CAL STATE LA | The Emeritimes

Publication of The Emeriti Association, Spring 2026

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UPDATE ON THE CSU AND CAL STATE LA BUDGETS

On January 9, 2026, Governor Gavin Newsom shared his proposed state budget. It calls for more support for the CSU, which is good news, but this is only the start of the budgeting process. In May, he will present a revised budget based on actual taxes paid to the state and then the state legislators will pass a final budget by the end of June.

The governor's budget for the CSU is $30m less than the CSU Board of Trustees requested but better than what was approved for 2025. In 2025, the Governor originally proposed a 7.95% ($375m) cut to the CSU. Ultimately, the approved state budget was "only" a 3% cut ($143.8m). Newsom's 2026 proposed budget calls for an increase to the CSU of $252m, honoring year 5 of the compact Newsom and CSU agreed to, plus $100.9m, a partial restoration of $252m called for in year 4 of the compact, and restoration of the 2025 cut to the CSU.

A note of caution: the governor's proposed 2026 budget is based on revenue assumptions that are significantly higher than the legislative analyst's office. The proposed state budget also does not address the federal cuts to health care and food assistance.

As a whole, CSU enrollment is remaining steady, but individual campuses are struggling. Twelve campuses are over-enrolled by about 20,000 students, while ten campuses are under-enrolled by about 20,000 students. Cal State LA is in the latter category. The Vice President of Administration & Finance and the campus's Chief Finance Officer, Claudio Lindow, told the campus Academic Senate on January 27, 2026, that Cal State LA still faces a structural deficit; we have expenses that exceed revenues. Cal State LA has exhausted its reserves, so we need to balance revenues and expenses.

Cal State LA had 28 fewer tenured/tenure-track faculty in Fall 2025 compared to Fall 2024 as reported on January 27, 2026, in the Academic Senate's apportionment of senators by college document. The Administration was asked to share similar data regarding the number of lecturers.

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The Emeritimes

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Campus administration is undertaking a number of efforts to reduce costs. For example, rent for the downtown campus facilities costs $1.2m per year, and the administration is looking to sublet these facilities and return personnel to the campus; similar efforts are underway for our Alhambra property; and we are looking to offset the deficit student housing runs every year by renting apartments to community college students, and/or campus staff and faculty. There are also campus strategic management task forces for enrollment and facilities that are examining pathways to financial sustainability.

The California Faculty Association and the CSU Administration continue to advocate for the state to financially support the CSU. Current and former students, faculty, staff, and public supporters should do the same.

Kevin Baaske,

Academic Senator &Communications Studies

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM NAMED FOR DR. PETER A. BRIER

On January 30, 2026, the members of the Emeriti Association passed a Constitutional amendment to name the Emeriti Association's Lifelong Learning Program (LLP) in honor of Peter A. Brier, who stepped down after many years of involvement and of service as its director for 10 years. His name will also be added to the relevant section of the bylaws.

Peter began his service as a faculty member in the Department of English at Cal State LA in 1972 and retired in 1999. Throughout his entire career he was a volunteer speaker for the Lifelong Learning program and participated in the growth of the program to provide as many as five different local senior living communities with speakers drawn from emeriti faculty. His faithful dedication was recognized in the commendation certificate which he received from the Emeriti Association in December, 2025.

The new name of the program, The Peter A. Brier Lifelong Learning Program, will be attached to all future publications and references and assure the continued legacy of his contributions.

EMERITI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The end of a presidential term is an occasion for reflection. As I come to the end of my term as President, I have mixed emotions. We have accomplished much and still have work to do. I want to express my gratitude to the Executive Committee officers, committee directors, chairs and managers, members-at large, and all committee members for their team work and support during my tenure. I also want to thank President Eanes, members of her President's Cabinet and office administrative staff who have been supportive of the Emeriti Association during my tenure. It has truly been an honor for me to have served as your president.

As I look back, several events stand out for me. We welcomed a new president, weathered fires, loss, and protests on campus. Several members of the Emeriti Association attended the investiture ceremony of Presidents Eanes, the first female President of Cal State LA, in Fall 2025. Newly appointed Emeriti Faculty members are now acknowledged at Convocation, and the Association has initiated a recognition reception to welcome them and congratulate them on their appointments. Dr. Silvia Heubach has assumed the position of Web Manager and has completed the revision and updating of the Association's website. Be sure to check it out. To acknowledge the dedication of Dr. Peter Brier to the Lifelong Learning Program, the Association voted to rename the program the Peter A. Brier Lifelong Learning Program. While Peter will continue as a member of the program committee, leadership has been assumed by John Kirchner. In May 2025, it was a joy to bring Emeriti Faculty to campus for our first in-person luncheon since the pandemic. It was great to reconnect with colleagues and listen to the focused discussion by Emeriti Professors Costello Brown and Carl Selkin of Brown's award-winning memoir *Descendants of a Foot-Warmer: Memories of a Poor Black Southern Family.*

Looking forward, we will go on without several of our long-time leaders. Alfredo Gonzalez, Fellowships Chair, has performed a stellar job creating an effective and efficient process for determining and acknowledging our Fellowship/Scholarship recipients. He has tirelessly recruited individuals to read and rank applications, reached out to the recipients, and created, with James Cuaresma, Senior Director of University Events and Protocol, a virtual presentation ceremony allowing recipients to tell their individual stories and enabling their family members and friends to share in the presentations. Alfredo has agreed to remain as chair for the upcoming 2026-27 selection of Fellowship Awardees, but we are seeking his successor.

Jose Galvan provided strong leadership during his years as a member of the Executive Committee. He accomplished much during his tenure. He helped the Association move into the virtual world, not only adjusting to Zoom meetings but transitioning a paper *Emeritimes* to a digital format. He oversaw the revision of the Association's Constitution and By-laws, and organized an Emeriti retreat at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. More recently he served as a very skilled copy editor of the *Emeritimes*. Together with chair and executive editor Dorothy Keane and graphic designer Adelaide Doyle-Nichols, the *Emeritimes* is now appreciated by our members and the campus community. Jose will continue to contribute to the *Emeritimes* writing the "In Memorium" column.

It was with heavy hearts that we inform Emeriti Association members that Deborah L. Schaeffer, long time member of the Emeriti Executive Committee and dedicated Programs Director, died on October 13, 2025. She was responsible for organizing several of our recent innovative programs to welcome new Emeriti faculty and expand our service to members and student scholarship and fellowship recipients. Well known throughout the university for her warm smile, willingness to help others, and positive attitude, Deborah will be fondly remembered and long missed. (See In Memorium, p.18).

