Message from the General Manager

Dear Members,

We have finished this fiscal year in great shape and experienced a huge turnaround in our finances, ending the financial year solidly in the black for the first time in 11 years. This is in no small part thanks to members’ donations and their continuing support of the Faculty Center’s commitment towards increased financial efficiency and responsibility.

This upcoming year promises to be even more dynamic and positive: A groundbreaking new agreement and partnership with the university is being finalized at the time of writing. Members and guests will very shortly see the results as we embark on $10 million dollars in renovations to the Center, thanks to this landmark agreement.

In the meantime, I am sure that you will be pleased with the recent changes in our art collections, our updated menus and website. Stay tuned for the amazing changes you will see at the Coral Grill this September!

In closing, I wish to sincerely thank M. Belinda Tucker for her inspired and energetic leadership at the helm of the Board of Governors over the past year. I am happy to see her serve on as Past President and look forward to working with the new members who will be joining our outstanding Board this Fall.

Sincerely,

Luciano Sautto
General Manager
UCLA Faculty Center
It is hard to believe that I began my term as Association president just a year ago! Even though time appears to pass far more quickly during my “mature” years, this has been a period of rather extraordinary change for the Faculty Center (which seems to make the clock tick faster).

When we embarked on a new path for the Faculty Center several years ago, under the guidance of then-president Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, there were many who viewed the obstacles as insurmountable. Revenues had not exceeded expenses since 2007; losses between 2010-11 and 2016-17 totaled $1.7 million and our reserve had dropped below $100,000. We were in dire need of structural repairs, including a new roof and a new air conditioning system, and the interior needed a refresh (to say the least). When we hired Luciano Sautto as general manager, an experienced turn-around specialist, with deep roots in the restaurant business, we had high hopes of reversing these trends eventually, but most likely over the course of 3-5 years. In fact, we had expected our losses this past year (2017-18) to decline to a more manageable $150,000. Yet, we ended the year firmly in the black—well ahead of our guarded projections. One cautionary note: this turnaround comes largely as a result of cutting costs and increasing efficiency in just about every aspect of the business. In order to sustain this progress, we need to generate more income, which is necessarily our focus for the future and the area where our members can have the greatest impact by encouraging event bookings, new memberships, and making donations.

The new historical agreement and partnership with the university build upon these already very positive trends. We have signed an agreement that provides the framework for the detailed lease and operating agreements being drawn up and finalized this month. As owner of the building, the university will assume maintenance costs (which have at times been the difference between finishing a given year in red or black) and will invest $10 million in renovations while helping to raise at least another $2 million. As I have emphasized before in my reports, the Faculty Center is the only facility on campus that serves daily to promote campus-wide and cross-sector intellectual and social interaction. We view the Faculty Center as the welcoming post for the campus at large.

So, what’s happening now?

Members and visitors have remarked on the new energy evident in the Faculty Center these days and the very striking beautification efforts, orchestrated by our amazing general manager, but made possible by key donations from our ever supportive members. Notably, Victoria Steele, who is currently curating UCLA’s public art collection, has volunteered to apply her unique skills and deep knowledge to formulating the Faculty Center’s art displays. I have been struck by how the new themed artwork in key rooms has utterly transformed those spaces. On the food front, our new, exceptionally talented executive chef, Tony Nazaryan, is enlivening the menu in wonderful new ways.

Although our major renovation projects, including the new roof and new AC systems will not be started until next year, in the very near future we hope to have installed a new Point of Sales computer system that will allow us to reach a level of efficiency in ordering and accounting that has never before been possible. In addition, several of our venues are being remodeled and re-envisioned over the summer in order to expand significantly the range of experiences the Faculty Center can provide. We hope to have a grand reopening this fall to acquaint existing and prospective members with our new and emerging enhancements.

Longer term, Luciano is working with Capital Programs and the acclaimed architectural firm, Moore Ruble Yudell (MRY) to make the Faculty Center from both visual and comfort perspectives among the finest university clubs in the nation.

(continued on page 6)
Thanking Our Valuable Donors

The UCLA Faculty Center is sincerely grateful to its members for their generosity and support. Your donations help support our daily operations and provide much-needed funds for maintenance and repairs to our facilities. To make a tax-deductible donation to the Faculty Center Operational Fund or the Modernization Fund, please visit facultycenter.ucla.edu.

$1,000—$1,500
Julie K Kwan & Joseph H Kwan

Please note: Online donations appear in quarterly reports from the UCLA Foundation. We will ensure timely acknowledgment of your donations as soon as the data are communicated to us via the UCLA Foundation.

New Menu Items at the Faculty Center this Fall

Tickle your taste buds with a sampling of our new à la carte menu items at the Coral Grill and Playa Lounge, coming this fall.

