CAL STATE LA | The Emeritimes

Publication of The Emeriti Association, Fall 2025

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A PAINFUL FISCAL YEAR EXPECTED FOR CAL STATE LA

While the CSU's budget for 2025 – 26, and by extension that of the Cal State LA campus, are not as bad as once feared, the fiscal outlook for the campus still appears to be painful.

The final state budget, passed by the Legislature as the California Budget Act of 2025, and which was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 27, 2025, reverses the 7.5% ($375 million) cut that had been in the Governor's January budget proposal, but it also defers payment of $144 million that had been expected as part of the four-year compact with the Governor that was agreed to four years ago. This translates as a 3% portion of the current CSU base budget that is being held back. While the state budget includes a $144 million loan to the CSU to offset this cut, this loan would have to be repaid eventually. The Chancellor's Office is currently reviewing this option.

In addition, the expected 2025-2026 compact funding of $252.3 million, which would have been the fourth year of the compact, has been deferred. The state budget act states that its intent is to restore this allocation incrementally through 2028-2029. However, the Chancellor's Office noted in a *CSU Leader* article published on July 8, 2025, that future state legislatures cannot be obligated by current legislatures, so the deferred augmentations to the budget may not actually occur despite the current legislature's stated intent.

What this all means is that Cal State LA is planning on a budget cut of 3%. Together with the existing structural deficit—financial resources compared to expenditures—the campus faces a $12.4 million gap in the coming year. Consequently, the budget steps announced last May, which included a 5% reduction in expenditures by each campus division, will remain in effect.

Academic departments have been guided in planning their fall schedules by an email jointly written by Provost Heather Lattimer and Vice Provost Amy Bippus. This email called for centralizing decisions about reassigned time at the Provost's level, with the

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The Emeritimes

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goal of increasing the number of courses taught by faculty. It also called for higher class enrollment benchmarks, i.e., more students in classes, and a higher minimum enrollment target for classes to avoid being canceled. The effect of these changes has meant a reduction in classes being offered in the fall and being planned for the spring semester.

Many lecturers have fewer or no assigned classes in the fall. Lecturer assignments are always based on student demand and the availability of financial resources. The campus Senate Executive Committee has been told that some departments currently plan to have no lecturers teaching in the fall, but this could change later.

Note that due to *The Emeritimes* publication schedule—our deadline for articles was mid-August—additional details regarding the impact of the budget cuts which are expected to be provided to the campus just as the Fall Semester begins, may result in some changes in the details given here.

Kevin Baaske
Communication Studies

CAMPUS RECEIVES TWO NEW GRANTS

Getty Foundation Supports Library Special Collections/ Archives

Cal State LA has been awarded a $265,000 grant from the Getty Foundation to process the archive of the Compton Communicative Arts Academy (CCAA) collection as part of the Black Visual Arts Archives initiative. The CCAA archive is housed in the University Library's Special Collections and Archives.

Google Grant Supports Computer Training for K-12 Teachers

Cal State LA has received a $150,000 grant from Google to support its Computer Science Supplementary Authorization (CSSA) program, advancing the university's efforts to prepare K–12 educators to teach computer science in underserved communities.

The "Empowering Future CS Educators" grant will fund expanded mentorship, professional development, and hands-on instructional opportunities for both in-service and pre-service teachers across Los Angeles. The funding enables teachers to access continuous training throughout the academic year, participate in summer programs, and engage in community outreach through computer science learning initiatives.

EMERITI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I want to congratulate President Berenecea Eanes on her Investiture as the ninth president of Cal State LA, and the first woman to serve in that position. Her tenure, which began January 8, 2024, has already been marked by many challenging issues, and no doubt she will encounter many more. In this column, I am focusing on one of the most critical of those immediate challenges—the development of the next Strategic Plan for Cal State LA.

A University's Strategic Plan is the description of the systemic process used to define and communicate the University's direction for the future. It involves analyzing the current situation, envisioning a desired future and developing a road map that describes how to get there. The plan sets forth the University's mission and then identifies the goals and objectives for reaching that mission. It also must realistically identify and plan the allocation of resources necessary to achieve the mission.

The University's Strategic Planning process includes three major components: an Academic Master Plan, a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, and a Facilities Master Plan.

The process at Cal State LA is being directed by Dr. Timothy Mottet, a senior consultant from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

A Strategic Planning Council has been appointed and is co-chaired by Provost Heather Lattimer and VP Student Affairs Patrick Day. Members include liaisons from the Strategic Enrollment Management Planning Committee and the Facilities Master Planning Committee; two students, an undergraduate and a graduate; a college dean; the chair of the Academic Senate; representatives from the Alumni Association and University Advancement; and a business leader.

This will undoubtedly be the most critical Strategic Plan ever developed for Cal State LA. A realistic Strategic Plan should meet not only the vision, mission, and goals of those who create it, it must also reflect the vision, expectations and needs perceived by future students, faculty members, and society at large.

The University needs to evolve in a changing world that will have a different definition and expectations of what constitutes "higher education". The University must prepare for these challenges and take steps to mitigate their impacts if it is to survive. The days of lecture halls with large groups of students listening to lectures are largely in the past.

Recently, two retired Cal State LA nursing professors and I toured the School of Nursing's Simulation and Virtual Reality Laboratories on campus. Our guides included two nursing student fellows who work in the lab. The faculty member, who also accompanied us, later stated that he had truly enjoyed watching the students interacting with the three of us. He observed that the students listened intently, "hanging on to every word". It was as though they were being handed "wisdom" from "aged sages".

The "aged sages", who are actually emeriti faculty, may have greater foresight than anyone realizes. I believe strongly that emeriti faculty must be given an opportunity to participate in developing the university's next strategic plan. I hope all Emeriti Faculty members will stay informed regarding the development of the Strategic Plan. I sincerely encourage President Eanes, the Strategic Planning Council and working groups to take advantage of the "wisdom" that Emeriti Faculty have to offer. If you are offered a chance to participate in the process, I urge you to accept.

Patricia A. Chin
Emeriti Association President

COMBINED CONVOCATION AND INVESTITURE CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTED THE UNIVERSITY'S FALL OPENING DAY

This year's annual Fall University Convocation on August 18, 2025, shared its billing with the Investiture of President Berenecea Johnson Eanes. The investiture ceremony was originally planned for March 7, 2025, but it was postponed due to the January fires.



The annual fall convocation traditionally has served as an opportunity for faculty, staff, students, and administrators to kick-off and look ahead to the coming academic year. It is also a time to celebrate faculty achievements. This year, it was quite a bit different. While the day's program included the announcement of the Outstanding Professor Awards and President's Distinguished Professor, this was folded into the larger context of the president's investiture ceremony.

The program was opened by the event's master of ceremonies, Belen DeLeon, a meteorologist on Channel 4 (KNBC), who sang the National Anthem alongside a US Army ROTC color guard. President Eanes and Provost Heather Lattimer spoke to the challenges the University faces, and the chair of the Academic Senate, Jessica DeShazo, emphasized the importance of shared governance. Finally, Arwa Mohamed Hammad, the president of the Associated Students Incorporated celebrated the difference the university makes in the lives of so many students.

The theme for the day was "We are LA" and was focused on who we are and the values we all share, including the University's commitment to "empowering dreams and transforming lives." Several examples of each were presented.

A Cal State LA student in the prison graduation initiative, Brandon Baker, read a poem about transforming lives through the spoken word and President Eanes' own daughter, Victoria (Tori) Eanes, read a poem written by her grandfather about perseverance. Larry Adamson, a Cal State LA alumnus and current member of the CSU Board of Trustees and the chair of the CSU Board of Trustees, Jack B. Clarke, Jr. spoke about the impact Cal State LA has had on students and the community and how this will continue under President Eanes' leadership.

CSU Chancellor Mildred Garcia invested President Eanes, her former Vice President for Student Affairs at Cal State Fullerton, and presented her with the President's Medallion, the official symbol of the presidency. Garcia also lauded Eanes for her leadership and commitment to students.

