The Emeritimes

Publication of The Emeriti Association
California State University, Los Angeles

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CARL SELKIN TO HOST SPRING LUNCHEON AT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM MAY 8

On Friday, May 8, Cal State L.A. emeriti will be hosted by Carl Selkin (emeritus, English and former dean of the College of Arts and Letters) at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where he currently is vice president for education. A full spectrum of activities is planned.

LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
900 EXPOSITION BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES (ACROSS THE STREET FROM USC)
Directions: From Exposition Blvd. exit on 110 fwy., head west. Turn left at Menlo, left into staff parking lot about 200 ft. south of Exposition. Enter through staff entrance, beneath stairs on Exposition Blvd. side.

11:15 A.M.
MUSEUM EDUCATION ROOM
11:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.
DINOSAUR ENCOUNTERS
12:00 NOON TO 1:00 P.M.
MUSEUM TOUR
1:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
LUNCH & MEETING
2:00 P.M. TO 2:45 P.M.
PRESENTATION
COST: $10 DONATION PER PERSON
Send check, made payable to the Emeriti Association, along with choice of sandwich (turkey, roast beef, chicken, tuna, vegetarian), to Hildebrando Villarreal, 1915 Las Lunas Street, Pasadena CA 91107 no later than May 1. For more information, call Hildebrando at 626-793-8975.

Emeriti will convene in the Education Classroom (2nd floor) at 11:15 a.m. At 11:30 a.m., the group will be treated to a live-action dinosaur presentation, Dinosaur Encounters, in the 2nd floor North American Mammals Hall (so much for cladistics). This program, which has been recognized as innovative by the American Association of Museums, will be showcased at the Association’s 2009 Marketplace of Ideas. The activities will continue with a tour conducted by Cal State L.A. alumnus Howell Thomas, senior paleontological preparator, whose work is in vertebrate paleontology (he specializes in diseases of marine mammals).

Luncheon with wine will take place at noon, including the annual membership meeting, followed by a presentation by Carl Selkin, entitled “What’s New in Museum Education?” The talk will focus on the Education and Arts Roundtable of the Natural History Museum, recognized this year by the American Association of Museums with the 2009 Excellence in Programming Award.

Selkin joined the museum as vice president of education in May 2006, immediately following his retirement from the University. In that role, he is responsible for educational programming for school audiences (e.g., field trips and teacher workshops), including the innovative Education and Arts Roundtable mentioned above; and educational programming for the general public, including Dinosaur Encounters, the Discovery Center, the Pavilion of Wings and Spider Pavilion, Insect Zoo, and a variety of family- and youth-oriented workshops, camps, field trips,
The Emeritimes

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Address copy to:
Ellen Stein, Editor, The Emeritimes
Chair Emeriti Association
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032-8253

Phone: 323-343-3798
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Email: erstein25@gmail.com

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For information about the Emeriti Association, please call at 323-343-5970
or check the Emeriti Association website, http://www.calstatela.edu/emeriti.

La Kretz Hall Dedicated

La Kretz Hall, the first wing of the new science complex, was dedicated on April 7 in an afternoon ceremony that featured members of the campus community and Morton La Kretz, whose generous donation enabled the building to come to fruition.

A multidisciplinary facility, La Kretz Hall’s laboratories support students and faculty in the fields of biology, biochemistry, chemistry, environmental sciences, geology, nutritional sciences, kinesiology, and microbiology. Many of the labs were open for tours following the ceremony.

President’s Message

(Continued from Page 1)

The Association has embarked on a new project that requires your cooperation. In large measure, the history of Cal State L.A. is the history of the men and women who have helped develop this institution, including faculty, staff, and administrators. To play our part in preserving that history, the Association is asking you, voluntarily of course, to submit to our webmaster an electronic version of your vita. The format is entirely up to you. The Association will keep an electronic archive of these vitas so that in the future it will be possible to learn the contributions of emeriti to the formation and development of our university. Please forward your vita to dmargaz@calstatela.edu.