**NEW! Breakfast Items at the Coral Grill**
- FC Breakfast | Quinoa Breakfast Bowl
- Short Rib Hash | Squash Pancakes
- Not-So-French Toast

**À La Carte Lunch: New Mains**
- Chicken Shawarma | Squash Risotto con Zucca
- Chicken & Farro

**Small Bites at the Playa Lounge**
- Pork Belly & Octopus | Lamb Meatballs
- Tempura Shrimp Tacos | Chickpea Panelle Fries

**NEW! Dinner at the Coral Grill**
- Shared Plates: Mussels & Clams | Beet Salad
- Grilled Bone-In Ribeye
- New Pasta: Pappardelle with Wild Boar Sugo
Recipe of the Month: Tony’s Mom’s Shakshuka

Every month, our executive chef will share some of his favorite recipes with readers. We hope you enjoy this easy to make and delicious recipe, inspired by his mom’s amazing breakfast staple.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- 10 vine-ripened tomatoes
- 8 eggs
- 8 tbsps. butter
- 1 cup cooked chick peas
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 jalapeño pepper, diced
- 1 bunch parsley, finely chopped

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven at 350F. Chop tomatoes, onion, red bell pepper, and jalapeño pepper.
2. Heat a large heavy-bottom pan on medium heat. Add onions and peppers and 1 tbsp. butter, season with salt and black pepper. Once onions are translucent, add diced tomatoes and cook over medium heat until most of the liquid has evaporated, then add chickpeas.
3. Then with a wooden spoon, move the sauce to expose the pan, add butter and crack the egg over the butter. Place in the oven at 350F until the eggs are cooked to your preferred doneness. Sprinkle with minced parsley. Eat with fresh bread. Serves 4.

New Fall Hours—New Dining Spaces

On Monday, September 24th, the Faculty Center is switching back to its regular schedule: 7 am to 7 pm, Monday to Friday.

Reopening: Coral Grill, Small Bites, and Monday to Friday night dinners.

À la carte breakfast is available from 7 am to 10:30 am, Monday to Friday, in the refurbished Coral Grill. This revamped space will also feature à la carte lunch and dinner nightly. Come check out our beautiful new space. To reserve, call us at 310.825.0877, or email us at club@ucla.edu.

We are looking forward to offering you these services shortly! Stay tuned for more!
Introducing Two New Additions to Management

Stephanie Yee, Catering Sales Manager

Stephanie Yee assists Faculty members and various university departments with setting up meetings and events.

Her previous employment experience included working in the accounting department for an aerospace company for 14 years. She then left aerospace and worked as a travel agent. From there she began working at a hotel while still dabbling as a travel agent. From these twin experiences, she found that she really enjoyed working in the hospitality industry and organizing events.

She enjoys working at the Faculty Center as she is able to implement ideas and policies that she has known to work. She says that she is an organizer, so being able to make changes for the better for members and co-workers is fun and challenging.

All her spare time is spent on a softball field watching her 14-year-old daughter play softball with her travel team, the Ohana Tigers. When Stephanie can take her family on vacation, she enjoys taking her kids (9 & 14) on vacation to locations that have history, turning these destinations into learning experiences.

Stephanie is passionate about helping others. She has been involved with several boards and organizations, including the Kiwanis Club of Torrance and the Lomita-Torrance Rotary Club.

Tony Nazaryan, Executive Chef

Tony Nazaryan is the Faculty Center’s new executive chef. He manages the entire kitchen staff and supply chain, prepares the menus and ensures that the kitchen runs efficiently every day.

After some years in business and computer technology, Tony discovered his true passion in culinary arts and never looked back. While he acknowledges the intense and difficult nature of the culinary industry, he loves how every day is always different, and this is what makes it a fun job.

The preparation of food and the enjoyment of it has been central to Tony’s life since he was a child. He was surrounded by family members who were passionate about home cooking and learned to cook at a very young age. For Tony, food is culture, and food is connected to the soul: “A meal shouldn’t to be consumed in 15 minutes and forgotten, it should be an event.” While he acknowledges that in this fast-paced society, fast food has its place, he hopes that more people become more involved in their dining experience.

A born cook, Tony’s inspiration for cooking stems from generations of cooking. Please check out this newsletter’s Recipe of the Month, Tony’s Mom’s Shakshuka, on page 4.
You should have already received a notification about the Faculty Center’s outstanding new website: http://facultycenter.ucla.edu

The new site is visually stunning, but also packed with readily accessible information about our offerings and our services. We’d love to get your feedback on the effort. The website is a critical indicator of just how far we’ve come and how much we can accomplish in the coming years—of course, with your support.

Election Results

Given what lies ahead, I am especially pleased to announce the results of our recent election. Although the outcome was no surprise, given that there were no contested seats, Julie Kwan, Caroline Streeter and Benjamin Zuckerman are all marvelously enthusiastic about their new leadership roles and seriously invested in the welfare of the Faculty Center. Bios for each of the formal candidates can be found in the last newsletter, but suffice it to say here that each is highly accomplished in their professional careers, but has also demonstrated a great capacity to be of service to the university community at large. They are exactly the kind of stewards we need to reach our potential:

President:  
Julie Kwan: 188

Members at large:  
Caroline Streeter: 178  
Benjamin Zuckerman: 180  
Donald Shoup: 1 (write-in)  
Debra F. Geller: 1 (write-in)

The turnout was somewhat lower than usual due to the lateness of the election (stemming from an initial lack of candidate nominations) and the absence of contested positions. We hope to make changes to future elections to encourage greater participation, including an earlier effort to solicit viable candidates and moving to an on-line voting system.