There were also musical performances by the all-girls Garfield High School Mariachi Las Mariposas, world-renowned opera singer Jillian Ardella Harrison-Jones, Cal State LA alumna Lena Marandi who sang the University Hymn, and the university's Afro Latin Jazz Band.

Kevin Baaske
Communication Studies

RECENT CHANGES TO THE LEADERSHIP ON CAMPUS

A number of leadership changes on campus have been announced in the past few months.

Several changes were reported at the University Level, including the following.

- **Catherine Haras** was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Professional and Global Education (PaGE) while continuing as the Director of the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning (CETL).
- **Claudio Lindow**, formerly Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is now the permanent VP & CFO.
- **Gustavo Menezes**, Professor of Civil Engineering, will step into the role of Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Student Success.
- **Karin Elliott Brown** was appointed Associate Vice President of Faculty Success and remains Dean of Graduate Studies.
- **Mike Bonin** has been selected as Executive Director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs (PBI).
- **Harkmore Lee**, formerly Dean of PaGE is now the Interim Vice President for University Advancement.
- **Michelle Hawley**, formerly Associate Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, has retreated to the English Department as professor. No replacement in Undergraduate Studies had been announced when *The Emeritimes* went to presss.

The following changes at the College level have also been announced.

- College of Business & Economics: **Tye Jackson**, formerly Dean of the College of Business and Economics, has retreated to the faculty, and the Provost is expected to announce an Interim Dean shortly. A search this academic year for a permanent Dean is planned.
- College of Ethnic Studies: **James Ford, III**, has been appointed as the new Interim Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies. The former Interim Dean **Lena Chao** has returned to the faculty and will now FERP in the Department of Communication Studies.
- College of Natural & Social Sciences: **René Vellanoweth**, the former dean of the college, has accepted the position of provost at Northern New Mexico College. **Stephen Trzaskoma**, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters will add Interim NSS Dean to his duties. A search for a permanent dean is scheduled for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Rongxiang Xu College of Health and Human Services: College Dean **Ron Vogel** has retired due to illness, and **Wendy Reiboldt** was appointed interim dean. It is anticipated that there will be a search for a permanent Dean this academic year.

FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED DURING COMBINED CONVOCATION AND PRESIDENT'S INVESTITURE

Several awards were presented during the combined Faculty Day Convocation and President's Investiture ceremony held on August 18, 2025.

Anureet Kaur, chair of the Outstanding Professor Awards Committee and faculty in Nutrition and Food Science, presented the following awards:

President's Distinguished Professor:

David Blekhman, *Technology*

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Outstanding Professor:

Devika Hazra, *Economics and Statistics*
Eun-Young Kang, *Computer Science*
Rupa Purasinghe, *Civil Engineering*
Patrick Sharp, *Liberal Studies*

Outstanding Lecturer:

Dinur Blum, *Sociology*

Dr. Kaur noted that there will be another event in the spring honoring faculty and staff, and the full faculty videos will be presented at that event. Attendees at the combined Convocation and President's Investiture only saw segments of these videos.

Also honored as part of the combined ceremony was **Hiram Channell**, a staff member in Admissions and Recruitment, who was recognized as the first Cal State LA employee to work at the university for more than 50 years.

NEWLY APPOINTED EMERITI FACULTY

The following three members of the Cal State LA faculty have been awarded emeritus status by University President Berenecea Johnson Eanes.

Mario Castañeda (*Curriculum and Instruction*) was awarded emeritus status in July, 2025. He earned a BA in geography from Long Beach State in 1980 and completed the Cal State LA Teacher Preparation Program in 1982. He was awarded an MA in Multicultural Education at the University of San Francisco in 1997, and in 2006 he completed an EdD from Pepperdine University. Before joining the Cal State LA faculty in 2008 as an associate professor in the College of Education's Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Castañeda taught K-12 and held visiting professorships at several colleges and universities, bringing his broad educational experience to the campus. In addition to his service to the College of Education, he has also taught courses in the Latin American Studies Program. He retired in 2020.

David Pitt (*Philosophy*) was awarded emeritus status in July, 2025. He joined the Cal State LA Department of Philosophy in 2003, after previously having taught at Swarthmore College, Hunter College, Brooklyn College, the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and Iowa State University. He was awarded a PhD in philosophy by the City University of New York in 1994, having previously earned a BA in music in 1981 at Haverford College in and an MA in musical composition in 1985 at Queens College CUNY. He was promoted to associate professor in 2007 and became professor in 2012. He served as chair of philosophy from July 2018 to July 2024, when he retired. In addition to his teaching at Cal State LA, Pitt has been a visiting scholar at Cornell University, UC Santa Cruz, the Australian National University, Cambridge University, and the Central European University, Budapest, where he will again teach this summer.

Mann Yoon (*Economics and Statistics*) was awarded emeritus status in July, 2025. He earned a BA in economics from Yonsei University in South Korea in 1983 and an MS in the same field at Indiana State University in 1985. He then earned a PhD in economics in 1991 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, the same year he joined the Cal State LA Department of Economics and Statistics as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1997 and full professor in 2003. His areas of specialization are econometrics and statistical analysis. A valued member of the department, he taught for over 33 years before retiring in December, 2024.

JOIN US IN HONORING NEWLY-APPOINTED EMERITI

The Executive Board invites you to attend its third annual recognition event honoring faculty who have received emeritus status since January 2025. The program is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in the University Club. A light lunch will be provided.

The Association began welcoming new emeriti faculty with a special event in December of 2023, after realizing that there was no formal campus recognition of this honor. Since then, it has honored more than two dozen faculty, many of whom have been able to attend the programs.

Please put January 23, 2026 on your calendar and join us. A formal invitation will be distributed by email in December.

Deborah Schaeffer
Programs Director

NEW EMERITI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

The Emeriti Association welcomes four new life members–**Choi Chatterjee, Christina Kimm, Chor Swan Ngin,** and **Heidi Paul**, and one new annual member–**Mario E. Castaneda**.

We extend a warm welcome to all of the new members and hope they will join us for our upcoming sponsored events.

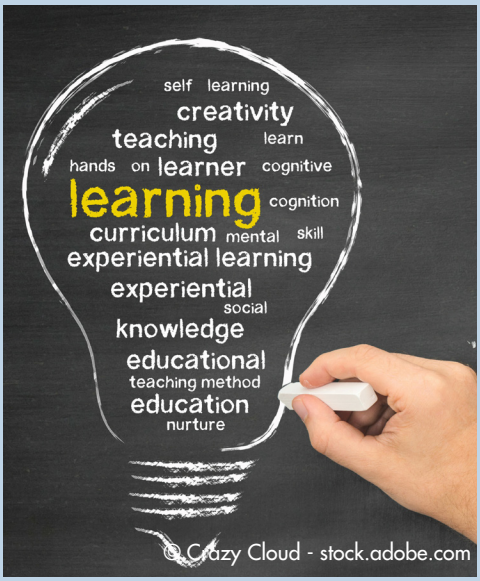
LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEER PRESENTERS

The Lifelong Learning Program (LLP) is an outreach program that arranges for emeriti faculty to give lectures or make presentations for senior communities. This popular program was managed for many years by **Peter Brier** (*English*), who has recently reduced his level of participation. **John Kirchner** (*Geography*), assisted by **Martin Epstein** (*Physics and Astronomy*) and **Stephen LaDochy** (*Geography*), have stepped in to help direct the program.

The topics that are offered are quite varied. For example, LaDochy recently spoke on "The History of L.A. Wildfires". He is the coauthor of the 2023 book, *Fire and Rain: California's Changing Weather and Climate*. Kirchner gave a talk titled "Dinosaurs in the Snow: Getting to Know a Very Different Japan." As a photographer, he has done research on five different continents.

While travel and hobby-related programs are especially popular, we have among us some emeriti with unusual professional skills. In preparation is a future program by **Susan Kane** (*Music*) is planning a future program entitled, "Opera and the Power of the Human Voice." It will weave together education, live performance, and audience engagement.

