

Retiree Community Newsletter

January 2015

The USC Living History Project is an Emeriti Center legacy for our university

The heart of a great university is found in the intellectual capital of its professors, the administrators who have shaped it, and the staff who make it run smoothly over the years in order to enhance the experiences of its students.

Since the 1980s, the USC Emeriti Center – through the original H. Dale Hilton Living History Project – has videotaped key campus contributors to help preserve the university's history. These recorded interviews are eclectic remembrances of major campus activities: the evolving academic environment, administrative restructuring, and research/teaching accomplishments.

"The USC Living History Project is one of the most important legacies that the Emeriti Center offers USC," said Executive Director **Janette C. Brown**. "Through the generosity of retiree **Louise Ball**, we have established a Living History endowment that generates enough funds for two to three interviews per year."

Presently, ACE/Sloan grant funds support the Emeriti Center's efforts to capture as many USC living histories as possible during the current academic year. The ACE/Sloan grant recently funded the recording of Professors **Nancy Warner** and **Charlotte Furth** with interviewer **Esther H. Gillies** discussing the experiences of women faculty from the 1960s through today. It also funded 15 short videos of retired faculty who attended the Retired Faculty Association's 65th Anniversary Celebration last October.

In 2007, through the generosity of USC University Relations and USC Public Relations, more than 40 earlier videotaped interviews were digitized and preserved for future generations. To date, the Emeriti Center has been responsible for creating more than 60 archival quality recordings in cooperation with the USC Archives. Most of the recorded interviews are posted on USC YouTube for viewing on the Internet. To view the list of completed interviews, including a past president and

deans, professors, and staff members from coaches to a beloved parking guard, go to: bit.ly/USCLivingHistory.

The Living History Project's potential interview list has more than 100 names of individuals with important perspectives on USC's growth and transformation over the past four decades. "Additional suggestions of names are encouraged," Brown added. "And contributions to the USC Living History Project's endowment are always welcome." ■



A recent taping for the Living History Project featured (from left) Charlotte Furth, Professor Emerita of History, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and Nancy E. Warner, Hastings Professor Emerita, Department of Pathology, Keck School of Medicine of USC. They were interviewed by moderator Esther H. Gillies, Clinical Associate Professor, retired, President, California Social Welfare Archives.

March 19 luncheon honors USC's newest staff retirees

Thursday, March 19, the SRA's 30th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon in Town & Gown will honor staff retirees of 2014. Invitations to this luncheon will be mailed in early February to all active SRA members. All honored retirees may invite two guests. Be sure to respond by the deadline indicated on the invitation in order to be recognized by USC's Staff Retirement Association.

If you are a 2014 staff retiree and do not receive an invitation, please contact the Emeriti Center at (213) 740-8921. ■

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

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The USC home department for retirees also serves the entire Trojan Family

The USC Emeriti Center supports USC faculty and staff retirees and pre-retirees in living healthy and purposeful lives by providing opportunities for continued teaching, service, research and learning. We support multidisciplinary, multigenerational, and multicultural programs and activities for the entire Trojan Family and greater community. As the home department for all USC retired faculty and staff, we provide resources and support innovative programs of benefit to the entire Trojan Family. Our retiree leaders also guide us with recommendations from campus colleagues with expertise in a variety of disciplines. We have the best experts and information available right within our own building at the USC Davis School of Gerontology.

It is an honor and pleasure to work with all of our retired faculty and staff colleagues. Here are only some of the things we are doing now:

- **Healthy Living:** We offer wellness events and resources; offer new regional

locations for educational and social events; provide New Life Chapter workshops and research; develop resources for safe and independent living; and explore senior living options for USC retirees.

- **Home Department Services:** We provide email support; issue Gold Cards; maintain accurate contact information; partner with retirement navigators assisting faculty and staff transitions; provide USC schools with resources and information; support Retired Faculty Association and Staff Retirement Association programs and events; and help USC retirees find resources.

- **Education/Research/Service:** We provide research stipends and special awards for service; partner with USC schools for research and service opportunities; explore new courses; support regional cultural events; and offer service opportunities through Trojans Helping Trojans.

- **Advocacy:** We advocate for assistive listening devices and campus

listening installations; explore transportation options; and manage the work of the Retired Faculty and Staff Benefits and Resource Committee.

- **Legacy:** We facilitate recording of USC Living History interviews; and support legacy initiatives in publications, creative works, and research.

- **Intergenerational mentoring:** We mentor local and international students through Caldwell Scholarships and “Trojan Global Intergenerational Friends” (TGIF); mentor interns and student workers; and support those transitioning to retirement.

How can we help you? Please call or email. We would like to hear from you. ■

– **Janette C. Brown**
Executive Director

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Janette C. Brown

Douglas C. Basil Awards support retired faculty

Two \$5,000 awards are available for retired USC faculty to support a project or research. To apply, submit: an application; bio or CV; and a short project description. For more information call **Janette Brown** at (213) 740-7121 or go to <https://bit.ly/basilaward>.