The May meeting is THE Annual Meeting of the Association, that is the meeting called for in our Constitution, at which the officers of the Association are elected by the membership. This year, in somewhat of a break from tradition, this meeting will be held off campus at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Full details can be found on page one of this issue. Please plan to attend and participate. It promises to be a special occasion.

Searching for Docents

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is looking for docents, and is offering training in Fall 2009. Contact Dan Kroupa, manager, Docent Programs, at 213-763-3242 or dkroupa@nhm.org. Check out what’s happening at the museum at http://www.nhm.org.

New Student Union Celebrated

The University-Student Union celebrated its grand opening on January 9 with the theme, “U Live. U Learn. U Grow. The New U.” The afternoon and evening event, featuring musical entertainment, food, and an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, drew a large crowd. The new building, which connects to The Golden Eagle by way of a third-floor bridge, is home to the Alumni Association, Associated Students, Inc., Center for Student Involvement, Cross-cultural Centers, Office of Annual Giving, and the University-Student Union administration offices. The 93,000-square-foot building also features an outdoor plaza, expanded computer lab, Xtreme Fitness Center, 200-seat theater, alumni lounge, Wells Fargo Bank, Starbucks, Sbarro, and added meeting and lounge space.

Campus News

La Kretz, a real estate developer, is founder of Los Angeles-based Crossroads Management, which handles industrial, commercial, and residential properties, the most well known of which is Crossroads of the World, a historic 1936 Hollywood landmark. He spent part of his childhood in Boyle Heights, adjacent to Cal State L.A., and his philanthropic work focuses on education, the environment, and conservation. This, combined with his interest in the sciences at Cal State L.A., led to the naming of La Kretz Hall.

Completion of the second wing is expected in late 2010. Combined, the Wallis Annenberg Integrated Sciences Complex will encompass 120,000 square feet of modern classroom and laboratory space.
Is Your Pension Safe?
By J. Theodore Anagnoson

CalPERS’ investments have been hit, as have everyone’s, by the recent turmoil in the stock market. The CalPERS investment fund that reached over $250 billion at its peak is down to less than $180 billion, with a loss of 31 percent from July 1, 2008 to the end of March 2009. Is your retirement pension safe?

The blunt truth is that CalPERS retirement checks are as safe as almost anything is in the United States in this financially tumultuous period. CalPERS’ investments are not guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (the latter guarantees only private sector defined benefit pensions). However, pension benefits from CalPERS are provided by law, and are not dependent on investments. In fact, CalPERS’ strategy is to stabilize public sector employer contributions to the pension fund by spreading market losses over 15 years, “reducing the impact of short-term market volatility on employer rates.”

A recent CalPERS press release states that “rates for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2009 will be based on the investment performance of the 2006-07 fiscal year for public agencies, and 2007-08 for the state government and schools – not on the current fiscal year,” according to Ron Seeling, chief actuary at CalPERS. However, it could be possible, according to Seeling, “to see an increase in rates that range from 2-4% of payroll” in 2010.

Given that, the real threat to pensions comes from perceptions that public employees have much better pay and benefits than those in the private sector, and that somehow “this is unfair,” Keith Richman, who has proposed several initiatives to cut back CalPERS pensions for new employees, is looking for partners to help collect signatures, and there is another initiative in circulation at this point, although it is poorly funded. The March 2 Newsweek commentary of Joel Kotkin is typical: “Although the Republicans can still block massive tax rises, the predominant force in California politics lies with two groups – the gentrifiers and the public sector. The public-sector unions, once relatively poorly paid, now enjoy wages and benefits unavailable to most middle-class Californians, and do so with little regard to the fiscal and overall economic impact.” He goes on to point out that California now spends only three percent of its budget on infrastructure, whereas in Pat Brown’s time 50 years ago, the state spent 20 percent. “Instead,” he adds, “we’re funding gilt-edged pensions and lifetime guaranteed health care. It’s often a case of I’m all right, Jack – and the hell with everyone else.”