Retired faculty are encouraged to volunteer to speak on a chosen topic. Contact John Kirchner. If selected, you will receive an honorarium for each presentation.



John Kirchner
Geography



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

2025-26 FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS TO BE HONORED AT ONLINE EVENT

Twenty-three students were selected to receive scholarships and fellowships administered by the Emeriti Association for the 2025 – 2026 academic year. Of these awardees, 13 students were selected to receive awards from the association's Emeriti Fellowship Fund, and 10 from separate endowments created by association members or by family and friends of a member. More than 300 applications from students were received, and 22 Emeriti Association members participated in reading the applications to select this year's recipients.

The 23 awardees are scheduled to be introduced and honored in an online Zoom event on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Students will be introduced and provided an opportunity to briefly share information about their background, academic interests, challenges, goals and aspirations. All association members will be receiving a "save the date" notification early in October, and a registration link a few weeks prior to the event.

As in the past, the awardees are impressive in what they have accomplished, the work they are currently doing, and in what they most certainly will accomplish in their respective fields and in the community, in the years to come.

The students selected, their disciplines, and the awards they were selected to receive are listed below.

2025-26 FELLOWSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Emeriti Graduate Fellowship Fund Awards

Blanca Henriquez (*Psychology*)
Asley Ramirez (*Psychology*)
Edward Albert Jaros (*Business Administration*)
Gabriel Sanchez Canizalez (*Communication Studies*)
Michelle Tan (*Counseling*)
Leslie Cano (*Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential*)
Stephanie Wilson (*Pan African Studies*)
Taryn Bates (*Sociology*)

(The following awards honor the contributions to the Emeriti Association and/or the University made by the individuals whose names they bear.)

The Carol Smallenburg Fellowship
Ashley Flynn (*Counseling*)

The Donald Dewey Fellowship
Diana Rangel (*Chicana/o &Latina/o Studies*)

The Freida Stahl Fellowship
Roshan Suja (*Computer Science*)

The James M. Rosser Fellowship
Israel Gutierrez (*Public Health*)

The Sidney Albert Fellowship
Penelope Pearson (*Counseling*)

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NAMED ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The Brodwin Family Scholarship in Rehabilitation Services
Melissa Ledesma (*Rehabilitation Services*)

The Dr. Costello Brown Fellowship
Luis Cruz (*Chemistry*)

The David Cameron Fisher Memorial Scholarship
Karolina Bielec (*Biology*)

The Roland L. Carpenter Memorial Scholarship
Laura Fredricks (*Physics*)

The Bill Darrough, Elenie Pitsiou Darrough, and Athena Fellowship
Dorcia White-Brake (*Sociology*)

The Mary Gormly Memorial Fellowship
Jodi Lacangan (*Art M.F.A.*)

The Dr. Demitrius J. Margaziotis Memorial Scholarship
Aiden Reyes (*Biochemistry*)

The Jane Matson Memorial Fellowship
Connie Mancera (*Counseling*)

The William A. Taylor, Memorial Fellowship
Koelle Rahman (*Physics*)

The Vicente Zapata Scholarship in Public Health
Miao Niu (*Public Health*)

Please plan to log on, November 15, at 3:00 p.m., to meet and hear from an amazing group of students, supported by your generous contributions.

FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

The following donors contributed to the fellowship/scholarship funds in the period since the publication of our last *Emeritimes*. The specific funds that benefited from these contributions are noted below.

Donna and John Cleman

William A. Taylor Memorial Scholarship/Fellowship

Christine Gladish

Emeriti Association – Mary Gormly Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Kevin and Nancy Baaske

Emeriti Association Fellowship Fund Endowment

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.

October 9, 2025

Provost Lattimer, Special Guest Emeriti Executive Committee Meeting

November 11, 2025

Veterans Day - University closed

November 15, 2025

Emeriti Fellowship Virtual Event

November 24-26, 2025

Fall Recess - No classes, University open

November 27, 2025

Thanksgiving Day- University closed

December 24 - January 1, 2026

Campus closed for holiday

January 20, 2026

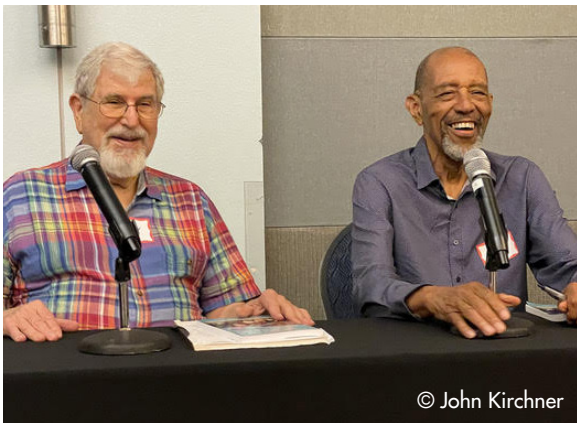
Spring Semester begins

January 23, 2026

Reception for newly appointed Emeriti Faculty

COSTELLO BROWN AND CARL SELKIN FEATURED AT THE ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

The Emeriti Association hosted its annual Spring Luncheon on May 30, 2025, in the Golden Eagle Ballroom and featured a focused conversation by Emeritus Professors Costello Brown and Carl Selkin about Brown's award-winning memoir, *Descendants of a Foot-Warmer: Memories of a Poor Black Southern Family*.


© John Kirchner

In a compelling interview format, Brown recounted several moving, personal stories from his family's history, bringing them to life with vivid detail and passionate storytelling. His reflections—often surprising and always inspiring—captivated the audience from start to finish. The presentation powerfully fulfilled its aim: to preserve and share historical memory by allowing individuals to speak directly from their lived experiences.

One particularly striking family story recounted the origins of the book's title. Brown explained, "Queen—my grandmother—was taken from Africa as a seven-year-old child. Her first job was to lie at the foot of the slave owners' bed to keep their feet warm. That's how she became known as a 'foot-warmer.' Later in life, she could work as hard as any man." Known affectionately as "Big Mama," Queen was a formidable presence in the Brown family and served as an inspiration for her descendants to succeed in life. "Don't grow up to be a foot-warmer," became an enduring inspiration for them. Brown was Big Mana's eldest grandson.

A lively Q&A session followed the presentation, allowing for further conversation and reflection. The audience expressed unanimous appreciation for the event, extending thanks to the Program Planning Committee and the guest speakers for an unforgettable experience.

The day's program began with the introduction of the Emeriti Association Executive Committee, followed by a tribute to Maria Magolske in recognition of her more than 16 years of dedicated support to the association.

Following the luncheon, signed copies of Brown's book were available for purchase.

Susan Kane
Music



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 200 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.

Remarkably Bright Creatures, Shelby van Pelt, Ecco/HarperCollins, 2022.

I came across this book on a list of titles that my library book club was reading this year and the short summary sounded intriguing: one of the main characters was a giant octopus called Marcellus. He and the other main character, Tova, strike up an unlikely relationship when she rescues him from an "outing" outside his tank in the aquarium. We slowly learn about Tova, a fiercely independent recently widowed woman, who also lost her only son 30 years ago under mysterious circumstances. Marcellus realizes that he has the key to what happened to Tova's son, and the story slowly unfolds. In the chapters that are told from Marcellos' viewpoint, we learn about the intelligence of the giant octopus, and read the humorous take on the humans Marcello observes outside his pen in the aquarium. Tova's chapters resonated with me because of the questions she asks herself (who will take care of her possessions when she is gone, where to live, etc.). The remaining chapters are from the perspectives of several other characters whose connections to Tova are slowly revealed. The main themes of the story are friendship, family, and belonging.