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I welcome and send my best wishes to President Elect Kevin Baaske. As I assume the position of Immediate Past President, I have great confidence in our future under his leadership. I hope I can be as helpful to him as Past President Kathy Reilly has been to me. Kathy was a great teacher and mentor during my vice-presidency and an endless helper during my presidency. I am sure she will continue as an active participant with the Emeriti Association.

If you are interested in becoming an active participant in the Emeriti Association, we welcome you. Please contact us at emeriti.office@calstatela.edu. Elections and reorganization are coming up, and there are several open positions: Vice President, Secretary, Program Director, Membership Director, Fellowship Chair, and numerous committee membership opportunities.

My presidency has been a valuable and rewarding experience, and I eagerly look forward for what is yet to come.

Patricia A. Chin
Emeriti Association President

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE EMERTI ASSOCIATION

Four elected positions on the Executive Committee will become vacant in the next year, and the Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations and self-nominations for the positions listed below. Serving on the Executive Committee is a great way to contribute to the Association and to make your voice heard while serving your fellow emeriti. Send your name or others to emeriti.office@calstatela.edu.

Vice-President: In addition to working closely with the President, the Vice-President is also the president-elect. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President conducts meetings and assumes the duties of the President.

Program Chair: The chair directs the Program Committee which arranges all Association-sponsored events on and off campus, acts as liaison with campus Auxiliary Services and other venues, and submits proposals and budgets for planned events to the Executive Committee for approval.

Secretary: The Secretary takes the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings, recording all actions taken or proposed by committees. The minutes are a permanent record of the actions of the Executive Committee and are posted on the Website.

Membership Director: The Membership Director receives notifications of newly appointed emeriti, which are then reported in the Emeritimes. The Director also invites the new emeriti to join the Association and encourages them to become active in the Association.

Fellowship Chair: The Fellowship Chair, with other members of the fellowship committee, makes policy/guideline recommendations for the administration of the emeriti fellowship program and solicits reviewers of fellowship/scholarship applications. The chair organizes and coordinates the application review process and selection of finalists. As liaison to the office of student financial aid, the chair communicates the names and other relevant information of awardees to that office. The chair, with the committee, plans the annual fellowship recognition program

ASSUMING NEW ROLES IN THE EMERITI ASSOCIATION

We are happy to welcome Martin Huld, Emeritus Professor of English, as our new copy editor of the *Emeritimes*. Martin brings a history of work in publishing, having authored several books himself and having served for ten years as a co-editor of the *Proceedings of the Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*. Martin joined the English faculty in 1984 and retired in 2015. He joined the Executive Committee in 2016. This edition of our newsletter is fortunate to have Martin's expertise as our copy editor.

We are fortunate to have Jose Galvan continue as editor of the In Memoriam section of the *Emeritimes*. His contributions to our newsletter went well beyond editing articles; he helped with the new look of the *Emeritimes*, starting with the Fall 2022 issue. He will also remain on the *Emeritimes* Editorial Board.

It is also our good fortune to have emeriti colleagues who are willing to share their talents and time by contributing to the *Emeritimes* and to support the activities and work of the Association. We welcome contributions from all of our members.

Silvia Heubach, who joined Cal State LA's Mathematics Department in 1994 and retired in 2023, accepted the role of Webmaster, taking over from interim Webmaster John Kirchner, who filled the position left vacant when long-time Webmaster Dimitri Margaziotis passed away in December 2021. Silvia has been working hard at her new assignment to add a backlog of material to the website, to update older material, and to streamline the site to make it serve our members with greater ease and clarity.

After stepping down as interim Webmaster, John Kirchner, who joined what is now the Department of Geosciences and Environment in 1979 and retired in 2006, has continued to serve on the Executive Committee as chair of the Peter A. Brier Lifelong Learning Program. John is a long-time contributor to the program, having given many well-received presentations to various audiences. The program brings emeriti speakers to various venues in the community to share their intellectual and cultural passions and experiences with appreciative audiences. New speakers are always welcomed by the program, and those interested should contact John at emeriti.office@calstatela.edu.

After years of devoted service, Alfredo Gonzalez will be leaving his position as the chair of our Fellowship Committee at the end of the upcoming 2026-2027 Fellowship/Scholarship year. He has provided superb leadership in administering the emeriti fellowship awards process. In the role of chair, he has guided the Fellowship Committee in the review of scholarship/fellowship applications as well as the final selection of awardees. In addition, he served as the liaison to the Office of Student Financial Aid and tirelessly worked with College Deans, Associate Deans, and Department or Division Chairs to publicize the availability of our Association's scholarships/fellowships. Fortunately, Alfredo will continue to serve on the Fellowship Committee as a new person assumes the duties as chair. The Emeriti Association's Fellowship/Scholarship Program is one of the most important contributions we make to the University and its future. Please consider taking on the role as chair of this important committee. See page 4 Call for Nominations.

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND RENEWAL

If you wish to join the Emeriti Association, or if your membership has lapsed in recent years, you may join the association or renew your annual membership for $50, or you may join as, or upgrade to a life member for $300. Please note that the membership year is January 1 to December 31.

Dues checks payable to *Cal State LA Emeriti Association* may be sent to Emeriti Association, c/o Office of the President, SSB 8320, Cal State LA, 5050 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032.

REVEALING THE SECRET

For many years, Cal State LA faculty have complained that the university was the best kept secret in Los Angeles. While there is little money in the midst of a structural deficit for publicity, President Berenecea Johnson Eanes and her administration appear to be committed to reminding Los Angeles who we are. Most recently, she led the university's participation in the annual Kingdom Day Parade honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. This is the second year President Eanes has made sure that the campus was visible in this significant event.

Dr. Eanes is quoted in the *LA Magazine* as explaining, "We are LA, and what's more LA than celebrating with thousands of people uplifted daily by Dr. King's legacy of strength, perseverance, and hope? It was an inspiring day, and I was happy to see the diverse faces lined up along the parade route, including many Cal State LA alums who proudly cheered us along."

It was not the first parade in which Eanes, students, faculty, and staff marched. Last June, Eanes and campus members marched the streets of Hollywood in the 55th Annual Pride Parade. Eanes is quoted as saying, "We are delighted to participate in this year's parade. We are here to support our LGBTQ+ community. Cal State LA is about total inclusivity—we are family."

