



Emeriti Newsletter

Los Angeles City College

www.lacitycollege.edu

Spring 2018

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Maria Reisch

Hello!

From those who attended our Fall 2017 meeting/luncheon, all were thrilled that Sarah Marcotte from JPL returned to inform us of the next excursion to Mars in April 2018. It was fascinating, informative, and fun. She brought several articles that the rover would be using for drilling, etc.

As I mentioned in my initial article, one of my goals as your Emeriti Association president is to increase emeriti involvement in our Fall and Spring Membership events. Come on May 18th and visit with colleagues and friends, and also enjoy the program that is planned for you. LACC's own Dennis Mitchell from the Chemistry Department will delight us, I am sure, with his teaching experiences in Budapest, Hungary. He has taught there 2 semesters now and is planning to teach and live there 6 months out of the year. Read more about the program on the following pages, and complete your reservation form on page 4.

As an Association, we engage in two events each year. Their success depends on your participation. I would very much like to hear from you regarding what inspires you to attend. Do you want to hear from fellow retirees about their travels/interests? Do you want to vary our meeting venue? Do you have suggestions for programs/venues?

Please contact me anytime at mfreich@aol.com with ideas, questions, information.

Make sure that we have your current mailing address, email and phone number. Send any updates to Dennis Mitchell at mitchedk@gmail.com.

In Memoriam
With fond memories of colleagues
Calvin Anderson
Guy Bernard
Luther Hayes

The Foundation Breaks Records!

Robert Schwartz, Director, LACC Foundation

By the end of 2017, the LACC Foundation had reached \$26 million dollars in assets—that is more than at any time in its existence. In just the last year, the Foundation received over \$1 million dollars in individual giving; \$1 million in grants for the college; and, another \$500,000 in corporate gifts. That funding allowed the Foundation to add twenty-five scholarship and award accounts, bringing the total to over 275. In addition, five departments and programs were selected to receive \$5000 each for their needs that could not be met in the campus budget.

Plans underway for the future include working with the college to add paintings by Herb Alpert in the Herb Alpert Music Center; meet with Frank Gehry to discuss his designing the skin of one of the iconic buildings on campus; and, establish a donor wall.

The Foundation maintains a close relationship with our emeriti for input on potential donors and suggestions for areas in need of support.

The Foundation Needs Our Help

Andrea Smith

We taught and nurtured our students throughout our careers, and now we are in a great position to help our students once again. Each year, the LACC Foundation awards hundreds of scholarships to worthy students who are dedicated to their educational pursuits and in need financially. We can help these students by assisting the Foundation in evaluating the applications. With a minimal amount of training—the Foundation has an easy-to-follow, online system—you can review applications from the comfort of your home computer.

I encourage you to volunteer. I've been doing it since I retired seven years ago. If you are interested, contact Jeremy Villar, villarjv@lacitycollege.edu. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, smithandrea1@icloud.net.

NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Dan Wanner, Academic Senate President & Accreditation Faculty Chair

In the last two newsletters I shared what the College has been doing to manage its declining enrollments, overspending, and accumulated debt. We're a long way from solving our problems, but we have been able to reduce our deficit and it appears we will be able to balance our budget by the end of the fiscal year. Enrollments remain in decline, however, and once again we will not make our FTES targets.

In planning the 2018-19 academic year, Interim President Mary Gallagher has worked with senior campus leadership to take some steps to address the enrollment crisis. The first is to offer our students a guaranteed schedule, meaning we will not cut classes due to low enrollments. Students will be able to plan their entire academic year, as will faculty, and we hope this move will regain the trust of those students who were turned away from the 300 classes we cut this past year and 700 classes we cut over the past three years. To support this effort, we are about to roll out a very aggressive and highly professional marketing and advertising campaign that in my opinion perfectly captures the diversity and quality of the students and programs at LACC. Keep an eye out for it, I think you'll be very pleased.