New deadline: Feb. 20, 2015



Douglas C. Basil: “I have great admiration for my fellow Emeriti and wish to provide some assistance to sponsor their research and contributions.” ■

Inaugural Biller Award honors David Tool

The inaugural Robert P. Biller Award, named for the late distinguished USC administrator, was presented to retiree **David Tool** in December.

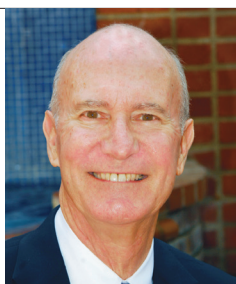
The award, established jointly by the Retired Faculty Association and the Staff Retirement Association, carries with it a \$500 prize and will only be awarded when a USC retiree demonstrates extraordinary service that benefits the university retiree community, USC students and the surrounding neighborhood.

Tool fulfills all these requirements. Since returning from 17 years in China a few years ago, the former USC lecturer and staff member has been active in his North University Park neighborhood with the USC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT Training), has planned and implemented mentoring programs for international students through USC’s Trojan Global Intergenerational Friends program, and has helped veterans transition to campus life.

Generous with his time and talents, Tool and his wife, Sharon, have hosted numerous events in their home, including potluck dinners that have created a sense of community and safety for residents in their area. ■



David Tool with Yvonne Biller, widow of Robert P. Biller.



Jerry Walker

An exploration of Washington, D.C., with Emeriti Colleagues

A unique educational travel adventure, led by Professor Emeritus **David Marsh** and **Marlene**

Wagner, Associate Dean for External

Relations (ret.) in the USC School of Social Work, is being offered by the USC Emeriti College for the benefit of retired faculty, staff, alumni and friends on April 25-30.

On Saturday, April 25, emeriti travelers will fly to Washington, D.C., where they will be welcomed by Marsh and Wagner at the conference hotel. Travelers will stay at the George Washington University Inn.

On Sunday, Marsh will give an overview of our nation's history that is associate with Highway 50 and introduce a guest speaker. A tour of the Smithsonian Museum of American History, a docent-led

tour of The John F. Kennedy Center for the performing arts, and a concert of Gershwin music will follow.

Monday will start with guest presentations followed by visits to view America's founding documents in The National Archives and the Newseum to see how the media makes history come alive. The Lincoln Memorial will evoke powerful memories of the Civil War and the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C.

The emeriti explorers will visit the Harriet Tubman Center in Cambridge, Maryland, on Tuesday to learn more about the "Moses" of the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave, had the courage to return twice a year to free her family and many other slaves.

Wednesday morning will begin with faculty leaders meetings at the USC Washington D.C. office and guest presenters. Visits to the Corporation for Public

Broadcasting and a lobby group are proposed.

The capstone will be a commemorative performance at Ford's Theatre on the Sesquicentennial of President Lincoln's assassination. This educational adventure is offered tuition-free. All travel, hotel and food expenses are the responsibility of participants. An administrative fee of \$150 per person is being charged to cover the cost of the bus tour of the eastern shore of Maryland and tickets for the Ford's Theatre. For more information, contact David Marsh at dmarsh@usc.edu. Bon voyage! ■

– **Jerry Walker**, Director
Emeriti College

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Retired faculty saluted from 13 Schools, the College, and Libraries

The annual Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon, held in November 2014 at Town & Gown, honored senior faculty who retired the previous academic year (Sept. 1, 2013 to Aug. 31, 2014).

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and hosted by the USC Retired Faculty Association and USC Emeriti Center, this event honors recent retirees and welcomes them to membership in the Retired Faculty Association, and to their new "home department," the USC Emeriti Center.

RFA President **Bob Stallings** welcomed and congratulated his newly retired colleagues and invited them to stay engaged as they enter this new phase of their professional lives.

"These 58 new retirees now join our 1,300 RFA

members, and hopefully many will take on an active role," said Stallings.



2013-2014 faculty retirees: Bottom row, from left, Carmen Silva-Corvalan, Hari Rorlich, Felix Gutierrez, Philip Muntz, Provost Elizabeth Garrett, Jean LeCerf Richardson, Philip More, Ed Cray, and Emeriti Center Executive Director Janette Brown. Second row, from left: Carol Hofmann, Hal Slavkin, William Steier, Michael Safonov, Peter Gordon, RFA President Bob Stallings, George Lacy, and Lawrence Ross. Top Row, John Casagrande.

Elizabeth Garrett,

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, spoke for the last time to USC's new faculty retirees, as she will move on to serve as Cornell University's new President. "We're gathered today so we can concretely show our gratitude for your service," said Garrett. She encouraged the retirees to take advantage of numerous resources available to them, such as the Trojan Encore program and the Emeriti College's enrichment courses and travel opportunities (see page 3).

Janette Brown, Executive

Director of the USC Emeriti Center, announced the recipient of the annual Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC, Professor Emeritus **Melvin Astrahan** (see page 7). ■

Photo credit: Maricela Hinojosa

A celebration, reunions, and gatherings, made for a busy season

Fall Semester 2014 was filled with events for retired faculty. The RFA (formed in 1949 as The Sixty-Five Club) celebrated its 65th Anniversary with a series of regional reunions in September and an anniversary gala in late October. Regional reunions were held in Pasadena at the USC Pacific Asia Museum, in Brentwood at the home of Marjorie and Arnold Platzker, and in Palos Verdes Estates at the home of Hazel and James Lord. The capstone gala celebration took place in the ballroom of the Ronald Tutor Campus Center (UPC). All four events were priceless opportunities to reconnect with former colleagues and to become acquainted with new friends.

