# The Emeritimes

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

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# Happy Anniversary Emeriti Association

As surprising as it may seem, the Emeriti Association of California State University, Los Angeles will be celebrating its tenth anniversary during the coming month of February. Now a well-established organization of approximately 200 retired faculty of the University, the Association was founded by a small group of retirees at a meeting held on campus on February 9, 1978. (See "Genesis of the Emeriti Association" page 3)

The customary clustering of a series of celebratory events around the Association's birth date has had to be altered this year, because of the conversion of meeting places to classrooms after the October earthquake. Instead of the "Emeriti Week" celebration during the second week in February this year's series of events will be spread over a three-week period. The calendar of events is described below.

This is the Emeriti Association's best-attended event of the year. Reservations are necessary for only the last event, the dinner and theatre party on February 26.

## Schedule of Celebratory Events

The calendar of events for the Emeriti Association's tenth anniversary celebration will be as follows:

### *Thursday, February 11*

**Faculty Colloquium, University Club, 3-5 p.m.**
Emeritus Professor Robert Strassburg and Professor of Music Lu Elrod will present "Responding to Walt Whitman in Poetry and Song: A Prelude to the Walt Whitman Centennial in 1992."

### *Tuesday, February 16*

**Meeting of Academic Senate, King Hall, Lecture Hall No. 1, 1:30 p.m.**
Special greetings will be extended to the University's emeriti faculty, with introductions of all of those present.

**Emeriti Reception, University Club, 3:15 to 5 p.m.**
The event will celebrate the tenth anniversary of The Emeriti Association. Special recognition will be given to the ten persons who have served as presidents of the Association.

### *Friday, February 26*

**Playnight Dinner, University Club, 6 p.m.**
Emeriti faculty and their guests will attend the dinner and the performance at 8 p.m. in the State Playhouse of George Bernard Shaw's "Heartbreak House." Dinner reservations ($11.50 per person) must be made no later than Monday, February 22. Send check (made out to "Cal State L.A. Emeriti") to Mary Gormly, 714 W. Washington St., Alhambra, CA 91801.

## New Deans Heading Schools of Education, Arts and Letters

New deans have been appointed to head two of the University's seven schools.

Dr. Allen A. Mori, Dean of the College of Education at Marshall University in Huntington, W. Va., took office as Dean of the School of Education in September. He succeeds Dr. Raymond D. Terrell, who returned to teaching in School Administration.

Dr. Mori earned his Ph.D. in Special Education at Pittsburgh University, where he also pursued postdoctoral study in Educational Administration and served as Supervisor of Student Teaching. He was a professor of Special Education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas before accepting the deanship at Marshall University.

Dr. Bobby R. Patton assumed the position of Dean of the School of Arts and Letters January 1. The position had been occupied on an acting basis by Associate Dean Michael P. Kelly.

Known as an outstanding speech educator, Dr. Patton had been at the University of Kansas since 1967, serving in a variety of teaching and administrative posts. He received his B.F.A. degree, *magna cum laude*, from Texas Christian University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Kansas.

## *Directory Listing All Emeriti Faculty Included in Mailing*

A new directory listing all living members of the emeriti faculty of the University whose names and addresses are known is included with this mailing of *The Emeritimes*. When they have been provided or can be obtained, telephone numbers are also included.

Maintaining this emeriti faculty directory is a continuous undertaking, shared by the President's Office of the University and the Membership Secretary of the Emeriti Association. Changes or corrections should be sent to the President's Office in Admin. 815 at the University.

# In Memorian

## C. Curtis Coons Dies; On Engineering School Faculty

Dr. C. Curtis Coons, Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering, died September 4, 1987, following a short illness. Born in Indiana in 1900, Curt (as he was known to his many friends) came to California in 1959, after an illustrious career in industry. He joined the School of Engineering faculty and taught thermodynamics until 1971, when he retired and moved to Leisure World in Orange County.

Curt earned his degrees in physics and chemical engineering at the University of Illinois, with final and special honors. His name is inscribed upon a bronze tablet at the university for superior scholarship, and he was named during his lifetime to numerous honorary and professional fraternities.

His name appears on more than 100 patents, one of the best known of which was the design of the disposable vacuum cleaner bag for the Hoover Company.

Curt was a talented storyteller, an avid bridge player, and in his retirement years at Leisure World was known for his prowess as a shuffleboard player.