Cal State LA also was a visible presence in the 2025 East LA Mexican Independence Day Parade. The university's Cheer Squad carried a We Are LA banner, while volunteers handed out black and gold leis, and alumni cheered.

Cicero Estrella, Interim Manager for Executive Communications, wrote in an article in the *LA Magazine*, that participating in these parades shows "a commitment to uplift, honor, and stand alongside the communities that define Los Angeles. Whether honoring Dr. King's dream, celebrating Pride, or embracing the rich heritage of East LA, Cal State LA marches with purpose—transforming lives, empowering dreams, and carrying forward the legacy of unity, inclusion, and cultural pride that makes Los Angeles, and its Golden Eagles, truly shine."

RECENT CHANGES IN CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Jeff Poltorak was appointed Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the Cal State LA Foundation after serving as Interim Vice President since January, 2025.

Vice President Poltorak brings 25 years of experience in advancement work at other institutions, including Southwestern Law School and California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Dr. Seiji Steimetz, PhD was appointed Dean of the College of Business & Economics and begins March 23. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Economics from San Jose State University before earning his PhD in Economics from the University of California, Irvine.

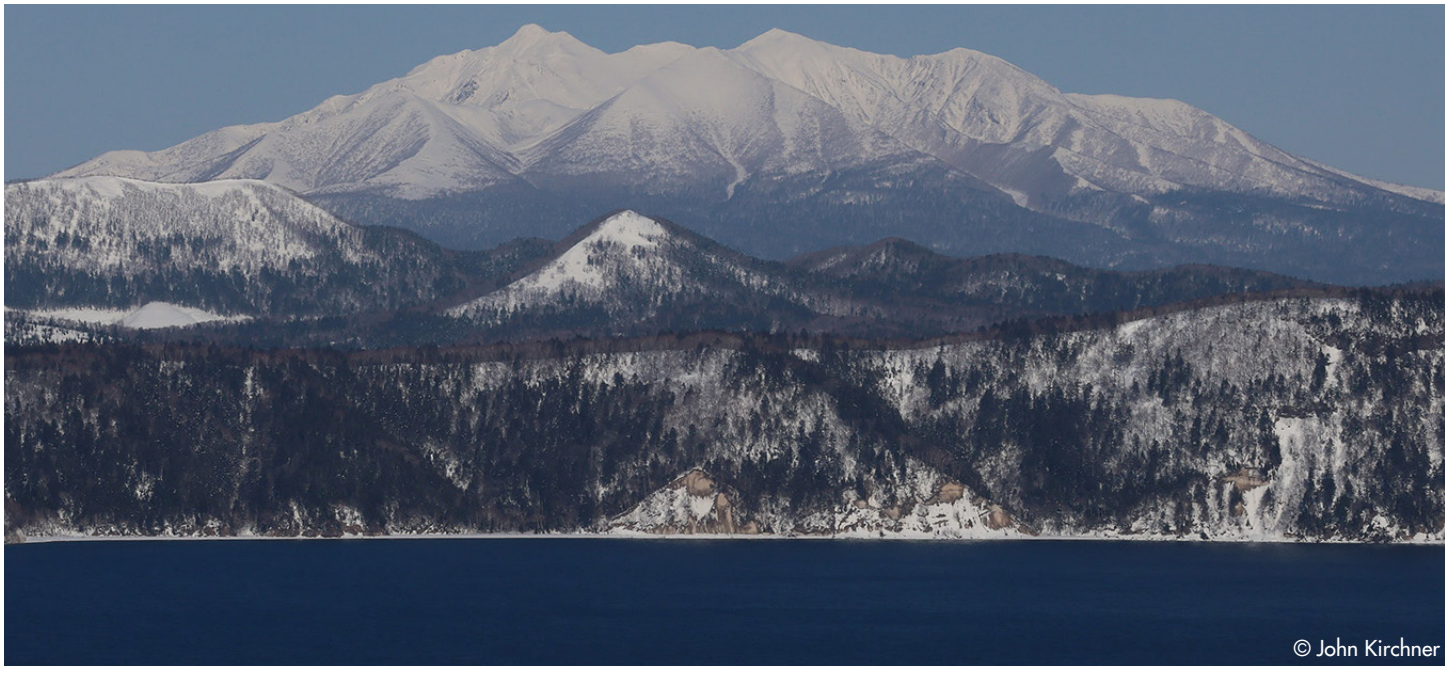
He most recently served as Associate Dean for Enrollment Management and Student Success at California State University, Long Beach. He began his academic career at CSULB in 2005, achieving the rank of full professor in 2015 and serving in leadership roles for the past ten years. In addition to serving as an associate dean, Seiji was the executive director of the CSULB Office of Economic Research (OER) while also serving as chair of the Department of Economics.

CAL STATE LA EMERITI FACULTY RECEIVE ERFSA GRANTS

Emeriti Professors Connie Corley and John Kirchner have each received grants from CSU-ERFSA in a state-wide competition among members of the association to support research and creative projects related to their disciplines.

The funding will enable Corley, who is a professor emerita of social work, to support her "Resilience in Activism and Advocacy" research project and conduct oral history interviews with national leaders involved in civic engagement to protect democracy and voting rights. Corley believes "this work will focus on the voices of those who have carried democracy forward and ensures their stories inform both scholarship and civic education." Results from the project will be published in her forthcoming book *Resilience for the Resistance* (2026), and will also be shared through other publications, a digital archive, and local community presentations. Corley has published extensively on resilience, gerontology, intergenerational mentoring, and lifelong learning, and she has led multiple externally funded research projects.

John Kirchner, professor emeritus of Geosciences and Environment, will use his funds to travel to Japan and Indonesia to photograph and document volcanic activity in the Pacific Ring of Fire. An internationally recognized photographer, John often captures his best photos taken from windows while traveling on trains and planes. He will be joined by Japanese colleagues to expand on his previous exploits by photographing and exploring such majestic peaks as Fujiyama, Japan's highest peak (see picture taken in January from a bullet train) and the Akan Volcanic National Park in Hokkaido. He will share his findings in various publications and especially in one of his many presentations to local senior communities through our Peter A. Brier Lifelong Learning Program.



NEW MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION

We welcome a new annual member, **Dr. Afshin Matin-Asgari**, to the Emeriti Association.