Silvia Heubach
Mathematics

The Discovery of France: A Historical Geography, Graham Robb, W.W. Norton & Co., 2007

This wonderful book languished on my bookshelf for some time, largely because the font was rather small and the deeply brown covers were uninspiring. But the charming image of a bicycle rider printed as a map of France on the cover plus the fact that I had twice lived and taught in France lured me in. Just reading and thinking about the parts of France where we lived – Vichy and Clermont – was a treat, but the book covered so much of France that reading it was like returning to all the places that most American tourists never see, or as the UK *Sunday Times* observed, "A dazzling, startling exploration of a rural France few tourists ever knew." Of course, my reminiscences were not what the book was about. Robb's aim is to explore how the France of the 1740s evolved into the France of the 1860s and then the 1940s. Much of the appeal of this exploration is that he covered the grounds of much of his research riding his bicycle. Quirky? Yes. Sometimes ponderous? Yes. But altogether a delightful read.

John Cleman
English

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.

James E. Brady (*Anthropology*) presented a paper with colleagues Amanda Jokela and Michele M. Bleuze on "Rituals and Remains: A Bioarchaeological Analysis of a Deflocculation Unit from the Cueva de Sangre" at the 90th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (Denver, CO, April 2025) This paper and others were funded by a grant from the CSU Emeriti, Faculty, and Staff Association (ERFSA) to cover the cost of radiocarbon dating run on human skeletal remains that he recovered as director of the Petexbatun Regional Cave Survey (National Geographic, February1993)

Domita Dumitrescu (*Modern Languages and Literatures*) published a review of the book, *Dictionar de pragmatica si de analiza a discursului* (DPAD), ed. by Liliana Ruxandoiu, in *Studia Lingüística Romanica,* 2024.6, pp.74-78. She also presented the paper "Sutilezas ortográficas: ¿Si o Sí?" at the Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) (Panamá City, Panamá, June 2025) and participated in the round table "Aspectos sociolingüísticos de la enseñanza del español en los Estados Unidos", organized on line by the Centro De Estudios de la Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española (CEANLE) on March 29, 2025.

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

"Renewment" is the Key to a Successful Retirement

Recently, I saw the film "The Last Class with Robert Reich." The renowned professor, lawyer and political commentator talked about aging during the Q&A that followed. He is in the group of people I will call the "never retired."

In contrast, I'd say that I am in the group of people who "live it up in retirement!" While I consider myself to be a lifelong learner as well as a lifelong educator, I don't have a "last class" where I spend time reflecting on my past. I am going a different route.

I'll never forget my first year at Cal State LA in 2001 when I saw a group of older people leaving what turned out to be an Emeriti meeting with the Chancellor. I was thrilled to see elders on campus. Little did I know at that time that I would be kicking off a lifelong learning program that's still active 20 years later. Nor did I expect that one day I would be walking out of emeriti gatherings with fellow elders. At 71, I feel like I'm in the prime of my life, which ironically is a prime number.

I joined Renewment in 2020 when I was contemplating retirement, but not yet fully retired, and met women at different points on this same journey near and post retirement. My transition to full retirement took several years because my final academic position involved working with PhD students and remaining on academic committees. During my first summer of retirement (2022) I vowed not to make any commitments to do anything new, but I gave in to the opportunity to co-edit a book with my mentor in resilience, Professor Emerita Roberta Greene. Now 85, her latest book on resilience narratives was published this year. Later, I decided to host "Beach Bum Mondays" in Santa Monica to hang out with friends and experience a more leisurely life.

In 2023, a year after my official retirement from Fielding Graduate University, I was on a panel of women speaking at an annual Renewment event. We were all in different phases of retirement, with me representing the "in the thick of it" phase. I shared my desire to take up pickleball (which I haven't done) and to learn to play the harmonium (which I have).

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For me, the most difficult part of retirement is balancing "doing" and "being." In many ways, I'm in the "doing" phase of retirement. I'm in a yoga teacher training program. I travel to see family around the country and ashrams around the world. However, it's the "being" part of retirement that has been the most rewarding and also challenging. Sitting by the water with no agenda, walking on a pier awaiting surprises (in Venice Beach there are often many) and being aware that each breath is a gift.

So back to Robert Reich, who cited psychoanalyst and artist Erik Eriksen's concept of "generativity" in older age, I realize that my biggest desire now is to contemplate, not generate. Maybe "to be" is "to do" what arises spontaneously when I can, and therein lies the gift.

Connie Corley
Social Work

Retirement Makes Gardening, Pickleball, and Other Interests Possible

After retiring, I moved from Pasadena to Poway, located in northern San Diego County. This is where my husband lived, and by moving to Poway, we finally got to cohabitate instead of having an extended-weekends marriage. This move brought additional positive changes: a house with a garden that allows me to grow veggies, less traffic, while still being at a distance that allows me to continue my friendships in the LA area.

To get to know some people in Poway, I signed up for classes with the Poway Unified School District Extension and took water aerobics, intro to guitar, and pickleball lessons last summer. Friends had tried to introduce me to pickleball for many years, but while teaching, I never found the time to try it. The 6-week beginner's pickleball course I took with my husband was a great introduction to the game. Through the course we met a couple with whom we not only have played pickleball once a week for a whole year but also started to meet for (board) game nights once a month.

I also volunteer in the Backyard Produce Project on Monday mornings. Almost every day of the week, volunteers work for about an hour in the gardens to plant, raise, and harvest vegetables that are then given to an organization that distributes them to low-income families and seniors in the community. It is great to start the week with an early morning hour in the garden, seeing plants through the whole cycle from planting to harvest. The project consists of three gardens, which are tended to by individual garden groups. I was lucky that I was assigned to the very social Monday group, which socializes and helps each other as needed across the gardens. And afterwards, there is always a group of us that goes out for coffee. I learn a lot from the work in the garden and from the other volunteers that I then can use for my own vegetable garden. So far, I have experimented with just a single planter, with varied success. For one thing, it helps to realize that in California there are two planting seasons, unlike in my native Germany. Winter plants do not do well in the hot summer months! When I am in either my little garden or in the volunteer garden, I feel the connection to my grandmother and aunts, many of whom had large vegetable and flower gardens when I was a kid. We plucked berries and carrots fresh from the garden – a feast for the taste buds.

I also do more mathematics research than when I was teaching. I have weekly meetings with a long-time collaborator and a PhD student from India. It is really enjoyable to have time to spend on a challenging problem and then to find a solution. While teaching, it was difficult to find these longer stretches of time to think deeply. And finally, I got involved with the Emeriti Association, and it is nice to continue to work with faculty who have shared my life at Cal State LA over the years and to make new friends.

Silvia Heubach
Mathematics

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Reflections: Nurses on the Frontlines During the Pandemic

A public reading by six nurses who wrote reflections of their experiences during the COVID pandemic was held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at the Ensemble Theatre, an intimate venue in Atwood Village.

This was a powerful and moving evening as these nurses shared their stories from the heart of the pandemic. After participating in a series of intensive writing workshops designed to explore their vital roles and process their experiences, these dedicated healthcare professionals read their original works to the community.

As the current director of the Chin Family Institute for Nursing (CFIN) at Cal State LA and emerita professor, I was happy to collaborate with Leilani Squire, an award-winning playwright writing coach, in developing a writing workshop after a chance meeting at a Veteran's conference. Leilani has worked with Veterans for years through her non- profit, "Returning Soldiers Speak."

After a proposal was written and approved by CFIN for funding, nurses were notified of the opportunity at all of the hospitals and medical centers in LA County. Six nurses volunteered to participate for these free 3- hour writing workshops, held on campus in the CFIN office for seven Tuesdays, every two weeks.

Using prompts, Leilani was able to elicit poignant descriptions of the nurses' experiences with patients who were hospitalized with COVID, as well as humorous stories of issues they encountered. The culminating reading event offered a unique opportunity to bear witness to their resilience, courage, and voices. After the reading, the nurses engaged in guided dialogue with the audience members.

To listen to Leilani and Lorie being interviewed, as well as to hear excerpts from the reading you may go to this nursing podcast.

