

Retiree Community Newsletter

May 2015

Conference on aging yields valuable resources

The USC Davis School of Gerontology was well represented at the annual American Society on Aging Conference held in Chicago from March 23 to 27.

Not only did the Davis School present a general panel, "The Upside of Aging," on March 24, but the school was also an exhibitor, a sponsor, and launched a special American Society on Aging and USC Davis School of Gerontology online joint certificate program: Fundamentals of Gerontology: What every ASA Member Should Know.

"The conference provided an excellent venue for networking and connecting with a wide variety of resources and ideas to benefit our USC retiree population," said **Janette Brown**, USC Emeriti Center Executive Director. Brown attended the conference, along with **Bob Scales**, EC Associate Director and former Dean of the School of Dramatic Arts, and **Gloria M. Ortega**, EC Assistant Director, Retiree Relations, to support the Davis School, and to gather educational materials and resources.

They were also there to cheer on author/field of aging educator **Helen Dennis** (EC columnist, see page 7) when she received the special 2015 Gloria Cavanaugh Award for Excellence in Training and Education.

"At the Davis School and at the Emeriti Center, we are on the cutting edge of the 'age wave,'" said Brown, "providing education, resources, and programs of benefit to people from all disciplines and generations." The Emeriti Center plans to focus on creative engagement, wellness, and research initiatives. ■



Panel presenters on the new book, *The Upside of Aging: A New Culture of Health, Productivity, and Purpose*, are, from left: *Pinchas Cohen*, Dean of USC's Leonard Davis School of Gerontology; book author *Paul Irving*, Chairman, Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging (Davis School scholar in residence); and *Fernando Torres-Gil*, Director, Center for Policy Research on Aging, UCLA School of Public Affairs. Gil is part of the Emeriti Center community.

What: SRA June Meeting

When: Wednesday, June 17
10:30 a.m. check-in

Where: John McKay Center,
Bashor Lounge

The Staff Retirement Association Event for June is a walking and information tour of the updated Heritage Hall and the John McKay Center.

The walking tours will be about 45 minutes in length, so guests should wear good walking shoes for comfort.

After the tours the guests will return to the Lounge and be treated to a light lunch. Limited seating will be provided for 60 guests only. The meeting and lunch are free for paid SRA members. Guests are \$12 (or join the SRA!)

RSVP by Wednesday, June 3, at ecrsvp@usc.edu or call the reservation line, (213) 740-2122.

Note: This meeting will also elect new SRA officers. ■

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Emergency event offers positive steps for preparedness

In an emergency, seniors, their caregivers, and those with disabilities are at high risk. In California that emergency may be a big earthquake and being prepared can provide the peace of mind that frees you to enjoy your daily life. But the emergency can also be a home fire or a fall, and prevention is key.

The EC's February Emergency Preparedness Symposium, moderated by **Steve Goldfarb**, USC Fire Safety & Emergency Planning Specialist, addressed these issues.

Be Ready. Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. Video presentations of the event can be viewed at emeriti.usc.edu. ■

Changes for our Trojan Family

Since our January newsletter there have been many changes at the Emeriti Center and in the lives of some of our staff members. For a few of us, we have experienced the joys and challenges of care giving. For others, there have been major life changes. One such major change is that our valued staff member **Maricela Hinojosa** has left the Center to work closer to home. We appreciate her seven years of dedicated service and will miss her. We have also lost a beloved Center advisor, **Len Wines** who died earlier this year. Len served on our executive committee, the SRA board, authored Center annual giving letters, managed the SRA web, was an Apple computer guru and most importantly was a treasured advisor and friend (see page 5).

The Provost's Office HR and

Business Services leaders have exemplified true Trojan Family support this past semester. When **Kelly Moy** and **Leena Mathew** learned that we needed a new staff member to replace Maricela, they immediately mobilized their units to help with hiring strategies and office support. We thank them, **Jerome Hughes**, and the support staff for their dedicated support.

We are gathering helpful data on our retiree population through a brief **Emeriti Center Survey** included in this newsletter. Please take the time to complete it online or to return it by mail. The data collected will be useful for future programs and will help us study ways that we can provide even more value to our Trojan Family.

The Emeriti Center looks forward to supporting newly appointed Provost

Michael Quick's priorities for

"innovation in the undergraduate curriculum and enhancing the vibrancy of the undergraduate experience, accelerating USC's progress toward greater distinction in PhD and professional graduate programs, increasing the stature of USC's postdoctoral programs, recruiting and retaining faculty, enhancing research programs and further strengthening university diversity." ■

– **Janette C. Brown**

Executive Director

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Janette C. Brown

Experiencing the loss of a loved one

Many of you have experienced the death of a parent. That memory is still fresh with me as my mother passed away in January only a little more than a week after her pancreatic cancer diagnosis. In that short week, we managed care giving, hospice, end of life decisions, and the aftermath of not truly understanding everything that my mother had in mind for her family to do after her passing. I urge all of us to speak with our loved ones about our wishes after our death and use the tools that are available from the Emeriti Center to help with the conversations and plans for the future. (*My Confidential Documents* and *After the Death of a Loved One* are posted in the resources section of the emeriti.usc.edu website and can also be printed out and sent to you upon request).