We extend a warm welcome to him and hope he and other emeriti will join us for our upcoming sponsored events.

NEWLY APPOINTED EMERITI FACULTY

On August 19, 2025, President Eanes appointed seven new faculty to the ranks of the emeriti. In alphabetical order, the awardees are given below.

Mohammed Abdelhamid of the Department of Sociology has been named lecturer emeritus. Professor Abdelhamid earned his BA at the University of Cairo in 1992. His MA in Psychology was earned at Cal State LA in 2001, the same year he began teaching a variety of courses in statistics for the Sociology Department. During his twenty-four year career at Cal State LA, he has been continuously praised for his commitment to student-centered, inclusive teaching and his innovative approaches to the proper integration of theoretical positions with observational data.

Manuel Aguilar-Moreno retired in August, 2025 after serving Cal State LA for twenty-six years. Professor Aguilar-Moreno, who holds dual Mexican and US citizenship, joined the Department of Art in 1999. Although he earned a BS in Electronic Engineering from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO). Guadalajara, Mexico in 1983), his passion has been Central American art and culture. In 1997, He earned an MA in Latin American Studies with an emphasis on art history and anthropology from the University of Texas, Austin and in 1999, a PhD in Latin American Studies with an emphasis in art history, anthropology, and history. He was honored with the University's Outstanding Professor Award in 2009.

Afshin Matin-Asgari was born in Iran and came to the United States in 1974. He earned his PhD in Near Eastern History from UCLA in 1993, having earned a BA in history from Cal State LA in 1979 and his MA the following year. From 1993 to 2001 he held various adjunct positions at UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, CSUN, CSULB, and Cal State LA. In 2001 he joined the history department as an assistant professor and specialist in Middle East, Islamic, and world history and religions. In that role, he taught courses in both history and religious studies. In 2010, he became a full professor and was named Outstanding Professor in 2015. In 2023, he retired and began his FERP.

Peter Ivory joined the faculty of Communications Disorders in 2004. He earned his BA in speech and hearing at UC Santa Barbara in 1975. Three years later, he earned his MS in Communicative Disorders-Audiology at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and in 1983, he was awarded a PhD in Speech Pathology and Audiology, from the University of Kansas. Prior to joining Cal State LA, he taught at Tulane University and CSUN. He also brought extensive professional experience as coordinator of audiology for Kaiser-Permanente. In 2015, he stepped up to serve as Director of Faculty Affairs, returning to the department in 2017, where he continued to teach courses both in his specialty and across the curriculum. In addition to teaching, he helped to develop and gain accreditation for the new Doctor of Audiology Program, which is the first of its kind in the CSU. He then served as Program Director from 2019 until his retirement in 2024.

Miles Peterson retired in 2019 after 32 years of service. He joined Cal State LA as a member of the Communications Disorders faculty in 1987. He earned a B.S. in Communicative Disorders, from Utah State University in1980 and his MS in Audiology from the same institution in 1982. His PhD in Audiology was earned in 1987 at the University of Washington. He continued to serve the university for another five years as part of the Faculty Early Retirement Program. While at Cal State LA, Dr. Peterson was employed as an instructional faculty member in the discipline of audiology with expertise in hearing aids, diagnostic audiology, and professional and business issues. He also served in an administrative capacity as chair on three occasions. In 2008, he co-authored the textbook *Foundations of Audiology: A Practical Approach*. In his final years at the university, he participated in the development of the newly authorized autonomous Doctor of Audiology Program, teaching doctoral courses and served as Program Director in 2018 and 2019.

René Vellanoweth discovered his passion for archaeology while attending classes at PCC. He then transferred to UCLA where he earned his BA in Anthropology in 1989. His MA was earned at Cal State LA in 1996, and in

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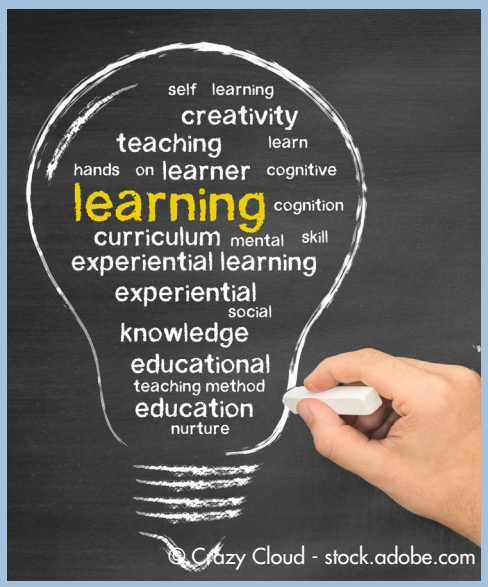
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2001, he was awarded a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Oregon, Eugene. From 2001 to 2008, he served as assistant professor, chair, and associate professor of the Anthropology Department, Humbolt State. In 2008, he joined the Anthropology faculty at Cal State LA as an associate professor, becoming full professor in 2013. From 2009 to 2019 he served as department chair and then assumed the position of Dean of Natural and Social Sciences, a position he held until retirement.

Sadly, **Stephen Mulherin**, who taught in what is now the Department of Geosciences and Environment from 1999 to 2025 has been named emeritus professor posthumously. Dr. Mulherin, who died on March 12, 2025, at the age of 63 served as chair of his department from Fall, 2018 through Summer, 2023. He was active in teaching, research, and department and university governance. Professor Mulherin completed his PhD in Geography from Ohio State University (1999), his master's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park (1995), and a bachelor's degree in accounting from SUNY Buffalo (1985). His areas of expertise included Anglo-America, cultural landscapes, Eastern Europe, urban geography, and architectural studies, topics that reflected both his academic curiosity and appreciation for the ways place and culture intersect.

PETER A. BRIER LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM

The Peter A. Brier Lifelong Learning Program is an outreach program that invites emeriti faculty to give lectures or make presentations to senior communities. This popular program was managed for many years by Peter Brier (English), in whose honor it has recently been named. Following his reduced level of participation, John Kirchner (Geosciences and Environment), assisted by Martin Epstein (Physics) and Stephen LaDochy (Geosciences and Environment), now chairs the selection committee. Over the years many emeriti faculty have been good enough to share their expertise and passion with audiences served by the program. Last year, Stephen LaDochy of the Department of Geosciences and Environment spoke on "The History of L.A. Wildfires," and John Kirchner gave a presentation on Japanese short stories in November at Hollenbeck Palms. John Kirchner also gave a talk titled "Dinosaurs in the Snow: Getting to Know a Very Different Japan." Marty Epstein spoke on the origins of gold in the cosmos in January at the South Pasadena Seniors Center and Hollenbeck Palms. Susan Kane presented, "Opera and the Power of the Human Voice" at Monte Cedro, and Steve LaDochy, coauthor of the 2023 book, Fire and Rain: California's Changing Weather and Climate, talked about Los Angles weather at the South Pasadena Senior Center.



