

Retiree Community Newsletter

January 2014

Wellness Symposium highlights how to stay fit for life

The USC Emeriti Center will host USC experts and other professionals at a one-day “Fit for Life Symposium” on Friday, Feb. 7, in the USC Davis School of Gerontology auditorium.

“We want to keep our colleagues healthy and active at any age,” said EC Director **Janette Brown**.

The keynote speaker will be **Florence Clark**, professor and associate dean of the USC Divisions of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy. Clark, a noted scholar, is widely published and has done research over the last two decades largely centered on the relationship of everyday activity engagement to health and wellness.

Interdisciplinary experts from the USC Divisions of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy, USC Davis School of Gerontology, and the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence will present educational, research, and practical knowledge that will increase awareness on how to stay fit for life, both pre- and post-retirement.

Special attention will be given to: balance, strength, flexibility, exercise, and good nutrition. “We hope that all members of the Trojan Family will join us for the panels and a box lunch,” said Brown.

For those unable to attend, the panel presentations will be recorded for future viewing. For more information, please call the Emeriti Center or visit the EC web and click “Events Calendar.” To RSVP, go to: bit.ly/wellness14.

If you missed our April 2013 USC “Hearing Health Symposium,” you can find it and other wellness events posted in the Video Recordings section of our web: emeriti.usc.edu. The link is within the red Communications button. ■



Florence Clark will be the February keynote speaker.

SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 20, at Town & Gown for the 29th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon. This luncheon honors staff members who retired in 2013, but all SRA members will receive an invitation. These will go out in February – be sure to RSVP by the deadline.

Friday, Feb. 21, is the deadline for nominations for the J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC, which will be presented at the luncheon (see page 11).

Gearing up for the 65th

The Retired Faculty Association celebrates its 65th anniversary in 2014. Nine members of the Men's Faculty Club forced to retire at age 65 formed what they called the Sixty-Five Club in 1949. Look for announcements of celebratory events in future newsletters as the Sixty-Five Club turns 65.

Quarterly health stipends for retirees to end

In an October letter from Provost **Elizabeth Garrett** and Senior Vice President for Administration **Todd Dickey**, 1,250 members of the USC retirement community were informed that they would no longer receive a “retiree stipend” after the end of the current fiscal year. This decision was made by the USC Board of Trustees after approving a retiree stipend each year for 26 years. During 2013-2014, eligible retirees received \$180 per quarter.

Recipients for whom the program's discontinuance would pose a financial

hardship may request that their stipend payments be continued for one additional year. Information will be distributed next summer about how individuals can submit requests.

“As you know,” Garrett and Dickey wrote, “this program is not a guaranteed benefit.” In order to transform it into a permanent benefit, they explained, the university would have to accept “costly financial obligations under applicable accounting rules.”

The program was initially approved by the Board of Trustees in 1987. Its “health

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EC active verbs: serve, support, create, explore, advocate

The past year has provided opportunities for the Emeriti Center to be recognized nationally for its innovative and extensive programs that serve the USC retiree community. And we will be represented internationally in 2014 as I have been invited to be a keynote speaker in March in Taipei, Taiwan, at the 2014 International Conference of Elder Education and Intergenerational Learning at National Chung Cheng University.

The Center was acknowledged as a “best practice in higher education” by the American Council on Education, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the National Academy of Sciences. Of major importance, however, is serving and supporting our retirees and pre-retirees. We continue to explore ways to help our colleagues stay well, remain engaged through service and learning, offer opportunities for new endeavors, and develop helpful resources.

In 2013, we created and/or sponsored: USC Hearing Health Symposium, An Encore Career Event,

Sexy Widows – the Musical, Medicare Part D Updates, Transition Sessions, and new Emeriti Center College regional programs at local libraries. Join us for our next big campus event on Feb. 7: “Fit for Life Symposium” (see page 1).

Through the SRA and RFA, our retired staff and faculty have developed the Trojan Global Intergenerational Friends Program (TGIF) to mentor USC international students. In addition, our retirees led by **Carole Gustin** have formed Trojans Helping Trojans, a volunteer group within Trojan Encore that is exploring the needs of USC retirees. Under the auspices of the SRA, strategically led by **David Tool**, (see page 5) is the USC Neighborhood Network that unites residents (including students) to promote safety in the neighborhood surrounding our university.

The EC also plays the role of supportive advocate; whenever we discover issues, we try to be helpful. This role has become increasingly important

in various instances this past year.

In our capacity to keep people connected, we make every effort to link retirees or campus partners with supportive networks or referrals. Currently we are partnering with ITS to assist retirees with usc.edu email addresses as they move from the old web mail format to a new one (see page 11). Please call our office if you need help.

We have also heard from a number of retired faculty and staff who receive the soon to be discontinued retiree stipend (see page 1). As we strive to be helpful whenever we can, we hope that you will contact us with your ideas on new ways that we can support the USC retiree community.



Janette C. Brown

Janette C. Brown
Executive Director

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USC Emeriti Center is represented in Washington, D.C.

