Message from the General Manager

We are counting on you!

Dear Members,

Welcome back to another academic year!

As we enter a crucial chapter in the Faculty Center’s history, your membership and support are more important than ever.

Renovations have begun and the plans so far are very exciting, please click on the link to view renderings.

We are very appreciative and grateful for your loyalty and financial support for our ongoing expenses as we continue the upgrade of the building’s infrastructure and improve the aesthetics of the Faculty Center.

We have many new menu items, activities and more coming when we reopen, and I look forward to seeing you all again.

Stay safe and healthy,

Luciano Sautto
General Manager & COO
UCLA Faculty Center
Autumn greetings to all!

Are you surprised to see the blue fence around our Faculty Center? Our long-awaited construction is beginning! Getting to this point has required an immense amount of planning, budgeting, and bidding. We are so grateful to our project manager Eric Heggen from Capital Programs, to the support of University Administration (especially Sue Santon, Michael Beck, and Gregg Goldman), and to our own general manager Luciano Sautto. We still do not have final timelines, but we are fortunate that the construction occurs during a slow time on campus.

Since we last saw each other in March, all of us have been through so much with the current pandemic. Hopefully, we have endured the worst of it, and we have developed new workspaces and ways of living and working. But nothing compares to being in one another’s company and enjoying the liveliness of what transpires in our Club. A lot of “business” gets done at the dining table or in the Playa Lounge over coffee. We miss it keenly.

As President of our Association, I miss in-person meetings with Faculty Center staff and our Board of Governors. Still, we have been hard at work using Zoom for our meetings and interacting regularly via email. We’ve conducted a formal election, formed a new Board of Governors, planned for data transfer into a new club management system, and most importantly, planned for the renovation of our facility.

As we proceed with the renovation, we will keep you up to date on our progress through our newsletter and through our website. I am hopeful that we will also be able to provide a video walk-through or two to show you what is happening on the inside of that blue fence.

We are also beginning to plan our grand reopening. Our Faculty Center will be a different place while still focusing on our core mission of facilitating intellectual and social interchange and fostering community among our members from across the campus.

We appreciate your continued support. Our membership dues are paying for our basic expenses. Please stick with us as we work to bring you a new and improved Club!

Julie Kwan, President
UCLA Faculty Center Association Board of Governors

John Keesey
**UCLA Faculty Center (“Stop”)**
Watercolor, 2011
Original sketch gift of the artist

UCLA Faculty Center
September 2020
Photo by Victoria Steele, Curator Emerita
UCLA Campus Collections
BOG Update
UCLA Faculty Center Board of Governors 2020-2021

Thank you to everyone who voted in our recent Faculty Center Association election.

The new members of the Faculty Center Association Board of Governors are as follows:

President-Elect
Jane Szutu Permaul

Secretary
Barbara Lippe

Treasurer
Ty Ingram

Member-at-Large
Wendy Fujinami

Founding Group Representative
Velma Montoya

This is the second year we have conducted our election electronically and doing so has resulted in great savings and efficiency for the Faculty Center.

The election began at 6:00 am on Monday, July 28, and concluded at noon on Monday, August 10.

We had a good turnout with 22% of 1,488 eligible voting members responding.
Q&A
Membership Information, Reopening Dates

Q: How is the Faculty Center using membership dues?
A: Membership dues are the only income we have right now. We use it to pay for insurance, security and policing, our liquor license (we don’t want to lose that!), IT, taxes, vendors, facilities, mail service, refunds, staffing, etc.

Q: My daughter is planning her wedding. When can we book the Faculty Center?
A: Since weddings are complex events (as are Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs), we are accepting reservations for events held in September 2021 and later. The ability to book events is one advantage of maintaining your membership.

Q: When will we be able to have lunch at the Faculty Center?
A: Informal dining is not as complex as banquet services. We will resume informal dining as soon as we can. The timing will depend on construction progress as the kitchen will be out of commission for a while. We are hopeful that, because of the planning already completed, there will be no surprises causing undue delays.