Upcoming presentations will include one by Andy Winnick to be given at Monte Cedro on March 11 and another by John Kirchner at Hollenbeck Palms on April 21.

All Emeriti are invited to consider presenting at these and other venues in the future. Retired faculty are encouraged to volunteer to speak on a topic of their choice. The topics that are offered are quite varied. While travel and hobby-related programs are especially popular, we have among us some emeriti with unusual professional skills. Contact John Kirchner at emeriti.office@calstatela.edu. If selected, you will receive an honorarium for each presentation.

John Kirchner
Geography

2025-26 EMERITI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS INTRODUCED AT ZOOM RECOGNITION EVENT



© Cal State LA

Top left to right: Taryn Bates, Ashley Flynn, Laura Fredricks, Israel Gutierrez, Blanca Henriquez

Middle left to right: Edward Jaros, Jo Lacangan, Connie Mancera, Koelle Rahman, Ashley Rameriz

Bottom left to right: Diana Rangel, Gabriel Sanchez, Michelle Tan, Dorcia White-Brake, Stephanie Wilson

The Emeriti Association introduced and honored the 2025-26 Emeriti Association Scholarship and Fellowship recipients during a virtual event on November 15, 2025. The students shared personal and often moving stories about where they came from and what led them to Cal State Los Angeles and their chosen fields of study. Many talked about the support, mentoring, and inspiration that they received from the faculty and, as a result, how they plan to mentor and inspire others. A number expressed appreciation for the vote of confidence they felt receiving an award from the emeriti faculty.

The association awarded 13 graduate fellowships from the Emeriti Fellowship Fund and 10 scholarships or fellowships from endowments established by emeriti faculty and/or their families and friends.

CALL FOR REVIEWERS OF STUDENT APPLICATIONS

The annual review of student applications for the 2026–2027 scholarships and fellowships awarded by the Emeriti Association will take place from late March until early May. All Association members will receive an email inviting participation as application readers for the various awards that will be offered. The review of applications is done online in teams of two. If you wish to volunteer as a reader, please send us your contact information by email at emeriti. office@calstatela.edu.



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SCHOLARSHIP/FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENTS

Among the many contributions the Cal State LA Emeriti Association makes to the University is the annual awarding of fellowships and scholarships to deserving graduate and undergraduate students. If you wish to contribute to one of the several endowments that make these awards possible, you may choose from among the various endowments currently in place, including the Emeriti Graduate Fellowship Fund, which is the Association's general fellowship endowment, or any of the 13 individual endowments set up to honor emeritus faculty members or their families and made possible through contributions made by their families and/or colleagues and friends, including Association members.

If you wish to contribute to any of these endowments, please visit the Emeriti Association Scholarship and Fellowship Program page.

Award Fund Name	Level	Academic Major
Emeriti Association Fellowship for Academic Excellence	Grad	Any Major
Bill Darrough, Eleni Pitsiou-Darrough and Athena Fellowship	Grad	Sociology
Brodwin Family Scholarship/Fellowship in Rehabilitation Counseling	Jr./Sr./ Grad	Rehabilitation Counseling
Costello Brown Fellowship in Chemistry/ Biochemistry, Geology, or Physics	Jr./Sr./ Grad	Chemistry/Biochemistry, Geology, or Physics
David Cameron Fisher Memorial Scholarship	Jr./Sr./ Grad	Marine Biology or Environmental Studies or Biology
Dimitri Margaziotis Memorial Scholarship/ Fellowship	Jr./Sr./ Grad	Physics/Astronomy preferred, or Chemistry, Biochemistry, Geological Sciences, Geology, and Mathematics
Jane Matson Memorial Fellowship	Grad	Counselor Education or Counseling or Social Service
John L. Houk Memorial Fellowship	Grad	Political Science
Leonard Mathy Fellowship	Grad	Economics
Mary Gormly Memorial Fellowship	Grad	Native American emphasis in Anthropology, Art, Economics, History, Mexican American Studies, Latin American Studies, Political Science, or Sociology
Roland L. Carpenter Memorial Scholarship/ Fellowship	Jr./Sr./ Grad	Physics B.A./Astrophysics Option; Physics M.S.
William A. Taylor Memorial Scholarship/ Fellowship	Jr./Sr./ Grad	ECST, NSS, Physics major preferred
William E. Lloyd Memorial Fellowship	Grad	History or Political Science or Master of Public Administration
Vicente Zapata Undergraduate Scholarship	Jr./Sr.	Public Health



BOOK CORNER

The "Book Corner" is meant to feature books that you recommend to our readers. Your submissions should include brief descriptions of the recommended books, including why you chose to add them to your reading list. These descriptions should be kept to 300 words or less, and they should be framed more as addressing why our readers may enjoy this book/author rather than as a full book review.

Not Really a "Book Review" but an "Author Review"

Michael Connelly, *The Black Echo* (Little, Brown and Company, 2013).

I have loved many authors in my time and read everything they published. Today, I would like to share with you my enjoyment of books by Michael Connelly, especially the Bosch Series. His books are murder mysteries, told from the policeman's point of view. The series takes place in Southern California, mainly downtown Los Angeles and the Hollywood areas.

The author, Michael Connelly, who completed a degree in journalism with a minor in creative writing, began by working for newspapers and news outlets. When he was hired by the Los Angeles Times, he moved to Los Angeles and covered the crime beat, following the LAPD in good times and bad (corrupt) times. In 1992, his first novel was published, The Black Echo–a Harry Bosch crime novel–that takes place in Echo Park. It won the Edgar Award and is still highly praised.

Harry Bosch is somewhat of a rogue, doing police work his way, which turns out to be more effective and efficient but puts him frequently in trouble with his superiors. Their main problem with Bosch is that he is so good at what he does that they can't really punish him when he goes rogue. He sees more details than the average cop and puts disparate pieces together in engaging ways. Eventually, all the needed clues are provided for catching the true killer. The reader just needs to be alert.