Emeriti Center Executive Director, **Janette C. Brown**, was invited to speak last September in Washington D.C. for the National Academy of Sciences’ Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (COSEPUP) workshop. The two-day workshop on the Arch of a Faculty Research Career was designed to serve as a “brainstorming discussion” to identify potential changes in university policies and approaches to crucial career moments, including retirement transitions. Career entry, the tenure decision, and retirement are all transition points that have been recognized as particularly difficult periods for faculty and administrators.

The second day of the workshop offered recommendations for action. Brown’s panel, Reports from the Field: Examples of Innovative Approaches,



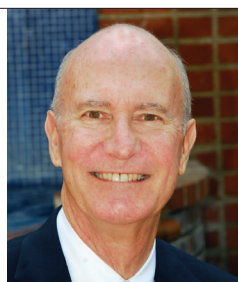
From right, Joan S. Girus, Janette C. Brown, and Edie Goldenberg.

discussed the Emeriti Center and Emeriti Center College programs and trends from the 2012 AROHE survey of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. Professor **Joan S. Girus** from Princeton University and Professor **Edie Goldenberg** from the University of Michigan joined Brown on the panel

discussion highlighting practices from their respective institutions.

Brown was quoted in a Sept. 10, 2013 *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, “Academic Researchers Need More Help at Critical Career Points, Panelists Say.” “Keeping professors connected with academic institutions benefits both parties... Centers like hers allow academics to contribute ‘in meaningful ways.’ Pre-retirement programs, including mentoring to help professors make the transition to the ends of their careers, also help faculty members feel more confident in their decisions to retire, knowing they can continue parts of their life’s work.”

To view the agenda and presentations go to:
<http://bit.ly/NAS913>. ■



Jerry Walker

Off-campus programs are a resounding success

More than 60 residents of Palos Verdes and nearby communities crowded the Peninsula Center Library for **Thom**

Mason's six multi-media presentations on "Jazz and Swing from A-Z: the Story of America's Music." Mason, professor and founder of the Jazz Studies Department in the USC Thornton School of Music, exudes love for the music and the musicians who created this distinctive art form. **Jan** and **Don Wolverton** expressed the collective enthusiasm of USC retirees and community members who enrolled: "The Jazz & Swing presentations by Mason [were some] of the best 'classes' we have ever attended, if not the BEST! Every minute of every class was so informative and enjoyable!"

Following the presentation, retiree **Harriet Servis** organized several no-host luncheons at local restaurants.

"Another lively group ... gathered for lunch at 'The Appetizer' right next to the Library. It is clear that being together with folks from the university and the

community is welcomed," said Servis.

Twenty-nine residents of Brentwood and the Santa Monica area enrolled in "Thematic Autobiography: Writing and Sharing Your Life," taught by **Marlene Wagner** and **Susan Aminoff**. Several USC retirees enjoyed having this enriching experience offered close to their homes.

Nearly 20 residents of the San Marino area enjoyed **Tom Tomlinson's** six-week course on "John Randolph

Haynes, USC and the Making of Los Angeles, 1880-1932." **Irene McDermott**, San Marino City Librarian at the Crowell Public Library, said: "I want to express my complete appreciation at the outstanding quality of Dr. Tomlinson's presentations. He is just great."

Mason and Tomlinson have agreed to teach their courses at new locations during the Spring Semester 2014. Mason will lecture at the Crowell Public Library in San Marino, Tomlinson will lecture at the Peninsula Center Library in Palos Verdes and Wagner and Aminoff will teach at the Pasadena Public Library. Professor Emeritus **David Marsh** will teach a new course at the Donald Bruce Kaufman-Brentwood Branch Library-Los Angeles Public Library, "Finding the Heart of America: Highway 50."

For details visit <http://emeritcollege.usc.edu>. ■

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Irene McDermott, City Librarian, Crowell Public Library, and USC's Tom Tomlinson.

Join the USC Book Club for the fun and fellowship

The USC Book Club has attracted a delightful group of avid readers with a rich variety of backgrounds. Said member **Sandy Rich**, "I'm lovin' it."

Beth Shube, as leader of the Book Club, asked members to select the readings.



Beth Shube leads a discussion at a recent Book Club meeting.

Members will be making book selections in the alphabetical order of their first names, assuring that every participant will be able to recommend her or his choice of a favorite book.

Some Club members prefer fiction, some prefer biography or history. The November selection was "In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin" by Erik Larson. It was a great selection for fans of biography and history, giving first-hand descriptions of Hitler and the madmen who led the reign of terror in pre-WWII Germany, as they were written in journals, diplomatic mail and personal letters.

Fans of fiction enjoyed **T.C. Boyle's**

"When the Killing's Done, A Novel," described as an action-packed adventure about saving California's Channel Islands from invasive species. The December selection was the second work of T.C. Boyle's fiction selected by the Book Club.

Retired faculty and staff and retirees' spouses and partners are welcome to attend Club meetings. Please notify Shube (beth.shube@gmail.com) of your interest, and she will keep you informed on reading selections and dates of meetings. There are no membership fees. The group meets on the third Thursday of the month, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., including Feb. 13, March 13 and April 10. ■

We honor our retirees and gear up for our 65th

Our 2012-2013 faculty retirees were honored at the annual Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon at Town & Gown on Nov. 13, 2013. Our Retired Faculty Association Board of Directors and our RFA members extended warmest congratulations to the retirees who have now joined our ranks. The length of service of the 52 new USC retirees ranged from 10 to 52 years. A special recognition of the contributions made by the retirees was acknowledged by **Beth Garrett**, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Garrett

focused on changes at USC, especially the interdisciplinary efforts to address complex problems, and noted that work done by the retirees during their years of service contributed in significant ways to improving USC's ranking among the top universities in the United States.