There are likely to be many future pension arguments in California, as well as efforts to pass more of the costs of retiree health benefits back to retirees.

For the size of the CalPERS investment portfolio each day, see the main CalPERS web page at http://www.calpers.ca.gov, in the right column.

Adapted from an article in the November 2008 CSU-ERFA Reporter.

Errata
The Emeriti Association regrets that a number of donors were omitted from the Emeriti Association Fellowship Fund Donors list for 2008, published in the winter 2009 issue of The Emeritimes. Following are the omissions:

KYLE C. BUTTON
(David Cameron Fisher Scholarship,
Mary Gormly Fellowship, and
Emeriti Association Fellowship Fund)

LAURA CARLSON-WEINER
(David Cameron Fisher Scholarship)

RITA ZIDE
(David Cameron Fisher Scholarship)

LEONARD G. MATHY
(David Cameron Fisher Scholarship)

CAROL J. SMALLENBURG
(Mary Gormly Fellowship and
Emeriti Association Fellowship Fund)

Professional and Personal

Barbara Case (Library) completed 15 years of research about her maternal grandfather, John Harwood Pierce, a veteran of the Civil War. The San Diego Union-Tribune recently published an article about Barbara’s mother, Stella Mae Case, one of only about 100 people still alive in the United States whose fathers fought in the Civil War. Barbara began the research to expand on the limited information the family had about her grandfather, a colorful character, who was a soldier, poet, inventor, publisher, and showman.

Joseph Chrzanowski (Spanish) and Leon Schwartz (French) spoke at “An Evening of Spanish and French Poetry in Translation” on April 2, the first event of Modern Language Month on campus. Sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, the program was an exploration of the pleasures, problems, and challenges of translating poetry.

Stuart Fischhoff (Psychology) recently suffered what was termed a “subtle stroke.” After being hospitalized, he is recovering lost skills at home, with rest, and is in good spirits. His wife reports, with humor, however, that his gin rummy game has not yet recovered.

Roy Liebman (Library) has had his fifth book, Musical Groups in the Movies, 1929-1970, published in 2009 by McFarland and Company. It is also to be part of the publisher’s pilot project to make e-books available to academic libraries. Two of his earlier books, From Silents to Sound and The Wampas Baby Stars, will be reissued in softcover versions. In addition, he has pending articles in such reference works as Modern Scandals and the Encyclopedia of American Immigration.

Campus News (Continued from Page 2)

CSULA 2008-09 Fulbright Contingent Among Largest in Nation

During the 2008-09 academic year, five Cal State L.A. faculty have been involved in the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, going to research and teach in diverse areas of the world. With study topics ranging from the environmental impacts of mining to contemporary American dramatic literature, Cal State L.A.’s contingent is one of the largest in the country. Among the roughly 425 colleges and universities nationwide with Fulbright scholars this year, only six have more than Cal State L.A.: UC Berkeley, University of Arizona, University of Georgia, Pennsylvania State University, Georgetown University, and University of Washington. USC and UCLA each have three scholars this year.

Cal State L.A.’s current Fulbright scholars are: Mohammad Auwal (Communication Studies), teaching and conducting research in Doha, Qatar; Susan Mason (Theatre Arts), teaching in Tokyo and Kodaira, Japan; Elliott Oring (Emeritus, Anthropology), teaching in Reykjavik, Iceland; Hassan M. Rezaie Boroon (Geological Sciences), doing research in Loma, Togo; and Marguerite Ann Snow (Education), teaching and conducting research in Cyprus.

Since 2004, five other Cal State L.A. faculty have taught abroad as Fulbright scholars: Ann Garry (emerita, Philosophy), in Japan; Antony Kunnan (Education), in Taiwan; Nanda Ganesan (Information Systems), in Sri Lanka; Timothy Lim (Political Science), in Korea; and Yehudi Webster (Sociology), in Poland.

