



# Emeriti Newsletter

Los Angeles City College

www.lacitycollege.edu

Spring 2017

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Maria Reisch

Hello!

Over the past six months, the Board has been writing and editing a set of By-laws for the Emeriti Association. These were created to provide a framework from which the Association operates, including how we interrelate with the College and the Foundation. The Board unanimously approved the By-Laws after their February meeting, at which point they were put on our website for all of the emeriti to review, offer comments, and/or approve. To get to the website, go to [lacitycollege.edu](http://lacitycollege.edu), and click on **"For Faculty and Staff."** Click on **Emeriti Association** under the heading, **Academic Affairs**.

We will vote on the By-laws at our spring luncheon meeting on Friday, May 12. I welcome your input beforehand. Please email me at [mfreich@aol.com](mailto:mfreich@aol.com).

As part of the By-laws development, we also reviewed our budget status and found that we are slowly going broke, in that our expenses are exceeding our income. Toward that end, and recognizing that emeriti dues has not increased in decades, the Board approved an increase in annual dues from \$10 to \$15; and, increase in lifetime membership from \$100 to \$125.

From those who attended our Fall 2016 meeting/luncheon, I heard many positive comments regarding Dylan Shields' presentation on how to relatively simply and inexpensively use your iPhone to make movies, videos, and other fun projects. Dylan was one of the two 2016 Learning Community Award recipients for this project.

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. I hope you will join me at our Spring luncheon/meeting on Friday, May 12, at 10:00am. Come and visit with colleagues and friends, and also enjoy the program that is planned for you. Read a

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued)

little 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](mailto: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 [mitchekd@gmail.com](mailto:mitchekd@gmail.com).**

## GO COLLEGIAN!!



LACC's student newspaper, *The Collegian*, was selected as the best two-year college newspaper at the Apple Awards for the second year in a row (2016 and 2017)!

## **LOTS OF NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

*Dan Wanner, Academic Senate President & Accreditation Faculty Chair*

A few weeks ago a colleague advised me to share more uplifting news with the Senate; apparently my recent meetings had been somewhat pessimistic. Unfortunately, the first item on the next Senate agenda was a presentation on how our enrollments have been declining precipitously for the past three years, leading to overspending and a large accumulated debt that will negatively impact our College for the foreseeable future. Oh, well.

The District is offering a retirement plan for eligible faculty who resign by June 30, with the District contributing to retirees a supplemental income of 75% of their final annual base pay. It pains me to say, but the retirements will be a key way for the College to reduce its budget deficit, which as already mentioned will be quite significant heading into the next fiscal year. We have heard of faculty, staff, and administrators who will take the offer, but we will not know for sure how this will impact the College until the end of April.

We have taken steps to address student concerns over the nationwide increase in hate crimes, and fear of possible immigration enforcement action at our College. In consultation with the Administration, the Senate published a statement that reaffirmed our commitment to providing all of our students a safe learning environment. We will continue to provide opportunities for open discussion of social issues, and will build off the positive outcomes from our "Now is the Time" event held late last fall. Through a "Know Your Rights" campaign, we are working closely with the District to provide relevant and accurate information to students, faculty, and staff about the rights of our undocumented students.

In more positive news, the faculty is working to better market our programs to new students, and to provide additional support services for existing students. We are focusing on several areas that we know will positively impact student access and success: beautifying our landscaping, bringing back Athletics, instituting a faculty advising program, building a food court, reducing the cost of textbooks, and creating an all-College tutoring center.

We hope to see progress in these areas by the end of the semester. With the potential positive impact of the College Promise providing free tuition for all qualifying students entering from high school, the Herb Alpert

## **ACADEMIC SENATE** (continued)

grant providing free tuition for all music majors, the broad support provided by the STEM grant, and the hiring of a full-time public relations manager, there is reason to be optimistic as we head into the fall semester.

Our beloved *Collegian* newspaper, honored as a finalist for the prestigious Pacemaker award last fall, received a 2016 Apple Award from the College Media Association for being the "Best Newspaper, 2-year School." Our cultural offerings are in full swing, with the Book Program organizing an outstanding talk on Muslims in America by Jihad Turk, and the Art Department sponsoring an upcoming presentation by renowned artist Kerry James Marshall. I hope to see you at one of our other upcoming events, perhaps in April at a Theatre Academy performance, in May at a Music Department evening concert, or on June 6 at our graduation at the Greek Theatre.