In November, the Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon was held in Town & Gown with Provost **Elizabeth Garrett** as keynote speaker. The 58 faculty who retired during academic year 2013–2014 averaged nearly 30 years of service to the university with 13 serving 40 or more years.

The year's festivities concluded in December, also in Town & Gown, with the Annual Holiday Breakfast, organized by the Staff Retirement Association (SRA) and co-sponsored by the SRA, the RFA, and the Emeriti Center. Almost 200 retirees attended and once again enjoyed good food, great conversation, and music

specially prepared for the occasion by **Parmer Fuller** and his talented students from the USC Thornton School of Music.



Robert Stallings

Keep your eyes open for upcoming events for the USC retiree community in 2015. I look forward to seeing you at several of them. ■

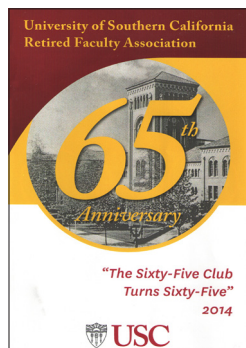
– **Robert Stallings**, RFA President
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RFA on-campus 65th Anniversary Gala was a resounding success



Greeted by classical guitar music, nearly 100 RFA members and guests arrived in the Ronald Tutor Campus Center ballroom on Friday, Oct. 24. Decorated with pom poms and fall flowers in USC colors, tables provided seating for all to enjoy the company of old friends and to meet new colleagues. The program introduced by RFA President **Bob Stallings** included two videos, one on RFA history and the development of both campuses since 1949 and the other featuring recent Caldwell Scholar recipients of RFA financial support and guidance. These visuals

were augmented by remarks from Vice Provost **Martin Levine** about the value of retired faculty to the university. While sampling festive food and drink, attendees admired the L.A. City and County resolutions extolling RFA contributions to our communities, while several participated in video interviews about their retirement. At afternoon's end, all agreed the event was a great success. Kudos to **Phoebe Liebig, Bob Scales, Bob Stallings, Victor Marshand Webb, Janette Brown** and her Emeriti Center staff, and the USC Helenes for making this a wonderful celebration! ■



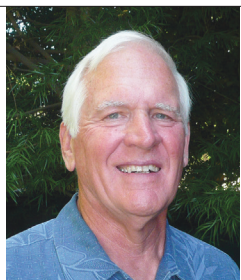
The RFA writes its history at 65.

Retired faculty are invited to follow the academic flags



These smiling students from the 18-degree-granting schools are waiting to lead President **C.L. Max Nikias**, the deans and the trustees into Alumni Park for the September 2014 Freshman Convocation. A similarly delightful group of students will be awaiting the opportunity to lead you, other retired faculty, the active faculty, and the President's platform party into Alumni Park for Commencement on **Friday, May 15, 2015**.

"Mark your calendars now and come join me and the faculty marshals for breakfast at Doheny Library before marching at the front of the faculty column!" said **Jerry Walker**, Associate Provost (ret.) "Retired faculty should join the faculty marshals at the 'Literata' courtyard on the East side (rear) of Doheny Library." ■



Dixon Johnson

We're at work on a survey, an improved website, and more

During fall semester your SRA board has been busy with matters including operational decisions, events, developing materials, improving our website, and a survey. Here's a little bit about each.

Effective with the upcoming March 2015 luncheon honoring 2014 staff retirees, the board has voted to give the honorees a one-year free membership in the Staff Retirement Association. Thus they will not have to pay the \$20 membership fee for their first year of membership.

Our September 2014 membership meeting featured **George Salem**, Department of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy, reporting on the physiological benefits of yoga. His informative and entertaining PowerPoint presentation, (which featured an appearance by Elvis!), was well received by the more than 75 SRA members in attendance.

The SRA website originally developed by **Len Wines**, is in the process of being updated and will provide access to all Board minutes, By-laws, listing of members and their contact information, a current activity calendar and other useful information. This updating could not have occurred without the superb assistance of **John Casagrande** and the postings by the SRA Secretary, **Linda Forman**.

With the help of the Emeriti Center and **Bob Scales**, the Emeriti Center is now conducting a survey of all staff retirees. This

Internet-accessed survey will help the SRA better understand retirees' activities and involvements with USC and lead to an even more effective and responsive SRA. So be sure to complete the 15 minute survey!

A very useful publication is currently being developed to assist retirees who live alone. It will contain helpful hints and contact information about available services. The content is based on the suggestions and experiences of a group of 27 USC retirees from the "Trojans Helping Trojans" group led by **Carole Gustin**.