Lorie Judson
Nursing

Finding Ways to Help Others, with Banjo at My Side

Retirement came easily to me. After I left Cal State LA, I worked at Fielding Graduate University as an associate dean and faculty member. I took early retirement, after 20 years at Cal State LA, when I was 50. At Fielding, I arranged for a gradual retirement, so that I had fewer and fewer mentees over a three-year period until I had graduated all my doctoral students. It was easy until it was over, then I was faced with the "What the heck do I do now" problem, as I was 75 and still kicking.

I cast around for things that called to me. I had become an expert on death and dying after writing four editions of a textbook on adult development, so I joined Hospice of Santa Barbara as a volunteer and have served several clients since then. During my first stint at Hospice, I authored a popular book, published by Fielding, called *Living Well, Dying Well*, which is available on Amazon ($9.99 for an electronic copy) and began giving talks around Santa Barbara on grieving and personality style. My goal here is to make Santa Barbara a better place to die!

I also realize that my new pup, Banjo, had the temperament of a "working dog," as his trainer put it. I joined Love on a Leash, a national program for certifying pets for work as therapy dogs. Of course, I became the chapter leader in a short while (because anybody that steps up gets the job and I could not stand the disarray the chapter was in without a leader). Today, Banjo and I bring a lot of joy to kids at UCSB during finals and midterms, kids at Anacapa School (a private elementary school), folks at Misson Terrace nursing home, and private clients through Hospice that want visits from a therapy dog. The joy of our clients brings joy to Banjo and me every day.

Then, I was asked to join the board of the local neighborhood association. I signed on, and, of course, I was the secretary before long. Right now, we are especially mindful of the L.A. fires and are helping our neighbors prepare for the worst while we hope for the best. I have taken a post as a "Block captain" for the effort to

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achieve Firewise certificates for our neighborhood. I am hoping this post includes a red fireman's hat and a badge!

All these jobs keep me busy and happy with myself for finding ways to fill my time that are rewarding for me and helpful to others. Of course, being 81 this year, I spend a lot of time at the gym keeping myself strong enough to lift my 32-pound pooch onto the bed of someone who adores dogs but cannot get out of bed at Mission Terrace. It's a good life for now, and with my work on death and dying, I hope I will be well prepared at the end of it! You can find my website with a number of short articles on death and dying at www.dyingwithwisdom.com.

Judy Stevens Long
Psychology

REFLECTIONS ON THE RECENT FIRES

The Night of the Fires

January 7

We had just finished dinner when our neighbor called. "Look out back!" The sky was red. The wind was fierce. It was time to go.

We had the Watch Duty app and checked but there was no evacuation warning for our neighborhood. We left anyway, pets and all.

We went to Bernie's work at Cal State LA where we could follow the news. For the next few hours there was no evacuation warning for our neighborhood.



January 8

Around midnight we realized we couldn't stay at Bernie's workplace. Since there was still no evacuation warning, we went back home. The streets were empty except the branches and flying debris from the crazy winds. We could see the mountain burning.

When we arrived back home, the sky up the street was red and the wind had changed direction. It was now coming from the mountain towards us, making the cold night warm from the fire. There was no power at our house. We took turns staying awake and checking Watch Duty on our phones. We sat in the dark holding hands and dozing off, but we were scared.

Finally, at 3:25 am, it came: the mandatory evacuation warning. The loud push of sound that said, "Go Now!" We jumped up, panic shooting through our systems. It was hot outside! Sparks were flying sideways into us. There was no one on our street at all. As we headed down the street, branches and power lines were flying, waving and curling around everything. Our street, Santa Rosa, was blocked by fallen burning trees so we had to back up the hill to Altadena Drive. Lake was clogged with emergency vehicles, so we had to go west to go down.

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At the convention center we asked the police where we could go to stay in the car with our pets. They recommended the Rose Bowl parking lot. We headed there through the wind, smoke, and traffic. Exhausted and terrified, we drove through the night.

The Rose Bowl was just too smokey to rest or breathe, so we headed south and parked at the South Pasadena old Trader Joe's Parking Lot around 4 a.m. We couldn't rest but we sat in silence. When the sun came up, we started looking for a hotel. We drove by Hotel Dena and saw there were lots of dogs, it was worth a try.

The lobby was already packed with people and pets. Everyone was exhausted from being up all night, evacuating to nowhere.

After a few hours waiting in the parking garage, however, we left and tried to get home. As we got closer, we saw houses all around us were burning. There was no wind, just house after house on fire. Realizing we were in danger we turned around and got out of there.

January 9

The text message coming from our neighbor was just a photo: the sun shining over our little house... it was still standing!


© Nelson Morales

Postscript: Focusing on the Angels

Hmmm, are the fires over? I feel like I'm still right in the burn zone. I took a workshop at the Altadena Library by Project Hope from Washington D.C., that was held in the area to help us cope. They said that as long as we are still not back into our homes, we are still essentially evacuating, still fleeing from the trauma. I could understand that. It's been almost six months, and we are not close to moving back into our damaged home. Maybe December?

Most people feel that the fires are over, but those of us who have lost our homes or are still displaced due to the damage, are busy daily with insurance, contractors, grant-writing, disaster relief activities, finding places to live, finding clothes to wear, adjusting to life in a new place, taking care of kids in a new school, accepting donations, making donations, etc. If, like me, one is going up to your affected house almost daily, then you are driving through the devastated landscape, breathing the toxic air, celebrating when a lot gets cleared, upset at the loss of the beautiful trees, astonished at the unobstructed mountain and city views, grieving and celebrating daily. It is an extreme life of high highs and low lows.

Here are a few things I've learned since January 7:

1. The workers in the area are deeply affected by the devastation and only want to help. I was sitting outside my house, waiting for a contractor to arrive one morning, when I heard a tap at my window. The worker for the electric company was standing there. I got out of the car, and he said, "We are about to turn on your power! Every night when I leave this area, I get so sad to see how dark it is up here. Today we turn on the lights!" I told him my electricity to the house was turned off. He helped me turn it on and we danced together in the driveway when I turned on my porch light for the first time in months!

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2. A fire can be so hot that the heat can penetrate your window and start your curtains on fire without breaking the window. That's why you should take the curtains down when evacuated for a fire. Yes, that was our house. Firefighters broke out our windows to put out the fire inside.
3. Smoke, soot, and ash are three different things. Who knew?
4. Lead and heavy metals that get released in an urban fire can contaminate through wood.
5. The angels in the world outnumber the demons by far!

We are so grateful to be alive and able to clean, repair, and repopulate our home, eventually. I'm reaching out to my neighbors as much as I can. I'm taking care of myself as well as I can. Hopefully we'll be able to start repairs and cleaning soon. Until then, I'm focusing on the angels.

Susan Kane
Music

My Palisades Fire Experience

On January 7 at 11:30 a.m. my wife and I very quickly evacuated our house in Pacific Palisades, taking very little with us. From what we had read and seen on TV in the next two days we were almost certain that our house had been totally destroyed, but late in the day on January 9 we learned from a neighbor who had snuck back in on foot to Pacific Palisades that both her house, ours, and several homes around ours were all standing and essentially had no structural damage.

There was presumed to be toxic smoke damage, which was later confirmed by environmental testing, and all utilities were shutoff. We anticipate that we will not be able to safely move back into our house until late August. After living in a hotel and two Airbnb apartments we moved into a comfortable apartment in Santa Monica, relatively close to our house and about a mile from the beach. When we do move back in it will be to an area devoid of much of the commercial infrastructure that served our community and with large areas of Pacific Palisades consisting of vacant lots. Fortunately, we have very good insurance coverage and will not have any substantial out of pocket expenses.

Several years ago, having survived a brush fire evacuation order, we digitized all our photos and home videos and placed digital copies of these materials along with other important documents into safe deposit boxes, boxes that in fact did survive the January 7 fire even though the banks they were in were totally destroyed. As we now start the extensive process of having our house thoroughly cleaned, its cleanable contents cleaned, replacing items like sofas and beds that can't be cleaned and going through a triage process of saving some books and papers, I realize that I am experiencing in part what any older person does who decides to move into another dwelling after having lived in their current home for many years. And although the items that I have accumulated over the years define in part who I am I am trying not to be too concerned about parting with some of them and to Not be Possessed by My Possessions.

