

## Retiree Community Newsletter

January/February 2016

### Join the Emeriti Center on Feb. 26 to welcome a "Big Dog on Campus"

You've probably seen them walking across campus, since they do so four times a day, a professor and his dog.

Along the way **Oliver Mayer**, associate professor of dramatic writing and a Residential Faculty Master, and his St. Bernard-mix Don Aldo, greet old friends and make new ones of the fellow Trojans they meet.

"He's an incredible ambassador for the university, and countless times I've walked him and seen him go to overstressed undergrads during midterms and quite literally help relax them," said Mayer. "The dog deserved to have his story told."

Don Aldo became the inspiration for Mayer's first children's book, "Big Dog on Campus Learns to be a Trojan," as well as his second, "Big Dog on Campus Goes to the Library."

Mayer, a playwright at the School of Dramatic Arts, had never written a children's book before, but he's involved in campus culture and interested in fostering diversity, and that's ultimately led to an event that will bring these interests together.



Oliver Mayer and his dog, Don Aldo.

Mayer said here's an overarching theme to the books involving finding oneself while on campus, and being the best Trojan one can be.

To bring this theme to campus, the USC Emeriti Center is pleased to offer an afternoon event, "Oliver Mayer's Big Dog on Campus," on Friday, Feb. 26, at 1 p.m. at the University Religious Center's "Fish Bowl," the center where the EC is housed on West 34th Street.

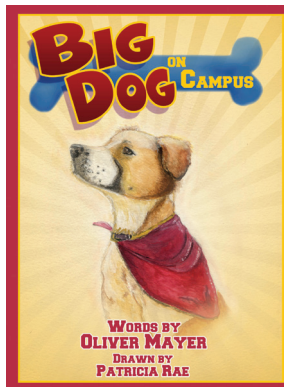
"We're inviting international students' families to come," said Janette Brown, EC executive director. Children are welcome, and will be alongside children from the USC neighborhood, 2nd graders from 32nd Street School. Brown said the EC has purchased "Big Dog" books to give to the children, as well as to place in "microlibraries" (see below) in the surrounding neighborhood.

For those who wish to attend a casual Q & A brownbag discussion hosted by the University Club before the event, you may register for both the event and a sack lunch on the reservation form. To make reservations: <http://bit.ly/BigDog2-26-16> or call [213-740-7122](tel:213-740-7122).

At 1 p.m., there will be a reading and presentation by Meyer and illustrator Patricia Rae, followed by a book signing. Parking is available in Structure D (off Jefferson, at Gate 4) for USC retirees with a Gold Card; all others \$12.

"The Big Dog on Campus" event is presented to coincide with "Microlibraries in the Everywhere Part I: Create a Tiny Library," which is part of "Visions & Voices." There will be an innovative walking tour to help create future "microlibraries" on the USC campus, and in the neighborhood. This begins in Room 240 of the Doheny Library, at 4 p.m. It's free, but reservations are required.

For more information, call (213) 740-8921. ■



### March 17 luncheon honors USC's newest staff retirees

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 17, at Town & Gown for the 31st Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon. This luncheon honors staff members who retired in 2015, but all SRA members are invited.

There will be a social gathering at 11:30 a.m., during check-ins, with lunch following at Noon, and the program at 12:45 p.m.

Please be sure to RSVP by Thursday, March 10, online at <http://bit.ly/SRA3-17-16> or call (213) 740-7122. Each member must register separately. ■

The J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC will be presented at the luncheon (see page 11).

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## How are we doing now?

The USC Emeriti Center has now resided in its new location for four months and it is operating with the dedicated help of volunteers and student workers. Shared space with the Academic Senate has created great synergies and our location at the University Religious Center positions us to engage with many diverse USC groups. We look forward to working closely with the Staff Assembly in this new space and also with the Alumni Association and the University Club.

Our shared services partners in the offices of the Vice Provost, Provost's IT, HR and Business Services along with USC Human Resources/Benefits all continue to provide remote services supporting the transitioning and retired faculty and staff. We appreciate the special support from these units and others in Organization Improvement

Services, Joint Educational Project (JEP), Office of International Students, Office of Disability Services, Student Affairs, USC School of Dramatic Arts, Physical Therapy Department, and other USC Schools.

So what's new? Please check out our website for the latest news and events: ■



– **Janette C. Brown**  
Assistant Vice Provost, Emeriti Center  
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### Honoring the late James E. Birren

A celebration of the life of Professor Emeritus **James E. Birren**, founding dean of the USC Davis School of Gerontology, who died in January, was held Feb. 20 at University Village in Thousand Oaks.

A memorial service will be held at USC in April, focusing on Birren's professional life and contributions to the field of gerontology. As founding dean, he cemented the school's role as an educational pioneer in the field.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Joy of Law™ in Life and Beyond: LAW 101 -- Dr. Dagmar Halamka

Fridays, February (5, 12), 26 and March 4 and 11, 2016

**11:00 am to 12:30 pm**

701 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Dr. Dagmar Halamka, retired USC Professor of Business Law, will lead five discussions on a range of legal issues, updating us on pertinent 2016 laws that could affect us. Course includes Estate Planning and Federal Taxation with a focus on Trusts, Wills, Durable Powers of Attorney and Advanced Health Care Directives. Stay tuned for the next class and its location.