In April, we begin work in earnest on the state-sponsored Guided Pathways initiative, a major undertaking that is intended to transform our operations over the next few years. I know what you're thinking: we've had many such initiatives over the last decade and few, if any, have resulted in meaningful improvement. Well, I can say with great optimism that this time will be different. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students are working together to review and improve those areas of the college that are vital to student success: decision-making processes, planning, technology, professional development, student support services, basic skills, and learning outcomes. We will put significant resources into improving those areas with the goal of making the entire educational pathway better for our students, thereby increasing student success. This is a "student first" initiative that will include significant input from faculty, and I am excited by the possibilities for real change. I'll provide updates in future newsletters.

In other news, we will hire five new full-time faculty to start in fall 2018: Graphic Design, Dietetics, Astronomy, and two positions in Nursing (mental health, medical

NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC SENATE (continued)

surgical and geriatrics).

Finally, in late January the College received word from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges that it is in compliance with all the standards and is reaffirmed until 2020. Whew!

Thank you for your continued support.

My Hungarian Adventure (Magyar kalandom)

Dennis Mitchell

In the last few years, I have visited Hungary several times, teaching a course at a Budapest university, doing tourism, eating and drinking and getting to know my relatives much better. The word "relatives" indicates why I chose Hungary: my Mother was Hungarian.

I look forward to discussing several aspects with you:

1. What is Budapest like? Simply, it's one of the great, beautiful European capitals.
2. What is it like preparing a special topics chemistry course, fortunately given in English? It was a challenge.
3. My Mother never taught me any Hungarian. How does one deal with a language that looks completely incomprehensible? Study it! It becomes less and less incomprehensible.
4. What are my current plans concerning Hungary? They are rather extensive.

On May 18th, I will present more than a simple talk; there will be a little TRAVELOG, with pictures as far back as my first visit in 1971.

EMERITI NEWS --

Raoul De la Sota: My art work can be seen in the new movie, *A Wrinkle in Time*. In August, I will participate in two exhibits: "Cosmos" at the Unitarian Church in Santa Monica; and, "Nelascapes," an exhibit at the Avenue 50 Gallery.

Arnold McMahan: I have been working on what I regard as the single most important ethical issue of our day - the fact that 16,000 children under the age of five die every day from starvation, malnutrition, infectious diseases - who do not have to die. We have the resources and logistical capability to save them - what we lack is the will.

Martha Sklar: I became a member of the League of Women Voters and am now the President of the LA League. For the past nine years I have been involved with a mentor program at Santee High School.

Music Faculty Collaborate to Provide Free Textbook

Dan Wanner

Starting in spring 2018 LACC music students in all three levels of harmony and musicianship will be provided their textbook free of cost. *Harmony and Musicianship with Solfège* is a years-long collaboration between Professor Emeritus Laszlo Cser, who has over 35 years of teaching experience at LACC and other schools, and Daniel Wanner, full-time faculty member in the Music Department for over 15 years. The authors have donated the duplication rights to the department, allowing LACC music students to use this high quality, comprehensive textbook in the core theory courses (Music 201, 202, 203, 211, 212, 213) leading to the AA-Music, AA-T in Music, and vocational certificates. The cost of duplication is covered in part through the generous contribution of Professor Emeritus Truett Hollis, who passed away in early 2016.

In addition to free tuition for all qualified music majors provided through the Herb Alpert Foundation, the free textbooks are another step the department has taken to improve student access, reduce the total cost of education, and increase the likelihood successful completion of courses, certificates, degrees, and transfer to four-year schools.

LACC Welcomes Interim President

Myra Siegel

Dr. Mary Gallagher was named the Interim President at LACC to replace Renee Martinez, who retired in December. Dr. Gallagher comes to LACC from LA Trade Tech College (LATTC), where she held the position of Vice President, Administrative Services. She also served as Acting President at LATTC for eight months.