Special congratulations and remarks from the Academic Senate were provided by **Charles Gomer**, President of the USC Academic Senate and Professor of Pediatrics and Radiation Oncology, Keck School of Medicine of USC at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.



2012-2013 faculty retirees who attended the luncheon included, bottom row, left to right: Florian Mansfeld, Irma Fitzgibbons, Arnold Platzker, Granville Alexander Moore, Lynne Ticson, Elizabeth Garrett (Provost), Janette Brown (Executive Director, Emeriti Center), Parakrama Chandrasoma, and Gloria Orenstein; second row, left to right: Don A. Llewellyn, James Rotter, Maurice Hitchcock, Ken Servis, William Maxwell, John Odell, William Petak (RFA President), and Esther Gillies; top row, left to right: Alan Schumitzky, Roger Jelliffe, Ram Kannan, Cage Johnson, Bill McClure, Chris Zarow, and Sandra Rich.

continued ... "stipends"

stipend" was intended to assist retirees in purchasing "Medigap" insurance to cover Medicare co-payments and deductibles. To be eligible, retirees had to be 65 or older and have accrued 15 years of full-time, benefits-eligible employment and be enrolled in Medicare.

Responding to Provost Garrett's announcement, the Retired Faculty and Staff Benefits and Resource Committee expressed gratitude for the many years in which the Board had authorized the stipend for eligible retired faculty and staff. The committee especially expressed gratitude for the late **Dennis Dougherty**'s sensitivity to pressures created by rising health care costs on retirees – a sensitivity that translated into strong, long-time support for the health stipend. Dougherty served as

the university's Senior Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer from 1990 to 2008.

The Retired Faculty and Staff Benefits and Resource Committee is currently generating ideas for the discontinued stipend that address the needs of USC retirees that might be considered by the USC administration. According to Emeriti Center Executive Director, **Janette Brown**, her office is receiving an increasing number of requests by retirees and campus partners for help or recommendations in handling a broad range of questions and concerns.

Recommendations for valuable ways to use the funds previously allocated for the retiree stipend will be conveyed to the Office of the Provost and to the Senior Vice President for Administration for their consideration. ■

(see page 10).

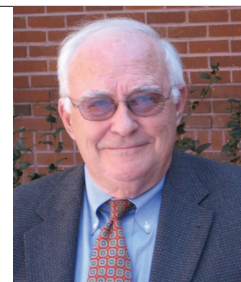
New retirees should note that the Emeriti Center is the vehicle to stay connected to the university. Be sure to visit the EC website for information and events, and our own RFA site as well. Stay connected!

As we begin the new year, a special note of accomplishment and recognition is due to RFA Past President, **Phoebe Liebig**, who continues to provide much service and inspiration to support the functioning of the RFA today. She continues to lead the RFA Strategic Vision Effort.

We are particularly excited about the **65th Anniversary** of the RFA that will take place next year under the leadership of incoming RFA president, **Robert Stallings**.

Finally, special recognition is due to the Emeriti Center staff, especially **Gloria Reyes** and her student crew who continue to provide incredible support; and then also to **Judy Diaz**, **Maricela Hinojosa**, **Diana Seyb** and Executive Director Janette Brown. ■

Bill Petak, RFA President
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Bill Petak



Dixon Johnson

We address our members' concerns

Since my September column there have been many developments of concern and interest to the staff retiree community. I will focus on the most important.

Many retirees were dismayed to receive a letter dated Oct. 3 from Provost **Elizabeth Garrett** and Vice President for Administration **Todd Dickey** announcing that the retiree health stipend (RHS) program would be ending as of June 30, 2014. While each annual stipend renewal letter has clearly stated that this was a special program requiring annual approval by the USC Board of Trustees with no assurance of continuance, after more than 20 years many had taken this token of appreciation for granted. Many RHS recipients have telephoned, emailed and written expressing their disappointment both with the subject of the letter, and the tone with which it was written. As a result, the SRA Board instructed me to write to Mr. Dickey detailing our concerns. As a follow-up, SRA Past President **Carole Gustin** and I were invited to meet with

Janis McEldowney, Senior Associate Vice President for Administration, concerning the issue. At the meeting we were assured that our interests will be considered and that the SRA and the RFA will be part of any group charged with planning for the future of this savings.

Additionally, the SRA and the RFA through the joint Retired Faculty and Staff Benefits and Resource Committee will be submitting ideas for use of the funds not spent on future health stipends for retirees. We are grateful for the responsiveness of Mr. Dickey's office and look forward with confidence that our needs and concerns will be appropriately addressed. Look for more information in the future as programmatic initiatives are explored.