In 2006, Cal State L.A. student Jennifer Quiñones participated as a Fulbright Student fellow in Andorra, and Molly Arevalo, a current TESOL student, had a Fulbright Teacher Exchange award last summer in Uruguay.
We witnessed a six-minute, 53-second total solar eclipse, one of the longest in recent years. We’re certain the rabbis were a big help, since the other sites on the path of totality were cloud-covered. You never know if nature will cooperate and allow you to view the eclipse. Fortunately, only one eclipse we traveled to and hoped to view on Catalina Island was obscured. It was an annular eclipse – when the moon’s shadow is too small to cover the entire area of sun and makes an annular or ring around the sun.

As we continued our eclipse trips, in addition to a more familiar telescope, we decided to invest in an AstroScan – a scope that allows you to look at the eclipse as it happens without having to use a special viewing glass and getting tired arms. The image is projected on the screen and, as soon as totality is reached, you can look at the sun with its corona and flares without damaging your eyes or camera. We now travel with only the AstroScan. That way we have been able to share the experience with lots of people.

We have been on two oceangoing eclipse trips—one in the Caribbean and one in the South Pacific. In the Caribbean, in 1998, the sky was clear, the deck of the ship looked like telescope city, and the eclipse began. As soon as totality was complete and the moon’s shadow began to move from the sun, the ship’s engines started. Astronomers grabbed their scopes and yelled for the captain to stop the ship. He had not been told that the ship needed to be still until after final contact (when the shadow moves away from the sun). In 2005, we sailed on the MV Discovery from Tahiti, and were somewhere in the South Pacific between Easter Island and Pitcairn Island on the way to Peru, when we viewed a rare hybrid eclipse that began as an annular, changed to total for the central portion of the path, and then converted back to annular toward the end of the path.

Our next trip, in 2006, was to Egypt, where Charley had an angina attack and wound up in a Cairo hospital. We missed eclipse totality at the

Three New Emeriti Named

The following recently retired faculty members have been awarded emeritus status:

SUSAN B. CASH
(Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs, and Art, 1991-2009)

NEIL H. GARSTON
(Economics and Statistics, 1975-2009)

IRVING KETT
(Civil Engineering, 1971-2009)

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

Recognizing the Signs of a Stroke
By Marilyn Friedman

Strokes and “mini strokes” (transient ischemic attacks, or TIAs) are medical emergencies. When a stroke occurs, brain cells die quickly, so it’s critical to get help immediately. It is a medical emergency similar to a heart attack, so similar that some health organizations now prefer the term “brain attack.” Every year in the United States, 700,000 people experience a stroke. And the figure is even higher if one counts the number of TIAs that occur. Women experience more strokes than men and generally are more disabled.

Transient ischemic attacks formerly were considered fairly benign because their stroke-like symptoms last less than 24 hours and do not cause permanent damage. However, experts now say that this brief neurologic deficit is a warning sign of a possible future stroke and should be treated just as seriously. And, more importantly, at the start of the attack there is no way of distinguishing a TIA from a full-blown stroke.

The severity of a stroke’s impact depends on factors such as location of the stroke, the extent of tissue damage, and how quickly symptoms are treated. There are two types of strokes: ischemic strokes and hemorrhagic strokes. In ischemic strokes, a blood clot blocks an artery that supplies blood to the brain, damaging nearby brain tissue. In hemorrhagic strokes, a blood vessel ruptures within the brain or at its surface, damaging the surrounding area.

Because the brain has so many functions, symptoms differ. The most important symptoms are 1) numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg; 2) confusion, making it difficult to speak or understand words; 3) vision problems, such as loss of vision or eye movement impairment; 4) trouble walking; and 5) severe headache.

Rapid diagnosis and brain-sparing treatment—such as tissue plasminogen activator (tPA), an enzyme that dissolves blood clots, or other clot-clearing procedures—can help limit the damage and resulting disability if given early. Patients must start to take tissue plasminogen activator within three hours after the symptoms begin. Unfortunately, many patients are not aware they are having a stroke. And most patients are not evaluated in time. The frequent result: severe and permanent brain damage. So recognizing when a stroke is occurring is critical!