Marty Epstein
Physics

Black Smoke Covered Everything

The morning of January 7, I was awakened by my son, who came to tell me about the mandated order to evacuate from my home. He said the house was subject to being destroyed by fire. I told him I did not believe it, and I was not ready to leave my bed. I turned to resume sleep, and he again said, "Daddy, we have to leave here". There was a non-negotiable tone in his voice; so, I reluctantly and indifferently said "Ok, we can go."

I was shocked and fully awake when I opened the door and saw nothing. I saw nothing because there was blackness covering everything. I could not see my yard; I could not see the street: I could see nothing. The blackness was caused by black smoke flowing down from the mountains; and there were fire sparks floating in the air. I opened the car door, and a spark quickly dropped into the floor of the car.

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Driving from the Altadena area and crossing Woodbury, the street that separates Pasadena and Altadena, there was darkness covering all buildings, cars and trees. The fires had burned trees and caused them to fall into the streets. The darkness hid the trees; thus, I had to drive slowly and carefully.

My son and I decided to check into a motel and rest. A few minutes before noon, we decided to return to the house. When we crossed Woodbury and entered Altadena, we saw catastrophic scenes. Houses, businesses, vehicles, and trees were completely destroyed by the fire. As we drove toward my house, we continued to see fire destruction in every block along our way. There was a deep dread inside my heart and mind. I was afraid to think that my house had been destroyed. I did not want to know.

But yes, we soon confirmed that the fire destroyed my house. Parked in front, I did not see my white house, with black trim and a bright red door designed by my late wife. I saw black ashes. My house was completely burned to the ground.

I could not connect the terrible sight with the treasured furnishings in my home. The recently purchased washing machine, refrigerator, the kitchen appliances, my home office furniture and bedroom furniture, my dining room table and chairs, certificates, licenses and family and friends' portraits on the walls, my wife's creative art drawings, her doll houses and my mother's 1930 high school graduation picture. All were ashes.

Through the years, some of my house furnishings have had treasured attachments with Cal State LA faculty friends. Robert Hahn was comfortable in my living room seat as he talked about his community projects that provided tutorial help to school children in the area. Wanna Zinsmaster shared children's story books with my wife, a school librarian. Dale Knapp and Dean Vairo swam in my pool. Richard Rundle assisted in the construction of a glass showcase that displayed my wife's miniature doll craft. Marian Wagstaff gave my wife a beautiful baby doll that was also in the glass showcase. Fernando Hernandez installed an air conditioner in my wife's arts and crafts studio. Additionally, he installed a computer and printer in my home office. Certificates of appointments to the California State Bar Examiners Committee and the California Medical Board were on the wall. Former faculty member, Senator Theresa Hughes, had arranged these appointments. President Rosser signed my emeritus faculty certificate, which I proudly displayed on the wall. The Altadena fire destroyed all of these treasured items.

But the fire did not destroy my memory of my faculty friends. After the fire, there is silver in the ashes. My affiliations—Pasadena Elks, the California State Bar, my church, friends and close acquaintances—have provided me financial and emotional stability. My insurance company is covering hotel expenses and the total cost of rebuilding and furnishing my home.

My house burned, but I didn't. I thank God for my life.

James Bolton
Curriculum & Instruction

A Beloved Harp Finds a New Home

During the January fires, we found ourselves one block below the mandatory evacuation zone. At 4 a.m., the main thoroughfare was closed to allow emergency vehicles unrestricted access to the fire zone and we learned that the power was being shut off, so we decided to voluntarily evacuate. My anxious stepdaughter and her husband were ready to receive us, our emergency bags, and lab-pit bull mix—with open arms. We stayed with them for the week, after which I returned to a cold, ash-covered house with lots of wind-blown debris in the yard. I spent one day clearing away the most accessible of the debris and restoring heat to the house for my quite senior partner's return. Our HVAC service provider, Gem Plumbing, stopped by and replaced the smoke-laden filters so that the furnace would stop blowing smoke-scented air throughout the house.

With the house sorted and warmed, I decided it was time to clear much of the clutter that had accumulated over the years. One notable problem was Ron's late wife's folk harp, an object of sentimental value but unplayed for years and now sporting a broken string. The thought of the harp slowly decaying in the corner

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where it rested was painful, but leaving it to the vagaries of some thrift-store donation box would be a greater pain. Fortunately, I happened to be chatting with Susan Mohini Kane at the Emeriti Spring Luncheon, and she said that her post-fire experience involved connecting donated musical instruments with musicians who had lost theirs in the fires. At her suggestion, I sent a few pictures of the harp to her and within days, she announced the happy news that a young engineer working for NASA/JPL, who had lost everything in the Altadena fires, was looking for a folk harp for his seven-year-old daughter, and the very next day he and his lovely family stopped by to accept the harp. We now know that the harp will be properly restrung and played by someone who will love and cherish it.

Martin E. Huld
English

Reflections on Decluttering and a New Mortgage

So finally, the denouement of my post-wildfire winter and spring of discontent. I went from needing possibly invasive smoke remediation with a landlady who had the wrong kind of insurance to needing to see if I could qualify for a mortgage after my landlady announced she was going to sell the townhouse and wanted to sell it to me. And freaking out at the thought of possibly having to move after 32 years. But also freaking out at the thought of having my way-under-market rent more than double with mortgage payments if I made the purchase. I have been preoccupied with that dread since late February, when she informed me of her decision.

I became more serious about decluttering and investigated near and not so near rentals while waiting to see what was out of my hands. I still proceeded as if I would have to move without enough time to adequately downsize. (Have I mentioned that I have 32 years' worth of stuff?)

However, it became clear to me that my least bad option was to buy my townhouse. Rentals are expensive, they often don't include a garage, and many have less square footage. I was mourning my possibly having to leave Pasadena/Altadena. These last few months have been stressful, what with scraping together what I needed to buy my townhouse "as is," finding affordable—or any—insurance in “fire country”, executing a purchase agreement, and going through escrow. But escrow closed on June 30, and I am finally, and unexpectedly, a homeowner. My friends and acquaintances are in various stages of remediation or rebuilding but are doing pretty well, considering.

On Memorial Day, my cousin, who was visiting from Las Vegas, wanted to visit what remained of her childhood home on Christmas Tree Lane and so I made the drive I had purposely avoided. It was a very different kind of Memorial Day, visiting a few friends' houses to pay my respects (I still say houses because the ghosts are there in my head.) I found myself photographing scenes to personally memorialize Altadena, my tribute to both the destruction and the signs of grit and rebirth I saw. I'm a firm believer in documenting all that was lost and found.

Postscript: My Fire Lessons

I've been reciting these Fire Lessons randomly the past six months and decided to put them to paper.

Lessons I learned as an evacuee from the Eaton Fire with my house and belongings intact, having abandoned nearly everything but rescued three carloads in the next few days, and having been driven to declutter at my leisure rather than like some of my friends, who remind me that they, too, decluttered—all at once.

1. Just because you bought something long ago and still have it doesn’t mean you have to keep it.
2. Just because somebody gave you something doesn't mean you have to keep it.
3. You can’t carry all your stuff with you wherever you go.
4. Make a list of things you would take, and their location, if you have the luxury of time to rescue things.

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5. Keep things in places where you can find them.
6. It's difficult when you have mostly one-of-a-kind things.
7. Often the least valuable items are the most precious to you.
8. Take pictures of things in the event they are gone. Be prepared to say goodbye.

Ellen Stein
Research & Sponsored Programs

My Small Contribution about the January Fires

The windstorm of January 7 was not as strong as the windstorm of December, 2011, but there was some damage. Lots of trees came down around Temple City while the north winds were howling, branches just missing our car and house. Our lights stayed on, however. In 2011 we were without power for nearly a week and the streets were littered with downed trees. Then, I was correcting papers by flashlight.