Kudos

I’d like to end my final President’s Report by acknowledging the individuals and groups whose visions and efforts have produced this remarkable rebirth and advancement of this treasured institution. I want to first put into proper perspective the work required to reconceptualize the business model that has been in place from the Faculty Center’s inception. Faculty and university clubs across the nation have experienced many of the very same problems that beset our center. An article last fall in the Chronicle of Higher Education (Gluckman, August 8, 2017) noted that though private dining clubs in colleges and universities were once the “nexuses of faculty interaction” many have shrunk or closed, as they failed to attract new members and did not retool for the modern era. UCLA staff and faculty have more dining and meeting options than ever before in all corners of the campus. We have had to develop a new way of doing business while offering value, quality, and variety (including new dining preferences). At the same time, there was a demand for a more attractive setting, especially given the generation of appealing campus alternatives.

I feel that we have met or are in the process of meeting every one of these objectives. First, I’d like to thank the recent Boards of Governors who seized the challenge and pursued new options despite the obvious roadblocks. These individuals, especially the officers, worked tirelessly in these uncompensated (as they should be) positions to change the business and culture of the institution in order to promote fiscal stability and growth. Many made very substantial financial contributions to keep the center afloat during the very lean times. It was the 2015-16 board that had the wisdom and foresight to hire Luciano Sautto as general manager, which set the center on a new course toward fiscal stability, improved dining quality, and an enhanced facility. Besides implementing a crucial cost-savings plan, Luciano has capitalized on every opportunity imaginable to get surplus equipment (even a new kitchen) and furniture from campus entities, earning from me the title “scavenger in chief.”
President’s Report (3 of 3)

Each and every staff member of the Faculty Center has worked tirelessly to effect these quite significant changes—from the servers and kitchen workers to the office staff. It has taken a village to re-envision such a storied institution and the front-line workers often bear the brunt of necessary changes. We are extremely grateful for their continued investments.

I also want to thank the university administrators who worked with us to construct an agreement between our institutions that recognizes the independence of the Faculty Center while acknowledging its enormous contributions to the UCLA community at large. Though years in the making, I have no doubt that this agreement will ensure the Faculty Center’s continued salience to UCLA for generations to come.

Finally, I’d like to thank our founding institutions, the Faculty Women’s Club and the Emeriti Association, for their enduring support through thick and thin. Each institution has a representative on the Board of Governors, so they have been fully aware of the challenges that have faced the center for nearly two decades. Their financial contributions have been crucial to the center’s survival. Likewise, we are grateful to the members of our community at large who have supported the center through daily dining, bringing events to the center, and making critical donations. Your generosity and support have laid the foundation for the Faculty Center of tomorrow.

It has been my great honor to serve as your president this year. I thank you for the opportunity.

—M. Belinda Tucker,
President, Board of Governors
Professor of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences

Presenting the New Members of our Board of Governors

President-Elect

Julie Kwan
Librarian Emerita
UCLA Library

Members-at-Large

Caroline A. Streeter
Associate Professor
English & African American Studies

Benjamin Zuckerman
Professor Emeritus & Research Professor
Physics & Astronomy

Congratulations and best wishes to our new Board members!
On Sunday, September 16th, members of the Faculty Center Association and their guests are invited to join the Play Readers group for a special off-campus event, as part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the UCLA Faculty Women’s Club.

What: *Arrival and Departure* by Stephen Sachs

   A new play inspired by Noel Coward’s screenplay for Brief Encounter

Where: The Fountain Theatre

   5060 Fountain Avenue
   Los Angeles, CA 90029

When: Sunday, September 16th, 2 pm

After: Talkback with cast and/or others

Price: $19 (special group price)

Read Los Angeles Times review


Deanne Bray and Brian Robert Burns
Photo by Ed Krieger © Los Angeles Times

To purchase tickets, please contact Rochelle Caballero at RRCab90272@cs.com

Visit fountaintheatre.com for more information about the play and the theater.

A reminder to our readers—please help us stay current!

♦ Recently changed address or UCLA employment status? Please ensure that we have the correct information on file. Contact us at 310.825.0877 or club@ucla.edu.

♦ Victim of fraud? Changed credit cards? Please let us know immediately.

♦ Haven’t yet changed to paperless billing? Please do so. Help us keep costs down and trees up!

You can now update your contact information via the website roster. Please log in and help us stay current! You may now upload your photo and interact with other members on the roster if you wish. Contact us or visit our web host’s help site for more information.