Doctors and laypersons are now being trained to recognize a stroke by asking four simple questions. Ask the individual to smile. Ask the person to stick out her or his tongue (if it is crooked that is a sign of a stroke). Ask the person to talk and speak a simple sentence. And ask him or her to raise both arms. If he or she has trouble doing any one of these tasks, call 911 and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

Remembering how to identify a stroke may save a friend or family member from the full effects of a stroke. Getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then medically cared for within three hours is tough, but increasingly possible, in emergency rooms today.

Chasing Solar Eclipses
(Continued from Page 4)

center line near Libya, but hired a car on eclipse day to visit the pyramids. We put our AstroScan in the trunk and headed for the pyramid at Sakkara (oldest complete hewn-stone building complex known in history). At eclipse time, we set up the scope and had dozens of folks coming over to look at the 85 percent “total” solar eclipse while Charley gave them all an astronomy lesson!

We passed up the 2008 eclipse in Novosibirsk, having been on a trip to Russia a short time before. In July 2009, we will fly with the Friends of the Griffith Observatory (FOTO) to China and go on a cruise that will take us down the eclipse center line in the Pacific near Iwo Jima. It will last six minutes 39.4 seconds—the longest eclipse of this century. If you’re interested in chasing eclipses, note the schedule on the previous page. We hope to see you enjoying the view with us!

FACT SHEET: RETIREMENT & MEMBERSHIP

New Tax Withholding Rates for CalPERS Benefits

Many CalPERS retirees and beneficiaries saw slightly bigger benefit payments beginning with their April 1, 2009 payment, as a result of new income tax withholding rates issued by the Internal Revenue Service. The increase may have ramifications for retirees when filing next year’s income tax returns. Here are some facts.

The federal economic stimulus plan recently signed into law provides for a “Make Work Pay” tax credit of $400 for individuals and $800 for families, lowering tax obligations by those amounts with the goal of giving taxpayers more disposable income to spend and thus stimulate the economy.

The IRS issued new income tax withholding tables with lower withholding rates to reflect the lower tax obligation that would result from the tax credit. The IRS also ruled that pension funds must use the new withholding rates for benefit payments.

However, under the law, the Make Work Pay tax credit only applies to “earned income.” Pension benefits are not considered earned income, which means the tax obligation for pension benefits does not change.

This results in a situation for retirees and beneficiaries in which the tax withholding amount on their benefit payment goes down while their tax obligation has not actually been reduced.

The situation could result in underpayment of taxes during the year that would have to be made up when filing income tax returns the following year, along with the possibility of penalties for under-withholding of taxes during the year.

However, this doesn’t affect people who have x amount of dollars deducted. Those amounts stay the same. The above information obtains for those who file, for example, as married with two deductions.

If you have questions regarding how these federal tax changes could affect your future tax obligation, please contact a tax consultant or the Internal Revenue Service. Please be aware that you may voluntarily increase your tax withholding by filing a new Form W-4P.

AstroScan showing the eclipse at Sakkara pyramid in Egypt in 2006.
Allen P. Bristow
Professor of Criminal Justice, 1959-1983

Allen P. Bristow, emeritus professor of criminal justice, died on October 26 in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. He retired in 1983 after 24 years at the University. Allen was born in 1929 to George and Mary Nye Bristow in Nebraska. His earlier career included service as a military policeman during the Korean War, service with the San Fernando Police Department, and service with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, where he took an early retirement to become an educator.

After obtaining a B.S. from Los Angeles State College in 1952, Allen received the M.S. in Public Administration in 1957 from the University of Southern California, where he earned the John M. Pfiffner Research Award. He joined the Los Angeles State College faculty as an assistant professor with the Department of Police Administration in 1959. He was later promoted to professor in the reorganized Department of Criminal Justice at Cal State L.A. In 1983, he retired as professor emeritus.