Registration required: Please call Mary Cohen at the Library: (310) 921-7519

### Physical Therapy Workshop

Friday, March 18, 2016

**10:00 am to 1:00 pm**     **URC 208**     835 W. 34th St., Los Angeles, CA 90089

USC Physical Therapist and PhD Students will offer a series of short concurrent workshops on Balance, Strength, and Flexibility to keep us fit and healthy.

To Register: <http://bit.ly/PTworkshop3-18-16> or call 213-740-7122



### iPad for Seniors Workshop

Friday, April 1, 2016 (UPC)

**10:00 am to 12:00 noon**     **URC**

835 W. 34th St., Los Angeles, CA 90089

Learn how to use your iPad features, such as how to navigate the device, creating an Apple ID, Apple terminology, iCloud, email and much more.

To Register: <http://bit.ly/lpad3-35-16> or call 213-740-7122 ■



## The Emeriti College partners with PLATO

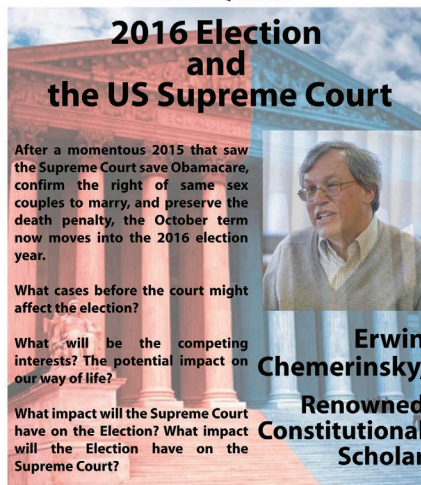
The Emeriti College has entered into a partnership with The PLATO Society to provide interesting programming to those in Los Angeles. PLATO, like the Emeriti College, strives to offer classes and collegial discussions for adults who have a curiosity and passion for continued learning.

To that end, Emeriti Center members have been invited to a very timely upcoming Colloquium at the Skirball Magnin Auditorium.

The Thursday, March 17 Colloquium, "2016 Election and the US Supreme Court," features Constitutional Scholar **Erwin Chemerinsky**. Chemerinsky, formerly with the USC School of Law, and founding dean of the School of Law at the University of California, Irvine, will speak on cases before the court, what impact the Supreme Court will have on the 2016 election, and what impact the election will have on the Supreme Court. This subject has become highly charged with the recent death of the longest-serving Associate Justice, Antonin Scalia, an avowed conservative.

The colloquiums are free to the public, with ample free parking, and are only limited by space, but RSVPs are necessary. RSVP at office@theplatosociety.org or (310) 433-7633. ■

 The PLATO Society of Los Angeles  
**COLLOQUIUM**



**2016 Election and the US Supreme Court**

After a momentous 2015 that saw the Supreme Court save Obamacare, confirm the right of same sex couples to marry, and preserve the death penalty, the October term now moves into the 2016 election year.

What cases before the court might affect the election?

What will be the competing interests? The potential impact on our way of life?

What impact will the Supreme Court have on the Election? What impact will the Election have on the Supreme Court?

**Erwin Chemerinsky, Renowned Constitutional Scholar**

**Thursday March 17, 2016**

Skirball Magnin Auditorium

12:45 Coffee and Cookies 1:30-3:00 Program

Free parking

Open to the public

RSVP at the front office or office@theplatosociety.org or 310-443-7633

## EC hosts conference on retirement transitions

On Jan. 11 and 12, the USC Emeriti Center hosted the American Council on Education (ACE) Conference at the nearby Radisson Hotel.

Provost **Michael Quick** welcomed the conference attendees as well as retired USC faculty and staff.

Academic professionals facing the issue of aging faculty cohorts gathered to hear about best practices for retirement transitions and beyond from ACE/Sloan grant winners. USC's grant award was managed by Assistant Vice Provost and AROHE Executive Director, **Janette Brown** who co-presented the final conference presentation with UC Davis Retiree Center Director and AROHE Past President, **Sue Barnes**. The presentation explored successful practices, discussed the importance of campus retiree centers and polled the audience for responses. The conference highlighted more than four years of research.

**Claire Van Ummersen**, President Emerita of Cleveland State University and American Council on Education said, "USC hospitality and support for the Conference was exceptional."

These USC faculty and administrators

hosted the Sunday evening, Jan. 10 "dine arounds" at local restaurants: **Ken and Harriet Servis, Jerry and Lora Walker, Debbie Jones, Bob Scales** and Janette Brown. These USC representatives also served as table moderators: **Victor Marshand Webb, Gretchen Andersen, Debbie Jones, Bob Scales, Jerry Walker** and Janette Brown.

Melissa Jones worked with the ACE leaders to plan and schedule the conference logistics.