Many other activities of the Staff Retirement Association are described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Your SRA Board is always looking for volunteers with good ideas for new activities and who want to assist with our current programs. If this appeals to you, please contact me directly and we can get you involved. I hope to hear from you! ■

– **Dixon Johnson**, SRA President,
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SRA Day Trips to look forward to

We are completing plans to see the final season production of the **"Palm Springs Follies,"** Thursday, **Feb. 20** – it's a variety show featuring show business legends in their retirement, a "Ziegfeld Follies-style dance and musical review." Singer and Broadway actress **Maureen McGovern** will be the headliner. Our bus leaves the School of Gerontology at 9 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. The matinee is at 1:30 p.m. and the projected cost per person is \$195 or less, including your share of the bus rental and show ticket. There will be a no-host lunch at a restaurant before the performance. Look for an email invitation in mid January.

We have secured a block of 50 tickets for **"Grand Hotel, The Musical"** – a USC School of Dramatic Arts production, for the 2:30 p.m. matinee in USC's Bing Theatre, for Saturday, **April 5**. It's billed as "a group of eccentric guests spend a lavish weekend at the opulent Grand Hotel in 1928 Berlin – when the Roaring 20s are in high gear and where the city is the center of high life." All this for the still modest price of \$8 per person! Please look for an email invite in early March. ■

– **Dick Martin**
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SENIOR HUMOR

Breaking news

A driver was stuck in a huge traffic jam this morning outside Washington D.C. Nothing was moving.

Then he saw some men approaching each vehicle.

When one arrived at his car, he rolled down the window and asked, "What's up?"

"Terrorists have kidnapped Congress, and they are asking for a \$100 million ransom. Otherwise, they say they will douse them with gasoline and set them on fire. We are going car-to-car asking for donations."

"You can count me in," the driver replied. How much is everyone giving, on average?"

The volunteer replied, "Roughly a gallon."

– **Len Wines**

USC initiative recognized

In November, the USC Neighborhood Network program was recognized by the Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness for training and setting up a Community Emergency Response Team in the North University Park community. Because of the inspired leadership of SRA Board Member **David Tool**, with the strong support of Director of Fire Safety and Emergency Planning, **Bill Regensburger**, both USC and David received awards. The Neighborhood Network is composed of local area current and retired USC employee residents as well as other neighbors concerned with quality of life, safety, security and emergency preparedness issues in their neighborhood.

SENIOR CYBER TIPS

Want to watch old-time TV shows?

Try hulu.com (the free version). Click on “TV,” then “Genres,” and “Classics.” You’ll find selected episodes of shows such as “The Dick Van Dyke Show,” “Star Trek,” “Kojak,” and more.

Also visit youtube.com and search for “classic TV shows.” There are episodes of “Sky King,” “Carol Burnett,” “Superman,” and “Death Valley Days,” among many others.

Three L.A. over-the-air channels broadcast classic TV shows around the clock: on KNBC-DT2 (Channel 4.2; cozi tv) you’ll find “I Spy,” “The Lone Ranger,” “Lassie,” etc.; KTLA-DT2 (Channel 5.2; Antenna TV) broadcasts “Gidget,” “Patty Duke,” “The Partridge Family,” and “Bewitched” among many other family-oriented shows; and KDOC-DT3 (Channel 56.3; MeTV) airs such classics as “Gilligan’s Island,” “The Brady Bunch,” “Rockford Files,” and “Emergency!” (Yes, Paramedics Johnny and Roy and the people at Rampart General are still saving lives.)

Miss old-time radio shows? Give radio.macinmind.com a try and hear classics such as “The Whistler,” “Red Skelton,” and “Burns and Allen.”

(Past issues of this column are at seniorcybertips.blogspot.com.)

– Bob Stallings

In the News

- The *Auburn Citizen* (NY) quoted **Robert Ellwood** (professor emeritus, religion) about misconceptions regarding Muslims and the concept of Jihad. Ellwood’s quote: “Out of the community ideal of Islam comes the concept of Jihad, or holy war, which is designed to defend Islam and defend its social practice, though not to force individual conversion, which is forbidden.”
- The *New York Times* quoted **Jon Pynoos** of the USC Davis School about the increased number of options seniors currently have other than being forced into nursing homes; in a different article, the *Times* quoted **Eileen Crimmins** of the USC Davis School about what today’s baby boomers are doing once they retire and need assistance.
- In October, *Inside Higher Ed* quoted EC Executive Director **Janette Brown** on the prestige that comes with having an Emeriti Center deeply connected to academics rather than a university’s human resources, benefits or alumni departments.
- The *Los Angeles Times* featured **Peter Lee** (professor emeritus, medicine) who was the founding chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The story chronicled his family’s involvement in health reform over the last 50 years.
- The *Chronicle of Higher Education* cited a review by **Ronald Steel** (professor emeritus, USC Dornsife College,) about an academic turned politician.

A book by Churness

Vivian Churness (professor emerita, nursing) has written a book, “The Search for My Missing Son,” a poignant tale of hope and faith.

Armato's essay republished

An essay by **Rosario P. (Sam) Armato** (professor emeritus, comparative literature), “The Play Is the Thing: A Study of Giralfdi’s Orbecche and its Senecan Antecedents,” written some 40 years ago for inclusion in “USC Studies in Comparative Literature,” will be republished in a volume on “Criticism of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.” Armato says he has been writing constantly since retirement.