He received the campus Outstanding Professor Award for 1967-68 and was elected to membership in The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.


Post-retirement, he served as a reserve military officer and was a training facilitator at Camp San Luis Obispo. He was placed on the retired list in 1995 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He lived for many years in Palos Verdes Estates and Atascadero in California before moving to Oregon. As an outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and competitive marksmanship.

Herbert Goldenberg
Professor of Psychology, 1955-1986

Herbert Goldenberg, emeritus professor of psychology, died peacefully on New Year’s Eve 2008 at the age of 82, surrounded by his family. An experienced teacher and practitioner of couples and family therapy, he developed the master’s level program in clinical psychology at Cal State L.A., and taught graduate and undergraduate classes in general psychology and family therapy.

With early degrees from City College of New York (B.S., 1949) and UCLA (M.A., 1952; Ph.D., 1953), he came to Los Angeles State College as an assistant professor of psychology in 1955. Three years later, he was licensed as a psychologist by the State of California. He retired in 1986.

Herb’s contributions to the field of psychology, and family therapy in particular, remain an enduring legacy to the profession. He was a consummate clinical and family therapist who maintained a clinical practice throughout his career. His clinical expertise gleaned over 50 years of professional practice, was augmented by his sharp intellect, empathetic manner, and astute insights, all lightly sprinkled with a sense of humor and good will, that offered clients practical approaches to problem resolution.

Herb was also a gifted author with a talent for making the written word comprehensible. His scholarly contributions to the field of family therapy are substantial. In 1973, he had published his first of many textbooks entitled Contemporary Clinical Psychology, and in 1976 he had published Abnormal Psychology: A Social/Community Ap-

Paul Kaepler Rowan
Professor of Sociology, 1956-1990 and Associate Dean, School of Letters and Science, 1971-1975

More than 100 family and friends attended Celebration of Life Services for Paul Kaepler Rowan, who died November 8. Paul had been a professor of sociology from 1956 to 1990. He arrived with B.A. and M.A. degrees earned at UC Berkeley in 1949 and 1950. Except for brief appointments as instructor at the University of Oregon and Stockton College, he completed his entire career at Cal State L.A.

Paul served as department chair and graduate studies coordinator in Sociology, and as an at-large member of the Academic Senate, before
In Memoriam (Continued from Page 6)

becoming associate dean for fiscal affairs in the School of Letters and Science in 1971. He had just been promoted to associate professor, thanks to policy that allowed advancement in rank of early faculty who lacked the doctorate but who had been especially active in faculty governance. This policy was sometimes called “the Rowan Rule.” By the time he returned to teaching in 1976, he had been promoted to professor. One colleague felt that Paul was proud of his lack of the doctorate, “a kind of private snobbery,” but eventually concluded that he was “more literate and a better thinker” than many of his doctoral colleagues. As a department administrator, he strenuously opposed the separation of social work faculty from the Department of Sociology, arguing pragmatically that “we’re better off bigger than smaller.”

During 1974 and 1975, Paul and history professor Richard D. Burns traveled together to small towns in several western states to present lectures and seminars on public policy, educational and other community issues, and development of resources. This program was funded by the Western Humanities Center at UCLA. From 1943 to 1946, he was engaged in research and testing for the Air Medicine Division of the United States Air Corps. Later he was a research associate in Sociology and Psychiatry at UCLA. From 1956 to 1961, he was a consultant at UCLA for National Institute of Mental Health research on the impact of LSD. As well as interviewing users, he described in detail his personal experimentation with LSD.

In a lengthy 1967 article on him in the College Times in 1967, Paul described teaching as a perfect life—being paid for “reading, thinking and talking.” The article emphasized his “California casual” appearance, opening with, “Cigarette in hand, wavy hair ruffled, and casually dressed in sports clothes.....” This “red-faced, bespectacled professor” was said to emphasize free discussion and the currency and relevance of material in his courses on sociological theory, mass communications, public opinion, and man and society. He taught introductory courses during his retirement, but once his FERP teaching ended, he is believed to have never returned to campus, spending all his time near his beloved Malibu.