Much of the information and resources discussed at the conference are included in the ACE Publication, "Faculty Retirement: Best Practices for Navigating the Future" edited by Van Ummersen, **Jean McLaughlin** and **Lauren Duranleau**,



Jerry Walker, in dark vest, leads a discussion.

with a Foreword by **Lotte Bailyn**.

This book presents models from 15 colleges and universities identified by the ACE through a competition for having developed innovative and effective ways to help faculty transition into retirement. It offers clear messages about the need for greater transparency in addressing these issues, for better communication, and for close coordination between human resources and academic administrators. It offers a roadmap for HR personnel, senior administrators, department chairs, and faculty themselves.

"At the Conference, academics and HR professionals networked together and now plan to continue their ACE conference conversations at the AROHE.org conference at the University of Washington this coming August" said Brown."

For further information on the publication, conference and conference resources, contact Janette Brown: jcbrown@usc.edu (213) 740-7121. ■

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## Greetings and welcome to 2016

The RFA Board and Provost **Michael Quick** honored 56 newly retired USC faculty class of 2014-2015 at the Provost's Annual Retirement Recognition Luncheon on Nov. 9 at Town & Gown. The 46 faculty retirees in attendance accounted for a total of 769 years of service to the university.

**Gregory Davis** of Earth Sciences topped his retired colleagues with 53 years in the classroom. Also on hand to cheer the retired faculty newbies were **Elizabeth Graddy**, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and **Ginger Clark**, President of the Academic Senate.

The RFA Board welcomed two new members: **Gretchen L. Anderson**, former faculty in USC's Center for Urban Affairs and the then School of Public Administration (now PPD). Anderson is a consultant and serves on the Board of CUWFA, the College and University Work-Life Association and a longtime member of Town & Gown; and **John Casagrande**, retired Keck Medical School Clinical Professor whose specialties include Bioinformatics, Biostatistics and Cancer Epidemiology. Casagrande already shares his IT expertise with the Emeriti Center. We are glad to have both of them on the Board.

Spring semester Sherry Hours are scheduled for (Feb.

19), March 11 and April 8. **Carol Wise**, Associate Professor, International Relations/Economics and Political Science will discuss current events in Cuba/US relations on April 8.

The end-of-semester Caldwell Neighborhoods Scholarship luncheon will take place on Friday, April 8. RFA Caldwell Scholar Jesus Garcia becomes a USC alum in May when he graduates with a degree from the Viterbi School of Engineering. Our sincerest Congrats! to Jesus.

RFA adjustments to the EC transition and revised structure remain a work in progress. At the end of 2015, Robert Stallings, RFA president for two-years as well as former RFA Secretary and Vice President resigned from the Board. Stallings served the RFA in stellar fashion since 2005. We send along our grand appreciation, congratulations and welcome his continued involvement with his USC colleagues as his time permits ■



Victor Webb

– **Victor M. Webb**, Interim RFA President

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## A farewell message

After 10 years of as an officer of the RFA, I have stepped down both as President and as a member of the Board of Directors. I regret having to do so at such an inopportune moment, but my personal health, my wife's health, and the health and care of members of our extended family leave me no choice.



Robert Stallings

Serving on the RFA board has been a wonderful experience. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to meet and work alongside retired faculty from both the HSC and the UPC. The RFA has excellent officers and at-large board members and will continue to be well served. Thanks to all who have assisted and supported me over the years. Thanks also to the officers and board members of the Staff Retirement Association with whom I have had the pleasure of being associated over the years. And a special thanks to **Janette Brown** and the staff of the Emeriti Center.

I wish you all the best in 2016 and beyond. ■

– **Robert Stallings**, RFA President  
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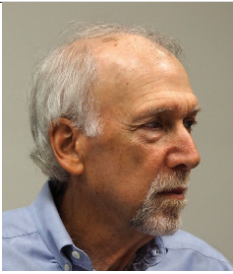
## November luncheon honors 61 retiring faculty

Provost **Michael Quick** hosted the annual Retired Faculty Retirement Luncheon in Town & Gown on Monday, Nov. 9. Retired faculty were honored for a cumulative 1,766 years of service from 61 faculty who served an average of 27 years at USC. The longest serving faculty this year was Gregory Davis of Earth Sciences who served 53 years. ■



Faculty retirees who attended the luncheon included, Bottom row from left: Robert Turril, Heather Robertson, Barbara Edwards, Teresa McKenna, Anne Lynch, Jean Crampon, Rose Hamm, Bob Shames, and Nancy Fullenwider; Middle row from left: Robbert Flick, Bill Clintworth, Charles Ballard, Gregory Davis, Stan Settles, Robert Rueda, and Bryan Langholz; and Back row from left: Morgan McCall, Ronald Henry, Vice Provost Michael Quick, EC Executive Director Janette Brown, John Granaki, and James Brecher.





Michael Klineman

## A season remembered, as we look to the future

As I write this, the holiday season is in full swing with lights, Christmas trees, wreaths, etc. and other symbols of the season. For me, probably the best part of this season is the special time I get to spend with family and friends.