He leaves his wife of of 58 years, Margaret (Peggy); a son, Charles Curtis Coons, Jr., and his wife; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

## *Olive Gustafson Dies*

Olive Gustafson, wife of Emeritus Professor George Gustafson, died November 14 of a massive stroke. Interment was at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

Mrs. Gustafson was actively involved in events which took place in the Accounting Department of the School of Business and Economics, and was well known to students and faculty. Besides her husband, she is survived by a sister and two brothers.

## *Roland Ross Dies; Lifelong Interest Was Nature Study*

Roland Case Ross, Emeritus Professor of Nature Study, died at his home on May 28. He was 90, and had been in declining health for some time.

Professor Ross devoted his entire life to the holistic study of nature. He earned a B.S. degree with honors at ULCA and an M.S. degree in geology and paleontology at Cal Tech. He also studied meteorology, a subject he taught to bomber pilots during World War II.

After teaching for a number of years in the Los Angeles City Schools, he turned to college teaching and joined the Cal State L.A. faculty in 1950. He retired in 1967, turning to cultivating a dry garden at his Pasadena home, the Dearborn Ranch House.

Professor Ross was the founder of the Desomount Club, for which he conducted nature study trips into the wilderness. The club held a memorial service for him in Pasadena's Arroyo Seco, a place he had known, loved, and fought to preserve in its natural state since his childhood.

## *Furnishings Needed For Emeriti Office*

The Emeriti Association is in need of donated furnishings for its campus office (Engineering A318). Especially needed is a file cabinet and a typewriter. Contributors should contact President Pauline Schatz at (818) 347-7737.

## *Pre-retirement Meeting*

An Emeriti Association task force, led by Donald Moore, is planning a pre-retirement conference for faculty of Southern California universities. Details about the conference will be reported in the Spring issue of *The Emeritimes*.

# The Genesis of the Emeriti Association

The Emeriti Association of California State University, Los Angeles, was formed at a meeting held on February 9, 1978, climaxing almost a year of organizational planning by members of the University's emeriti faculty.

The move to establish an organization of emeriti faculty was initiated in March, 1977, by Sidney Albert, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, who was at that time an active member of the University faculty. He was engaged in a campaign to have the Academic Senate and the administration of the University make improvements in its policy for emeritus faculty, which had begun in the proceding November and was to continue for almost two years. It was in the midst of these deliberations that it became apparent that there was need for an emeriti faculty organization.

Seeing this need, Albert was able to obtain the aid of the University administration in sending out a letter to emeriti faculty aprising them of emeriti developments on campus and inviting them to a meeting on April 7, 1977, "to initiate action toward founding an organization devoted to furthering the interests of academic staff members of this institution who are retired or are soon to retire."

**Steering Committee Named**

Responding to the invitation, a group of seven emeriti faculty and nine soon-to-retire faculty were joined by representatives of the University administration, the Academic Senate and four campus faculty organizations, in a meeting in the University Student Union. A steering committee formed at this meeting was charged with the responsibility of organizing an association of emeriti. Named on the committee were the late Georgia Adams, Morton Renshaw, Helen Truher, and Albert.

The drafting of a constitution and by-laws for the proposed organization was undertaken by Adams and Truher. Also created was a nominating committee, on which Hudson Roysher, the late Richard Nahrendorf, George Francis and Richard Lillard served.

When the committees had completed their tasks of building the framework for the new emeriti organization, there remained the difficult task of involving in the organizing process all of the approximately 140 emeriti faculty then residing in many parts of the United States and several foreign countries. The use of the balloting by mail was decided upon. A letter announcing an organizational meeting on February 9, 1978, was sent out, accompanied by copies of the proposed constitution, a slate of officers, and mail ballot to be voted upon by all interested emeriti. By the time the organization meeting was convened, 46 emeriti faculty had sent in ballots, giving approval to the constitution and by-laws and approving the slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee.

Chosen to serve as the first set of officers of the new Emeriti Association were: Keith D. Snyder, President; Clifford Dodson, Vice President; James J. Stansell, Secretary; Michael Grisafe, Treasurer, and Alfred E. Ehrhardt and Alvin Tuohino, Members at Large of the Executive Committee.

Providing financial assistance to the Emeriti Association until it could begin collecting membership dues were the campus chapters of the Association of California State University Professors (ACSUP) and the California College and University Faculty Association (CCUFA).

**Senate Representation Given**

It was during the same time that the founding of the Emeriti Association was taking place that a significant change in University policy regarding emeriti faculty was accomplished. In late November, 1977, the Academic Senate approved a new emeritus policy statement authored by Sidney Albert that committed the University to "fostering an active continuity of relationship with emeriti." The new statement became University policy the following July, when approved by President John Greenlee.