Michael Connelly is excellent at describing the scenes of crimes with details on the environment and the social ambience while bringing in many twists and turns. He also gives engaging reviews of places to eat. When our youngest granddaughter came to visit us in summer of 2021, we took her to Musso & Frank's in Hollywood for dinner. It was as fabulous as Connelly had said, and our picky grandchild thoroughly enjoyed their chicken pot pie (rightfully so; it's the best!). Because of Connelly's praise, our family makes a monthly trek to DuPar's Restaurant in Farmer's Market at 3rd and Fairfax. He is correct in his assessment of the "best pancakes in the world," but their other offerings are also worthy of note. There are many other eateries that Connelly almost off-handedly references in his novels.

I recommend starting with Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch series and do the books in order because it's a fascinating story.

Paula Arvedson

Curriculum & Instruction

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Colin P. Elliot, *Pox Romana: The Plague That Shook the Roman World, Turning Points in Ancient History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2024).

Books with clever titles are usually disappointing. *Pox Romana* is an exception. Its subject is the so-called Antonine plague, which swept through the Roman Empire with devastating results. One Roman historian speaks of 10,000 deaths per day in Rome at the pandemic's peak between 165 and 180 CE, so that estimates of its killing twenty to thirty per cent of the empire's population are not implausible. The identity of the plague is controversial, but historians now generally agree that it probably was an early form of smallpox that originated in Central Asia and was introduced to the Roman Empire by infected troops returning from a war against Rome's eastern neighbor, the kingdom of Parthia. *Pox Romana* is not a medical history, however. Instead, Elliot focuses on the social and economic conditions that transformed what could have been a severe but localized epidemic into the first known pandemic in world history, showing that increased travel, both civil and military, in a partially globalized world helped spread the plague throughout the Roman Empire while malnutrition and poor sanitation made a mega city like Rome a virtual Petrie dish for growing the virus that caused the disease. Readers who know Rome's famous baths only in their present state as tourist attractions will be startled by Elliot's vivid account of the filthy reality that greeted ancient bathers. Besides providing a fascinating picture of what living in ancient Rome was really like, *Pox Romana* also is a dramatic reminder of how critical effective public health measures are to the good life we take for granted in our cities.

Stanley Burstein

History

Milton Lott, *Dance Back the Buffalo* (Houghton-Mifflin Co., 1959)

I enjoyed Milton Lott's 1959 western novel Dance Back the Buffalo the first time I read it when it was assigned in an introductory anthropology class I took in 1968 or 1969. Not only does the novel deal with a fascinating episode of American history, the Ghost Dance Uprisings of the 1890s and their brutal suppressions, but, uniquely for its time, Lott's telling of the Ghost Dance and its bloody aftermath includes Native American perspectives, which are sympathetic without making his characters clichéd noble savages. As my teacher's recommendation shows, the book was considered a fairly accurate depiction of the events and of Native American culture by professional anthropologists. Anthropology and literary characterization aside, Dance Back the Buffalo fascinates me for its applicability to contemporary events.

The Ghost Dance began as a millenarian movement in 1889 when a Northern Paiute prophet, Wovoka taught that proper dancing and wearing of a white ghost shirt would raise the spirits of the dead, who would join living Native Americans and drive out the European settlers now encroaching on western territories and bring a return of the collapsing buffalo herds. As it moved northward the Ghost Dance religion became increasingly militant, for the dancers claimed that the ghost shirts would be immune to the Europeans' bullets. They weren't. In the culminating event of the novel and in the history of the uprising, the Pine Ridge Campaign, 250 shirt-wearing Lakota were massacred by American troops on 29 December 1890 at Wounded Knee.

There is a lot we can learn from the Ghost Dance. None of Wovoka's predictions came to pass. Most of the tribes of the Southwest, where the Ghost Dance began, never really recovered from the suppressions of 1890. The one notable exception was among the Apache. Recent arrivals in the Southwest, Apachean tribes, unlike their longer established neighbors, shared a deep-seated fear of contamination by the dead, so they did not embrace the ghost shirts. One small Apache group, the Navajo, unlike their Mescalero and Chiracahua relatives, produced no notable war-leaders such as Mangas Coloradas or Geronimo. They were saved not only by their obscurity, but by their adaptability. Instead of looking for a return of the buffalo, they embraced the Europeans' sheep (*dibé* 'it is a cloud'), gathered wool and wove blankets; they made jewelry, native turquoise

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set in European silver (*bééš łigaii* 'flint which is white') and came to be the most numerous of all Native American groups. Instead of trying to recover an elusive past, they accepted the change that time always brings.

It is good to remember that lesson when the Shaman of Mar-a-Lago performs his ghostly dance to the gay anthem "It's Fun to Stay at the YMCA," for flailing arms will not bring back the smoke-stack industries of the 1950s. The future of most prophets turns out to be false, and, as the theologian C.S. Lewis observed, time takes many strange turns in its wanderings but it never turns back.

Martin E. Huld

English

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

All members are welcome to attend the Executive Committee meetings the second Thursday of each month. Contact the association president at emeriti.office@calstatela.edu to receive the Zoom link.

March 30- April 5, 2026

Spring Break

March 31, 2026

Cesar Chavez Day - University closed

May 3, 2026

Emeriti Spring Luncheon, 11:00am-2:00pm Ballroom 1

May 11- May 16, 2026

Finals Week

May 18, 2026

Last day to register to vote online by mail for Primary Election.

May 18- May 20, 2026

Commencement, Shrine Auditorium

May 25, 2026

Memorial Day - University closed

May 26, 2026

Summer Intercession

June 2, 2026

Primary Election

June 13, 2026

Emeriti Association Annual Meeting

June 16, 2026

Juneteenth - University closed

WE INVITE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EMERITIMES

We encourage our readers to help us make our newsletter a means to communicate with each other by sharing something that we can include in a future issue of *The Emeritimes*.

Our readers would like to read about your ongoing research activities (published books or articles, conference presentations, other research activities). Also, our readers would enjoy learning about what is happening in our lives, now that we have left our academic careers. Some possible topics may include:

- A research project you are undertaking;
- A description of a book that has interested you, to add to our Book Corner column;
- How your experience with FERP helped ease you toward retirement;
- Volunteer work you do in your community;
- A new hobby you enjoy, or a collection you have begun;
- A book recommendation;
- A fascinating trip you took; or
- Any other experience you wish to share that will interest Emeritimes readers.