Similarly, one very great part of being a member of the SRA is the opportunity to spend time with another “family,” that of your former colleagues, as well as meeting new friends while enjoying programs and meals together. In fact, this year, as I attended the SRA events, I got a chance to connect up with some former colleagues who I had not seen in more than 18 years since I left USC in 1997. As the Emeriti Center proclaims, we are “colleagues for life.”

The Annual Holiday Breakfast in December in Town & Gown began the holiday season for many of us. Organized by the SRA, and Retired Faculty Association, many SRA and RFA members, and Emeriti Center guests attended the festive program. Many thanks to Donna Simmons and Leslie Pittman for their fine work in organizing all the details of this event.

In October, the SRA hosted **Janis McEldowney**, Associate Senior Vice-president, Human Resources and **Keri Marroquin**, staff benefit retirement navigator at our monthly Board meeting. Our discussion was productive and informative. With the downsizing of the Emeriti Center this year, it has been challenging to adjust to and create new ways of accomplishing

our goals. Both Janis and Keri were supportive of the SRA and helping us to continue the programs and services that we have had in the past as well as new initiatives.

The next program coming up is the Staff Retirement luncheon on Thursday, March 17 in Town & Gown. This event honors staff who retired in 2015, and is free for paid SRA members, and an invitation and more detailed information will be sent later.

On April 2nd, an SRA group will attend the spring musical called “A Little Night Music” in the Bing Theater on the University Park campus. Other events that are still in the planning stages, but will have dates soon, are the USC Asia Pacific Museum tour, Red Line Art Tour, and downtown Theater Tour followed by lunch at the “new” Clifton’s cafeteria. Stay tuned for more details to follow including invitations and how to RSVP.

If these past and future events interest you and you would like some involvement in making them happen as well providing guidance to the SRA in ways to support retirees, then please contact me. We are always looking for new ideas for events and projects, and new people to get involved with the SRA Board of Directors. ■

– **Michael Klineman**, SRA President  
[mkline50@aol.com](mailto:mkline50@aol.com); (310) 374-1078  
[sra.usc.edu](http://sra.usc.edu)

## To come: theatre and art tours, a museum, and a musical

**Bill Givens** is working on setting a date for the Broadway Theatres tour to end with lunch at the newly reopened Clifton’s Cafeteria.

The MTA has changed the Art Tours of the subway stations to Sunday mornings only, so I am looking for a Sunday that might work.

We are hoping for a March date, away from the retiree luncheon, to tour the USC Asia Pacific Museum in Pasadena.

Our Spring Musical “A Little Night Music,” is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, at 2:30 p.m. in the Bing Theatre on the USC Campus. An email will be sent out the beginning of March, with postcards only to those who do not use email.

Questions or suggestions: **Dick Martin**, [dickmar@msn.com](mailto:dickmar@msn.com) or (323) 343-1146. ■

## It’s a South Bay Social – Join Us!

Please join Professor **Rich Sundeen** and his wife **Rosie** for our EC South Bay Social.

Casual cocktail & appetizers with colleagues, alumni and friends. Spouses, partners, friends, and singles are warmly welcomed. Bring an appetizer and/or beverage if you can.



Saturday, April 9, 2016 4 pm to 6 p.m.  
 In Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

\*RSVP: <http://bit.ly/ECSocial4-9-16> or call 213-740-7122 (each individual must RSVP separately). ■

## Consider an Apple Watch

If one of your New Years' resolutions is to get more exercise, you may be thinking about purchasing a Fitbit. But if you own an iPhone 5 (or later), consider buying an Apple Sport Watch instead. It not only has an exercise app with prompting and tracking capability like Fitbit, it also becomes an iPhone on your wrist. And Apple Watch prices are not that much different from a top-of-the-line Fitbit.

When you pair your Apple Watch with your iPhone via Bluetooth, your watch face displays not just the current time and date but also the local temperature and entries from your Google calendar. When you receive e-mail or a text message, a slight vibration on your wrist announces their arrival. By raising your arm and turning your wrist, you can read e-mail and read and respond to text messages. Like your iPhone, Apple Watch allows you to use Siri for voice commands. Pairing allows access to apps such as the Los Angeles Times, Starbucks, AAA, etc. By far the best app is from ABC7. You receive notifications of breaking news when it occurs along with the time the full story will be reported on KABC (and the app is free!).

Early on, cell phones were described as computers for your pocket. Apple Watch is a computer on your wrist. ■

– Bob Stallings, [rstallin@usc.edu](mailto:rstallin@usc.edu)

## USC Alumni Day of SService

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and give back to your local community on March 12, when Trojans around the world participate in our fifth annual USC Alumni Day of SService. Project listings are posted online at web address below. 12. For more information, call (213) 821-5584, contact us by email or visit us at: [dayofsservice.usc.edu/](http://dayofsservice.usc.edu/) ■

## In the News

### Mitchell completes legacy project

After a delay due to health issues, **Frank Mitchell** (professor emeritus, history) has been able to complete his 2015 Faculty Research Fund grant. He delivered his 300-page manuscript, "Locale and Universe: The Shared Story of the Heartland's Lucas County, Iowa and the American Nation, 1946-Present," to his publisher and will receive 200 copies of his legacy project.