Our programs and events are possible through the dedicated efforts of our program and hospitality committees ably led by **Leslie Pittman** and **Donna Simmons**. The terrific Annual Holiday Breakfast in December, which brought together both retired faculty and SRA members, was successful because of their dedicated efforts and the excellent work of their predecessors, **Jeanne and Bob Church** (Programs) and **Carolyn Watanabe** (Hospitality) as well as volunteers from the Retired Faculty Association, Emeriti Center, and **Diana Seyb**.

The SRA works to represent the interests of USC retired staff to the University and to offer programs and activities for our retirees and spouse/partner members. We are always looking for creative people who want to help with the planning and hosting of our activities, so please contact me, and we'll get you more involved! ■

– **Dixon Johnson**, SRA President
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sra.usc.edu

Look forward to L.A.'s Theatre District, Subway art, and a Spring musical

SRA Day Trip coordinator **Dick Martin** has planned three very different day trip events for the enjoyment of our Emeriti Center colleagues and friends:

1) **Bill Givens** is planning an outing for a viewing and presentations about the downtown Los Angeles Broadway Theatre District. Date TBA.

2) A Sunday tour of the art commissioned for the Red Line Subway Stations, with a docent from the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), followed by a nostalgic lunch at Mel's Drive-In, inspired by George Lucas's film, "American Graffiti." The restaurant is next door to the Hollywood Museum. Date TBA.

3) Our SRA Annual Spring Musical is "Grease," on April 11. Join us for a 2:30 p.m. Saturday Matinee in the Bing Theatre, University Park Campus, brought to us by the USC School of Dramatic Arts. Martin has secured a block of 50 good seats and the price remains just \$8 per person.

An email blast and postcards will be sent out one month before the events. For questions, contact Dick Martin at (323) 343-1146 or dickmar@msn.com. ■

A meeting of the minds



Bob Scales, former Dean of the USC School of Dramatic Arts, Janette Brown, and Jim Birren met in Thousand Oaks last fall to work on a "topics for discussion" exploration centered on themes that people don't normally discuss in everyday conversation, such as love, wisdom, and death. Birren, who is the creator of the Birren Autobiographical Studies Program and former Dean of the USC Davis School of Gerontology also deliberated on what might be expected in the "New Life Stage" post retirement.

SENIOR CYBER TIPS

Improve your digital photography skills

If you are frustrated because your dSLR camera or even your point-and-shoot camera has more capability than you have been able to take advantage of, take heart. There are several websites that can help you improve your digital photography skills, including wikihow.com and lifehacker.com. One site that I find quite helpful is digital-photography-school.com. It offers free weekly e-mail subscriptions containing helpful tips for photographers of all skill levels. Among recent topics have been: "Don't Know What to Shoot? These Four Photographic Exercises Will Keep You Motivated"; "Camera Basics 101: The Exposure Triangle"; "Better Landscape Photography Tips"; "Guidelines for Capturing Spectacular Sunrise and Sunset Images"; "How to Avoid Blurry Photos by Choosing the Right Autofocus Mode"; "How to Do Great Photography Even When Your Surroundings Are Boring"; "Three Ways to Affect Depth of Field"; "No Telephoto Lens? No Problem"; and "Three Tips on How to Approach Photography as a Hobby."

Happy shooting! ■

— **Bob Stallings**
rstallin@usc.edu

Widows and widowers – we need you

A few years ago a group of widows and widowers met for lunch to brainstorm about what the EC might do to be helpful. One resource that came out of this meeting was a booklet titled, "After the Death of a Loved One," that can be found on our website under Family Support.

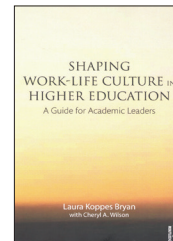
We invite all our widows and widowers to meet again for a lunch conversation on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 11:30 a.m. at the University Club. To reserve a space, contact **Janette Brown** at (213) 740-7121 or jcbrown@usc.edu. ■

In the News

Brown contributes work-life policies

USC Emeriti Center Executive Director **Janette Brown** contributed to a University of Baltimore publication, *Shaping Work-Life Culture in Higher Education* with her narrative in "Reflections of Academic Leaders." The book focuses on strategies that implement beneficial work-life policies in colleges and universities, and Brown's contribution detailed the Center's commitment to creating a work-life supportive community that, for instance, balances the needs of staff who have care-giving challenges for aging parents and young children through flexible work schedules. The publication noted that Brown's commitment to creating a work-life supportive community is part of her overall approach to leadership, as are the Center's creation of quality resources for their retiree population.

Also, the Fall/Winter 2014 issue of the SUNY Retirees Newsletter ran an article by Brown (AROHE's Executive Director) and Board Member **John Bugge**, titled "2014 AROHE Conference Overview" which detailed their Seventh Annual Biennial Conference held in August.



Alumni Spotlight shines on Manning

Keck School of Medicine of USC's news site featured the Class of 1948's **Phil Manning** in its "TALK Alumni Spotlight" (Keck's Alumni Link). Manning spent 50 years on Keck's faculty and the article noted that he now focuses his time and attention on the 50 Year Fellows luncheon. He spoke at the luncheon last August, which was attended by about 110 former students and said he "enjoys reminiscing with former students about the time they spent together at LAC+USC."