The Emeritimes guidelines call for articles of around 500 words or less. If you wish to submit a piece for a future issue, you can mail your submissions to our email address: emeritimes@calstatela.edu

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

This column includes descriptions of research, professional activities, and publications of emeritus faculty. Your contributions to future columns are welcome and encouraged. Please include full citations for publications and full names of professional organizations for conference presentations.

Burke, Kyle, **Silvia Heubach**, Melissa A. Huggan, & Svenja Huntemann. Keeping your distance is hard. In *Games of No Chance 6*:443-446. Cambridge University Press, 2025 [ISBN 978-1009565523].

Friend, Colleen will present "Bridging the Gap: Teaching Tomorrow's Forensic Social Workers Today," with her coauthors at the Forensic Social Work Association Annual Conference, May 2026, New Orleans. The presentation is based on their publication "Preparing Students for Forensic Social Work Practice: A Cross-Case Comparative Analysis of Four Programs" in *Journal of Forensic Social Work*.

Huld, Martin E. *Naming the Horse.* Oxford University Press, 2025. [ISBN 9780197672594]

Liebman, Roy. *Universal Musicals, 1928-1948: a Filmography.* McFarland Publishing, 2026. [978-1476694764].

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

Life in Sedona

Several years ago, I was asked to write a piece about life in Sedona Arizona, where I moved from Monterey Park in January 2015. Sedona's problems are pretty much those of larger cities: traffic congestion, the homeless, affordable housing for workers, and finding and keeping healthcare providers.

I live in Sedona, on one of its four original streets, without curbs or streetlights, and there are many things I love about Sedona. I have the glorious vistas whether sitting in traffic or at my dining-room computer. There is a wondrous public library with a strong Friends of the Library group. I also enjoy a very rich and extensive lifelong-learning program thanks to Yavapai College. I can visit either of the two indie theaters for their film offerings and attend their annual film festival. Needless to say, there is an abundance of art of one kind or another in every direction and at every turn. I am most grateful for living 5 minutes from most of my healthcare providers, including doctors, physical therapist, and my personal trainer. I am also close to numerous businesses that I regularly patronize, including Whole Foods, Natural Grocers, restaurants, bank, gym, and Ace Hardware.

From the moment that I first stepped into the Sedona Library, I have wanted to volunteer there. Instead, in 2010, as a tourist from California, I got involved with a small, live theater group, Pinewood Players, about an hour up the highway in Munds Park. I first co-chaired the July 4th Kids Carnival, for three years; then I became Membership Chair and am starting my 11th year in that role.

I have missed the musical experiences of my Southern California life, and so, finally, last year I became a patron of the Sedona Symphony. The first concert of this season, with guest pianist Jon Nakamatsu, was the most powerful musical experience of my life.

Anne Hess

Library

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Update on the Altadena and Pacific Palisades Fires

Here is a fire recovery update for February, 2026, 13 months since the fires. The major portion of the report comes from Susan Kane who shared her experiences of the aftermath of the Altadena Fire. Other emeriti shared their comparable experiences in both Altadena and Pacific Palisades. A summary of those is provided at the end of this report.

The entire month of January was chock full of one-year-anniversary events. The accompanying photos give an idea of how Altadena is coming together as a community to connect and heal.



© Susan Mohini Kane

Our house is again on pause - waiting for our insurance to approve the final remediation and repairs. The toxins in the Eaton Fire are unprecedented; heavy metals like lead are proving difficult to remove. Remediation for this fire now may include removing floors and walls or even tearing the whole house down for many homes whose lead levels are 500% higher than acceptable levels. This information comes from François Tissor, a Cal Tech scientist who also lost his home, in a lecture he gave on January 21, 2026. However, since insurance companies have no precedent for this type of fire, they have returned to their main strategy of delay and deny.

Consequently, many people with standing structures are having trouble getting clearance to move back in even after costly remediation, requiring cleaning after cleaning. Soon many will lose their "loss of use" insurance that pays rent for temporary homes because it will run out. Some families have had to return to their toxic homes with their children. See the New York Times article called: "'Unsafe to Inhabit': The Toxic Homes of LA". We are all learning so much!



© Susan Mohini Kane

Our new windows and screens have finally been installed! They look lovely! On another lovely note, we had leftover redwood siding that we didn't want to go to waste, so we found a carpenter to build it into bookshelves and a coffee table! These sweet angels are doing carpentry for fire survivors at cost. We have also been gifted membership to the Sierra Madre YMCA for 2026, and I am looking forward to getting my body back in shape!

Also, I'm part of a cohort of small business owners in Altadena who were impacted by the fires called 2026 Rebuild Lab. We are

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doing a seven-week small business course to help us get back on our feet. It started last week and seems really nurturing! I'm very grateful, and I'm looking forward to recording my next album and performing again.

Finally, we are so grateful for everyone's continued love and support. We couldn't do this without you.

Susan Mohini Kane, DMA

Music



Editor's Note: We contacted other colleagues who were affected by the fires in Altadena and in Pacific Palisades. Whether they lost their homes or are awaiting repairs to their homes, their stories are similar to Susan's. Expenses exceed insurance, contractors are too expensive, clean-up is on-going and finally, decisions need to be made as to rebuilding or just eventually selling the land. Decisions on rebuilding depend on the age of each person and the individual circumstances of the family.

A Reflection: Life is Beautiful- a Shift

When I heard that Renée Good was murdered, something in me shifted. I was suddenly filled with a quiet, sober calm.

This was remarkable because I haven't felt calm since before the Eaton Fire took my home and Trump took the White House. I had been having a very hard time accepting these tragedies: handling my life without possessions in a temporary living space while protesting the inhumane attack on people, the Constitution, and the rule of law. So much of my time has been spent in shock, frustration, anger, and disillusionment. I don't think I smiled for a year.

The moment I learned of Ms. Good's murder, the first thing that popped into my head was the last scene of the movie *Life is Beautiful.*

> In that scene, the hero, in his efforts to find his wife and save his son, has hidden his son in a box as a part of their game to survive the Nazis while he frantically looks for his wife; but he is caught, and marched into the square in front of his son. Before he marches away, he smiles and winks at his son (who winks back) and then he marches in a very funny way to amuse his son. Off camera the hero is shot. The next day the tanks come and liberate the village, and the son finds his mom and declares victory in the game.