Luckily, I had some time with my mother during that last week where she unveiled many things that she had not previously shared. The most precious

treasure she left behind is a collection of sayings, articles, short readings and personal writings that illustrate her philosophies and guidelines for a happy life. Below are a few excerpts from her 18-page memorial booklet which we printed for family members:

"By the time you read this, my words will be stilled. I'm sure there are many more thoughts to share with you, but of most importance, is to tell you how proud I am of the feelings of togetherness and closeness that have permeated our family. We have become a fine tapestry, threads intertwined to form a whole."

"I have lived a long life. Along the way I have picked up snippets of knowledge that I would like to share with you. Long ago my daughter sent me a copy of the article: *If I Had My Life to Live Over* written by Erma Bombeck after she found out she was dying of

cancer. The song that seems appropriate to convey Bombeck's message is *I Hope You Dance* – "I hope you never lose your sense of wonder, You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger, May you never take one single breath for granted, GOD forbid love ever leave you empty handed, I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean, Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens, Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance, And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance ... dance."

Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. ■



Janette's parents, Bob and Angela.

– **Janette C. Brown**



Jerry Walker

(Amazon.com), edited by USC Emeriti College instructors **Susan Aminoff** and **Marlene Wagner**. *Themes of Our Lives* presents short autobiographical writings by participants in their classes sponsored by the USC Emeriti College in cooperation with regional public libraries.

Writers of memoirs are eager to write. What they need is a “kick-start,” an innovative approach to organizing their life stories. This kick-start is provided through a process editors Aminoff and Wagner call “thematic autobiography.” Using this unique

Anticipation of a new book of autobiographical writing

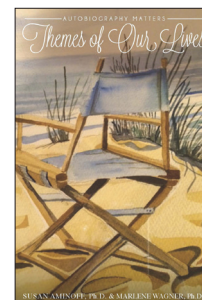
approach, the instructors act as “story guides.” These written works provide a glimpse into the lives of ordinary people whose individual experiences demonstrate humanity’s extraordinary resilience.

The writings are responses to universal themes – topics surrounding choices and regrets, loves and losses, wisdom and legacy. The themes are accompanied by a set of evocative questions intended to stimulate memoirists’ recall of past events. By blending their individual disciplines of sociology and literature, Aminoff and Wagner assist writers to place their lives in historical and social contexts, and apply the use of narrative knowledge to telling their personal stories. Autobiographical writings are shared in small groups, thus providing an opportunity for growth and renewal,

feedback and encouragement.

After you read these autobiographical stories, you may be encouraged to write your own! Aminoff and Wagner hope you will join one of their future classes in the Emeriti College.

To learn more about Guided Autobiography, go to: guidedautobiography.com ■



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Two Douglas C. Basil Award winners named

The Douglas C. Basil Awards – two \$5,000 awards to support a project or research – were announced in September 2014 and drew 10 worthy submissions. In March, two names were randomly selected as winners: University Professor Emeritus **John B. Orr**, and Emeritus Professor of Radiology, **Hervey D. Segall**.

John Orr will use the award funds to support his photographic work with the Pasadena Village – a network of retired persons in the Pasadena area who are committed to helping each other stay in their own homes and enjoy a rich cultural/educational/social life together. Orr will interview and photograph Village members either in their homes or in venues that dramatize aspects of their lives. He believes that viewing the images that illustrate the uniqueness of their own lives affirms the beauty of those lives.

“I am very, very grateful for Douglas Basil’s generosity,” said Orr. “The award allows me to pursue a photographic project that can contribute to Pasadena Village’s experimentation with building community among Pasadena retirees.” Award funds will be used for enhanced lighting, high quality photo paper and ink, matting and framing, as well as the purchase of a new camera with advanced technology.

Hervey Segall will conduct a study to evaluate data to assess the value of neuroradiological supervision in the performance of CT ventriculography with water soluble contrast, which possibly can serve as a gold standard for evaluating ventricular anatomy and flow.

“I’m very grateful for the award, and look forward to meeting Douglas Basil in person,” said Segall.

Basil Award funds will be used for compilation and assessment of data he obtained, and for preparing instructional material to enable physicians to learn the use of these methods in patient care, and for travel expenses to present this information at scientific meetings. ■



Hervey D. Segall



John B. Orr

We've had a busy Spring, and wish you an enjoyable summer

In January, the RFA Board of Directors heard from new Faculty Retirement Navigator **Debbie Jones** (Provost's Office). Jones discussed the new phased retirement program and listened to board members' experiences in transitioning to retirement.

USC has made significant advances recently in complying with the 1992 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). See the article below.