Casagrande lends his expertise in India

John Casagrande spent a week in Pune, India, last November visiting the Technical Offices of Exaat, LLC. Exaat is a company recently created by two of his former colleagues at HSC. Exaat's initial product is a clinical placement system for professional schools. He will evaluate the feasibility of using the MVC framework that the Exaat team has created for use in updating Emeriti Center databases to a web-based platform.



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:

Natalie Alexander (medicine/physiology); Gail V. Anderson (medicine); Gerald Bakus (biological sciences); Frans T. Boerlage (music/vocal arts/opera); Robert M. Chew (biological sciences); Peter Daland (athletics/swim coach); Harriet Forster (physics/ astronomy); Darrell Judge (physics and astronomy/ astronautical engineering); A. J. Langguth (journalism); Gerald A. Larue (religion); Richard "Dick" Perry (physical education/ athletic director); Ellen Miyoko Miyasaki (financial and business services, 2013); and Richard F. Thompson (biological sciences).

(Note: Our September issue listed the last name of Frank Arnold Baker as Baer – we regret the error.)

Melvin Astrahan receives annual Paul E. Hadley Award for service to USC

It is with great pride that the USC Emeriti Center celebrates Professor Emeritus **Melvin Astrahan's** service to USC after retirement with the Paul E. Hadley Faculty Award for Service to USC. Professor Astrahan's honor was announced at the Provost's Faculty Retirement Recognition Luncheon on Nov. 12, 2014.

Following his retirement from the Department of Radiation Oncology as Chief of Medical Physics in 2010, Astrahan continued to support the ocular melanoma program by donating his time and expertise to assure the success of his colleagues in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Radiation Oncology.

During his 26 years at the USC Norris Cancer Center, Astrahan designed and developed software and eye plaque techniques that employ miniature radiation sources to target cancer cells within the eye. His method uses 3D modeling to optimize the delivery of therapeutic radiation to the tumor while sparing the surrounding healthy tissues of the eye. His cancer treatment method is currently used at the USC Norris Cancer Center and many institutions around the world. Astrahan is a tireless teacher to all of the residents and fellows, as well



Melvin Astrahan

as the nurses and visiting medical students, and he is enthusiastic about teaching junior physicists. His commitment to the success of the ocular oncology program at USC includes volunteering his time to attend all of the plaque cases in order to provide guidance and support to **Jonathan Kim**, Director of Ocular Oncology, and **Jesse Berry**, Assistant Director of Ocular Oncology at the USC Eye Institute. Astrahan prepares all radiation treatment plans for USC's eye cancer patients

using the software that he created and continues to enhance. Even now, he is collaborating with Kim and Berry to further enhance the accuracy of the treatment planning software by incorporating new toric angle marking devices.

Beyond being one of the most knowledgeable radiation physicists in his field, Astrahan is also a keen horseman who has competed nationally in high-speed mounted marksmanship contests since 1992. He has also appeared in Pasadena's Rose Parade as a knight in shining armor for his fraternal organization, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, and in historical reenactments such as the battle at Little Bighorn in Montana. ■

Emeriti Center research funds are available

The USC Emeriti Center is pleased to be able to distribute \$4,000 every year for research and life-long learning projects by retired USC faculty because a \$40,000 endowment was provided by the Provost in 2014 to support small grants to individuals.

The grants allow continued writing and publication, travel to present papers at professional meetings, development of educational programs, and completion of scholarly or artistic projects begun before or after retirement. Grants may also be used to fund research assistants.

Applications for grants up to \$2,000 are being accepted during the Spring Semester 2015. One grant was made during the Fall Semester 2014 to **Roger D. Sherwood**, Emeritus Professor of Architecture.

Guidelines and application forms are available on the Emeriti College website www.usc.edu/ecc ■

SUCCESSFUL AGING

Language and aging

"Words to Age By: A Brief Glossary on Tips and Usage," by journalist Paul Kleyman reports on a survey of nearly 100 journalists that describes language they used in covering issues of aging. Here are a few of their principles.

Elderly. "Use this word carefully and sparingly." It should not be used in reference to a person's deteriorating condition such as "home for the elderly."

Seniors. Be as specific as possible and reserve this term when no other description works. Avoid patronizing terms such as "feisty," "feeble," "spry," "senile," and "grandmotherly."

Activity/Relationships. Describing an older adult as "active" implies the individual is an exception and typically is sedentary. Avoid mentioning irrelevant relationships. Example: "Golda Meir, a doughty grandmother, told the Egyptians..."

Age. Don't mention age unless it's germane. A news story about an 84-year old driver who hit two cars should cite facts that his or her age was relevant to the accident. Example to avoid: "Representative Nancy Pelosi, age 65, held her latest grandchild as she announced..."

Avoid political spin. This applies to a public policy spin. Avoid using the word "burden" as in the "burden" of our aging society. Avoid naïve sense of wonder. The operative words are "remain" or "still." For example, at 76, Smith remains active as a teacher..." Kleyman writes this can be interpreted as a "vestige of one's waning power." By astute listening and our use of accurate words, each of us can debunk erroneous assumptions about aging. Consider that a collective goal. ■



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

New Caldwell Scholar Silvia Gomez excels

"I excel at academics," says **Silvia Gomez** (Class of 2018). This is how the newly minted RFA Caldwell Scholar describes herself. And the straight-A Belmont High School graduate's impressive record while there reflects that: Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, High Honor Roll, AP Scholar Award and the Scholar-Athlete Award for soccer, cross country track and swimming.