Name change

The USC Roski School is now the USC Roski School of Art and Design. The name reflects a growing emphasis on design in the school’s curriculum.

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:

Virginia Ainsworth (Emeriti Center); Larry L. Berg (political science); Kathleen Ann Burke (medicine/research); Dennis Dougherty III (senior administration); Robert R. Dockson (business); Harry Louis Dougherty (dentistry); Syd Field (screenwriting/USC Dornsife); Mary Gerlitz (honors programs, LAS); John Halamka (spouse of Dagmar Halamka, business); Rex Ingraham (dentistry); William “Bill” Millington (education); Anthony Mlikotin (Slavic languages and literatures); Preston Merritt (facility management); Edwin “Bud” M. Perkins (biological sciences); Beverly Rhue (medicine/administrative coordinator); Eliana Segura (medicine/staff); Delores K. Shaffer (senior technical secretary, LAS); Russell Sherwin (medicine/pathology); Robert F. Tooper (computer science); and Nancy Bricard Woods (music), spouse of Sherwyn Woods.

Trojans Helping Trojans plans events, reaches out to new retirees

Since its first meeting in June 2013, the Trojans Helping Trojans (THT) group has met monthly. Members have been enthusiastically working to offer retirees interesting programs. Retirees have indicated they prefer programs close to where they live. The first regional program was organized by staff retiree **Harriet Servis**, who encouraged a group of retirees to attend “Jazz & Swing from A to Z,” a popular course taught by **Thom Mason**, an Emeriti Center College presenter. Held at the Palos Verdes library, this free course brought over 60 attendees, 16 of whom gathered afterward for a no-host lunch at a nearby café.

Thom will offer this program at the Crowell Public Library in San Marino beginning on Jan. 30 at 12:30 and continuing on Thursdays for an additional five weeks. We are looking for retirees to volunteer to serve in the

same role in their areas as Harriet did. (See ECC article, page 3, for more on this and other events in 2014.)

As a second activity, THT committee members called the most recent “Gold Card” retirees to ensure they had received their retirement packets. Questions, if any, were referred to the appropriate Emeriti Center staff member.

Both programs, THT and the ECC, in collaboration, have increased the regional community audiences for these ECC presentations, and helped support the enthusiasm and commitment of the volunteers committee. We are ‘caring colleagues’.

Please send us ideas for programs you would like to see in your area and note if you would be willing to help coordinate an event. ■

– **Carole Gustin**,

Coordinator, Trojan Encore,
cgustin@usc.edu

Pharmacy students consult with retirees

At right, PharmD student **Brian Phan** assists USC retiree **June Griffin** in identifying the best Medicare Part D plan for her specific needs.

In an effort to ensure that retired Trojans receive optimal coverage through Medicare Part D plans, more than 50 USC pharmacy students met with USC retirees for consultations in three days of workshops last November.

Medicare Part D aims to lower prescription drug costs for seniors and help protect them against higher costs in the future – but many seniors find it difficult to navigate the medicare.gov website to receive their best coverage.

“Many retirees don’t know they should check plans every year because insurance companies change formularies, premiums and deductibles each year,” said **Tiffany Huang**, director of geriatrics for the Skull & Mortar society, who acted as student coordinator for the workshop. “Also, retirees have changes in their health status, disease states and medication needs,” she said, which means plans should be updated.

The students helped 62 retirees at the workshops – and additional participants via phone – to select the Medicare Part D plan that was right for them, saving participating retirees an annual average of \$797 per person.

To read the full article, visit the Emeriti Center website. ■



SUCCESSFUL AGING

A spotlight on Helen Dennis

In this issue, we spotlight **Helen Dennis** who has supported the Emeriti Center for almost 20 years, teaching, consulting, developing curriculum and conducting research on “A New Life Stage: Its Meaning for USC Faculty and Staff.” She is definitely a valuable asset for our USC retiree community.

With a specialty in aging, employment and the new retirement, Helen has worked with over 10,000 employees planning for non-financial aspects of retirement, has served as an expert witness on class-action age discrimination cases, and is active in professional organizations as well as the encore career movement. She has more than 50 published articles, was past president of five nonprofits and is consistently invited to speak across the United States.

Helen’s writing spans academic, trade and media publications. Her weekly columns (600+) on Successful Aging in eight Southern California newspapers reach 1.3 million readers in print and online. Her co-authored book: *Project Renewment: The First Retirement Model for Career Women* made the L.A. Times bestseller list.

Helen has taught in the USC Davis School of Gerontology for two decades, receiving awards for exceptional teaching. She will be teaching a new Davis School course in the Spring entitled: “The Retirement Revolution: Preparing for a New Life Stage.” We are very honored and happy to have Helen as an integral part of the Emeriti Center’s team.

– **Janette Brown**



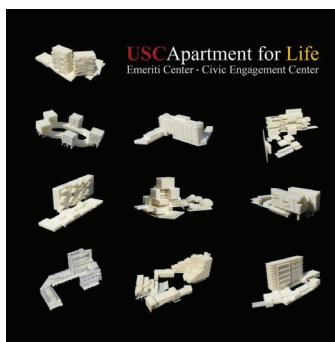
Helen Dennis,
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employment and
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USC Emeriti Center partners on second senior housing design book

Victor Regnier, professor of architecture and gerontology at USC's School of Architecture, recognizing the need for community-based complexes for increasing numbers of older adults, engaged his graduate architecture class in real-life senior living projects last semester. Regnier highlighted these projects in a second book he has authored on senior housing designs.