John Crossley, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Religion and Co-Chair of the RFA's Programs/Events Committee, organized five Sherry Hours in academic year 2014–2015. This spring's presentations included USC Faculty experts speaking on race relations in

the U.S., the ISIS movement in the Middle East, and U.S.-Cuba relations. Sherry Hours are typically held on the second Friday afternoon of the month in Doheny Memorial Library (UPC). Make plans to attend in the Fall.

A luncheon for graduating Russell Caldwell Scholars was held in April. **Pablo Alfaro** and **Jennifer Cardoza**, both Manual Arts High School graduates, were honored (see below). Contributions to the Caldwell Scholarship Fund are forwarded to the Office of Financial Aid.

When you receive our annual membership solicitation letter, please renew your paid membership and make whatever additional contributions your

circumstances permit. On the insert, you will notice that we have instituted a new membership category: a retiree and spouse or partner can both become paid members for \$30.

Whether you will be traveling or staying close to home, have a safe and enjoyable summer. ■

– **Robert Stallings**, RFA President
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Robert Stallings

RFA takes leadership in USC's ADA compliance

For more than two years, the Retired Faculty Association, in close cooperation with the USC Emeriti Center, has advocated the expansion of assistive listening systems that serve hard-of-hearing attendees at events in a variety of USC venues. It has also advocated changes in ways that USC is organized to assure compliance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – a landmark federal law that defines the rights of disabled Americans.

"We've experienced success," said **Natalie Cohen**, chair of the RFA's Advocacy Committee.

A state of the art "hearing loop," for example, has been installed at the USC Davis School of Gerontology Auditorium, which is the site of many Emeriti Center events. Assistive listening systems are currently in use at the Ronald Tutor Campus Center Ballroom and in Bovard Auditorium. In the near future, a hearing loop will be installed at the Town & Gown dining room.

Meanwhile, USC is rapidly moving ahead in responding to the needs of disabled persons. **Jody**

Shipper, Director of USC's Office of Equity and Diversity, has been appointed as the interim ADA coordinator. She will develop and periodically update plans designed to achieve compliance with ADA's barrier removal requirements, and she will make recommendations concerning funding that will be needed to support barrier removal plans.

Edward Roth, director of Disability Services & Programs, serves as chair of USC's Accessibility Advisory Committee whose members are drawn from a wide variety of constituencies dealing with disability needs and services. **Janette Brown**, **Natalie Cohen**, and **John Orr** have been officially appointed to the committee. Its primary role will be to offer advice and guidance to the ADA Coordinator and to assist in establishing project priorities.

"I'm elated with USC's progress," said Orr, who was an active participant in the RFA's hearing health advocacy. "There's clearly a lot of work to be done. But I'm confident that USC is serious about its ADA compliance obligations." ■

The RFA congratulates 2015 Caldwell graduates

The dreams of two Caldwell Scholars came true in May with joyous Pomp and Circumstance at USC Commencement. Scholars **Jennifer Cardoza** and **Pablo Alfaro** graduated and joined the ranks of more than 366,000 current USC alums.

Jennifer came to USC from Manual Arts High School and graduated with a double major of Political Science and American Studies & Ethnicity: Chicano/a Studies, as well as a minor in Race, Ethnicity and Politics. She was active in campus organizations that emphasized higher education for everyone and volunteered as a mentor and tutor to local high school students. She planned to study abroad but will delay those plans to concentrate on preparing for the LSAT and entrance into law school. She said, with great pride, that she called herself a Caldwell Scholar and thanked the RFA for their "unconditional support and



cont. to page 11



Dixon Johnson

It's been a privilege to serve

It has been a real joy and privilege to serve as the SRA president for the last four years. One of the most enjoyable aspects has been the opportunity to work alongside the dedicated members of the SRA Board and to observe the conscientious

service they continue to render the USC retiree community and the university itself. Specifically, **Dick Martin** as our Treasurer and Special Events Coordinator continues to wisely manage the books and to plan and carry out tours to southern California sites in an exemplary fashion. **Jeanne** and **Bob Church** as co-Vice Presidents have provided great skill in working with the university to coordinate the annual luncheon for new staff retirees, and to make sure that all events are memorable. Other Board members have also rendered great service.

Three of the most important efforts of the Board these four years have been: 1) The establishment of a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the SRA, RFA and the EC concerning the funding and duties of each group for the annual December Holiday Party; 2) Representing the retiree community in discussions with USC central administration concerning the end of the

retiree health stipend. While this effort was not successful, other needs of the retiree community are being successfully addressed by the retirement navigator positions newly established in the Provost's Office for faculty and the Benefits Office for both faculty and staff. These full-time positions help current employees plan for retirement and also assist retirees with social service needs. 3) I am also proud that, in coordination with the RFA, we established the **Robert P. Biller** Award to recognize a USC retiree who has provided leadership and service to activities benefitting USC in the larger community.

With the continued support of the Emeriti Center and its exemplary leader, **Janette Brown**, and the continuing service of other Board members, the SRA will continue as a model to other colleges and universities in how to serve and benefit from the wisdom of retired staff.