### Birren Award presented

In December 2015, **Cheryl Svensson**, USC Davis School of Gerontology, was presented the James and Betty Birren Award for Excellence in Practice at the 11th Biennial International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review Conference in Orlando. She has been a close collaborator of James Birren (gerontology dean, emeritus/see IN MEMORIAM) for many years and has dedicated her career to research and development of guided autobiography.

### Krashen weighs in on education needs

In a Jan. 17 letter-to-the-editor, **Stephen Krashen** (professor emeritus, education) weighed in on a L.A. Times editorial, "What L.A. Unified needs now." He challenged both the Times and the new LAUSD superintendant's ideas, countering that "the biggest problem is poverty," noting that about 80% of LAUSD students live in poverty. "The best teaching in the world will not help if students are hungry or ill and have little to read" he wrote.

### Brown to present

**Janette Brown** will present in early February at ENCORE.org (second acts for the greater good), and at the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education 42nd Annual Conference in Long Beach in early March. "I'm working on ways for USC retirees to volunteer in meaningful ways in the L.A. area," said Brown. "I need to know who might be interested!" If you'd like to turn your post-retirement into a "second act" to benefit others, contact Brown at [jcbrown@usc.edu](mailto:jcbrown@usc.edu). ■

## IN MEMORIAM

*We honor and mourn our university colleagues who have died. Those who were recorded by press time, and whose name were not noted in previous newsletters, are:*

James E. Birren (founding dean, gerontology); Eugene Cooper (anthropology); Robert G. Douglas (earth sciences); Norman R. Fertig (international relations/dean, LAS); Walter S. Graf (medicine); Donn Gosline (earth sciences); Samuel Hurst (dean, architecture and fine arts); Mark Kann (political science and history); (Stephen Madigan (psychology); and David Mars (public administration); Roger F. Olson (university relations); Nick Pappas (athletics); and Thomas Rea (medicine). ■

## Scales honored with Hadley Award

The annual Paul Hadley Award for Service to USC was presented to Professor and Dean Emeritus, **Robert R. Scales**, from the School of Dramatic Arts.

Professor Emeritus Robert R. Scales is a fellow of USITT (United States Institute for Theatre Technology) and has held full-time positions in consulting and/or technical

production and lighting design at professional theatre organizations including Theatre Projects Consultants, McCallum Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Stratford Festival Theatre of Canada, and Guthrie Theatre. He has taught at Yale University, University of Minnesota, University of Washington, Hardin-Simmons University, Banff School of the Arts, University of Missouri at Kansas City and Pueblo, Colorado High School. He serves on the Boards of Theater LA, the 24th Street Theater and Starlight Theater in San Diego.

"Bob has been a tireless supporter and volunteer for local theatre and of the Emeriti Center for many years," said **Janette C. Brown**, Executive Director. "He is a treasure, and extremely deserving of this award."

Following his retirement from the School of Dramatic Arts in 2003, Scales served the university as the Emeriti College Director until 2008 and has served as volunteer Associate Director for the Emeriti Center for the past seven years. In his role as College director, he doubled the number of presentations in local communities. For the past 12 years, he has served as a leader on the Emeriti Center's executive committee, restructured and supported the Center's data collection procedures. Scales also created and conducted numerous surveys, served on the RFA board, supported senior housing initiatives and hearing-loop technology advocacy, and served as data manager, and strategy and advisement support for AROHE.org (Association of Retirement Associations in Higher Education) a nonprofit housed at the Emeriti Center. ■



Janette Brown with Robert R. Scales



Jack steps down, Jerry steps up

**Jack Crossley** with Prof. Emerita **Carole Shammas**, who was November's Sherry Hour speaker. Crossley has been planning the Academic RFA Sherry Hours (see column at right) in Doheny Library for many years and he and his wife, **DeAnne**, have been hosting and providing cookies and other refreshments. Jack steps down from this position in the summer and RFA Vice President, **Jerry Walker** and his wife, **Lora**, will take on this position. ■

## SHERRY HOURS

### "The New Chimpanzee" opens the 2016 Sherry Hours

The first RFA Sherry Hour of 2016 takes place on Friday, Feb. 29.

Our guest speaker is **Craig Stanford**, USC professor of anthropology and biological sciences, speaking on "The New Chimpanzee: Recent Discoveries about Our Closest Kin," which is also the title of his forthcoming new book from Harvard University Press. Stanford, a Research Associate in Vertebrate Biology, at the L.A. County Museum of Natural History, has researched chimpanzee behavioral ecology in East Africa for 15 years, and has recently been collaborating in studies on endangered Asian primates and other animals.

It's the third Sherry Hour of the academic year, and will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Polymathic Academy Room (241) of Doheny Memorial Library (located in the northeast corner of the 2nd floor).

Three kinds of sherry, sparkling cider, Perrier, water, home-baked cookies, and assorted nuts will be served.

