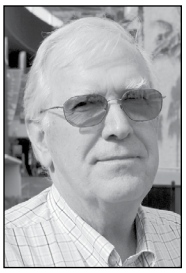
The Emeritimes

Publication of The Emeriti Association **California State University, Los Angeles**

Volume XXXVIII, Number 1 **Fall 2016**

President's Message

The winds of change continue to blow briskly at Cal State LA. With fall comes the return of the semester calendar. The downtown campus is flourishing. Student enrollments have reached an all-time high. We have a new logo (with accompanying new bookstore clothing line), a new athletic director (dedicated to achieving Division I status in some sports), free off-site parking (for the first 200 students to request it), a robust development office (securing major single-donor contributions), various administrative changes (both in personnel and organization), an online scholarship application and review process (work in progress), and 52 new faculty hires (with more promised in the year upcoming) to rebuild the sometimes beleaguered professoriate.



The Emeriti Association is undergoing some transformation as well. At the annual meeting portion of the spring luncheon, the body elected Kathy Reilly as secretary and re-elected Rose-

See PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Page 2

SEMESTERS!!

The first fall semester in 49 years began at Cal State LA on August 22. The total fall headcount enrollment is expected to be 28,452, up from last year's historic high of 27,681. Faculty searches have resulted in 52 new tenure-track faculty across the University's colleges. At the University Convocation on August 18, President William A. Covino welcomed the faculty to the new academic year.

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Visit the Emeriti Association webpage, **http://www.calstatela.edu/emeriti**

Raphael J. Sonenshein to Speak at Luncheon on This Election Season's "Wild Ride"

Raphael J. Sonenshein, executive director of the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute at Cal State LA, will be the featured guest speaker at the emeriti fall luncheon on Friday, September 16. His talk, "The Wild Ride," should be both informative and entertaining considering the events surrounding this election season.



.Courtesy of Cal State LA Public Affairs

Among his many projects at the Institute, Sonenshein directs the PBI Cal State LA Poll, which is exploring participation in Los Angeles County by diverse communities, and the Civic University, a joint project with the Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti to educate members of the community about the workings of local government and how they can influence it.

Previously, Sonenshein served as executive director of the Los Angeles Appointed Charter Reform Commission. The commission helped create a unified charter proposal for the ballot that provided the first successful and comprehensive update to the city's 1925 charter. The charter measure achieved a 60 percent approval at the polls in June 1999. It boosted the mayor's power and led to the

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Fall

LUNCHEON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016
11:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

GOLDEN EAGLE BALLROOM 1
COST: $37 PER PERSON

Send a check made payable to the Emeriti Association, along with your entrée choice: chicken piccata, grilled salmon, or hanger steak, to Marshall Cates, 1036 Armada Drive, Pasadena, CA 91103, ***no later than Saturday, September 10***. For additional information, call Marshall at 626-792-9118 or e-mail him at marshallcates@gmail.com.

Emeriti Association Awards 14 Fellowships for 2016-17

Fourteen fellowships have been awarded for 2016-17, including five named endowed fellowships and nine general emeriti fellowships, three of which are named emeriti fellowships. They were selected by the ad hoc Fellowship Application Review Committee, 11 members of the Emeriti Association who reviewed more than 235 applications. Members of the committee were Alan Muchlinski, Bill Taylor, Dorothy Keane, Janet Fisher-Hoult, Jerry Beer, Joe Casanova, John Cleman, José Galván, Mani Subramanian, Marilyn Friedman, and Alfredo Gonzalez.

Named Endowed Fellowships

Named endowed fellowships are established by an individual, a group of individuals, or a group to honor or memorialize a person or persons specified by the donors. Funds that are donated or raised for a named endowed fellowship are maintained in separate accounts and their use is restricted to the specific fellowship for which they are designated.

The David Cameron Fisher Memorial Fellowship in biology has been awarded to **Ariel Sherman**. Her career goal is to earn a Ph.D. and teach marine ecology at a university or community college. Her interest in this area began as an undergraduate when she had the opportunity to work in a faculty lab and study the evolution of marine invertebrates. As a participant in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participa-

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For information about the Emeriti Association, please call 323-343-3030 or check the Emeriti Association website, http://www.calstatela.edu/emeriti.

President's Message *(Continued from Page 1)*

marie Marshall-Holt as membership secretary, along with Stan Burstein as vice president for administration and yours truly as both president and Cal State LA Academic Senate representative. In the Executive Committee meeting prior to the luncheon, Jerry Beer and Steve Felszeghy were approved as committee members-at-large. Also, Barbara Sinclair, José Galván, and Frieda Stahl have agreed to serve as corresponding secretary, database coordinator, and *The Emeritimes* Editorial Board chair, respectively. I want to welcome the new members of the Executive Committee and express my thanks to all, including the continuing members, for their willingness to serve the Association and the University. I also wish to express my appreciation to Hildebrando Villarreal, Margaret Jefferson, Marilyn Friedman, and Roberto Cantú for their contributions to the Committee's work. Finally, I want to congratulate Harold Goldwhite on his appointment as executive director of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (CSU-ERFA). This is a position of considerable importance in the statewide organization that promotes the interests of CSU retirees, and his selection not only brings honor to him but also to the Cal State LA Emeriti Association.

Our scholarship/fellowship program has also undergone some changes, due in part to a new electronic application and review process. As is typical with the implementation of new systems, there were a number of problems that caused us to have to honor the 2015-16 awardees at the spring instead of the fall luncheon. We adjusted by inviting three previous fellowship recipients to speak at the fall event, and in response to the popularity of their talks, we included a previous winner to speak at the spring luncheon along with the current awardees. At the fall luncheon, we will award 14 fellowships for 2016-17, and our featured speaker, Raphael Sonenshein, promises to be (once again) spellbinding in his analysis of the presidential election. Hearing the students speak about their academic and professional plans and what our award means to them has always been impressively moving, one of the best things we do, so we urge all emeriti to attend the luncheon and bring a guest.

In support of the fellowship program, the Executive Committee launched a fundraising campaign designed to enable the Association to award all of the endowed scholarships and fellowships at a meaningful level every year. Members were sent a solicitation letter followed up by a phone call from a Cal State LA student, and thanks to the generosity of so many, we have at this point raised more than $30,000. Our goal was $50,000, so we would welcome any contributions from those who may have missed or forgotten the solicitation but still wish to be included in this effort.