In a time of transition there are numerous opportunities for new people to get involved in the running of an organization. This is just such a time for the SRA and I encourage you to contact me or other Board members and step forward into great opportunities!

– **Dixon Johnson**, SRA President
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Leonard Wines honored posthumously for service

The 2015 J. Tillman Hall Staff Award for Service to USC was presented posthumously to **Leonard R. (Len) Wines** for outstanding service after retirement to the University of Southern California. The award was presented by **Janette Brown**, Executive Director of the Emeriti Center, and accepted by his son, **Joshua Wines**, at the Staff Retirement Association Recognition Luncheon..

"Len was a dear colleague, generous supporter and true friend," said Brown.

Back in the day, **Gordon Cohn** worked with Wines in Public Relations and noted his no-nonsense approach when he wrote solid plans that were central to the first two fundraising efforts USC made.

"He was a man devoid of ego – he didn't need credit," said Cohn, "and it's appropriate that he's being recognized

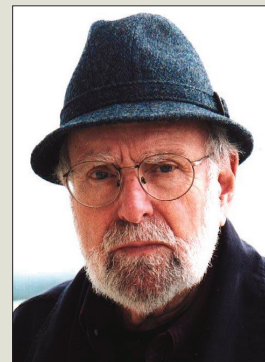
here."

After taking early retirement in 1986, Wines made a conscious effort to do things that he had not done before. His main retirement activity was in the world of computing, particularly Macintosh computers and the Internet. Wines continued to generously share his expertise with colleagues at USC after retiring. He chaired the USC Macintosh User Group, and was an active member of the "computer help squad" for fellow retirees. Wines served as Treasurer of the Staff Retirement Association and "webmaster" for the SRA until last summer. In addition, he was a devoted member and Secretary of the University Park Investment Group, which included both active and retired faculty and staff.

An important reflection of his love of USC was his continued devotion to the USC Emeriti Center. Wines was a trusted senior advisor to the Executive

Director of the Emeriti Center for many years, and he served on the Emeriti Center Executive Committee. In this capacity he advised the center on public relations, fund raising and advocacy for university retirees. His lighthearted sense of humor continued to bubble up in contributions to the "Senior Humor" column of the Emeriti Center Newsletter, which brought smiles to many fellow USC retirees.

He was a beloved colleague and friend. He will be greatly missed. ■



Leonard Wines received the 2015 J. Tillman Hall Staff Award.

SENIOR CYBER TIPS

Welcome to the “Appleverse”

Okay, you have an iPad. You have one foot in the Appleverse. Why not jump in with both feet? (No, this is not a paid advertisement for Apple, Inc.!) Connect any computer to your iPad (and vice versa) by going to iCloud.com and logging in. You will discover several apps. These same apps are available free for the iPad. Anything created on one platform is automatically added to that app on the other. Two illustrations. Create a grocery list in Notes on your PC, and it is automatically stored in the cloud and added to the Notes app on your iPad. If you also have an iPhone, your grocery list is now available on it also. The same is true for documents created in Pages (think Microsoft Word). Create a draft document on your PC and edit it on your iPad or any other Apple device. ■

– **Bob Stallings**
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Be a part of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games

Los Angeles is a city full of movie stars and all-stars, but in the summer of 2015, the real “stars” will be the 7,000 Special Olympics Athletes from around the world.

Apply now as a volunteer, along with **David Tool** and other USC retired faculty and staff, to be a part of the Special Olympics World Games, the biggest event to hit L.A. since the 1984 Olympic Games. We are seeking volunteers with big hearts, big smiles and a big commitment to the mission – Special Olympics.

Whatever your interest, talent or background, there are volunteer opportunities for you! Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older and must be available at least five days between July 25 and August 2, 2015.

For more information about volunteer roles and requirements, please visit www.LA2015.org/volunteer or email volunteer@LA2015.org with any questions.

In the News

The EC hosts the AROHE Board

EC Executive Director **Janette Brown** hosted the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) Board in January for a strategic planning retreat in El Segundo. The new board includes retired and non-retired professors and high level administrators, one of whom was Claire Van Ummersen, senior advisor to the Division of Leadership Programs at the American Council on Education, and president and professor emerita of Cleveland State University. Ummersen visited USC and met with USC retired leaders and current faculty and members from the Office of the Provost.

Wills honored with a Festschrift

In academia a Festschrift is a book honoring a respected person which is presented during his or her lifetime. This honor was bestowed on Professor Emeritus John “Jack” E. Wills, Jr., in March, when he received a volume of writings by different authors presented as a tribute at the Dornsife East Asian Studies Center. Friends, colleagues, and students of Wills presented articles and papers related to his research.



Prepared and ready, thus honored

The Emeriti Center was honored as a “Preparedness Champion” at the annual Office of Fire Safety and Emergency Planning Luncheon in March for its leadership role in sponsoring the Emergency Preparedness Symposium in February (see page 1). The EC’s David Tool was honored with the “Community Preparedness Leadership Award.” Both Bob Scales and Gloria Ortega on the EC staff received certificates for their CERT service.

