a “tax advantage of donating appreciated securities to a charitable organization.”

“We are grateful for Dr. Warner’s insight and support,” said Janette Brown, EC executive director. “She wisely designated her donations to build upon our Center’s endowment. We are wise stewards of our endowment funds and the interest generated helps us keep our future secure and our programs sustainable.”

Endowments support events and projects (such as the USC Living History Project) that the general budget does not cover. Endowment funding also keeps the Center in a leading-edge position to explore and provide the best programs for USC retirees. “As we grow to meet the increased number of retired faculty and staff, building our endowment positions us to pay for increased space for meetings, mentoring, teaching and projects,” said Brown.

Warner is a well-known pathologist who has made significant contributions in medical research. An acknowledged expert in endocrine pathology and endocrine tumors, for many years after retirement she continued to teach Keck medical students, to examine surgical specimens at USC Norris, to conduct research and publish scientific papers, and to mentor clinical fellows, and both junior and senior faculty at the Keck School of Medicine. She has been an invaluable member of the USC Retired Faculty Association Board and also served as its President. In addition, Warner served as chair and board member of the Edmondson Faculty Center and was actively involved with the Medical Faculty Womens’ Association (MFWA) from its beginnings.

“She continues to be an inspiration to women faculty and to all of us,” said Brown.

Endowments support events and projects (such as the USC Living History Project) that the general budget does not cover. Endowment funding also keeps the Center in a leading-edge position to explore and provide the best programs for USC retirees. “As we grow to meet the increased number of retired faculty and staff, building our endowment positions us to pay for increased space for meetings, mentoring, teaching and projects,” said Brown.

Warner is a well-known pathologist who has made significant contributions in medical research. An acknowledged expert in endocrine pathology and endocrine tumors, for many years after retirement she continued to teach Keck medical students, to examine surgical specimens at USC Norris, to conduct research and publish scientific papers, and to mentor clinical fellows, and both junior and senior faculty at the Keck School of Medicine. She has been an invaluable member of the USC Retired Faculty Association Board and also served as its President. In addition, Warner served as chair and board member of the Edmondson Faculty Center and was actively involved with the Medical Faculty Womens’ Association (MFWA) from its beginnings.

“She continues to be an inspiration to women faculty and to all of us,” said Brown.

Endowments support events and projects (such as the USC Living History Project) that the general budget does not cover. Endowment funding also keeps the Center in a leading-edge position to explore and provide the best programs for USC retirees. “As we grow to meet the increased number of retired faculty and staff, building our endowment positions us to pay for increased space for meetings, mentoring, teaching and projects,” said Brown.
Bring on the Clydesdales

A husband and wife are shopping in their local Walmart. The husband picks up a case of Budweiser and puts it in their cart.

“What do you think you’re doing?” asks the wife.

“They’re on sale, only $10 for 24 cans,” he replies.

“Put them back, we can’t afford them,” demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.

A few aisles further along the woman picks up a $20 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket.

“What do you think you’re doing?” asks the husband.

“It’s my face cream. It makes me look sexy and beautiful for you when we’re making love,” replies the wife.

Her husband retorts: “So do 24 cans of Budweiser…at half the price.”

– Len Wines

First RFA Sherry Hour features Thom Mason on jazz & swing, Oct. 10

The RFA is thrilled to have its first Sherry Hour presenter of the new academic year on Friday, Oct. 10.

Prof. Thom David Mason founded the department of jazz studies at the USC Thornton School of Music in 1983 and was its chairman till 1996. Currently he teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in jazz performance and composition, and serves as academic adviser for all jazz studies Doctor of Musical Arts students.

Mason has performed on sax, clarinet, and flute with many jazz artists (including Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, and Tony Bennett). He has received innumerable notable awards as a player, jazz educator, and composer. We are delighted that he has enthusiastically consented to lead us in a multi-media presentation of “Jazz and Swing on the West Coast,” which will cover a wide variety of styles and artists.

On Friday, Dec. 5, our presenter is Prof. Clayton Dube, director of the USC U.S.-China Institute, a program of USC Annenberg established by USC President Max C.L. Nikias in 2006 to focus on the multidimensional U.S.-China relationship. We don’t yet have Dube’s exact topic, but his interests lie particularly in how Americans and Chinese see each other, and how governments work to influence those views.

Sherry Hours take place at 3 p.m. in the Academy Room (241) of Doheny Memorial Library. An invitation will go out in mid-September to members of the RFA and SRA. Meanwhile, mark your calendars and prepare yourselves for an exciting afternoon with your colleagues.

– Jack Crossley, crossley@usc.edu

Two retirees dive into EC activities

The Emeriti Center is fortunate to have the services of two energetic members who want to become more involved in Center activities. Bill Givens and John T. Casagrande both are involved in our Trojans Helping Trojans group and each is lending special talents to the EC – Givens in theatre tours, and Casagrande in IT expertise.

Givens retired two years ago from the USC Gould School of Law. He is the author of seven movie-related books, and has appeared on every major entertainment television show, ranging from “The Today Show” and “Dateline NBC” to “Inside Edition.” He presently serves as President of the Los Angeles Historic Theatre Foundation and plans to lead a tour of historic downtown theatres for an SRA Day Trip.