In his first book: *USC EMERITI CENTER A Vision for the Future* (2010), Regnier highlighted architecture student design projects using senior co-housing and mixed-use buildings for an Emeriti Center, auditorium, café, mentoring and lifelong learning spaces. In the 2013 volume, *USC Apartment for Life*, his graduate architecture students designed "age in place" senior apartments, including space for USC Civic Engagement and the Emeriti Center.

Using the parking lot site on the northwest corner of campus near Vermont and Jefferson to envision what it would be like to age in place on USC's campus, the students designed 60 units for the 2013 design. Their innovative plans included a linear park with an exercise walkway, a



central courtyard for special events and social gatherings, and kitchens adjusted to wheelchair level. All housing units would have centers physically connected to community services.

Regnier also incorporated the European housing style, "Apartment for Life." "This building type has been operating in Southern Dutch cities for 15 years," Regnier said. "This innovative approach makes housing adaptable for people, allowing them to move into a purpose-built housing unit and age in their unit."

Students received input from former Dean **Robert Scales**, School of Dramatic Arts, **Phoebe Liebig**, Emeriti Professor of Gerontology, former Dean **Guilbert**

Hentschke, professor, USC Rossier School of Education, and **Janette Brown**, Emeriti Center executive director.

"The focus was a real-life project as if the students were building a senior living facility for a lifetime," said Brown.

Also involved in advising the students was **Craig Keyes**, associate senior vice president of USC Civic Engagement. "The role of Civic Engagement overlaps with the USC Emeriti Center focus," said Regnier. Others from USC who contributed ideas on campus planning included: **Brian League**, University Real Estate, executive director of Real Estate Development, and **Jon Soffa**, university architect, Capital Construction Development.

A community that supports the independence of its older adults benefits USC and society, too.

These 10 designs also serve as portfolios for the students. To read excerpts from the book go to: <http://bit.ly/Regnier>. Email regnier@usc.edu for a free PDF. ■

— **Diana Seyb**
seyb@usc.edu

USC Senior Care info:

USC Senior Care is not affected by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPSCA or ACA – Affordable Care Act) also referred to as Obamacare. The USC Senior Care premium for 2014 will remain at \$195 per person per month — almost a decade without any increase. The vision benefit will have two co-pay increases: eye exams will increase from \$10 to \$15; and frames/lenses will increase from \$15 to \$25. If you are not already enrolled in USC Senior Care, please call USC Health Plans at (213) 740-0035.

Emeriti Center Research Fund is endowed

Executive Director **Janette Brown** was delighted to receive news from **Robert Cooper**, Vice Provost for Academic Operations and Strategy, that Provost **Elizabeth Garrett** has assigned a research endowment fund to the Emeriti Center. This endowment will permit the USC Emeriti Center to award between \$2,000 to \$4,000 per year, with the amount varying from project to project for research and life-long learning projects by retired USC faculty and staff.

The USC Emeriti Center's Norris Research Fund, which was established by a gift from the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation in 1997, has supported 29 research and publication projects, totaling close to \$50,000. The Center is extremely grateful for the Norris Foundation's support, which enabled retired faculty to continue their contributions to their academic fields and to the university. The Norris Foundation gift has been fully expended.

The new Research Fund highlights the importance of maintaining the intellectual vitality of retired faculty and staff.

Applications are being accepted during the Spring Semester 2014. Guidelines and application forms are available on the Emeriti Center College website www.usc.edu/ecc. ■

Benefactor Recognition

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

Donor

Bob Coffey
Leonard R. Wines

Honoree

Art Donovan
Rachel Maddow

Please consider supporting the Emeriti Center with a planned gift, endowment contribution, or a donation to help us grow our resources, mentoring and service initiatives that exceed the scope of our operational budget. To learn more, please call Janette Brown (213) 740-7121.

We salute our Caldwell Scholars

Pablo Escobar is a dreamer – and his dream to graduate from USC is near at hand. Pablo said he was exposed to USC for many years prior to his admission. As a child, the RFA/ Caldwell Scholar played on USC's campus.

"I was surrounded by the USC culture for most of my formative years," he said, "and my dream was to become a USC student. I was proud of USC's academic and athletic prowess." Pablo is a psychology major and came to USC through the Neighborhood Academic Initiative Program at Manual Arts High School.

Pablo's USC community service activities include a local government relations student internship through USC's Office of Civic Engagement,

USC's Kicks for Kids Academic Involvement program, AIDS Walk Los Angeles, NAI, and he is a former middle school math teacher for USC's Family of Schools program.

He sees his USC experience as a great opportunity and said he is "... everlastingly grateful for his appointment as a Caldwell Scholar and the RFA's help and encouragement."