Visit the Employee Gateway

The USC Employee Gateway site includes an article by **Sonia Mentz** with photography by Natalie Flowers, USC Employee Communications, on the March 19th 30th Annual SRA’s Recognition Luncheon.

Go to: bit.ly/SRA2015lunch

Author, author!

Annie Chin Siu (widow of **Tim K. Siu**/dentistry) is officially an author. In her book’s forward, *Into and Out of Chinatown*, she thanks the Emeriti College’s Guided Autobiography program. Her book tells the story of being a pioneer Chinese American woman orthodontist, and is illustrated with Siu’s watercolors.



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:

Nazir Ahmad (medicine); Lee Alan Bastian (facilities management, brother of Ann White); Rene Calliet (medicine); Gene Coe (cinematic arts); Mae Sue Harper Parker Krone (spouse of Bob Krone/business); Norma Levan (medicine/2014); Leonard Marvin (engineering/architecture); Anelise N. Mosich (business/2014); Ann Neville-Jan (occupational science and occupational therapy); Ray Ralph Schmidt (lab manager/engineering); Arlene Tom (civil engineering); Leonard R. Wines (university relations); William Woestendiek (journalism); and Walter Wolf (pharmacy).

Staff Profile: Irene Fertik thrives in New Mexico



Exhibit curator Irene Fertik beside a mural of her photo, "Great Day in South Central, 1996," flanked by the work of Light Catchers photographers.

Since retiring about a dozen years ago, former Public Relations photographer **Irene Fertik** has kept her creative juices flowing, as she moved from Santa Monica, to a downtown L.A. loft, to an adobe in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For the first time in several years, Fertik was in town in time for the March Staff Retirement Association's annual luncheon where she reconnected with former colleagues.

The luncheon took place the day before the opening of Exposition Park's California African American Museum's (CAAM) exhibit, "Light Catchers," which Fertik conceived and curated." Running through **June 7**, the show features the work of seven African American photographers active in L.A. since the 1940's. Fertik originally curated the show in 1997, then funded with a grant from L.A.'s Department of Cultural Affairs featuring her portraits of the men, along with their photographs of Los Angeles. The current exhibit also features several murals of Fertik's shots of L.A.

"The show is one of the highlights of my working life," said Fertik. "It brings together one of the recurring themes of my life, celebrating the Black Experience in photos."

Since moving to Albuquerque, she's continued her freelance photography, shooting for non-profits – one an international

microlending organization and another which empowers homeless families.

Fertik recently found a home for one of her favorite projects when she donated 10 years of NYC Black Dance negatives (1967-77) to the Jerome Robbins Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center. When she worked as staff photographer for USC's *The Chronicle*, former editor/retiree **Christine Shade** said, "I could always depend on Irene to capture just the right image to illustrate any article, whether it was about an administrator, a scientist, or an event – she always found a way to make it creative." For the last 20 years Fertik has been working on a book project documenting a vibrant immigrant group in Israel – Ethiopian Jews. She has traveled back and forth, living in Israel 15 times, in order to tell their stories in text and photos with the intention of publishing a book.

These days Fertik's not just busy with continuing her photographic career. She recently oversaw the eco-friendly "straw bale" construction of an addition to her adobe.

Now, as a former college basketball player, she's putting the new hip she received a couple of years ago to good use – she recently joined "The Foxtrotters," a women's basketball team comprised of active women between the ages of 70 to 75. Dunk shot anyone? ■

SUCCESSFUL AGING

Live long and die short

Over a decade ago, the MacArthur Foundation published its 10-year study that shattered stereotypes of aging and highlighted the role of lifestyle in the aging process. Researchers and co-authors **John Rowe, M.D.** and **Robert Kahn, Ph.D.**, published the results in "Successful Aging" (Pantheon, 1998).

Enter **Roger Landry, M.D.**, a preventive medicine physician whose intention was to take the Rowe and Kahn study to the next level in his book "Live Long, Die Short: A Guide to Authentic Health and Successful Aging" (Greenleaf Book Group, 2014). It's a call to adopt a lifestyle so each of us can be the best we can be as we age, enhancing the quality of life as long as possible and decreasing the period of morbidity before our exit.

Based on extensive research, here are Landry's 10 tips to live long and die short: (1) Use it or lose it; (2) Keep moving, (3) Challenge your brain, (4) Stay connected, (5) Lower your risks, (6) Never act your age, (7) Wherever you are, be there, (8) Find your purpose, (9) Have children in your life, (10) Laugh to a better life.

These may not be new, but when presented as a "package" with evidence, the compelling message is we have influence over our own aging process.

The February 2015 issue of the *Gerontologist* devoted the entire journal to the subject offering a constructive critique of the concept. The editor-in-chief wrote, "It is incumbent on gerontologists to use the conceptual model and empirical knowledge base to develop consensus"... about the definition of successful aging and how it should be measured."