Gomez is no stranger to USC. In her freshman year at Belmont, she was selected to join USC's Math/Science Upward Bound Program. The Saturday Academy provided academic



advising, college tours, enrichment courses and SAT preparation for low-income first generation college-going students. She took college-level courses for four years and experienced USC campus life. For three years, she was a high achiever in UCLA's Early Academic Outreach Program that provided academic counseling and workshops on college searches and application processes.

Active in community service work, she ran the L.A. Marathon and volunteered as a marathon event coordinator for the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon organization. With the Best Buddies

Program, she mentored special-needs students, and because her older sister is autistic, she was deeply compelled to join Best Buddies as a reading mentor and provide a support system for those students.

"I love math and science, and all those opportunities and experiences led me to USC," said Gomez, where she majors in business administration.

Gomez, freshmen **Joshua Park** and **Gwang Kim** are the RFA's first Caldwell Scholars from Belmont High School. The RFA welcomes these Belmont High School colleagues to USC and to our Caldwell Scholarship Program. Fight on! ■

– Victor Marshand Webb

Meet Debbie Jones, Faculty Retirement Navigator

The Office of the Provost officially launched the Faculty Early Retirement Program Sept 2, 2014. This program is being offered from September 2014 through June 2016 and allows faculty up to four years of phased retirement. A key feature of this program is access to a retirement navigator, who will assist faculty in the challenging retirement process. To that end, the Office for Faculty Affairs, hired **Debbie Jones** as the Faculty Retirement Navigator.

Jones has an investment background, having worked as a financial advisor in the Los Angeles and Pasadena communities, and has a bachelor's degree in international relations and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Jones and her husband have raised their family in Pasadena, where she continues an active role in her community. As the Faculty Retirement Navigator, Jones' goal is to meet faculty, deans and faculty groups to present the Faculty Early Retirement Program. Faculty members may contact Jones directly for confidential appointments by contacting her at jonesdeb@provost.usc.edu or calling her at (213) 740-7641. ■



Welcome new Benefits Navigator Keri Marroquin

Keri Marroquin provides personalized consulting services to USC faculty and staff considering retirement, and those transitioning to retirement. She joined USC in 2014 after managing a social services program at a local nonprofit organization. Marroquin has an extensive background in planning and facilitating the execution of large life transitions for families and individuals. She has a degree in psychology, experience working with Social Security and Medicare benefits, as well as many non-profits and generic service providers available to retirees. As the benefits retirement navigator, Marroquin is dedicated to providing personalized planning that assist USC faculty and staff in making a smooth and comfortable transition into retirement. She believes that good retirement preparation requires intentional planning for healthcare, income, family obligations, and lifestyle. Marroquin is Spanish speaking and able to meet with employees to plan retirement.

"Within only two months of starting her position at USC, Keri has already been able to help retirees find supportive resources and opportunities within their own communities" said **Janette Brown**.

Marroquin is located in the Benefits Office on the second floor of the Credit Union Building at the UPC campus. She can be reached at kmarroquin@hr.usc.edu or at (213) 821-4572. ■



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

Leonard R. Wines

William C. Hromadka

William E. Thomson

Honoree

Stan Kenton

Dave Brubeck

Dennis F. Dougherty

Dr. William C. Himstreet

Betty Thomson

The USC Emeriti Center is grateful to Adrian B. Goodman for his gift of \$1,000, and to Jack Borsting and Randolph W. Westerfield for their gifts of \$500.

Note: our September issue inadvertently re-listed donors/honorees that had appeared in our May issue. And we missed donor Len Wines in September, so we now list him above along with new benefactors.

Emeriti Center and AROHE contribute to important Chronicle article

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently ran three columns exploring the issue of faculty retirements. "The forever professors" suggested that senior faculty have an obligation to retire. "Ageism in academe" countered that many professors are as just as productive as they get older, if not more so. The third column, "Dignity in retirement is not too much to ask," co-written by AROHE.org Executive Director **Janette Brown** (who also helms the Emeriti Center), AROHE President **Sue Barnes** and *Chronicle* columnist **David Perlmutter**, suggests that providing opportunities for faculty to continue their engagement in retirement is mutually beneficial to academic institutions as well as Emeriti.

The last paragraph of the "dignity" column states, "Despite many problems, our system of higher education continues to be a global model. Yet whenever we boast about a 'great' university or college, we should always remember that greatness—in teaching, research, service, and public engagement—was achieved in large part through the creativity,

diligence, and hard work of faculty members. They are owed more than a handshake and medical benefits. They should be able to retire and yet still serve the cause of knowledge, discovery, creation, and dissemination in ways that are productive and valued.

"While these columns focus on faculty retirements, the USC Emeriti Center and AROHE are working to re-envision retirement for both faculty and staff," said Brown, "and AROHE member organizations are working diligently to facilitate opportunities for retirees to contribute to their campuses and society as a whole." ■

Regional gatherings anyone?