In addition to organizing luncheons, awarding fellowships, publishing *The Emeritimes*, distributing the directory, and maintaining the Association website, the Executive Committee has begun exploring new ways for it to serve the Association, the emeriti, and the University. We have been gaining visibility by participating in Honors Convocation and Commencement ceremonies, serving as banner holders and escorts. For several years, the Emeriti Association has been a co-sponsor of the Gigi Gaucher-Morales Memorial Conference, organized by emeritus professor Roberto Cantu and including as presenters Cal State LA emeriti. This year's conference was devoted to the work of the distinguished journalist, novelist, short story writer, folklorist, and professor of English and anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin, Américo Paredes. The well attended, two-day event featured presentations by distinguished scholars from major American universities and panel discussions led by director-producer Robert M. Young and actor Edward James Olmos. Also of special note, physics emeriti Bill Taylor and Marty Epstein successfully applied through the Chancellor's Office to receive a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) student to help their department establish contact with alumni and thereby facilitate networking, internships, and mentoring for existing and future majors.

All the activities above are examples of some of the ways emeriti continue to serve Cal State LA, and the Executive Committee would appreciate hearing suggestions of other ways it and the Association can engage emeriti in service to Cal State LA and its students. Or to put the question somewhat differently, what do you think the Emeriti Association could be doing for emeriti and the University that it is not now doing? We welcome your input.



Fundraising Appeal is a Success!

Thank you to everyone who responded to our fundraising appeal. Your total donations of more than $32,000 put the Emeriti Association well on the way to our $50,000 goal to replenish our fellowship and scholarship endowments. If you have not contributed, if you are inspired to contribute again, or if you have friends who might like to contribute, no amount is too small. Every contribution makes a difference in the academic success of our talented fellowship and scholarship recipients.

Professional and Personal

Walter Askin (Art) was honored by the California Art Education Association with the creation of a scholarship in his name for an outstanding art student.

Alfred Bendixen (English) is now teaching at Princeton University where his wife, **Judith Hamera** (Dance, 1988 to 2005) is a tenured professor of dance. His most recent books are *The Cambridge History of American Poetry*, edited with Stephen Burt of Harvard, Cambridge University Press, 2015 and *A Companion to the American Novel*, Blackwell, 2012. He continues to direct the activities of the American Literature Association, which he founded as a faculty member at Cal State LA.

Roberto Cantú (Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies/English) edited two books in 2016: *Equestrian Rebels: Critical Perspectives on Mariano Azuela and the Novel of the Mexican Revolution* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, July 2016) and *The Forked Juniper: Critical Perspectives on Rudolfo Anaya* (University of Oklahoma Press, November 2016, issued in hardcover and paperback editions). A review of Rudolfo Anaya's book of poetry, *Poems From the Río Grande*, was published in *World Literature Today* (May 2016), and a book review of Alfredo Véa's novel, *The Mexican Flyboy*, was also published in *World Literature Today* (September 2016). Cantú was elected to the editorial board of the University of Oklahoma Press, Chicana and Chicano Visions of the Américas Series. As project director of the Gigi Gaucher-Morales Memorial Conference Series, he organized the 2016 Conference on Américo Paredes: Border Narratives and the Folklore of Greater Mexico, held at Cal State LA on May 6 and 7.

Neda Fabris (Mechanical Engineering) has coauthored (with Richard Lopez) the second edition of *Material and Processes for NDT Technology*, published by The American Society for Nondestructive Testing, 2016. She wrote 10 chapters on materials and processing,while Lopez wrote three chapters on nondestructive testing methods (NDT), NDT applications, and NDT and engineering. She is listed in *Croation Encyclopedia of Bosnia and Hercegovina,* Volume 2, 2015 Edition.

Send information about your activities, both professional and personal, to The Emeritimes *in care of the editor. We want to hear from you!*

Harold Goldwhite Appointed Executive Director of CSU-ERFA

At the spring 2016 CSU Emeriti and Retired Faculty Association (CSU-ERFA) state council meeting, Harold Goldwhite was approved unanimously as the new executive director of the organization. The two-year term began on July 1.

Goldwhite, Cal State LA professor emeritus of chemistry, succeeds CSU Northridge's Don Cameron, who completed eight and one-half years in that role. The author of seven books and over 100 articles, Goldwhite won the campus Outstanding Professor Award and was the Trustees' Outstanding Professor of the CSU. He chaired the Cal State LA Academic Senate as well as the statewide Academic Senate, and was the faculty trustee for five years. He lives close enough to the Northridge campus for the central office to remain in the same location.

Aside from day-to-day management, the executive director assists the officers in communicating with the state legislature and CalPERS about issues that affect CSU retirees. Prior to Cameron, Cal State LA's own Bob Kully (Speech Communication) was executive director of CSU-ERFA for many years.

Billie Jean King Gala Set for October 22

On October 22, the 19th Annual Billie Jean King and Friends Gala will be held at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. This year, George L. Pla, Cal State LA alumnus and president/CEO of Cordoba Corporation, will receive the Joe Shapiro Humanitarian Award in recognition of his humanitarianism, leadership, and vision. Former Los Angeles Dodger Steve Garvey, National League MVP and 10-time All Star, will receive an L.A. Sports Legend Award. Cal State LA president emeritus James M. Rosser will be honored with a special tribute.

The evening will also include an auction of trips and other unique items. Event proceeds benefit Cal State LA student-athlete scholarships.

For information, contact Cal State LA Athletics, 323-343-3080.

Emeriti Association Gains Four New Members

Four retired members have recently joined the Emeriti Association.

MARTIN HULD
(Life Emeritus Member)

EDWARD MALECKI
(Annual Emeritus Member)

ALAN MUCHLINSKI
(Life Emeritus Member)

GLORIA ROMERO
(Annual Emerita Member)

We welcome them and look forward to their participation in Association activities.

Emeriti Fellowships for 2015-16 Awarded at Spring Luncheon



(L. to r.): Alfredo Gonzalez, Fellowship Committee chair; fellowship recipients José A. Pérez, Claudia Camacho-Trejo, Meher Beigi Masihi, Amalia Castaneda, Leah Zeller, and James Steele; and John Cleman, Emeriti Association president.

Campus News

Nancy Wada-McKee Named VP, Student Life

Nancy Wada-McKee, who most recently served as senior associate vice president for enrollment management, was appointed as the vice president for student life, formerly student affairs, effective March 1, 2016. In her previous position, she launched several initiatives that strengthened enrollment services, including a highly successful Preview Day and changes in orientation that made student experiences more interactive. She also added new staffing in critical areas, streamlined the admission evaluation processes, and improved customer service in the Financial Aid area.