Stay tuned. ■



– **Helen Dennis**,
Specialist on
aging, employment
and the
new retirement,
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Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees

USC honors eminent retired faculty each year. Four Faculty Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented at the 2015 Academic Honors Convocation, hosted by President **C. L. Max Nikias** in April. Here are short summaries of their careers; view longer descriptions at emeriti.usc.edu/ – under Programs, click Awards.

Robert S. Harris

Professor Emeritus of Architecture
USC School of Architecture

Over the course of his distinguished career, **Robert S. Harris'** work has been informed by a concern for the human experience, the environment, and the intricate fabric of communities and cities. As dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at Oregon in the late 1970s, his faculty produced leading-edge work in solar design and renewable energy.

As dean of USC's School of Architecture from 1981 to 1992, Harris collaborated with the City of L.A. and with advocacy groups to enhance urban space. The Los Angeles Conservancy, the Downtown Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, and the Mayor's Design Advisory Panel all benefitted from his leadership. His professional practice also provided design consultation for Walt Disney Concert Hall, Pershing Square, and the Cathedral of Los Angeles. Professor Harris inspires colleagues and students, and he has been an exemplar of his profession and a true builder for the future. ■



Phoebe S. Liebig

Associate Professor Emerita of Gerontology
USC Davis School of Gerontology

Phoebe S. Liebig's doctoral study of public employee retirement systems, while a staff member on the Select Committee on Aging in the U.S. House of Representatives, resulted in her employment as a senior policy analyst with AARP's Public Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

Joining USC's faculty in 1989, Liebig quickly established herself as a pillar of the USC Davis School of Gerontology. She taught a course for Ph.D. students on aging policy that graduates still remember as imparting essential knowledge for their professional lives. Liebig demonstrates a commitment to addressing daunting issues in American healthcare: Medicare, social security, and long-term care.

She is an internationally respected expert on housing and long-term care, including family caregiving and home modification programs for older adults. Liebig has been honored with the highest awards in her field, and has received two Fulbright Senior Scholar awards for her research on aging in India. ■



Donald G. Skinner

Professor Emeritus of Urology
Keck School of Medicine of USC

Donald G. Skinner is truly a giant in his field, having built a comprehensive Department of Urology at USC beginning in 1980. Through his leadership, the department is now internationally recognized for the management of urologic malignancies, especially bladder cancer.

Dr. Skinner is a consummate urologic oncologic surgeon. In 1982, he performed the first Kock pouch continent cutaneous urinary diversion in the United States, greatly improving the quality of life for his patients. His results singlehandedly changed the management of bladder cancer throughout the U.S. and much of the world. His unparalleled skill, dedication to teaching and resident training have earned him the respect and admiration of countless residents, fellows, and patients.

Skinner has received honors from the American Urological Association and the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons, and in 2005 USC awarded him its top honor, the Presidential Medallion. ■

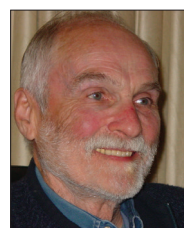


William H. Steier

Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering
USC Viterbi School of Engineering

Professor **William H. Steier** came to USC in 1968 from Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, where research was just beginning on fiber optic communications and integrated optics. He collaborated on the first demonstration of the phase locking of lasers, and he published articles on optical communications, optical materials, and nonlinear optics. Recent research has focused on the development of new polymer materials and polymer integrated optical devices for communications.

Professor Steier became founding chair of a new Department of Electrical Engineering-Electrophysics in 1970, and he oversaw the growth of photonics at USC during his 15-year tenure. He doubled the number of faculty members in electrophysics, and facilitated the cooperation between electrical engineering systems, physics, and materials science. Steier has remained a leader in his department and is one of its very best teachers. ■



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

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Janette Brown and
Richard Martin

Mitzi M. Tsujimoto

The USC Emeriti Center is grateful to **Barbara F. Inamoto** for annually funding (\$2,500) the Inamoto Japanese cultural events at the Huntington Library, and to **William E. Thomson** for a gift of \$2,000 in honor of his late wife, Betty.

Joy of Law: Avoiding Legal Problems in Life and Beyond

Tuesday, May 19

10 a.m. to Noon

GERO 224

In this seminar, **Dagmar Halamka**, retired business law professor, will review a range of legal issues including living trusts and their tax advantages and powers of attorney for health care and financial affairs.

All are welcome. Time will be provided to ask legal questions and receive expert answers.

For more information or to register, go to the Emeriti Center website: <http://emeriti.usc.edu>

SRA Day Trips: theatres, a museum, and art

Bill Givens is planning a tour and presentation about the Los Angeles Downtown Broadway Theatre District. Exact date TBA.

A tour of, and lunch at, the USC Asian Pacific Museum in Pasadena will take place this summer.

A FREE Saturday tour is in the works with a docent from the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) of art commissioned for the Red Line Subway Stations between Union Station and the Hollywood Highland Station.