Pablo, one of 11 Caldwell Scholars for the 2013-2014 academic year, joins USC's alumni ranks in May 2014. We wish Pablo continued success as he nears the end of his tenure as a Caldwell Scholar. ■

— **Victor Marshand Webb**



Pablo Escobar

An award for Birren

James E. Birren, Professor Emeritus of Gerontology and Psychology, was one of three recipients of the 3rd annual Center for Optimal Adult Development's (COAD) distinction of Honorary Lifetime Associate, given by their colleagues and friends throughout the adult development profession in November 2013. This award is provided by COAD to a "difference maker" within the multidisciplinary fields of adult development who 'has devoted a significant part of their life advancing the field of development in adulthood and elevating its societal value through diligent pursuit of excellence, integrity, ethics, and professionalism.' ■



James E. Birren



Hannah Garry, Bill Petak, and DeAnne Crossley at the Nov. 8 event.

More RFA Sherry Hours for 2014

Sherry Hour speakers for October and November, Professor **K.C. Cole** of the USC School of Journalism, and Professor **Hannah Garry** of USC Gould School of Law, were both extraordinary, and our next three promise to be equally outstanding.

Speaking on Friday, Feb. 14, is **Donald E. Miller**, Professor of Religion at USC Dornsife, and director of the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture. Miller has been principal investigator for a \$7 million Temple Foundation grant to study global Pentecostalism. He will speak on "Global Pentecostalism," addressing the effect of the rise of Pentecostalism on mainline Christian traditions and Roman Catholicism, and on other religious traditions and politics.

Jacob Soll, Professor of History at USC Dornsife, who has made a career understanding world civilizations by means of analyzing their accounting practices, is featured March 14.

Our April 11 event will feature **Jack Wills**, Sherry Hours are from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays in the Polymathic Academy Room (241) of Doheny Memorial Library. If you haven't joined us before, you have a treat in store for you. Come and raise a glass (or two) with us!

— **Jack Crossley**,
Professor Emeritus, Religion

Ruberta Weaver stays independent and involved

Ruberta Weaver, at 97, still lives independently in Palos Verdes and on occasion drives herself to USC for meetings or events.

“Oh yes, I’m still driving,” she said recently with good cheer.

As the widow of RFA member John Weaver, Professor Emeritus, geography, Ruberta has retained her own member status and is active in Emeriti Center activities.

She likes having her independence, but also knows the value of keeping herself safe and in contact with her family in order to ease their concerns.

Every morning at 8 a.m. Ruberta sends an email to family members in distant states and to a local friend. This way, if she doesn’t communicate and might need assistance in some way, someone checks on her.

“When they get the email,” she said with a laugh, “they know I’m still here!”

Ruberta has a busy personal schedule – she’s in the choir of The Neighborhood Church, and is active in the Keck Medicine of USC Guild.

“I have about nine different organizations I’m involved with,” she said. And she has even taken **Bob Stallings’** class on the Internet and computers.

Ruberta’s morning message is just one way to address independent living safety. One retiree let the EC know that she receives a joke each day from her father as a way to keep in touch, so she knows he’s o.k., because as our retirees age, some also care for one or more elderly parents.

Along with staying in touch with her family, Ruberta knows the value of keeping active. She’s often seen at the sign-up tables for Emeriti Center or RFA events warmly greeting attendees. She continues to contribute to USC just as she did when she was active with her late husband.

Ruberta served as co-chair of the

RFA’s Program/Events Committee, and has contributed to widows/widowers initiatives.

“Ruberta has been an inspiration,” said

Janette Brown, EC executive

director. “Her cheerful, knowledgeable, and can-do enthusiasm continues to inspire me and others to participate and contribute.”

While a non-faculty partner serving on an RFA board may be unusual, it’s a good thing, said Brown. “It’s also immensely helpful when a non-USC employee spouse/partner sits on the Staff Retirement Association Board.

“The rich diversity of perspectives adds so much to our activities,” said Brown. ■



Ruberta Weaver

— **Christine Shade**
shade@usc.edu

The Hadley Award honors David Dows

Professor Emeritus **David Dows** was honored with the **Paul E. Hadley** Award for Service to USC at the Provost’s Luncheon for Retired Faculty last November. After 51 years on the USC faculty, Professor Dows has been serving as a volunteer board member and treasurer of the Anton B Burg Foundation following his retirement from the department of chemistry in 2008. Dows is the only chemist on the Burg Foundation board, and he has been proactive in identifying the needs of the chemistry faculty that are difficult to meet in other ways.

The chemistry department hosts more than 50 Postdoctoral Research Fellows each year, in addition to approximately 150 graduate students. Dows played a pivotal role in establishing and sustaining the Foundation’s Postdoctoral Teaching Awards Program. This innovative program provides training opportunities for Postdoc Fellows in teaching undergraduate and graduate courses.

Dows’ contributions also have significantly enhanced the quality of the department’s teaching laboratories and research facilities. The Foundation has supported the acquisition of



David Dows and Janette Brown

X-ray crystallography equipment, surface analysis instrumentation, a solar simulator for photochemical studies, polarimetric equipment and a helium liquefier facility.

The helium liquefaction facility enables high-impact electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) experiments that otherwise would be cost-prohibitive, and it protects liquid helium users at USC from precipitous increases in the cost of liquid helium caused by the international helium shortage.