But this year it was the fires, not the wind damage, that made the big impacts. Just before midnight. I got a call from my JPL friend, Bill Patzert, in Sierra Madre. He had to evacuate and asked could we put him up for the night. We gladly did. Luckily, he could return home the next day. Smoke and ash and tree branches here were minor compared to what happened to others, but we were glad to help out when we could.

Stephen E. G. LaDochy
Geosciences and Environment

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

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 *CSU Los Angeles 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.



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.

Siegrun Fox Freyss
Professor of Political Science, 1996-2013



The following obituary was prepared by Greg Andranovich.

Siegrun (Siggie) Fox Freyss passed away on June 15, 2025, from complications due to pneumonia. She was 80. Born in Germany, she earned her BA (1967) and MA (1970) in geography (concentration in city and regional planning) from the Technical University, Munich, Germany, and her PhD (1978) in political science from the Claremont Graduate School. Her early academic career took second place behind raising her son, and she joined the faculty of the Department of Political Science at Cal State LA in 1996.

Siggie's academic interests were in local government, politics, and public management best practices, which she emphasized in her teaching. Her undergraduate courses ranged from the GE American Government course (with a service-learning component that was tied to a Carnegie grant in 2001) to required courses in the public administration option of the BA (in public sector and nonprofit organizations) to electives in the major (gender politics; urban politics) and the department's senior capstone seminar. Siggie was a member of the core faculty in the internationally accredited Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, where she taught organization theory, public sector human resource management, public sector labor relations, third sector and nonprofit organizations, public policy analysis, and a suite of research methods courses. She conducted summer

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workshops for visiting Chinese academicians and public administrators in the early 2000s. She served as the director of the MPA Graduate Program after leading the MPA's external accreditation review in 2003-04. She also took charge of the MPA internship starting in 1998 and continued to monitor it until she retired.

Her research appeared in refereed journals, monographs, and as chapters in edited books. Her expertise led to invitations to edit field handbooks (e.g., International City-County Management Association), and ultimately to produce a popular monthly column for the *Public Administration Times Online* under the general title "Paradigm shifts in public administration – Towards new benchmarks and best practices" that ran from spring 2014-2015. In addition, during her FERP years (2013-2018) she edited the Public Sector Human Resources Management section of the *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy and Governance* (Springerlink, 2018), and authored *Changing urban trends: Cultures of decency and well-being from the premodern to the postmodern* (Routledge, 2019).

Her contributions extended beyond our campus. Siggie was active in the Southern California chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and was recognized when she received the Will Baughman Chapter Development Award. She was also active in ARNOVA (Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action). She also was a founding member of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment in the City of Los Angeles. Finally, she served as treasurer of the Monterey Hills Federation. She was socially active at home as well, hosting many parties and an annual Fourth of July barbecue for friends and neighbors. Siggie is survived by her son Harold, his wife, and a grandson. A memorial celebrating her life was held on July 26.

Velma J. Vance
Professor of Zoology, 1956 – 1991



The following obituary was prepared by former student Pat Baird, now a distinguised researcher at Simon Fraser University in Canada, with excerpts written by Vance's family.

Velma J. Vance, Emerita Professor of Zoology, passed away on June 19, 2025 following a very brief illness. She was 97. Vance received a BS degree from the College of Idaho, an MS from the University of Arizona, and a PhD in zoology from UCLA. She was widely published in prestigious journals, including *Science*.

She began teaching at what was then Los Angeles State College in 1956 and retired from Cal State LA in 1991. She taught classes in subjects that included herpetology, survey of the animal kingdom, and vertebrate biology, among others. The overnight field trips for her herpetology class were legendary, especially if students had stayed up late "making noise". In those instances, Vance would wake them up at 5 a.m. with the loud noise of her .357 magnum that she fired into the air. Vance supervised numerous independent studies classes for upper-class students and mentored a number of graduate students including several who went on to academic careers of their own. She also held positions on various interdisciplinary committees that enabled her to weave science with humanities, and she especially enjoyed collaborating with English Professor John (Jack) Rathbun.

Vance was known to have quite the knack for catching reptiles, as she demonstrated one day after

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an off-campus lunch with fellow faculty. As they walked down the hall of the Biology Building, she spotted a Tokay Gecko which had somehow escaped from its cage, and who was just sitting on the floor. They are known to be ferocious biters, but without breaking stride, she scooped it up and placed it back in its cage, all while wearing heels and a dress. In the late 1960s, she was profiled in an article in the *Los Angeles Times* that described an undergraduate course she developed for non-majors about world animals, using the Los Angeles Zoo as a classroom, and which used a book she wrote about zoos as the textbook. Vance enjoyed her teaching career and developed friendships that lasted her lifetime.

Her other passions besides science were cooking and fine wines, and she explored wine regions and new cuisines worldwide. She was a gourmet cook and traveled often to France, Italy, and Spain for weeks-long cooking courses, and later tried these recipes on her friends and family. When she was not traveling for cooking courses, she was traveling for adventure, and she bird-watched all over the globe. She sometimes visited her former students doing field research in places as remote as Kodiak Alaska, where she once landed in a bush plane, then traveled in a 12-foot Zodiac boat to the camp, and then fearlessly climbed a sea stack to band some glaucous-winged gull chicks that were still in their nests.

After her retirement, Vance returned to Idaho where many of her relatives lived, and she shared her knowledge of animals and the environment with them, inspiring multiple generations to share her passion for wildlife. She spent countless hours volunteering at the Boise Zoo, where she built many personal relationships with zoo personnel and volunteers. She was instrumental in the development and successful completion of several exhibit enhancements, including numerous zoo renovations.

Velma is survived by her brother George and nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews. An education fund at the Boise Zoo has been established in Dr. Vance's name, and donations can be made to the "Dr. Velma Vance Fund."

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Stewart Mark Venit
Professor of Mathematics, 1971 – 2009



The following obituary was prepared by Jerry Beer, with considerable input from Venit's daughter Tamara.

Stewart Mark Venit, Professor of Mathematics and recipient of the Outstanding Professor Award for 1981-1982, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Febraury 27, 2025. Stewart is survived by his wife of 53 years, Corinne (né Fong), their daughter, Tamara Venit-Shelton, son-in-law Cameron Shelton, and grandchildren Evelyn, Damien and Elliot Shelton. Tamara is Professor of history at Claremont McKenna College.

Stewart was a native New Yorker. Born on April 4, 1946, he grew up in Queens and for 19 years lived in a house owned by his grandfather. His parents were both public school teachers. He attended the very selective Stuyvesant High School on the lower westside of Manhattan. Subsequently, Stewart attended Queens College, where he graduated as class valedictorian in 1966. Upon his graduation, he enrolled in the PhD program in mathematics at Berkeley which he completed in 1971, writing his thesis under the direction of Stan Osher on the approximate solution of differential equations. His studies at Berkeley were supported by a National Defense Education Act Fellowship, but he also served as a teaching assistant.

Upon finishing his doctorate, Stewart joined the Mathematics Department at Cal State LA as an assistant professor. He married Corinne in 1972 in Tilden Park above the Berkeley hills, and the

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couple maintained a fondness for the East Bay, especially Berkeley and north Oakland. At a young age, he became chair of the Mathematics Department for the period 1980-1983. Many of his professional articles were expository, some of which were coauthored with departmental colleagues Wayne Bishop and Richard Katz. He wrote several well-received textbooks, notably a linear algebra text *Elementary Linear Algebra* coauthored with Wayne Bishop and published by PWS Publishing Company. This text was the required textbook for many years in its required lower-division course in linear algebra. Stewart formally retired in 2009 but subsequently taught in the FERP program.

For his entire career, Stewart was a mainstay of the applied mathematics program, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He was appreciated by his colleagues for his sound judgment, communication skills and clever sense of humor. His student evaluations were phenomenal.

Among Stewart's many passions were international travel with Corinne; model railroads, on which he collaborated with Marshall Cates; photography; major league baseball statistics and trivia; Springer Spaniels; reading; spicy cuisine; Brent's Deli on Parthenia Street; and Fenton's Creamery on Piedmont Avenue.