Still to be accomplished at the time that the Emeriti Association was formed was the authorization of emeriti faculty representation in the Academic Senate. Once the Emeriti Association was organized, this issue took the form of a proposal that the Association should be entitled to elect a representative from the ranks of the emeriti faculty to sit as a full-participating, voting member of the Academic Senate.

The addition of this new member representing the emeriti faculty to the

*(Continued on Next Page)*

## *Emeritus Association Presidents*

The ten persons who have served as presidents of the Association are as follows:

**Keith D. Snyder**
***1978-79***

**Clifford Dobson**
***1979-80***

**Robert J. Forbes**
***1980-81***

**Alice C. Thompson**
***1981-82***

**Michael F. Grisafe**
***1982-83***

**Donald G. Mortensen**
***1983-84***

**Sidney P. Albert**
***1984-85***

**Gene B. Tipton**
***1985-86***

**Donald A. Moore**
***1986-87***

**Pauline E. Schatz**
***1987-88***

## *Birth of Emeriti Association, 1978*

*(Continued from Prev. Page)*

Academic Senate required a constitutional change that had to be passed by a two-third majority of the University faculty. Approval was voted by a two-vote margin in May, 1978.

The establishment of the Emeriti Association and the accomplishment of major reforms in the University's stated policy regarding treatment of its emeriti faculty has created lasting ties between the retired faculty and the University and its active faculty. In the ten years since those important events of 1978 took place, the Emeriti Association has built a strong and lasting relationship with both the administration and faculty of the University, bringing about recognition of the retired faculty as an integral part of the academic community at Cal State L.A.

In addition to its accomplishments as the guardian of emeriti interests on its own campus, the Cal State L.A. Emeriti Association has been a positive force in matters related to emeriti faculty throughout the California State University system. It has been influential in the establishment of organizations of emeriti faculty on a member of CSU campuses. Also, its sponsorship was an important factor in the formation of the systemwide CSU Association of Emeriti Professors.

*(A narrative report prepared by Sidney P. Albert on the series of actions which contributed directly and indirectly to the formation of the Emeriti Association provided the source material for this article.)*

## *Calendar of Events*

The annual meeting of the Emeriti Association, at which officers for the coming academic year are elected and any other business of the Association is conducted, will be held on Monday, April 18. The time and place of the meeting will be announced in the Spring Issue of *The Emeritimes*.

# Professional and Personal Doings

*We are delighted to have received the following items about the professional and personal activities of emeriti faculty. We invite others to report on their activities.*—The Editor.

ANTHONY HILLBRUNER (Communication Studies) has published a critical essay, entitled "Fisher Ames: Congressman from Massachusetts" in *American Orators Before 1900: Critical Studies and Sources*, edited by Howard K. Duffy and Halford P. Ryan, and just published by Greenwood Press.

Busily engaged in speaking as well as writing in his professional field, Tony was invited to Eastern New Mexico University last April, where he gave the main address at the annual Honors Convocation banquet, was honored as a distinguished scholar ("believe it or not", he says) and spoke at a seminar on communications. In July, he went to England to spend several weeks at Oxford University's famous Bodlean Library and renewed his acquaintance with Queen's College, where he had spent a sabbatical in 1979. He also is actively involved at the national level in programs of the Speech Communications Association, including serving as chairman of the SCA's emeriti committee.

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GERHARD ALBERSHEIM (Music) writes from Switzerland that he has had to make "a changed in my way of life" by "curtailing" his driving. Otherwise he is continuing happily his performing and teaching music and reading German philosophers.

Gerhard concludes with this message: "Being in rather good health, I live relatively contently in this troubled world and am happy to be a musician! In this mood, I am thinking of my relatives and friends with love and interest and sending you my best wishes for the holiday season and the New Year."

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PAT SHROYER reports with delight that she has had a poem published in the February, 1987 issue of *The Shakespeare Newsletter.*

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MARY GORMLY (Library) has received the Meritorious Service Award from the California Air Force Association. She is a past president of the Pasadena Area AFA Chapter.

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CAROL SMALLENBURG (Education) is a member of a team of three consultants who will be conducting a seminar abroad for the California Association for Counseling and Development at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland this summer from August 10 to 17. Interested emeriti are invited to contact Carol for details.


## The Emeriti Association California State University, Los Angeles

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