According to a press release announcing her appointment at LACC, Dr. Gallagher's achievements at LATTC included planning and implementing a \$17 million project to completely overhaul and upgrade campus technology; providing leadership in transforming LATTC from individual instructional departments to inclusive pathways; and, initiating a pop-up food bank. Prior to LATTC, Dr. Gallagher served as Vice President, Administrative Services, at LA Southwest College.

Join us on May 18th

Gloria Steinem Engages in a Conversation on DACA

Myra Siegel

LACC's spring semester took off with a special conversation on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program led by Gloria Steinem and Samatha Ramirez-Herrera. Ms. Steinem, the renowned feminist and leading media spokeswoman on issues of equality joined Samantha Ramirez-Herrera, a DREAMer activist, artist and entrepreneur to address the recent decision to end the DACA program.

After welcome and introductions by Interim LACC President Gallagher, Ms. Steinem and Ms. Ramirez-Herrera spoke a little about their backgrounds and experience. Ms. Steinem referred to the "idiocy of borders" as she noted how her ancestors, like most of ours, came to the United States. Ms. Ramirez-Herrera introduced an LACC counselor and three Dreamer activists who joined them on the panel to provide resources and hope to current DACA students.

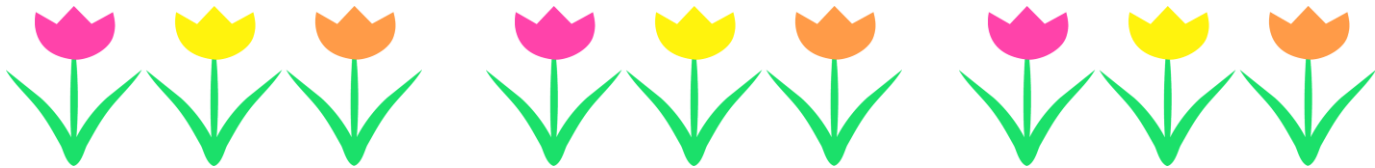
The panel invited members of the standing-room-only audience to ask questions, tell their stories, or make comments relative to the topic. Microphones were set up on each side of the David Alpert Lecture Hall for this purpose. More than once, people asked questions of the panel that were answered by other members of the audience.

Although most students expressed their fear of the situation, they also expressed determination in reaching the goals they had set for themselves. One student took exception with being identified as the "dreamers," when what these students represent are the "doers."

By the end of the 1 1/2 hour conversation, it was evident that, as Ms. Steinem noted, "Dreamers are the best of us." She encouraged students to continue their education. "It is key. Don't stop education."

EMERITI BOARD

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**LACC EMERITI ASSOCIATION
 SPRING MEETING AND LUNCHEON
 Friday, May 18, 2018, 10:00 AM
 Third Floor Multi-Purpose Room, Student Union**

Join us for a morning of coffee and conversation. Campus representatives will provide an update on current issues. Then our very own Dennis Mitchell will entertain us with stories of his life as a Hungarian professor. A delicious lunch with friends and colleagues will follow.

Parking is available in Lot 4, the Heliotrope parking structure, at the corner of Monroe St.

A daily permit will be emailed to you when we receive your reservation.

Please mail your reservation on the form below.

Name _____ E-Mail Address _____

Telephone _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 (only if different from label)

Reservations for May 18 luncheon at \$20 each No. _____ Amount \$ _____

Please circle your choice of wrap:

Veggie Tahini Chicken Philly Cheesesteak

Membership options:

\$125-Life Membership
 \$15-- Annual \$ _____

Donation to support:

Learning Community Faculty Award, Honor Student Speaker, Emeriti Scholarship \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Mail your check, payable to LACC Foundation, with a notation "Emeriti," to Martha Sklar 6150 Barrows Drive, LA 90048-5302, by May 11, 2018. Questions? Call Martha Sklar at (323) 936-8976, or email her at drmarmart@msn.com

Be sure to notify us of any address or email change so you will continue to receive a Newsletter