Scott R. Bowman Appointed Interim AVP, Research and Academic Personnel

Scott R. Bowman was named interim associate vice president for research and academic personnel, effective July 1, 2016. He has held a variety of leadership positions on campus, most recently interim dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences. During his tenure as dean, he hired 29 new faculty members, expanded the scope of the College's participation in civic-related activities, and worked with deans in the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology and the Charter College of Education to help faculty secure grants totaling over $15 million. These same interdisciplinary collaborations gave birth to the Center for the Advancement of Urban STEM Education (CAUSE). Bowman joined the Department of Political Science at Cal State LA in 1997. Prior to being appointed interim college dean in January 2014, he was chair of the Department of Political Science. Bowman replaced Philip S. LaPolt, who assumed the position of dean of the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences at CSU Dominguez Hills.

Karin Elliott Brown Named Dean, Graduate Studies

Karin Elliott Brown was appointed permanent dean of graduate studies, effective July 1, 2016. She has served as interim dean since 2014. Prior to that, she served as associate dean of graduate studies, director of the bachelor's degree program in social work, and department chair and director of the School of Social Work. She has served on numerous university, college, and school committees, including the Faculty Policy Committee, Fiscal Policy Committee, Institutional Review Board—Human Subjects, WASC Committee, Provost's Council, Graduate Advisory Council, and College of Health and Human Services Chair's Council. The Office of Graduate Studies has also been restructured. Responsibility for graduate admissions has moved to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment. The dean, who will now report directly to the provost, will be responsible for program review, assessment, and accreditation.

Pamela Scott-Johnson Named Dean, College of NSS

Pamela Scott-Johnson was appointed dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences, effective August 1, 2016. She comes to the University from the College of Liberal Arts at Morgan State University, where she was its interim dean. She served on the faculty of Spelman College from 1993 to 2002, and on the faculty of Morgan State from 2002 to 2013. At Morgan State, she chaired the Department of Psychology and was the graduate director of the psychometrics program before becoming interim dean in 2013. Scott-Johnson is a nationally recognized scholar and leader in student learning. She has directed graduate program initiatives to increase the number of underrepresented students in the field of psychometrics and developed curricular mechanisms to establish service learning and civic engagement programs for students.

College of Arts & Letters Makes Administrative Changes

Peter McAllister, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, stepped down as dean, effective July 5, 2016, to devote more time to teaching and scholarship. Under his leadership, the College grew its enrollment, mounted high-quality general education programming in the humanities, opened the state-of the-art Television, Film, & Media Center, and became a GRAMMY Museum educational affiliate. He created many alliances with media industries, and worked with faculty to help launch a new MFA in creative media and a degree completion B.A. in liberal studies for the new downtown campus. After a leave in the fall to revisit his research on motivation theories and effective educational media technologies, he will join the faculty as a music professor in spring 2017. Because a number of executive searches are being conducted this fall, a search for the new dean of the College of Arts and Letters will be postponed until fall 2017. Until that time, Rennie Schoepflin, most recently the director of semester conversion and interim associate provost, will serve as interim dean. He previously served as associate dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences and chair of the History Department. David Connors (Music) is the new interim associate dean, effective July 1, 2016.

Other Academic Affairs Administrative Appointments

The Division of Academic Affairs has had a number of additional administrative changes. **Amy Bippus** has been serving as vice provost for planning and budget since August 2015. She came to the University from CSU Long Beach, where she was the associate dean of enrollment planning and outreach in the College

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Fall Luncheon (Continued from Page 1)

creation of neighborhood councils and area planning commissions.

During his career, Sonenshein has received numerous awards and honors. At CSU Fullerton, he was voted Best Educator and Distinguished College Faculty Member. He received a Wang Family Excellence Award and was one of two co-winners of the Haynes Foundation Research Impact award. One of his research projects was supported by a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to explore the prospects for urban coalitions in an age of immigration. He was the Fall 2008 Fulbright Tocqueville Distinguished Chair in France. He came to Cal State LA in February 2012.

Sonenshein received his B.A. from Princeton University, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from Yale University. He is the author of three books on Los Angeles politics and government. His first book, *Politics in Black and White: Race and Power in Los Angeles*, received the 1994 Ralph Bunche Award from the American Political Science Association as the best political science book of the year on the subject of racial and ethnic pluralism. His second book, *The City at Stake: Secession, Reform, and the Battle for Los Angeles,* combines with *Politics in Black and White* to detail the political history of Los Angeles during the last 50 years. His third book, *Los Angeles: Structure of a City Government*, was published in 2006.

The emeriti and guests will gather at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at noon. Following dessert, this year's emeriti fellowships will be presented. Sonenshein's talk will begin after the awards, closing with a question-and-answer session to end no later than 3:00 p.m.

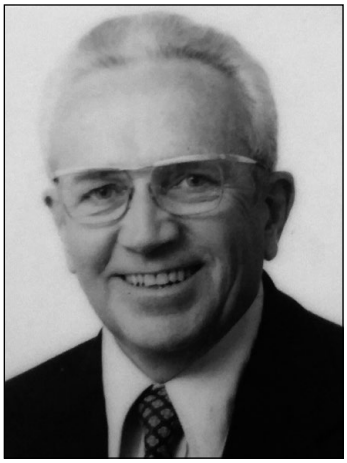
In Memoriam

Francis H. Baxter

Professor of Music, 1950-1978

Francis H. Baxter, emeritus professor of music, died peacefully at home on June 2 in West Covina in the presence of all of his children. He was 102.

Born in El Reno, Oklahoma in 1913, Francis graduated from Wichita North High School and later earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Wichita (now Wichita State) University (1935). He obtained a Master of Music degree



Courtesy of the Baxter Family

from Northwestern University in 1940 and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree with studies in music education and musicology from the University of Southern California in 1960. Prior to moving to California in 1949, he was director of music education for Spokane, Washington public schools.

Arriving at what was then L.A. State College of Applied Arts and Sciences in 1950, Francis headed choral organizations and taught music education, conducting, music history, and theory for nearly 30 years. He is remembered for his campuswide celebration of each winter holiday season, leading a choral group around the campus and through buildings singing Christmas carols. He composed a song every Christmas for many years and sent it on the front of the family's Christmas card. He also wrote the University's alma mater.

For more than 50 years, Francis directed numerous church choirs. After his retirement in 1978, he served for many years as lecturer in ethnomusicology on board several cruise lines and the QE2. As a composer of a series of Chinese songs and arranger of a larger series of ancient Japanese folk songs, he conducted many Chinese choruses in China and Taiwan.

Francis is survived by his brother Stuart, sister Joanna, sons Thurlow and Norman, twin daughters Dawn and Anna, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and extended family and friends. His wife, Pollyanne Baxter, emerita associate professor of music, predeceased him. A celebration of his life was held on July 17 at First United Methodist Church in Whittier.