There is no charge for this event. RSVP by Monday, Feb. 15 by clicking on [bit.ly/Sherry2-19-16](http://bit.ly/Sherry2-19-16), or by calling the EC at 213-740-7122. Parking: Structure D (with elevator) enter from Jefferson Blvd., Gate 4; or Structure X (no elevator), Gate 3, Figueroa at McCarthy. Free parking with Gold Card; all others, \$12.

Mark your calendars for the next Sherry Hour on Friday, March 25 (Prof. **Peter C. Mancall**, early American History), and April 8 (Prof. **Carol Wise**, international relations). ■

—**Jack Crossley**, ([crossley@usc.edu](mailto:crossley@usc.edu)) and **Ruberta Weaver**  
Co-chairs, RFA Program and Events Committee



## A special gentleman's 80th birthday celebration

**Bob Scales**, former USC Dean of Dramatic Arts and volunteer Associate Director of the USC Emeriti Center, turned 80 in November. Bob was surrounded by family from Washington, Oregon and Texas, colleagues, and friends at his home away from home, 24th Street Theatre, just up the street from USC. Jay McAdams, the Executive Director of the Theatre, was the host of the birthday celebration.

The celebration included the U.S. premiere of "Man Covets Bird," directed by the award winning director Debbie Devine. The show was a treat for all! After the show, the "Birthday Party" for Bob turned into cheers, live music, and many spontaneous speeches. Bob's son and daughter (Bob and Amanda) were there to celebrate along with his brother, John and sister-in-law, Joan (his sister Freda visited earlier).



From left, Bob Scales' brother John Scales and his wife Joan (from Houston), Bob Scales, and his sister Freda (from Indiana).

Bob's son told the audience about birthday parties, and surprises his father would plan – one of which included a large submarine with an actual working periscope. Amanda, also spoke of the sets her father built, as well as the costumes and outfits she was exposed to. Many guests shared how Bob had touched their lives, how he made them better people, the unselfishness he has shown, the encouragement he has given them. Bob spoke about his love of family, friends, work and life; he thanked all who participated in the celebration.

The 80th birthday party was a special night and Bob promised to be back in 10 years. His treatment for multiple myeloma at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center is going well. Bob requested that donations be made to the International Myeloma Foundation in lieu of presents. ■

– Leslie Pittman

## Be scam savvy: tips and hints

The voice on the phone message was ominous, "Call back immediately – the IRS is preparing a lawsuit against you." It was alarming, for sure. But my fraud alert ears pricked up, and I deleted the call. A few hours later, I received a call from a different call-back number, worded similarly, but with the same message.

I deleted these calls, but more came the next week. I wasn't suckered into these scam calls, but I'm sure someone, somewhere, was alarmed enough to call the number back. This is just one of the scams often aimed at older folks – such as the one where your "grandchild" calls asking for money to bail them out of a non-existent jail and to forward money through Western Union.

I went online and learned the IRS and the Federal Trade Commission is warning about aggressive scam telephone calls – the con-artist callers sound very convincing, and can trick you into revealing private information.

The IRS advises that if you get such a call asking for money (or saying you're going to be sued), here's what you should do:

- If you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040, where someone can help you with a payment issue. You would never receive calls warning you of a lawsuit – it's just not done that way – there would always be contact by U.S. mail.
- If you have no reason to believe you owe taxes, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1.800.366.4484 or at [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov).
- If you've been targeted by this scam, also contact the FTC and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov). Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

The FTC has a list of current scams, and there are plenty!

As for the IRS, it does not use email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue. For more info on reporting tax scams, go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and type "scam" in the search box.

Don't be a target – be aware! ■

– Christine Sinrud Shade



## Benefactor Recognition

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

Donor	Honoree
Jeanne & Bob Church (\$500)	Bob Scales
Jeanne & Bob Church (\$500)	Janette C. Brown

\*\* Additional significant end-of-year donations included: \$300 from Yvonne Biller; and \$200 from Donna Simmons to the EC Endowment, in memory of her late brother, Prof. F.F. (Fred) Strayer, University of Bordeaux2, France.

The Emeriti Center is deeply grateful for a \$1,000 donation from Verna Dauterive; and also for the \$2,000 grant that we received from the Rose Hills Foundation on behalf of Dr. Jack Borsting. We will use the grant for special programming that address interdisciplinary, intergenerational and multicultural issues. ■

## A special evening Spring Musical performance

On Saturday, April 2, the SRA attends the matinee performance of USC's annual Spring Musical (see page 5).

However, there is also a special University Club dinner and evening performance on March 31.

The Annual Spring Musical Night, in conjunction with the USC School of Dramatic Arts, is set for Thursday, March 31, 2016. The production is "A Little Night Music," by **Stephen Sondheim**, directed by **Kelly Ward**.

To entice you to join your colleagues, here's a synopsis: A tangled web of intrigue surrounds a famous actress and her weekend guests: an ex-lover, his much-younger bride and his divinity student son, her current paramour and his wife. Brimming with some of Stephen Sondheim's most gorgeous melodies (including the treasured "Send in the Clowns"), this witty and romantic story is a tale of lost love, young passions and scandalous affairs.