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That scene came flooding into my consciousness, and I instinctively knew what to do. I knew how to handle these terrible times. I knew that going forward I would have to live so fully, so playfully, and with so much love that no matter what else is happening, love will win the day, each and every day. Love has to rule my being and motivate all my actions. In fact, I have to live and love fiercely.

This all happened in an instant. It was a calm, sober realization that the power of love actually does exist inside of me and in the world, that the power of love so many people had sung about, that I had even sung about all my life, is real and is strong. I have it inside of me, and it is available to me.

I'm taking an indefinite pause from using my energy and attention to bemoan the obvious atrocities, to be shocked or disillusioned. Some part of me always thought that someone stronger or more powerful would come to save me. Now I know I can live fully amid the worst of the worst. To live fully means all of it: grief, disappointment, moments of despair, glee, fulfillment, sorrow, silly laughter, deep love.

However, if I waste even a moment on complaining, being shocked at how bad it is, wishing it was not happening, bemoaning my fate, or waiting until it gets better–I forfeit my life. So, no matter what, to me, life is beautiful. I want to live until I die, and I want to die living.

Susan Mohini Kane, DMA

Music



IN MEMORIAM

A Note to Our In Memoriam Readers:
We ask that you contact us by email at emeritimes@calstatela.edu (ATTN: Jose Galvan) to inform us when you learn of the death of a colleague. We welcome receiving any obituaries you or a loved one may have already prepared, and we ask that you try to limit their length to approximately 500 words. Please include, at minimum, the following details for the deceased: work title(s), year hired/retired, area of expertise and department. We would also appreciate receiving high-resolution photographs, if they are available.

Deborah Schaeffer
Librarian 1988-2016



The following obituary was prepared by Kevin Schaeffer, Deborah Shaeffer's brother, and her friend, Paula Karr.

Deborah Lynn Schaeffer passed away suddenly from heart failure on October 13, 2025. She was a librarian at Cal State LA from 1988 until she retired in 2016.

After completing a bachelor's degree in geography in 1977 at California State University, Long Beach, she received a master's in library/information science in 1979 from UCLA. Deborah worked as a city

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librarian in South Bay area cities and as a technical librarian at Hughes Aircraft before becoming an academic librarian at Montana State University in the mid-1980s.

She returned to California to accept a position as an academic librarian at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library in 1988. Her duties included teaching classes in library research methodologies and advising graduate students working on their theses. Deborah loved the students and treasured the opportunity to help them grow. She was also a member and chair of numerous library committees, and she even served temporarily as the acting associate dean of the library. Deborah was incredibly proud of the Distinguished Women Award she received in 2011, and the Distinguished Education and Behavioral Sciences Librarian Award she received in 2017. Her post-retirement contributions to the University continued with her service as an active member of the Emeriti Association's Executive Committee. More recently, as the Director of Programs, she coordinated several programs, luncheons and events attended by emeriti colleagues.

Music affected and influenced Deborah as a person throughout her life. She loved most types of music. In fact, during her time in Bozeman, she worked part-time as a radio disc jockey for a New Wave Rock Music show. She was also well-versed in classical music, enjoyed the Top 40 hits of her youth, and loved New Wave and Rock. In 1989, she published a discography of Irish Folk Music. Deborah's deep love of music is perhaps best reflected by her enduring admiration for The Everly Brothers, Gordon Lightfoot, and Tony Bennett.

As a consummate traveler, Deborah didn't just "go" someplace. She researched each location to understand the history and culture, discovering the non-tourist places that she needed to see—in addition to the tourist places. A highly skilled photographer, Deborah created beautiful and evocative pictures from her travels. Her friends and family still treasure the prints and calendars she gave them over the years.

In what may be the truest testament to Deborah's varied and curious nature and enthusiasm for life, she was especially passionate about Formula 1 and INDYCAR racing. Over the last 30 years, she and a friend traveled to races and cheered on their favorite drivers. Deborah often set her alarm clock for the middle of the night to watch races live. She was a true fan.

On January 7, 2026, family and friends celebrated Deborah's life at La Venta Inn in Palos Verdes, CA. Deborah is survived by her partner of 35 years, David, her Aunt Mary, her brothers Robert and Kevin, and many, many friends.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following questions are often on the minds of newly named emeritus faculty. If you have additional questions, please send them to emeritimes@calstatela.edu. We will do our best to answer them.

How can I obtain a virtual parking permit?

To register your vehicle in this new virtual system, you must fill out the form posted at https://www.calstatela.edu/parking/emeriti-parking-registration-form. Enter your identifying information and your vehicle information. When you click "Submit," you will automatically be in the parking virtual system. If you need assistance, you can call 323-343-6118.

Emeritus faculty may retain their Cal State LA email accounts, but they must be activated in our new status as emeritus. What do I need to do to activate my account?

As an emeritus faculty member, you retain your Cal State LA username and password, which provides access to your campus email account. In addition, you continue to have online access to the University Library's databases and its full-text journal collection. If you have any difficulty retrieving your username and/or password, either contact your college IT staff person or call the Help Desk at 323-343-6170 for assistance.

What are the steps that retiring faculty need to follow to apply for Emeritus status?

Here is the relevant section of the Faculty Handbook that describes the steps to follow.

> "***Request and Approval.*** *It is highly recommended that the procedure for consideration of Emeritus status be initiated by the faculty member within two years following the effective date of retirement or resignation. For those in the faculty early retirement program (FERP), the effective date of retirement is prior to entering FERP status. To be considered for Emeritus status, resigning or retiring faculty members must submit electronically an updated curriculum vitae, a digital photograph, and brief biography.*"

Requests for Emeritus status are submitted through the usual RTP process. The initial request is made to the department and includes an updated CV, a digital photograph, and a brief biography. The request is considered, first by the department's RTP committee, then by the college-level committee. If approved, the college dean forwards it to the provost who then forwards it to the president for final approval and appointment.

Moving?

If you change your physical and/or email address, we ask that you please send us your new contact information so that we may continue to provide you with *The Emeritimes* and other notices from the Emeriti Association. Remember that we communicate with our members primarily by email—whether you use your Cal State LA or other email address—but on occasion, we will use the U.S. mail.

You may send us your updated contact information, via email, to emeriti.office@calstatela.edu or by U.S. mail to Emeriti Association Membership Chair, c/o Office of the President, SSB 8320, Cal State LA, 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90032. Thank you!