Four New Emeriti Named

The following recently retired faculty have been awarded emeritus status:

Thomas Barkley, jr.
(Nursing, 2001-2015)

Martin Huld
(English, 1998-2016)

Lorie H. Judson
(Nursing, 1997-2016)

Paula K. Vuckovich
(Nursing, 2003-2016)

We congratulate them and hope to welcome them into the membership of the Emeriti Association.

Robert McCann Fowells

Professor of Music, 1962-1988

Robert McCann Fowells, emeritus professor of music, died on January 25 in Pasadena at the age of 94. He directed several University choral groups, but he is best known as the founder of the Los Angeles Gregorian Institute and Schola.

Born in Portland, Oregon on November 3, 1921, Bob lived his early years on a farm in what was rural Portland. He was the youngest of four children. His time was quiet on the farm, but he remembered fondly his pet pig, Susie, who accompanied him constantly around the homestead as his best friend. His early schooling was in Portland, and he graduated from Franklin High School in 1939. Bob was editor of the high school newspaper and enjoyed attending local concerts and writing music reviews for the paper. He especially appreciated the complimentary tickets and the opportunity to meet and interview famous artists. Following high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

After an honorary discharge from his military service, Bob attended the University of Oregon in Eugene and graduated with a degree in music education in 1947. His first teaching assignment was in Port Angelus, Washington, where he taught for a couple of years until he moved to New York City to attend New York University for graduate study. His dream of studying musicology was fulfilled when he was accepted as a student of the infamous musicology professor Gustav Reese, and Bob finished his master's degree in 1952 with a thesis on the keyboard music of Thomas Tallis.

While completing his thesis at NYU, Bob accepted a teaching position in Richmond, California in 1951, where he taught junior high school choir until 1961. In Richmond, he created the Y-Lions Boys Choir, which spawned several professional musicians, including Cal State LA colleague William Belan. Bob took a sabbatical from Richmond during 1955-56 to meet his residency requirement for the Ph.D. degree in music education at the University of Southern California, which he completed in 1959. His dissertation traced the history of music education in the Los Angeles public schools.

In 1961, Bob moved permanently to Los Angeles and accepted a teaching position at Biola University, followed within two years by a professorship at Cal State LA. He remained in that position until he retired in 1988.

At Cal State LA, Bob directed choral ensembles, the University Chorus, and the Concert Choir; taught classes in music education and choral pedagogy; supervised student teachers; taught graduate classes in music history; and generally served on every committee ever invented at all levels of academic governance.

When he retired, he continued to serve on the board of the Cal State LA Friends of Music as well as provide valued guidance whenever requested to do so. He also served for numerous years on the boards of the Neighborhood Community Music School in Boyle Heights, Musical Theatre Guild of San Gabriel, and San Gabriel Valley Pueri Cantores Children's Choir in West Covina. He continued his love of organ music and historical instruments throughout the United States and Europe. He was passionate about gardening and cooking, and was many friends' favorite dinner invitation.

Bob's lasting legacy is embedded in the numerous students that he championed and mentored, as well as his founding of the Los Angeles Gregorian Institute and Schola. For more than 25 years, he organized study tours to the famous Abbye St. Pierre de Solesmes,

See IN MEMORIAM, Page 6

Reminder: Your Dues Year

The Emeriti Association's fiscal year extends from July 1 to June 30. Dues paid between June 1 and June 30 are credited for the coming fiscal year starting July 1. Dues paid on or before May 31 are credited to the current fiscal year.

In Memoriam *(Continued from Page 5)*

France, where more than 100 students were introduced to the beauty and historical importance of Gregorian chant. The Abbye is designated by the Roman Catholic Church as its official center for the preservation of liturgy, and Bob was intimately associated with the Abbye and its chant masters. Solesmes published Bob's translation, from French to English, of the treatise, *Gregorian Semiology*, written by Benedictine monk Eugene Cardine. He also wrote his own treatise, *Chant Made Simple*, published now in a second edition by Paraclete Press. His first book was a collaborative effort with Cal State LA vocal professor Esther Andreas, *The Voice of Singing*. Chant continues to be taught at Cal State LA through the master's degree program in choral conducting. The Los Angeles Gregorian Schola continues to present concerts under the direction of a mentee. His publications continue to inform the world. And the scores of students and friends who were touched by his life continue to benefit from his wisdom and fond memories.

Bob and his wife, Fran, were married for 51 years, from 1962 to 2013, when she died. They are survived by their two children, Nancy and Mark.

William Keith Henning

Professor of Speech Communication, 1966-2001

William Keith Henning, emeritus professor of speech communication, died on November 30, 2015 at age 75.

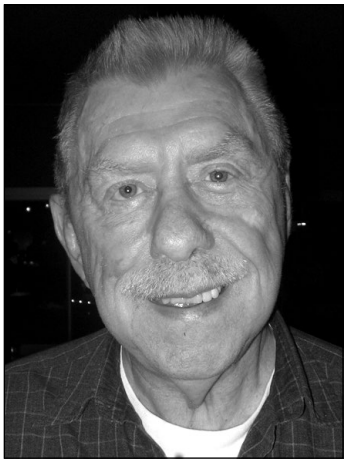
Keith was born on November 2, 1940, on a 160-acre farm in rural Nebraska, to Annemarie and William Henry Henning. The nearest town was Crete, which was five miles away and very small. The youngest of three children, he was known as Bill in his childhood.

Keith's parents and uncles and aunts were all farm people, and they all lived in the vicinity. His family was of German and Austrian heritage and did not show much emotion. If one of the children did something wrong, not a word would be spoken about it; instead, a note would be left out where it was sure to be found by the perpetrator, and the child was expected to correct his or her behavior. It is no wonder Keith became a communication scholar.

Throughout his childhood until he was out of high school, Keith worked on the farm, even though he was not exactly farmhand material. He never really liked the farm, but he did like to milk the cows; he would squirt milk at any stray cats that were hanging around. What he liked most was learning, reading books, performing in school plays, and going to the movies. And he liked teaching. He was always very good at passing on to others the things he had learned.

In 1962, Keith received his B.A. cum laude in English from Doane College in Crete. While he was there, he played the role of the stage manager in a production of *Our Town*. He received his first master's degree in speech communication from the University of Arizona in 1965, Ph.D. in speech communication from the University of Southern California in 1973, second master's degree in counseling psychology from CSU Northridge in 1984, and California State License in Marriage and Family Therapy in 1985.

From the very beginning of his educational career, Keith was a true teacher. He taught senior English composition and literature at Grand Island Senior High School in Nebraska from 1962 to 1964. He was a teaching assistant at the University of Arizona in 1964-65 and an instructor at the University of Maryland in 1965-66 before coming to then Los Angeles State College in 1966 as an assistant professor. In 1974, he was promoted to associate professor, the same year he was also a visiting professor at the University of Colorado. He was promoted to professor in 1980.