Are you interested in starting a monthly or quarterly meet for breakfast, coffee, walking or other kind of activity with retired staff, faculty, and alumni? If so, let us know by calling the Emeriti Center office at (213) 740-8921 and our Trojans Helping Trojans committee will follow up with you. ■

Life's little instructions

- Sing in the shower.
- Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated.
- Watch a sunrise at least once a year.
- Never refuse homemade brownies.
- Learn three clean jokes.
- Return borrowed vehicles with the gas tank full.
- Return all things you borrow.
- Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.
- Leave everything a little better than you found it.
- Make new friends but cherish the old ones.
- Keep it simple.
- Think big thoughts but relish small pleasures.
- Floss your teeth.
- Be forgiving of yourself and others.
- Say "thank you" and "please" a lot.
- Avoid negative people.
- Wear polished shoes.
- Have a firm handshake.
- Plant flowers every Spring.

— submitted by **Len Wines**
(Source unknown, taken from a framed, printed message hanging on Len's wall.)

USC Book Club thrives on variety

A congenial core group of 10 USC Book Club members has been meeting monthly for the past year under the care and nurturing of **Beth Shube**. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 140 of the Davis School of Gerontology on the University Park Campus. Each member takes a turn presenting two or three book choices for the next reading, and the other members reach a consensus on the next selection. The result has been a wide variety of authors and genres, and we have demonstrated that variety IS the spice of life. We are happy to have interested retired faculty and staff join us. ■

Cyber security summit yields valuable advice

As the only representative from the Emeriti community present at USC's first Cyber Security Summit for faculty, staff, and students, I was keen to know how best to insure personal cyber security and to gather information to share with our retiree community. For instance, while a retiree may no longer have an office and USC-owned computer, there is ample access to Information Technology Services (ITS) advice and software downloads (see below).

Hosted by the USC Office of the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO David Shaw) the half-day event last October included a film based on the true story of a student unwittingly recruited into cyber espionage, a presentation on "Lessons Learned from the Front Lines of Forensics" by USC Viterbi School of Engineering faculty, and a panel on the security threat landscape with experts from public and private industry.

During the Q&A with the panel, IT professionals and others asked questions about USC and personal cyber security, and students were encouraged to explore

careers in the fairly new professions of cyber security and cyber forensics.

Statistics on breaches of cyber security are daunting, showing that 97% of all networks have at some point been breached. The goal of cyber security and forensics teams is prevention when possible, and mitigation of results such as theft of personal and intellectual information and damage to the core networks of institutions, which is handled by USC's CISO. Many cyber attack inroads result from unsafe practices, such as users who ignore the importance of having up-to-date strong passwords, and who mindlessly click on questionable links in an email or on a webpage. The conference addressed increasing the security awareness of everyday users, as consumers and as parents/family members, mentors, community leaders and thought leaders within our areas of expertise.

Attendees were advised to have one dedicated device just for financial transactions. In this era of cheap computers, having a dedicated device – no email, no non-financial web surfing, no programs/

apps except those you use for finances – is practical. So I'll retire an old laptop soon, will wipe it of all information and re-install a clean

operating system and new browser to access only my financial information.

Finally, it's never a good idea to use a non-secure Wi-Fi hotspot (coffee shop, airport, hotel lobby, etc.) to access any secure or financial sites, nor to make online purchases. Accessing email should also be avoided from free sites. Note: USC has both a secure (with log-on and password) Wi-Fi system, and a non-secure public system.

The CISO security blog <it-security.usc.edu/> features must-read articles: "Safer Web Browsing" and "Know Who Is Tracking You as You Browse the Web." Their PDF booklet "Staying Safe Online for Consumers" is excellent. ■



Donna M. Simmons

– Donna M. Simmons
Neuroscience Research Associate (ret.)

Stay tuned for EC Spring campus events

Mark your calendars to save the dates for these coming attractions:

February:

An Emergency Preparedness Symposium, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. this February in the Davis School Aud.; includes a box lunch. Campus Construction Updates will also be addressed.

February 27:

iPad Overview Workshop,
10 a.m. to Noon, GER 224.

**Look forward to Trojan Tech Fridays
in the Spring!**

March workshop will focus on our well-being

"We've had 20 years added, not to the end of life but to the middle of life."
– Mary Catherine Bateson (author and cultural anthropologist)

The Emeriti Center's March seminar presents, "Well-being, Fulfillment and Joy: For Today and Tomorrow," conducted by **Helen Dennis**, Author and Specialist in Aging, Employment & and New Retirement.

When: Thursday, March 12, 10 a.m. to Noon

Where: GER 224

This workshop will address ways to maximize retirement and aging experiences. Topics include: the Village concept, encore careers, legacy, staying connected, new technology and more. Each leads to enhanced well-being, fulfillment and joy in your life.

To reserve a space, register online: <http://bit.ly/WellBeingMar12> or call (213) 740-7122. ■

USC retiree community contributes through volunteerism

The Trojan Encore program continues to make retirees available to USC departments for short-term and part-time positions. There have been some retiree placements in paid short-term, part-time and volunteer positions over the years. The number of openings has diminished, yet there are more occasions for volunteering to support the university. We continue to encourage our retirees to accept these volunteer opportunities.