Dows received his B.S. and Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 1954 at UC Berkeley. He joined USC’s faculty as an instructor in 1956–57. He was promoted to full professor in 1962. He

served two terms as chairman of the department of chemistry, and was instrumental in its major expansion. and he worked with Executive Vice President Zohrab A. Kaprielian on the completion of USC’s Seaver Science Center.

Dows is a member of the national Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the Culver City Emergency Response Team. He and his wife, Wena, are active Scandinavian folk dancers.

— **Jerry Walker**

TGIF News

The Trojan Global Intergenerational Friends (TGIF) Program continues to develop with strong support from the Emeriti Center.

A TGIF web page now lists TGIF mentors. It also has a mentor registration link for retired and current faculty and staff who are interested in developing friendships and helping international students and scholars. It will be a resource for these internationals who want to make contact with retirees sharing their academic and social interests. Additionally, under the direction of TGIF committee member **Cynthia Berne**, each month members of the committee participate in the monthly orientation meetings for newly arrived

international scholars and their dependents. This involvement helps acquaint these newcomers with the ins and outs of USC and Los Angeles as well as American culture and society.

Also with the support of the International Student Assembly, TGIF will be hosting a noontime mixer for interested retirees and international students on Thursday, Feb. 13. It will feature food from the famous In-and-Out Burger chain and provide an ideal time to share ideas and opinions about USC and topics of mutual interest.

More information will be available from the Emeriti Center as the date approaches. ■

Your USC web mail to convert to Office 365

USC is undergoing a change in its email system that will affect the way 944 retirees who have, for years, had an email address through the university (i.e., YourName@usc.edu). It's a new system; it looks very different and may take a little getting used to.

USC's Information Technology Services (ITS) supported by the USC Emeriti Center, announced in October that USC is replacing USC Web Mail with Microsoft Office 365 (O365). It's billed as "a modern, online collaboration platform that provides a full-featured email system with web access, integrated calendaring, a campus contacts directory,

support for mobile device access, and 25 gigabytes of storage per account."

The EC and ITS are collaborating on the rollout of this new system to ensure a seamless transition. Your USC email address will remain the same; however, you will access your email through a different website. ITS will help with moving your contacts into the new system as well. If you need assistance with this new email system, contact consult@usc.edu or call 213-740-5555 and remember to save the name of the consultant so that we can follow up if needed.

To learn more about this change, go to: www.usc.edu/its/office365. ■

Keep a keen eye out for "Phishing" emails!

Please be aware that another "Phishing" email came out in November but there have been and will be more. They look very much like ITS at USC, with what appear to be proper ITS/USC logos and colors. Don't be fooled!

NEVER click on any links in the email messages that you even slightly suspect are not legitimate, and NEVER disclose personal or financial data in email.

If you have responded or clicked the link, change your USC password as soon as possible by going to the ITS website at www.usc.edu/its and clicking the icon labeled Change USC Password.

THE EC'S BOOK NOOK

"Empty Mansions, The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune" (2013)

by Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr.

This tale of unimaginable wealth stretches from the opulence of the 19th century's Gilded Age to a battle over a \$300 million inheritance that was only recently settled. Reclusive copper heiress Huguette Clark died in 2011 two weeks short of age 105. She lived her last 20 years in a hospital room in N.Y., even though she was in good health, and owned palatial homes in three states. "An eccentric of the first order," Clark had a bottomless checkbook, collected antiques, violins, dolls, and jewelry, kept in homes she never visited. She was beyond generous to all who helped her and many she didn't even know, but she might have been shocked at the 19 relatives who tried to lay claim to her fortune.

— **Christine Shade**
shade@usc.edu

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. 21, 2014**. The award recognizes a retired staff member who has significantly contributed to USC after retirement. The award will be presented at the 29th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, March 20, honoring recent retired staff. For specific criteria and additional information, go to <http://emeriti.usc.edu> and click on Awards or call **Gloria M. Reyes** at (213) 740-8175.



RETIREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

- JANUARY:** **Tuesdays, January 28, February 18, April 15**
Huntington Library, Chinese and Japanese Garden
Lecture Series,
7:30 p.m., free, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino
- FEBRUARY:** **Friday, February 7**
“Fit for Life Symposium,” 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
USC Davis School of Gerontology auditorium
- Thursdays, February 13, March 13, April 10**
USC Book Club (see page 3)
- Thursday, Feb. 20** (see page 5)
“Palm Springs Follies” matinee, SRA Day Trip
- MARCH:** **Thursday, March 20,** Town & Gown
29th Annual SRA Recognition Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
- APRIL:** **Saturday, April 5,** 2:30 p.m. matinee (see page 5)
“Grand Hotel, the Musical,” SRA Theatre event
- Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13**
L.A. Times Festival of Books, at USC (UPC)
Kids’ Book Drive info at: festivalofbooks2013.usc.edu
- MAY:** **Friday, May 16**
USC’s 131st Annual Commencement

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USC Retiree Community Newsletter

Janette C. Brown, Executive Director

Christine Sinrud Shade, Editor

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

SAVE THE DATE

Join us Feb. 7 for our “Fit for Life Symposium,” which includes a box lunch. RSVP by Feb. 3.

January marks the 19th anniversary of the 6.7 Northridge earthquake. Take the time to review your emergency procedures and supplies. Be safe!