Courtesy of Brad Elsinger

Until his retirement in 2001, Keith held numerous leadership positions, including coordinator of the liberal arts program (1972 to 1980) and chair of the Department of Communication Studies (1986 through 1989). He was fully involved in campus life as the faculty adviser of the Golden Key Honor Society and president of the California Faculty Association, and he was instrumental in the establishment of and support for the Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities. He was also one of the principal advisers for the Single Subject Speech Credential B.A.

Keith was very loved by his students, and was recognized and acknowledged many times over the years by his peers. He was known for his sense of humor, mischievous smile, warmth, kindness, and support of junior faculty. His love for Los Angeles was infectious, and he encouraged students and faculty to explore the many facets of the city. While others complained about their noise, Keith's response to the Los Angeles High School for the Arts students who would dance and sing in the hallway outside his office was, "I love the color they bring to the school."

Spiritual life was also very important to Keith. After searching a long time for the right church community, he began attending the North Hollywood Church of Religious Science. In 2002, Keith became a licensed Religious Science Practitioner and remained one until his death. As a practitioner, he was chair of the Creative Arts Ministry from 2003 until 2013.

On New Year's Day 2000, Keith met Brad Elsinger, and Keith fell in love. Keith and Brad shared a home together in Los Angeles, and they had a full life of movies, theater, dinner parties, cowboy dancing, sports events, church, traveling, and Keith's annual Academy Awards party. In 2007, Keith suffered a severe and debilitating stroke, and Brad became his primary caregiver, not once leaving his side. In June 2013, Keith and Brad were married.

They faced the daily struggle of Keith's health issues together for eight and one-half years, and on November 30, Keith, also known as Billy Keith to some of his old friends, died at home with Brad at his side.

Virginia Hunter West

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, 1990-2000 and Professor of Nursing, 1982-2000

Virginia Hunter West, professor of nursing, former chair of the Department of Nursing, and associate dean of undergraduate studies, died on April 28 after a prolonged illness. She was 74. In her various roles, she was known for her thoroughness, attention to detail, high standards, and commitment to student success.

Born in Fort Mitchell, Alabama to Rosie Lee Averett and Jimmy Hunter, Virginia attended school at Mother Mary Mission in Phenix City, where she graduated from 12th grade as salutatorian and received a scholarship to Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. She earned her diploma in nursing in 1962.

After moving to California, Virginia obtained her B.S. in nursing in 1971 from Cal State LA. The first in her family to obtain advanced degrees, she received her Master of Nursing in 1973 and Ph.D. in educational psychology in 1982, both from UCLA. She married Rob West on October 20, 1978.

Virginia began her teaching career at UCLA, where she received the highest student evaluations among the nursing faculty. She came to Cal State LA in 1982 as chair of the Department of Nursing. On campus, she

was widely known as Virginia or Dr. Hunter. To family and childhood friends, she was also known as Ginny; to many friends in Los Angeles, she was affectionately known as Fluff.

A phenomenal leader in health care, Virginia was treasured and respected by nursing students, nurses, colleagues, friends, and family. As an educator, she gave direction to her students to persevere with their learning and to believe in what they could accomplish with that knowledge. Her commitment to



Courtesy of the National Black Nurses Association

excellence in health care was extraordinary. Throughout her professional career, she served as a faculty member, clinician, researcher, community leader, and mentor for hundreds of nurses across the country.

Virginia's professional activities and affiliations were numerous. She was president of the Council of Black Nurses, Los Angeles, and member of the Board of Directors of the National Black Nurses Association, where she served as chair of the Health Policy Committee. She was an honorary member of the Chi Eta Phi International Nursing Sorority, Mu Chi chapter; member of the American Nurses Association; and member of Sigma Theta Tau, the Honor Society of Nursing. As government relations commissioner for the California Nurses Association, she served as legislative liaison to several elected officials and was very active in the public policy arena.

Research interests included diversity in higher education, student retention, and maternal-child healthcare issues of African-Americans. Virginia served as co-project director of the Ford Foundation Enhancement of Cultural Diversity in Higher Education Project on campus. Always ready and willing to step up and do whatever needed to done, she worked tirelessly to contribute to a number of program and grant proposals, including one to the U.S. Department of Education, Title III, funded for $1.75 million. She was a founding member of Great Beginnings for Black Babies, Inc., a community-based program designed to reduce perinatal and infant mortality in African-American communities in Los Angeles County.

In recognition of her many contributions and achievements in the nursing profession, Virginia received a number of awards. She was inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Nursing in 1991. In 1993, she was honored by the California Nurses Association, Region VI, for her distinguished service to the nursing profession. She was also the recipient of the 1993 NAACP Legal Defense Fund Black Women of Achievement Award.

From 1990 until her retirement in 2000, Virginia served as the associate dean of undergraduate studies. Among her many duties, she was responsible for reviewing all new curriculum proposals, major modifications of programs, and new courses before they were forwarded to the appropriate committees for action. She also reviewed and acted on all undergraduate student academic petitions. Colleague JoAnn Johnson remembers her as "highly respected by both students and colleagues. She took leadership roles and was an exceptional role model for students." She is remembered as well by colleague Rita Ledesma as a great role model for junior faculty.

Being an active supporter of political causes that she believed in, in 1992 Virginia worked tirelessly for the election of a former governor who was once the keynote speaker at a Cal State LA Honors Convocation. In January 1993, Virginia was rewarded for her efforts with an invitation to President Bill Clinton's inaugural ball. The saxophone brooch she received at the ball was always a symbol of pride and satisfaction that she proudly displayed in her office for quite some time.

Virginia is survived by her husband Rob, children Sheryl and Robert Jr. and their spouses, two grandchildren, sister Christian, sisters- and brothers-in-law and their families, and other family members and friends. A memorial was held at Church of the Transfiguration in Los Angeles on July 9.

VITO G. SUSCA

Professor of Music, 1956-1991

Vito G. Susca, emeritus professor of music, died on June 7 in Burbank, just a few months shy of his 90th birthday. He inspired multiple generations of professional musicians, teachers, administrators, and thousands more whose love for music was enhanced and encouraged by his passion, teaching, and love of the art.

Born in Chicago on September 4, 1926, Vito was the oldest son of Phillip and Eugenia Susca. He studied piano and became quite proficient at an early age. After his uncle purchased a metal clarinet for him to study when he started Austin High School in Chicago, the young musician quickly began to demonstrate proficiency on the instrument that would become the staple of his musical career. He soon became the student conductor of his high school concert band and military band. He also performed regularly with the symphony orchestra and musical theater groups.