Paul is best recalled for his sense of humor, love for reading, and passion for chess. He was offended when he was offered senior citizen rates for membership in the campus chess club. He is survived by his wife Joana, daughters Leslie and Joanna, granddaughters Victoria and Bailey, and sister Ione. He struggled with the continuing ravages of a stroke several years ago. The eulogy was delivered by a retired colleague and friend from the Geography Department, David Radell.

JAMES T. SULLIVAN
Professor of English, 1969-2000

James T. Sullivan, emeritus professor of English, died in his Temple City home on December 25, of undisclosed causes.

Jim was born in Boston on October 22, 1936, and after graduating from Boston College High School in 1954, served three years in the United States Army, including a tour of duty in Korea. He received his B.A. magna cum laude from Tufts University in 1961 and his M.A. from Brandeis University in 1963. While working on a Ph.D. at Brandeis under the direction of the distinguished poet and critic J.V. Cunningham, he taught at the University of New Hampshire until he joined the faculty at Cal State L.A. in 1969. He completed his doctorate in 1974 and remained in the English Department until his retirement in 2000.

From the outset, Jim was recognized as one of the most knowledgeable and dedicated teachers at the University. His range of interests and expertise in literary study was exceptionally wide. He wrote his dissertation on Philip Sidney and was a regular teacher of Shakespeare and other Elizabethan literature, but he also had a strong interest in Alexander Pope, Samuel Johnson, and the 18th century. At Cal State L.A., in addition to Shakespeare, he taught the full range of British literature survey courses, modern British and American poetry, literary criticism, mythology, Latin poetry, Irish literature, and all levels of composition. He published over 50 articles and reviews for the Pasadena-based Salem Press, mostly on modern and contemporary poets, but also on numerous 20th-century writers from all over the world. Equally impressive as the range of his interests in literature was his capacity for remembering so much of it. Jim was renowned in the department for his capacity to quote on any occasion from nearly every poem that he had read.

Jim’s passion for literature, literary theory, and the intellectual growth of his students carried over abundantly into the classroom. His style of teaching was to challenge his students to think, and to gain confidence in forming and defending their interpretations of literature both in class discussions and in their written essays. His enthusiasm and excitement incited like reactions in his students and made his classes electric. That energy seemed to extend beyond the class time as well, for students always came early to his classes, stayed afterwards to ask questions, and then showed up during his office hours to continue the discussions. Over many years, the department received numerous letters from former students, praising him for his teaching and how much he had touched their lives. As one student wrote, “He extracts the best we are capable of in discussion and in writing, and gives unstintingly of himself—his ideas, his time, his example.”

Jim is remembered by his colleagues for his learning, intellectual curiosity, good humor, willingness to help do the department’s work, generosity of time and good sense, and delight in debate, not only over academic matters, but also over good food and wine and his beloved Red Sox and Celtics. He is sorely missed by all who knew him.

Jim is survived by his wife Joan, his children Moira and Sean, and four grandchildren.

Also Remembered:

ELEANOR GRAHAM

Eleanor Graham, wife of emeritus professor of psychology Thomas M. Graham, died on December 6. They were married for 59 years.

DOROTHY MORTENSEN

It recently came to the attention of the Emeriti Association that Dorothy Mortensen, widow of Donald Mortensen, emeritus professor of education and dean of the former School of Fine and Applied Arts, died on April 22, 2008. Don predeceased her in 2007. They were married for 65 years.

Spring Luncheon
(Continued from Page 1)

and related programs that take place at the Natural History Museum, the Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries, and the William S. Hart Museum in Santa Clarita, of which he is the executive administrator. In addition, he is director of the Julian Dixon Institute for Cultural Studies.

This year’s annual spring event promises to be a unique and rewarding experience.
EMERITI ASSOCIATION NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2009 NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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