This event gets underway at 4:30 p.m. and features an appetizer reception, dinner and tickets with preferred seating to the show, along with an exclusive preview performance by student cast members. The performance follows at 7 p.m. in the Bing Theatre. The all-inclusive cost is \$60 per/person. To make a reservation, please contact **Kristen Todd** at (213) 740-5208 or [ktodd@usc.edu](mailto:ktodd@usc.edu). ■

Mindfulness is important.

I've never totally lost my keys, but I've "misplaced" them many times, and wasted a lot of time looking for them. And at 75, I don't want to waste any of the precious time I have left! So now I try very hard to make sure when I enter the house that I hang my keys in the same place (but last week after getting something out of the car, I left them stuck in the trunk's keyhole, and they were there all night ... sigh ... lady turn up the mindfulness dial!).

I'm mindful when I take walks because a distracted walker can slip on wet leaves or crooked sidewalks (been there, done that!). I'm mindful when boiling eggs that the water doesn't boil away (did you know an exploding egg can put shell shards on the ceiling?)

Driving takes a special degree of mindfulness. I was reminded of this when my 16-year-old grandson was here last summer. He has a permit to drive in his own state, but while with me was a passenger. But he knows all the rules of the road and always had one eye on my speedometer. "Grandma, you didn't use your turn signal!" he exclaimed. Usually I do, even on a turn into my own driveway. "But there was no one behind me," I said, but then reconsidered. Using it should be a habit, and I set a bad example when I didn't. So I tasked myself with being more mindful about this.

For me, these actions aren't about aging and memory, they're more about "paying attention." So I try to do that these days: is the oven off, is the back door locked, are the library books due? It keeps me on my toes. ■

– Christine Sinrud Shade

## USC Retiree Community Holiday Breakfast drew a crowd

Our 14th annual lead-in to the Holiday Season was held at Town & Gown on Dec. 4th. Nearly 200 USC retirees and guests and Emeriti Center friends joined for conversation and an elegant, festive breakfast followed by lively entertainment by students from the Thornton School of Music.

This year “designated greeters” from SRA and RFA were on hand at the door to provide a collegial welcome and information for check-in and donations. Volunteers at the check-in tables greeted attendees with directions to immediate seating. One said she enjoyed greeting old friends at check-in so much she wants to do it every year! Seating was open with no head table. Thus Janette Brown, and SRA and RFA officers, board members and committee members circulated and got to know many attendees who may want to become more involved in Emeriti activities.



The Dental School was well represented at the breakfast: from left, Jack Sanders (RFA Secretary); Peter Stone (Plato Society), Barbara Stone, Calvin Lau (RFA board, Benefits & Resource Committee), Lucina Lau, Jane Watanabe (volunteer), Jo Ann Conley and Jack Conley (Half Century Trojan liaison).

Entertainment directed by Dr. Parmer Fuller, and the talented USC student singing group presentation of “Young at Heart” was a highlight of the morning. In Parmer’s always-creative arrangement for our group, guests were guided in singing holiday songs as a warm-up to the special, very polished student performance.

Attendees brought gently used professional clothing to benefit members of our local community in their efforts at job seeking and adjustment to the working world (see below for receipt info). Representatives from WorksourceLA – two of whom were previously helped by the project – joined us for breakfast and to collect donations. ■

## Encore conference provides inspiration

The Encore.org conference in San Francisco Jan. 8 through the 11th proved to be a valuable and inspiring experience.

Emeriti Center Executive Director **Janette Brown** presented at a workshop on Feb. 11 along with **Helen Dennis**, author, journalist and expert on aging, **Pat Dougherty**, director of the retiree center at university of Washington and also the co-chair of the AROHE conference this coming August, and **Caroline Kane**, Vice president of AROHE.

The workshop engaged professionals from higher education institutions along with others who are interested in the valuable contributions that retired faculty and staff are able to bring to their communities.



From left, Helen Dennis, Betsy Werley, Caroline Kane, Pat Dougherty, and Janette Brown

“One of the most exciting parts of the conference was meeting the purpose prize winners (over age 60) who have created extraordinary initiatives that contribute to society,” said Brown.

Brown is working with **Betsy Werley** from Encore.org to make connections in the Los Angeles area with Encore nonprofits offering pro bono and paid opportunities for the Emeriti Center’s retired faculty and staff. ■



It was a full house at Town & Gown.

## Need a Receipt?

In a tradition at the Holiday Breakfast, members of the USC retiree community donated gently used professional clothing to benefit those in our surrounding community in job seeking and adjusting to new employment. We and our partners at WorksourceLA were grateful for all contributions, but unfortunately there were no receipts available at the donation table on Dec. 4th.