As we enter our second year, Trojans Helping Trojans (THT) committee members are enthusiastic, active and committed to serving. We can even multi-task! At several of our THT meetings, the volunteer committee has assisted with mailings for Emeriti Center (EC) events. We would be pleased to have you join our committee.

Recently, THT petitioned the USC Staff Assembly (which exists to promote the growth and welfare of staff employees) to have a staff retiree attend their meetings. The Staff Assembly agreed and invited a Staff Retirement Association (SRA) Board members as an ex-officio member.

The newest THT project was creating and conducting a Ride Share Survey to

reach out to SRA members who may need a ride to EC or USC events. The survey helped identify members who can provide a ride or be able to car pool. Many members were generous in volunteering to provide a ride. More than 50 responded to our survey, with 23 offering rides and/or willing to car pool, while only seven needed a ride.

In another survey, our goal was to identify ways in which the EC can be of more support, including offering helpful and enjoyable resources.

If you have not taken the survey go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/RetiredStaff. THT committee members continue to volunteer to call new retired faculty and staff. They ask the new retirees if they received the Gold Card forms, informational brochures, and the Retiree Community Newsletter. The THT volunteers have been invaluable in reaching out to new retirees and sharing information with the EC to help maintain accurate records.

Through our efforts, we hope to help new retirees transition into retirement assured that the Emeriti Center is acting as their 'Home Department.' ■

Retired faculty and staff are invited to provide ethics perspectives

A new on-line magazine, *Viterbi Conversations in Ethics* (VCE), showcases USC undergraduate student writing on ethics in the engineering professions. Designed to help students see themselves as professionals within a larger community of thinkers and writers, VCE provides an informed, reasoned, and relevant discussion on modern engineering issues that have ethical implications. Students write papers which become a "conversation" about ethics, and then thoughtful, informed experts will provide written responses to further that conversation. The essays and the responses will be published together on USC's VCE website.

Retired USC faculty and staff are invited to be the first set of responders, and need not be engineering faculty – a broad array of perspectives is desired. Papers currently available for response include: The Frozen Undead: Ethical Implications of Suspended Animation and Cryonics; Drones and Surveillance: An Ethical Approach; The Ethics of Artificial Organs; Utilitarian and Rights-based Arguments for Planetary Protection; and Ethics of Decisions Behind the Lost Angeles Aqueduct.

VCE will have an ongoing pool of papers available for comment. To join in this conversation, contact Faculty Advisor **Martha Townsend**, at mjt@usc.edu or (213) 740-1476. ■

BOOK NOOK

"The Moor's Account"

by Laila Lalami (2014)

Esebanico – the first black slave in the New World whose name is known – is featured in this historical novel as Spanish conquistadores engage Native Americans in "La Florida" from 1527 to 1536. The Moroccan slave shares his "story" in this imagined narrative about the nature of bondage, freedom, loyalty, and hope, as explorers encounter indigenous peoples. Neither side is shielded from violence and brutality once a pebble of gold is found, and 600 men and horses dwindle to a handful as navigational errors, fever and starvation enter the equation. ■

– **Christine Shade**
shade@usc.edu

J. Tillman Hall Staff Award nomination deadline

Please submit nominations of worthy staff colleagues for the J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC by **Friday, Feb. 20, 2015**. The award recognizes retired staff who have significantly contributed to USC after their retirement. The award will be presented at the 30th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon honoring recently retired staff on Thursday, March 19, in Town & Gown.

To make nominations or to obtain additional information, go to emeriti.usc.edu and click on "Programs" tabs and then on "Awards" or call **Gloria Ortega** at (213) 740-8175.

Recent recipients include: **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)

- JANUARY:** **Thursday, January 8**
USC Book Club (see page 9 for more)
- FEBRUARY:** **Day and Date to come** 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
“Emergency Preparedness Symposium,” and
Campus Construction Updates (see page 10)
- Friday, February 13 (March 13 and April 10)**
RFA Sherry Hours, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Rm. 241, Doheny
Library. Feb. 13 Speaker: Professor of Law Jody David Armour
- Friday, February 27, 10 a.m. to Noon**
iPad Overview Workshop, GER 224
- MARCH:** **Thursday, March 12, 10 a.m. to Noon**
New Life Stage Workshop with Helen Dennis (see page 10)
- Thursday, March 19, Town & Gown**
30th Annual SRA Recognition Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
- APRIL:** **Saturday, April 11, 2:30 p.m.**
“Grease,” annual SRA Spring musical (see page 5)
- Saturday, April 18, and Sunday, April 19**
L.A. Times Festival of Books, at USC (UPC), Free
- MAY:** **Friday, May 15**
USC’s 132nd Annual Commencement

USC Emeriti Center

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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:

Saturday, March 14
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., GER 224

“Alumni Day of SService”

Join fellow Trojans to give back
through local service volunteer
projects. For info, go to: alumni.usc.edu/scservice in February 2015 to find
a SService Project near you.