After graduation, Vito attended the University of Michigan, where he studied clarinet with Albert Luconi and played solo clarinet in the concert band under the legendary William Revelli. After completing a Bachelor of Music degree in 1948, he decided to come to California to seek his fortune. He enrolled at UCLA to work on his teaching credential, but ultimately transferred to the University of Southern California to pursue his coursework. Upon completing the credential program, he was hired as the music teacher at Sun Valley Junior High School, where he taught Band.

In September 1951, Vito was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Fort Ord for basic training. He was soon assigned to the 6th Army Band, in which he played principal clarinet during the next two years. It was during this time that he met Kanta Lou McKennon, and he and Kandy were soon married on June 28, 1952. Upon leaving the Army, Vito accepted the director of bands position at Verdugo Hills High School. In January 1956, he was hired as an assistant professor at then Los Angeles State College. Five years later, he was promoted to professor. He completed a Master of Music degree in 1956 and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at USC in 1967.

For the next 35 years, Vito taught Band, Orchestra, Clarinet Choir, Woodwind methods for music education majors, music history, and music appreciation. His clarinet choirs at the University earned national reputation. During his tenure, he continued to perform professionally on clarinet and woodwinds in and around the Los Angeles area, including a long tenure with the original Los Angeles Rams Band. He was a frequent guest conductor, judge, and clinician throughout Southern California. In addition to his University responsibilities and performing career, he regularly gave private lessons to as many as 50 students per year. He retired from Cal State LA in 1991.

Vito is survived by his three children, Michael, Steven, and Laura; their spouses; and seven grandchildren. Kandy predeceased him in 2008.

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The Emeriti Association received word at press time that **Beverly Jeanne Schnitzler** (Art) died on August 1. A full obituary will appear in the winter issue.

Fellowships (Continued from Page 1)

tion program, Ariel was provided opportunities to be mentored, conduct research, and attend scientific conferences. The Western Society of Malacologists conference that she attended in 2015 was a particularly transformative experience, helping her realize that pursuing a career in research was her desire and a realistic goal. As a Latina woman and inspired by her own experiences, she mentors high school students in her local community to serve as a role model and encourage more students like herself to pursue careers in science.

Raul Bravo has been awarded the *Jane Matson Memorial Fellowship* for students pursuing a master's degree in counseling. He credits his parents with giving him the work ethic, discipline motivation, and values to pursue his educational and career goals. Growing up, financial hardships caused the Bravo family to relocate several times, and later caused Raul to adjust his higher education goals in order to help the family out. After transferring from a community college, he attended Cal Poly, Pomona, where courses he took exposed him to "myriad social and historical issues experienced by marginalized communities in the United States" that profoundly influenced him because they mirrored his life as a member of the Latino community in America.

Raul's educational and career goals have been influenced by his work since 2008 in the field of special education. He has seen the importance of this work and the skills, values, and commitment that are necessary in order to make a difference. He writes that his life is "focused on making disenfranchised communities, working-class communities, and marginalized communities better through quality and relevant education."

Anna Hovhannisyan is the recipient of the *Leonard Mathy Fellowship in Economics*. She came to this country after receiving her bachelor's degree from the Institute of Economics and Business at Russian-Armenian Slavonic State University. The move to the United States was not easy, as Anna experienced financial hardships, cultural differences, and a number of other obstacles. She writes that the University has been a great help in overcoming these obstacles because Cal State LA is "like a great family, which supports me and helps me to grow both as a specialist and a good person." Studying economics at Cal State LA has helped her realize that economics is her passion. Anna's awards include Special Recognition in Graduate Studies at the 2016 Honors Convocation and a full scholarship to participate in the 2016 Armenian General Benevolent Union New York Summer Internship Program.

The *Mary Gormly Memorial Fellowship* in Native American studies has been awarded to **Amalia Castaneda**. She was the recipient of the 2015-16 *William E. Lloyd Memorial Fellowship.* Amalia's goal is to earn a Master of Library and Information Science degree and work as a museum and archival professional in a cultural institution. She believes that working in these two areas is particularly important, as "in both these types of institutions, Latinos are heavily underrepresented, and it is important that we help tell our own stories." Amalia received her bachelor's degree from UCLA with a double major in political science and gender studies, as well as a number of awards, including the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship. At Cal State LA, she has received the CSU Sally Casanova Fellowship and the Eugene Fingerhut Award for outstanding graduate student in the Cal State LA History Department. She currently serves as a board member at The Museum of Social Justice and is co-editor-in-chief for the History Department's academic journal, *Perspectives*.

Michelle Vasquez Ruiz has been selected to receive the *William E. Lloyd Memorial Fellowship* in history, political science, or public administration. She developed an interest in history through research she conducted on the Chicano student movement of the 1960s as an undergraduate at UC Irvine majoring in political science. The work on her honor's thesis had a transformative impact on her: "I learned about students who, like me, encountered various obstacles, but whose adversity became a source of strength as they advocated and created new opportunities for other minority students."

Michelle's experiences helped her realize that she could find success in academia and pursue higher levels of education. She wants to focus her graduate research on the history of indigenous communities from a transnational perspective, especially how indigenous communities move and communicate across imagined borders. After receiving her M.A., she plans to continue her research in a Ph.D. program. Upon graduation from UC Irvine in 2014, Michelle was awarded the Order of Merit, which is given to approximately two percent of the social science graduates for their academic excellence as well as their original research, leadership, and service.

General Emeriti Fellowships and Named Emeriti Fellowships

Six general emeriti fellowships and three named emeriti fellowships are being awarded. The general emeriti fellowships are supported by donations and gifts from members of the Emeriti Association, friends of the Association, and individuals who make contributions in honor of emeriti members who have died.

Three of the general emeriti fellowships have been named by the Emeriti Association to recognize and honor significant contributions to the Emeriti Association or the University by the individuals for whom they are named. The three named fellowships are the *Sidney P. Albert Emeriti Fellowship*, *Carol J. Smallenburg Emeriti Fellowship,* and *James M. Rosser Emeriti Fellowship*. Individuals who receive the named emeriti fellowships are selected because their field of study, focus of research, contributions, or interests reflects those of the individual for whom the fellowship is named.