If you need a receipt for tax purposes, please contact the Emeriti Center <[emeriti@usc.edu](mailto:emeriti@usc.edu)> and a pdf copy will be sent by return email. ■



## Staff and faculty befriend student veterans

The Emeriti Center, Staff Retired Staff Association, and Retired Faculty Association are exploring the possibilities of our developing ways to be of service to the military veterans studying at USC. Research shows that vets in college face a number of difficulties as reflected in high drop-out and suicide rates nationwide. Though USC is doing a good job in terms of counseling, academic tutoring, and social activities developed through the various departments as well as the USC Veterans' Resource Center, the Veteran Student Association, and the USC Veteran Alumni Association, there is always more that can be done.

We ask related USC schools/departments/program administrators, as well as current faculty, and the various veteran associations to let us know in what ways we might be of service.

Current involvement of some of our retired staff/faculty who are also military veterans indicates that there are added opportunities for the retired staff and faculty to be of help not only as mentors in terms of academics but also as older friends with common military combat backgrounds available for "just a good conversation."

One suggestion is for retired staff/faculty (military veterans or not) to sign up on the Emeriti Center website indicating willingness to participate and giving the name, a little background about their interests and experience, general location, and email address so that vet students living in the same general area could contact them. The USC vet associations could have a link on their websites to the Emeriti Center's site so that vets could potentially find older faculty/staff/veterans with whom they might like to interact.

At this time we are just asking for advice and suggestions and would appreciate input from all concerned. Please address your questions and suggestions to:

**David Tool**, retired Army colonel, Vietnam combat rifle platoon leader, 1st Infantry Division (Jun 66 to Jun 67). USC Alum and Retired USC staff/faculty (Senior Lecturer-East Asian Geography).

Address: 2810 Ellendale Place (2 blocks north of University Park Campus); (323) 400-8838; [dtool42@yahoo.com](mailto:dtool42@yahoo.com). ■



The Intergenerational Forum on Global Change meets monthly at the Honors House Residence, with a dinner followed by a discussion. Active and retired professors and staff, and current USC students meet to discuss world events. Professor Oliver Mayer hosted two special intergenerational and interdisciplinary dinner discussions with the Emeriti Center that brought together students, faculty and retirees for global discussion. ■

## BOOK NOOK

### Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II (2015)

by Richard Reeves

Three months after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans in four western states became victims of war hysteria when an executive order sent 120,000 adults and children to bleak internment camps restricting their freedoms as citizens. Some families had less than 24-hours to vacate their homes and farms, with few belongings in tow. Through stories of survivors, private letters, memoirs, and archives, the historian/author (USC Annenberg) documents what is now considered a shameful period of our history where racism, xenophobia and revenge prevailed. As we learn of the hardships endured by the internees, many of whom sent their patriotic sons to battle for America, there are parallels here to our post-9/11 era when fear can drive decisions. ■

— Christine Sinrud Shade

### J. Tillman Hall Staff Award Nomination Deadline

The **deadline** to submit nominations for the USC Emeriti Center's J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC is **Friday, Feb. 19, 2016**. The award recognizes a retired staff member who has significantly contributed to USC after retirement. The award will be presented at the 31st Annual Retirement Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, March 17, honoring recent retired staff in Town & Gown.

To make nominations or to obtain additional information, go to [emeriti.usc.edu](http://emeriti.usc.edu) and click on "Programs" tab and then on "Awards" or call (213) 740-xxxx.

Recent recipients include Leonard Wines (posthumously, 2015), Jo and Art Ochoa (2014), Jeanne and Bob Church (2013), Mitzi Tsujimoto (2012), and Carole W. Gustin (2011). ■



## RETIREE COMMUNITY EVENTS ([emeriti.usc.edu/events](http://emeriti.usc.edu/events))

### FEBRUARY:

**Fridays, Feb. (5, 12,) 26 and Mar. 4 and 11,**  
The Joy of Law in Life and Beyond: LAW 101  
(see page 2, registration required)

**Friday, February 26,** URC Fishbowl  
Oliver Mayer's Big Dog on Campus, Noon to 2:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 29 (March 25)**  
RFA Sherry Hours, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Rm. 241, Doheny  
Library. Feb. 29 speaker: Professor of anthropology Craig Stanford

### MARCH:

**Thursday, March 17,** Town & Gown  
31st Annual SRA Recognition Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

**Friday, March 18,** URC 208  
Physical Therapy Workshop, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### APRIL:

**Friday, April 1,** URC 208  
iPad for Seniors Workshop, 10 a.m. to Noon

**Saturday, April 2,** 2:30 p.m.  
"A Little Night Music," SRA Spring musical (see page 5)

**Saturday, April 9, and Sunday, April 10**  
L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC (UPC), Free

### MAY:

**Friday, May 13**  
USC's 133rd Annual Commencement

## USC Emeriti Center

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## USC Retiree Community Newsletter

**Janette C. Brown**, Executive Director

Asst. Vice Provost, Emeriti Center

**Christine Sinrud Shade**, Editor

Contributors: Retired Faculty Association and  
Staff Retirement Association members; and  
Emeriti Center leaders and staff.

## WATCH FOR THE DATE:

In April there will be a memorial  
service to honor the contributions  
of **James E. Birren**, founding dean  
of the School of Gerontology. Date  
to be announced, so keep an eye  
out for more information.