There are many uplifting stories we can share, and productive, life-changing work is accomplished at LACC every day. In our classrooms our students are becoming more enlightened, more critical in their thinking, more engaged in society, and more empathetic to the conditions of others. And in this period of vitriol and animus within an increasingly divided America, the reinforcement of these qualities in our students is more important than ever. We are in the most noble of professions. Every day I am thankful that I have the opportunity to be an educator at an institution that you, the faculty emeriti, helped to build. On behalf of the Academic Senate, I thank you for your continued support of our students and our programs, and for being a part of our LACC Family.

### **YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED...**

Our next Emeriti Meeting/Luncheon will be held on Friday, May 12, 10:00am, in the Student Union. (See details on page 4.) Besides the main agenda item of visiting with colleagues and friends, a special program is planned for you.

LACC's Foundation assets have grown from a little over \$4 million to over \$23 million in the last six years while Robert Schwartz has been its Director. Robert will join us on May 12 to reveal his latest efforts to increase that amount. He will also tell us a little about the last gala as an introduction to our main event: our students' inspirational stories.

## OUR STUDENTS' INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

In October, the Foundation sponsored a very successful gala. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association was honored for their \$2 million donation to the Cinema/TV department. In order to help the guests understand the amazing success stories of students who attend LACC, three students spoke about their personal journeys. Audible gasps were heard from the audience as each student spoke.

We look forward to seeing you at the Emeriti Meeting/Luncheon on Friday, May 12, when two of these students will be with us to share their stories, and answer questions that you may have. It will be a nice reminder of the remarkable students we had the pleasure to serve during our careers at LACC.

## EMERITI ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS—WHY NOW?

A couple of years ago, the Emeriti Association board voted to endow a scholarship. Until that time, the Board operated as a group of volunteers who met twice a year to plan luncheons and share news with its emeriti members. With the new addition of collecting funds for a scholarship, it was felt that the organization needed to develop a set of guidelines by which to operate. Hence, the by-laws! Because the by-laws are for the entire organization, it follows that all emeriti should have an opportunity to vote on them. They can be found on the Emeriti Association website, which is under Faculty and Staff on the LACC website. Feel free to review them and email your vote and/or any questions you have to Maria Reisch, at [mfreisch@aol.com](mailto:mfreisch@aol.com). We will vote on the by-laws at the Emeriti Association meeting in May. By the way, through your donations and matching dollars from the Foundation, we have been successful in reaching our initial goal.



The new Student Services Building

## FOCUS ON THE FOUNDATION

In the Fall 2016 newsletter, we raved about the Foundation receiving a \$10.1 million gift from the Herb Alpert Foundation. The gift is earmarked for music majors and is the largest ever given to a community college in southern California. We also noted that the College had been awarded a \$6 million, 5 year, STEM grant. ***The Foundation has enhanced the benefit of both of these.*** While the Herb Alpert gift covers costs for music majors, the Foundation was awarded a \$200,000 grant to purchase and maintain instruments for the department. The STEM grant requires a \$1million match as part of its grant, and the Foundation will provide the match in the form of student scholarships.

## THE BUSY LIFE OF A "RETIRED" ARTIST

*Raoul De la Sota*

As the new year began, I led an art tour of southern Spain, visiting such historic sites as Toledo, Granada, Cordoba and Seville. The point of the tour was to see how three distinct religions thrived together during their Golden Age to create one culture.

Soon after I returned, in February, I was the sole judge for the annual exhibit of Women Painters of the West, presenting awards to outstanding artists. On other days that month, I led a one-day Landscape Drawing class at the California African-American Museum and read my self-illustrated story of a Mayan mythological story to 2nd-graders at the Oakdale Grammar School in Glendale. March and April have been equally busy.

As we look to the future, I have curated an exhibit at the Southwest Museum in Mount Washington showing the work of 16 artists with the theme of the Arroyo Seco region. I call it "For the Love of the Arroyo." It runs from May 21 through June 18.

Finally, you will see my paintings and collages in the movie, "A Wrinkle in Time," scheduled for release later this year.

## EMERITI BOARD

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