Named Emeriti Fellowships

The recipient of the *Carol J. Smallenburg Emeriti Fellowship* is **Cecilia Fang**, who is pursuing her master's degree in counseling. As an undergraduate at UC San Diego (UCSD), Cecilia changed her major a number of times. While drawn to the health field, it took her a while to make the decision to follow her passion. She writes that coming to Cal State LA for the M.A. in counseling program is one of the best decisions she has made. She has a particular interest in the role that culture and customs play in influencing behavior and the willingness to utilize counseling and related mental health services. "Our choices, behaviors, and emotions are greatly influenced by our ethnic identity, so it is important to be a multicultural therapist in order to understand individuals from different backgrounds." Cecilia was active and held various positions in UCSD's Circle K International, tutored at the Boys and Girls Club, and did research at UCSD's Developmental Neuroscience Lab under the direction of Leslie Carver. While attending Cal State LA, she also works at B.E.S.T. Autism Services.

The *Sidney P. Albert Emeriti Fellowship* is awarded to **Ashley Tarin,** who is pursuing her M.A. in philosophy. Ashley grew up in a local working class community, never even sure that she would make it out of community college. Numerous family challenges caused her to have to work three jobs at one point, and for her and her older sister to become the sole providers for the family and caregivers to their mother. At that point, "college just wasn't in the cards for me anymore.... Family, to me, is more important than anything, so dropping out of college was what I had to do." Eventually, Ashley returned to college, earned her bachelor's degree, and is now working on her master's degree. She plans to earn her Ph.D. and would like to study social and political philosophy, specifically the areas of poverty, human rights, and respect. In 2015, she graduated cum laude and is a member of the Golden Key Honor Society. She volunteers at the Prison Library Project in Claremont and has been a volunteer at the Los Angeles Food Bank since 2014.

Vanessa Black is the recipient of the *James M. Rosser Emeriti Fellowship*. Growing up, she had a number of significant challenges,

including "times when I had nothing to eat, no warmth on a cold night and no house to live in." She goes on to write, "Although these moments in my life were difficult to accept at the time, I now appreciate every single one of them. I wouldn't change anything because it has made me who I am today." In 2005, Vanessa became a certified Emergency Medical Technician, motivated by her desire to help people when they need it the most. The psychiatric experiences she responded to had a particular impact on her, especially the interactions she observed between the patient and law enforcement during these emergencies, prompting her desire to integrate aspects of the legal system with the science of psychology to ensure more positive and effective outcomes.

A graduate of CSU Dominguez Hills in psychology with a minor in criminal justice, Vanessa has worked in the department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center since 2010 as the senior research assistant and lab manager. Her honors and awards include the Dominguez Hills Honors Program and membership in Phi Kappa Phi. She plans to continue her studies and earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology with an emphasis in forensics.

General Emeriti Fellowship

Because she grew up in a household with significant challenges, **Arianna Brown** attributes her success to having to learn to persevere at a young age, finding that school and learning were an escape, and having an extended family and teachers who supported and encouraged her. She believes that it is the challenges of her childhood that pushed her "to think and behave in ways that have led directly to [her] success." Honing her analytical skills and her ability to discern patterns and use logic led to an interest and desire to emulate teachers who demonstrated these skills. Undoubtedly, these pursuits contributed to her interest in physics and her goal of attaining a Ph.D. in astrophysics. Arianna's honors and awards include first-place oral presentation in the physical and mathematical sciences at the Cal State LA Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity; NASA DIRECT-STEM Scholarship Program and Research Internship (2015-present); and Computing, Sciences, and Mathematics in College Scholars Program and Scholarship (2012-14).

Erin Uhlfelder is a first-year graduate student in physics who is planning to continue her studies after her M.A. to earn a Ph.D. in physics specializing in biophysics. As an undergraduate, her first research experience was working under the direction of Michelle Girvan at the University of Maryland. Her research involved constructing artificial Twitter data with known community groups to test how successful their algorithms were at predicting the communities. Since coming to Cal State LA, she has been working under the leadership of Paul Nerenberg to learn more about molecular dynamics and biochemistry, and to refine her skills to begin her research on post-transitional modifications of histone tails. Active outside of the classroom, Erin served as vice president of the Society of Physics Students while an undergraduate, and founded a club for undergraduate women in physics to mentor and support undergraduate women. After returning from the 2013 American Physical Society Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, she was instrumental in bringing the conference to the University of Maryland the following year.

At the age of 18, **David Shipko** joined the U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps "to pay for school, to become a leader, and, most importantly, to make the world a better place." While his first and second goals were achieved, David came to believe that his third goal would not be attainable through "martial action." While he acknowledges that he benefited from his service, understands its importance, and continues to appreciate and honor the men and women who serve, he believes it is not sufficient to bring about peace.

As he writes, "I believe the answer lies in enriching the lives of the people of the world, one person at a time, through the positive actions of artistic engagement and education. The tool of the task is words." To this end, David is working on his M.A. in English and intends to continue on to a Ph.D. in creative writing with a focus in science-fiction literature. "With this background, I will create science-fiction narratives...that explore what humanity *is* through the lens of what it *could make itself*. My ultimate goal is what it has always been: to make the world a better place." In addition to serving as an officer in the California Army National Guard since May 2011, David earned the Army Achievement Medal and was awarded Third Place Student Emmy Drama at the 2013 College Television Awards of the Television Academy.

Krista Marrero is "passionate about finding various ways to educate, learn, and perform research on mental health." After earning her M.A. in psychology, she plans to earn her Ph.D., perhaps M.D.-Ph.D., to continue her research. She sees and values the importance of both microscopic and macroscopic study, as both are relevant to her interests in how proteins and hormones interact to affect mental health. A first-generation college student, Krista chose physics as an undergraduate major to apply her strengths in math and science. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in physics and a minor in business. In each of her last four quarters as an undergraduate, she carried between 20 and 22 units.

At Cal State LA, she is working with a faculty mentor to observe the amino acid interactions on proteins undergoing translational modifications. She also works in a lab at the School of Pharmacy at the University of Southern California Health Sciences campus that focuses on the positive effects of an angiotensin peptide in many areas of health. Her ultimate goal is to treat individuals with mental health issues more effectively and to reduce the stigma associated with them. Krista was on the Dean's List from 1999 to 2004 and was a 2003 McNair Scholar.

Upon seeing the ancient Maya site of Kaminaljuyu in her early teens, **Lauren Copeland** knew she wanted to study archaeology. This impression was reinforced when she traveled to Mori Podu with Peace Corps volunteers several years later. She began as a bioengineering major at UC Riverside at the urging of family, which resulted in a poor experience that was reflected in her academic performance. Close to dropping out of school, she was encouraged by several faculty mentors to pursue her passion; she stayed in school and changed her major to archaeology, where she has flourished academically as well as in extracurricular activities related to the profession.