Casagrande, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Preventive Medicine, spent 43 years at USC in a variety of IT-related positions. From 1970-74 he participated in the design, implementation and support of a cancer registry. The next eight years he provided data management and analytic support for human and animal cancer studies. From 1982 until 2001 he was responsible for clinical and business computing systems for the Norris Cancer Hospital. The last 12 years were spent supporting clinical trials and bioinformatics activities for the Norris Cancer Center.

Medicare Part D Enrollment Sessions


The USC Emeriti Center sponsors a Medicare Part D (Rx) Drug Coverage Update seminar presented by the Center for Health Care Rights on the University Park Campus on Friday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in GER 224 A-D.

Also, FREE one-on-one sessions sponsored by the USC School of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Emeriti Center and USC Senior Care are available. See details on the EC website and watch for USC Senior Care mailings.

Dates: Tuesday, Nov. 4, Wednesday, Nov. 5, and Thursday, Nov. 6; by appointment only.
USC Emeriti Center shines at August AROHE conference

“We are all jealous of what USC provides for their retired faculty and staff,” said more than one retiree leader at a session during the 2014 AROHE Conference at the University of Minnesota, Aug. 10-12. (AROHE: the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education).

Five USC colleagues played major roles at the Conference. Dean Emeritus and RFA Board member, Bob Scales provided conference support and represented USC retired faculty. Executive Director Janette Brown presented at a Big 10 Retirees Conference on Aug. 9, prior to managing the AROHE Conference. Brown also taught the “Starting a Retiree Organization” workshop, led the “Faculty Transitions Best Practices ACE/Sloan Panel” and convened an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute presentation. Retired financial affairs director Elaine Steward represented the SRA and EC on a Staff Retirement panel and networking table. Professor Emeritus John Casagrande served on a technology panel and was a resource for web and database technologies. USC/AROHE assistant Cathy Trang staffed the registration table, provided technology help and was a panel convener. All five represented USC at the Conference Showcase.

USC’s historic role in forming and administering AROHE, began with a 1984 survey of public and private universities conducted by USC Professor Emeritus, Paul Hadley, assisted by Harriett Servis. In 1984, only 25 of 100 respondents indicated that their campuses had any formal group or center supporting retired faculty and staff. USC hosted the first Conference on Retirement in 1985, but not until 2002 was AROHE formally incorporated as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization with Hadley as AROHE’s first president.

The AROHE office continues to reside within the USC Emeriti Center with Brown as its volunteer executive director. In addition to hosting biennial conferences and conducting survey research, AROHE publishes an online newsletter, provides the AROHE “Start-up Kit” to assist institutions in forming retirement organizations and offers online best practice resources, networking, mentoring and consulting.

The American Council on Education (ACE) became interested in AROHE when Janette Brown met Claire Van Ummersen ACE’s senior advisor managing the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Faculty Retirement Transitions (see photo, left). Currently nine of the 15 ACE/Sloan winners are AROHE members and two, including Van Ummersen, serve on AROHE’s Board of Directors.

BOOK NOOK

“Orphan Train”
by Christina Baker Kline

It was luck and chance that determined the course of a 9-year-old’s life when she traveled on an orphan train in 1929 as an Irish immigrant from New York to the Midwest. Luck and chance also directs the life of Molly in 2011, about to age out of Maine’s foster care system. As she helps a 91-year-old widow sort through her belongings and memories, a unique friendship forms that helps them both.

From 1854-1930, 200,000 children – from babies to teenagers – rode these trains in the U.S. to new lives, sending some to loving homes and others to desperate situations. In this novel, the author weaves the life of the teen and the widow together through beautiful prose and poignant details.

— Christine Shade
shade@usc.edu

Professional clothing drive at the Holiday Breakfast

We encourage all those attending the Holiday Breakfast on Dec. 4 to take advantage of the opportunity to give to those in need within the surrounding USC community. The clothing drive helps local community members prepare for job interviews and settle into employment situations. Clothing needs are for both men and women: suits, shirts, blouses, shoes, belts, purses, briefcases, etc.
RETIREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER: Saturday, Sept. 13, Pasadena; Sunday, Sept. 21, Westside; and Sunday, Sept. 28, South Bay
RFA 65th Anniversary Regional gatherings (see RFA website)
Thursday, September 18, SRA General Meeting (see page 5)
Thursday, September 18 (see insert)
USC Book Club discusses “The English Major”
Friday, September 26, 10 a.m.–noon, GER 224
“Well-being, Fulfillment and Joy,” a seminar (see page 7)

OCTOBER: Wednesday, October 8, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m., GER 224
“Fit for Life” Exercise Workshop (see page 7)
Friday, October 10; and Friday, December 10
RFA Sherry Hours, 3 p.m. (see page 10)
Thursday, October 23, 2 to 5 p.m.
RFA 65th Anniversary Gala, Tutor Campus Center

NOVEMBER: Wednesday, November 12, Town & Gown
Provost’s Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon
Saturday, November 15
Visit our Homecoming Booth (SRA, RFA, EC)

DECEMBER: Thursday, December 4, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
USC Retiree Community Holiday Breakfast

SAVE THE DATE:
Friday, Oct. 31
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., GER 224
“2015 Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage Updates”
Check Emeriti Center website for more details.