The Saturday tour will be followed

by a nostalgic no-host lunch at Mel's Drive-in, inspired by George Lucas's film "American Graffiti." The restaurant is one-half block south of the Hollywood Blvd./Highland Ave. Station, and is next door to the Hollywood Museum in the Max Factor Building. We are aiming for May, after Commencement; exact date is TBA.

Questions:

Dick Martin;

(323) 343-1146 or

dickmar@msn.com

Gold Cards will evolve into a USCcard ID

The Emeriti Center is launching a new Gold Card for all of our USC retirees who qualify. This way all of our retirees will have an official "Gold" USCcard ID that includes a photo, a magnetic swipe on the back and a barcode for the USC libraries. There will be an opportunity for Gold Card holders to turn in their cards and exchange them for a Gold USCcard ID if so desired. Stay tuned for more details. ■

iPad workshop success leads to another

The February "iPad Overview Workshop" was rated very high by most of those in attendance. We had all levels of understanding and experience in the group and the workshop consisted of retired faculty, staff, alumni and their spouses or partners. A comprehensive set of PowerPoint slides was presented by experts **John Casagrande** and **Bob Stallings** (<http://bit.ly/iPadclass>). **Janette Brown** and others circulated throughout the group and provided one-on-one assistance to those with personal questions. We hope to have more participants at the next workshop on Thursday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to Noon, on the Health Science Campus. ■

Thanks, and congratulations

We thank all of our students for their hard work this year: **Mayra Angulo, Megan Dacus, Neta Glaser, Lauren Loadvine, Stephany Martinez, Lelaina Stowell,** and **Yana Tonezer**; and we thank and congratulate our graduating senior, **Agnes Sung**, and our Masters graduate, **Vivian Eng**. Our gerontology intern, **Alex Woodman**, is also graduating. ■

Staff retirees of 2015 are feted at celebration

The 30th Annual Staff Retirement Recognition Luncheon, held at Town & Gown on March 19, honored 136 staff members who retired in 2014, more than 30 of whom attended the luncheon.

The 136 staff retirees had supported all aspects of the university – among them were program analysts, nurses, and food service workers. They ran labs, procured goods, and worked in the arts. The retirees clocked in for 10 to 45 years, totaling 2,956 years, averaging 22 years.

Todd Dickey, Senior Vice President, Administration said the new retirees had contributed greatly to USC's success over the years.

"I want to officially wish you all the very best to come," said Dickey.

Bob Church, co-vice president of the Staff retirement Association, stood in for president **Dixon Johnson** who was sidelined following hip surgery.

"We're all here to honor you," Church told the newly retired honorees. He reminded them they'd receive the highly prized USC Gold Card, and that he hoped they would join the Staff Retirement Association and take part



Front row: Barbara Elwood, Lois Reid, Dolores Morales-Medina, Celia Tom, Hao Banh, Wilma McConnell, Juanita Macias, Zuleyma Cancinos, Sandra Mosteller. Second row: Pamela Martin, Catherine Rangel, Katherine Sutton, Hughes Huffman, Janette Brown (Executive Director of the Emeriti Center), Mary Wackerman, Jay Simons, Cheretta Thompson. Third row: Georgina Clegg, Susan Vogl, Virginia Ernst, Todd Dickey (Senior VP of Administration), Christine Howard, Maria Lam, Walter Prue, Herbert Hughes. Fourth row: Paula DeWet, Roger Steward, Juliana Huehn-Johnson, Jose Punsalan, Kwai-Lam Fong, and Kenneth King

in activities and volunteer opportunities available through the Emeriti Center.

"If you ever thought there was a division between the faculty and the staff, it doesn't exist in retirement," Church told the group.

Janette C. Brown, executive director of the Emeriti Center, presented the J. Tillman Hall Award for Service to USC posthumously to **Leonard R. (Len) Wines** (see page 5).

All staff retirees automatically become members of the Emeriti Center

and can take part in Center activities that include educational programs, access to materials that enhance retirement, holiday celebrations, and symposiums.

Brown said, "So many of you here provide so much value to your communities and to USC – I wish I could capture it all."

The annual event was sponsored by the Office of the Senior Vice President, and was supported by the SRA, and Emeriti Center staff and its students. ■

Trojan Encore program evolves, Trojans Helping Trojans meets monthly

In 2008 the Emeriti Center created the program, Trojan Encore as a way for retirees to return to campus to fill part-time, short-term or volunteer needs on USC campuses. Trojan Encore is evolving to offer volunteer connections but it still provides a few paid placements from time to time. **Carole Gustin** and **Diana Seyb** have contacted more than 50 retirees registered for this program, to ensure that they stay connected either as volunteers or for potential work opportunities.

Trojan Encore gave birth to Trojans Helping Trojans (THT). As a result of THT, we have new Staff Retirement Association board members who are doing great work for all of us! **Bill Givens**, THT and SRA board member, is now an official representative on the Staff Assembly Board similar to how the RFA has a representative on the Academic Senate.