Lauren chose Cal State LA from among several Southern California archaeology programs to which she was accepted "for its focus on student success, the opportunity to participate in research in the Mesoamerican Lab under the direction of James Brady, and the numerous opportunities for involvement on campus." She made this choice even though she must commute 147 miles round trip from Moreno Valley and work two jobs and six days a week. Among her accomplishments at Cal State LA, she has presented papers at both local and national conferences and was one of a select number of students invited to conduct research with Brady in Belize. Her awards include induction into the Golden Key International Honour Society and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Richard Nicolas, pursuing his M.A. in anthropology, wants to be a professor, "not simply to pursue my research interests. I feel that my life experiences have given me a unique perspective that will make me an excellent teacher and mentor." Richard was born in Saudi Arabia to overseas Filipino workers and raised in the Philippines by a distant relative whom he called grandmother. At the age of 11, he had to take on adult responsibilities. Shortly after coming to the United States in 2003, he moved to Alaska and worked in a cannery. In 2008, after attending Santa Monica City College and taking his first anthropology courses, he joined the U.S. Navy due to financial hardships, where he was

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of Liberal Arts.

Enrollment Services, which includes recruitment and admission, the registrar and student records, and financial aid, now falls under Academic Affairs and reports to the provost. **Tom Enders** joined the University as vice provost for enrollment services, effective March 25, 2016. Prior to his appointment, he served as associate vice president for enrollment services at CSU Long Beach, where he led the development of one of the most effective student systems in the CSU.

Margaret Garcia (Special Education and Counseling) is serving as interim associate dean of undergraduate studies, effective July 1, 2015; **Michael Soldatenko** (Chicano Studies) is the interim associate dean, College of Natural and Social Sciences, effective February 1, 2016; **Angela Young** (Management), associate dean, College of Business and Economics, effective July 1, 2016; **Denise Herz** (Criminal Justice and Criminalistics), interim associate dean, College of Health and Human Services, effective March 1, 2016; and **Jane Dong** (Electrical Engineering), interim associate dean, College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology, effective September 10, 2015.

Cheryl Miller Hired as New Women's Basketball Coach

Cheryl Miller, considered one of the greatest women's basketball players of all time, is the new women's basketball coach at Cal State LA. She led the University of Southern California to two national titles in 1983 and 1984, and was twice named NCAA Tournament MVP. She helped guide the 1984 U.S. Olympic team to a gold medal and she is enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Miller comes to Cal State LA from Langston University in Oklahoma, where she led the team to an 18th NAIA ranking in two seasons as head coach. She was the head women's basketball coach at USC for two seasons from 1993 to 1995, leading the team to the NCAA tournament both years before embarking on a successful career as a television reporter and analyst. She also served as head coach for four years and general manager of the Phoenix Mercury of the Women's National Basketball Association, guiding the team to the league finals in 1998. "Graduating and developing women of inspiration and substance is my goal," said Miller. "Cal State LA is the perfect place for that mission."

Record Number of Graduates Marks 69th Commencement

A record number of Cal State LA students—nearly 8,000—received diplomas this year. The 69th Commencement consisted of seven ceremonies running from Thursday afternoon through Saturday evening, June 9-11. Keynote addresses were delivered by Cal State LA alumnus and Los Angeles county supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and four recipients of an honorary doctoral degree: actor and activist George Takei; Maria Contreras-Sweet, administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration; Ofelia Esparza, artist and educator; and Kent Twitchell, artist.

College of HHS Becomes First Named College

At the final Commencement ceremony on June 11, President Covino announced the naming of the Rongxiang Xu College of Health and Human Services. The first named college at Cal State LA recognizes the largest gift in the University's history, made by The National Rongxiang Xu Foundation to commemorate the contributions of Rongxiang Xu, a surgeon and expert in regenerative medicine, who died in 2015. Xu developed an innovative therapy for burns that helped restore the physiological structure and function of the skin and other tissues, dramatically reducing pain, illness, and death. President Covino awarded the Presidential Medallion to Xu's widow Li Li, and his son, Kevin Xu. The Presidential Medallion is the highest honor given by Cal State LA. Since its inception in 1983, only 10 have been awarded.

18th Annual Distinguished Women Awards

On May 11, 12 faculty, staff, and administrators were honored at Cal State LA's 18th annual Distinguished Women Awards ceremony. This year's honorees were Gabriela Fried Amilivia, Department of Sociology; Susan Bergstrom, College of Business and Economics; Yajaira Garcia, Center for Student Financial Aid; Frances Hidalgo, College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology; Yara Jimenez, Upward Bound; Rebecca Joseph, Division of Curriculum and Instruction; Betty Kennedy, Housing Services; Daphne Liu, Department of Mathematics; Tamie Nguyen, Center for Student Financial Aid; Sheila Price, Department of Philosophy; Elena Retzer, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures; and Romelia Salinas, University Library. Sponsored each year by the Cross-Cultural Centers and the University-Student Union, the event recognizes University women employees for achievements in their fields, as well as other accomplishments, including contributions to Cal State LA, commitment to students and women's issues, community involvement, and professional recognition.

Cal State LA Selected for Pell Pilot Second Chance Program

Cal State LA is one of several dozen universities across the nation selected to participate in an Obama Administration pilot program to allow incarcerated students to pursue bachelor's degrees and receive Pell grants to help pay for their education. The goal of the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program is to help reduce recidivism rates and make communities safer by educating incarcerated Americans so they can obtain jobs and support their families after they are released from prison. Under the program, 67 universities and colleges will partner with more than 141 federal and state penal institutions to educate 12,000 students.

Cal State LA launched an education program in 2015 at the state prison in Lancaster and is the only university in California to offer an in-person bachelor's degree completion program for incarcerated students. The program was championed in the House of Representatives by Congressman Xavier Becerra, whose 34th Congressional District includes Cal State LA. The program is an initiative of the University's Center for Engagement, Service, and the Public Good in partnership with the College of Professional and Global Education and the College of Arts and Letters. Twenty-five students who have earned A.A. degrees are currently enrolled and working toward B.A. degrees in communication studies. Starting in fall 2018, Cal State LA plans to expand its program to include students at Lancaster who are currently enrolled in an A.A. degree program through Antelope Valley College. The University receives support for its program from The Opportunity Institute's Renewing Communities Initiative.

Fellowships (Continued from Page 9)

afforded leadership opportunities.

After returning to civilian life in 2013, Richard chose Cal State LA because of the strength of its archaeology program. His experiences at the University have included studying on San Nicolas Island and in the Mojave Desert, and excavating Mayan ruins. In 2014 and 2015, he was invited to join the Sacred Landscape Project to excavate at the ancient Maya site of La Milpa, Belize. Richard's honors and awards include the 2016 Outstanding Presentation award at the Cal State LA Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, and the 2015 and 2016 Golden Eagle Award of Excellence.