A celebration of his life was held at his residence in the Hastings Ranch area of Pasadena on May 16, 2025.

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James (Jaime) A. Regalado



Professor of Political Science, 1987 – 2012

The following obituary was adapted from one prepared by the family.

James (Jaime) A. Regalado passed away on June 16, 2025, at the age of 80. He is survived by Rocio, his wife of 26 years; three sons, James Jr., Jay, and Camilo; eight grandchildren; his brother Ray; and his sister Olivia.

Regalado's life was grounded in a deep commitment to education, public service, and social justice. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, earned a PhD in political science from UC Riverside, and a BA and MA from Cal State LA.

As professor emeritus and longtime executive director of the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs at Cal State LA, Jaime helped transform the institute into a statewide leader in nonpartisan policy research, community empowerment, and public dialogue. His efforts to reduce gang violence and foster hope among youth had a tangible, lasting impact across California.

Jaime's scholarly journey also included formative travels to Mexico City, where he conducted research for his dissertation. As a father, he passed on his love of learning and global curiosity through family travels to Europe in honor of his own father's dream to visit England, France, Spain, and Italy—a journey his father never took but which Jaime fulfilled in his memory. Later in life, he traveled to Scotland and the Netherlands to explore his maternal ancestry, seeking the stories and landscapes that helped shape his family's roots.

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A natural storyteller, he recounted his early life in Boyle Heights through tales of his Mexican grandparents, his tight-knit neighborhood, and the many antics he and his brother Ray engaged in as boys. His stories—always rich with humor and heart—reminded those around him of the strength, resilience, and joy that came from growing up in a vibrant multicultural community.

An insatiable reader and thinker, Regalado began each day with his favorite newspapers—the *Sacramento Bee*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, and *Le Monde*. For leisure, he was typically reading two or three books, selecting titles to suit his mood. His literary tastes ranged from the classics—Dumas, Steinbeck, Dickens—to contemporary storytellers like Harlan Coben, Tana French, Haruki Murakami, and Isabel Allende.

He taught at Cal State LA, Cal Poly Pomona, and Occidental College and was a highly sought-after political analyst, regularly offering commentary on television and in the print press on California politics, elections, race relations, and urban issues. He was the founding editor of *California Politics & Policy and California Policy Issues Annual* and served as associate editor of *Urban Affairs Review*. His scholarship and voice shaped conversations across Los Angeles and beyond.

Jaime will be remembered not only for his intellect and public leadership, but also for his warmth, humility, and mischievous sense of humor. He adored his family, especially Sunday gatherings filled with food, conversation, and laughter. He was deeply involved in the lives of his grandchildren and he brought joy to any room he entered.

The Regalado family celebrated Jaime's life and legacy privately.

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Stephen Mulherin
Professor of Geography, 1999 – 2023



The following obituary is from the White Emerson Mortuary, with input from Steve LaDochy.

Stephen Mulherin passed away on March 12, 2025, at the age of 63.

Steve graduated from Washingtonville High School in New York and earned an accounting degree at SUNY Buffalo, but he soon realized that he lacked the passion for a career as a CPA. He left to obtain an MA at the University of Maryland, College Park and a PhD at Ohio State University, both in geography. He felt fortunate to have found close friends at each of these schools and was proud of the lifelong bonds they maintained.

Always fond of traveling, he began teaching at Cal State LA in 1999 after a memorable cross-country road trip. Soon after, Steve met his wife, and they had a son who became his travel buddy. They took road trips as often as possible.

In addition to travel, Steve was proud of his backyard citrus trees and enjoyed sharing his harvest with family and friends in the semi-official "Mulherin Citrus Club". He visited 49 states and was still planning to visit what would have been the last, North Dakota.

Steve chaired the Geography Department from 2018 until his retirement in 2023, when he set out to travel, take photographs, go to the beach, and spend time with friends. His greatest joy in life was

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being a father. He chaperoned all his son's elementary school field trips, took him to swim lessons, and taught him to boogie board. They visited more than a dozen national parks and 25 states, sharing an appreciation for the outdoors and a passion for conserving the environment.

Mulherin is remembered in the department as a wonderful colleague, friendly to all, and as department chair, always maintaining an open door.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Rhonda (Moller) and their son, Aidan, as well as by his younger sister, Tracey, and many close friends.

Ellen King Kravitz
Professor of Music, 1967 – 1999

The following obituary was adapted from one that appeared in the campus newsletter, The Insider for Faculty and Staff.

A former professor of music, Ellen King Kravitz, passed away on May 24, 2025 in Beverly Hills at the age of 95. Her husband, Hilard L. Kravitz predeceased her in 2006, and she is survived by daughters Julie and Heather, stepsons Kent, Kerry, and Jay, as well as many close family members.

Kravitz graduated in 1964 with a BA in music with honors from Georgian Court College in New Jersey and later earned an MM and a PhD in music education, both at USC.

She was hired at Cal State LA as professor of music in 1967 and held positions in the education departments of Immaculate Heart College and Loyola University. She taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in music history from Middle Ages through the 20th Century.

In 1976, she and her husband founded the Friends of Music Cal State LA organization to raise funds for talented music students. Musicales at their home often showcased these students. In addition, she chaired galas at the Dorothy Chandler Music Center to establish endowed scholarships in the name of such celebrities as Susann McDonald and Woody Herman. She retired as professor emerita in 1999.

Kravitz loved to travel with Hilard, especially to France, Spain, and Italy, and she spent winter holidays in Hawaii with her daughters.

Butrus (Peter) Basmaji
Professor of Mathematics, 1969-2005

The following obituary for Butrus Basmaji is submitted by Jerry Beer, with considerable input from Basmaji's son Pierre Butrus.



Butrus (Peter) Basmaji, Professor of Mathematics, passed away on May 29, 2025 in Portland, Oregon at age 84, after having a multitude of chronic medical issues. Basmaji is survived by his son Pierre, Pierre's wife Sara, and their two young sons Augustus and Hugo. Basmaji lived in the same condominium on Canterbury Drive in Culver City for most of his life, and moved to Portland, Oregon in 2024 to be nearer his family as his health declined.

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Basmaji grew up in Aleppo, Syria. His uneducated parents, George and Zakiya Basmaji, were fabric printers; they would press wooden stamps that they would often carve into fabric of various kinds. In fact, his family had been fabric printers for generations. He was the first person in his family to go to college. He attended American University of Beirut, where he received both his BS and MS in mathematics. He received his PhD from the University of Maryland in 1968, writing his thesis on group theory, a branch of abstract algebra.

Basmaji began his career in the Mathematics Department at Cal State LA as an assistant professor in 1969 and retired after 35 years of service. His research papers were of the highest caliber, and he had seven articles published in flagship journals of the American Mathematical Society, including *The Transactions of the American Mathematical Society* and *The Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*. He also published an article in the *American Mathematical Monthly*, the journal of choice for mathematics articles of interest to a broad audience. He was known as a meticulous teacher and was respected for his excellent writing skills. He was quite active in the committee structure of the department. His best friend in the department was his officemate Gordon Nipp, with whom he enjoyed hiking and music. When Nipp moved to a different CSU campus, and Basmaji later shared an office for a time with Grant Fraser.

Basmaji was a connoisseur of classical music, and he had a large collection of recordings in his home. Earlier in his life – especially at American University of Beirut – he was equally interested in film. He went to the gym regularly, as much for social reasons as for maintaining his fitness. He very much enjoyed having lunch with his department colleagues, being particularly fond of Wahib's Lebanese restaurant in Alhambra and El Tepeyac on Evergreen Avenue.

A celebration of his life was held at Chace Park in Marina del Rey on September 1, 2025.

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Alice E. Wroblicky
Surviving Spouse



The Emeritimes has just learned of the passing of Alice E. Wroblicky, age 96, surviving spouse of Physical Education Professor Emeritus Emil Wroblicky, who taught at Cal State LA from 1956 – 1987. No other information has been made available to us.





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!!