Please join us at our monthly meetings, the second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We assist the Emeriti Center with welcoming our newest retirees, supporting the EC by following up with retiree Gold Cards, assisting with mailings and with generating new resources that help our retiree community. ■



Bill Givens

Widows and widowers offer perspectives

The 15 widows and widowers who gathered at a January luncheon sponsored by the Emeriti Center shared their perspectives about experiencing loss.

"We wanted to understand how they felt, and to gather ideas that would benefit others," said **Janette Brown**, EC executive director, who hosted the luncheon at the University Club. The Center's population has more than 200 widows and widowers in its community. The first luncheon, held three years ago, yielded many good ideas, and this gathering, said Brown, was also a great success.

"We were honored that three retirees not only came from long distances, but they ranged from 90 to 98 years old!" said Brown.

Within a round robin of introductions, a wealth of ideas were exchanged, from how to stay connected, to opening one's horizons to new experiences, to suggestions about what worked and what didn't.

Zebunnisa Ahmad, whose widowhood was still raw just four months after her loss, was still going through the maze that needed to be dealt with. She said she was apprehensive at first about attending the luncheon.

"But all my worries vanished after talking to those beautiful people who gathered to give emotional and practical support irrespective of our backgrounds," Ahmad said. She was fortunate in that her late physician husband had given her a missive titled, "In the Event of my Death." She said the Emeriti Center's booklet, "After the Death of a Loved One" – compiled after the initial luncheon – is similar and would provide enormous help in a time of need.

Christine Shade was widowed 35 years ago at the age of 40 after working for USC just two years. "There was really



nothing on campus then to help deal with it," she said, noting that the EC's booklet would have been a welcome find.

Bob Scales said that "loss of intimacy" was a big factor – not in a sexual way, but rather the loss of a companion whose sentences you could finish, of a soul mate who knew you better than anyone else.

Woody Omens expressed to Bob: "It is important to learn to be alone without being lonely."

Each retiree contributed ideas of what might help smooth the path for those experiencing this life-changing event. Widows and widowers need time to heal without changing their life abruptly, and family members and friends shouldn't disappear after the initial traffic of visitors slows down – it can get lonely after that last casserole is dropped off and the phone stops ringing.

"We continue to learn from this distinguished group that it's important to stay connected and to listen to one another," said Brown.

A confirming conclusion from this group is the value that the EC and its retirees can bring by hosting regional socials in locations where retirees live. There is also interest in having short trips where USC folks can travel together and experience learning and cultural experiences in a comfortable group, where newly single retirees feel welcome. The value of the luncheon can be summed up in this comment: "The meeting gave me strength and hope to move forward to face worldly challenges," said Ahmad. ■

BOOK NOOK

"All the Light We Cannot See"

by Anthony Doerr (2014)

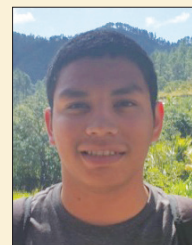
Set in France and Germany during WWII, this novel intertwines the paths of Marie Laure, a blind girl from Nazi-occupied Paris whose museum locksmith father safeguards a priceless gem, and Werner, once a clever orphan boy with an old radio, now a young German soldier. The short, mesmerizing, chapters carry the reader swiftly toward the Allied bombing of Saint-Malo, where the soldier tracks Resistance activity, and the girl lives with her uncle. Within the conflagration that destroyed Europe, comes a lyrical tale that will change how you feel about a radio and the sweetness of a can of peaches. ■

– **Christine Shade**
shade@usc.edu

Caldwell Scholars... cont. from page 4

amazing advice."

Pablo entered USC in the fall of 2011 from Manual Arts High School. He graduated this year with a degree in Neuroscience and, while at USC, had the opportunity to work as a research assistant at the USC Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology on the Health Science campus. He reported that his years at USC have been filled with many happy memories and he is very thankful for the support of the Caldwell Program. He noted that it was particularly helpful to realize that there were "so many people who believed in me and in my education."



The RFA offers its sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Caldwell Scholars Jennifer and Pablo. Jobs well done. Fight on! ■

– **Victor Marshand Webb**

USC Emeriti Center

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RETIREE COMMUNITY EVENTS (emeriti.usc.edu/events)

- MAY:**
- Friday, May 15**
132nd USC Commencement
 - Tuesday, May 19**, 10 a.m. to Noon (see page 9)
Joy of Law: Avoiding Legal Problems in Life and Beyond
 - Thursday, May 21**, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
USC Book Club - email beth.shube@gmail.com
 - Thursday, May 28**, 10 a.m. to Noon
iPad Overview Workshop, HSC, Broad CIRM Center
- JUNE:**
- Thursday, June 11**, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Trojans Helping Trojans
 - Wednesday, June 17**, 11:30 a.m.
SRA General Meeting (see page 1)
- JULY:**
- Saturday, July 25 to Sunday, August 2**
Special Olympics World Games (see page 6)
- AUGUST:**
- Monday, August 24**
Fall classes begin

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, July 25 to Sunday, Aug. 2

The 2015 Special Olympics World Games comes to the University Park Campus.

See page 6 for volunteer opportunities.