Giving to the FC
Sincere Thanks

Thank you to our kind members and friends who generously donated to the Faculty Center since our last News update (April 2020).

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation please go online to https://facultycenter.ucla.edu/Donate

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Congratulations!  
Faculty Center Member Wins Nobel Prize

Congratulations to our fellow member Andrea Ghez, UCLA’s Lauren B. Leichtman and Arthur E. Levine Professor of Astrophysics, on winning the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics! She shares the prestigious prize with Reinhard Genzel of UC Berkeley, the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, and Roger Penrose of the University of Oxford.

Ghez studies more than 3,000 stars that orbit the supermassive black hole. Black holes have such high density that nothing can escape their gravitational pull, not even light.

For more information please visit https://news-room.ucla.edu/releases/andrea-ghez-wins-2020-nobel-prize-in-physics

ERRC Events
Staying Connected

EA/RA After Lunch Program: UCLA Sustainability Thursday, October 8th, 1:30pm–2:30pm

ERRC Cares Presents Stem Cell Research–Bench to Bedside: Discovery Pathway to Treatment – Friday, October 23rd, 10am–11am

ERRC + LA Opera Recital – Friday, November 6th, 10am –11 am

For more information and dates, please go to https://www.errc.ucla.edu/connecting-during-covid#digitalactivities or contact Ayesha Dixon, Director, adixon@errc.ucla.edu
Faculty Women’s Club
FIRST GENERAL MEETING WEBINAR
Tuesday, October 20, 2020  1:30 PM
with Elizabeth Benson Forer, MSW, MPH, CEO, Venice Family Clinic

Join us on Zoom to meet with the accomplished Elizabeth Benson Forer, our 2020 FWC Woman of Distinction, who is CEO and Educational Director of the Venice Family Clinic, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Begun as a volunteer-led free clinic in 1970, the Venice Family Clinic, under Ms. Forer’s leadership since 1994, has expanded its reach from 10,000 patients annually in one small location to nearly 28,000 people in need each year in a comprehensive medical home of 12 sites with nine street-medicine teams in Los Angeles.

Ms. Forer’s influence also extends outside the Clinic, as she encourages community involvement in the work and educates government officials and the public in effective health policy and the needs of the medically underserved. Venice Family Clinic has trained thousands of medical residents, including UCLA residents.

Ms. Forer has been honored with leadership awards from the Durfee Foundation and the UCLA Fielding School’s Health Policy and Management Alumni Association Leader of Today Award.

Please join us for our first general meeting by registering in advance at:
https://ucla.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtdemqpsjHdY_sXh8E2P_LKt8z8_HTuq1

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Elizabeth Benson Forer

Play Readers
Upcoming Play Reading Schedule

The Play Readers, founded by the UCLA Faculty Women’s Club, have been enjoying monthly meetings on Zoom, and welcome readers and audience members alike.

Performances take place on Zoom, at 7 pm on the second Thursday of the month. Occasionally a performance requires two evenings, in which case the meeting is continued on the third Thursday.

To receive a Zoom invitation to any of their performances, please reserve by emailing not later than 24 hours beforehand to Marjorie Friedlander, friedlander.marjorie@gmail.com

Play Readers’ Schedule (for the next few months):

October 8th- Not Julius Caesar, adaptation by Ivan Strenski of William Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar.

November 12th- In the Shadow of the Glen and Riders to the Sea, two one-act plays by J.M. Synge

January 14th- Macbeth by William Shakespeare

February 11th & possibly 18th- An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde

To be added to their mailing list, or to become a reader, please email the chair Rochelle Caballero at rrcab09272@cs.com
In Memoriam

Remembering UCLA Faculty & Faculty Center Members

Edward I. Condren, Professor Emeritus, UCLA English Department;
Long-time member of Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

Our colleague Ed Condren passed away on April 1, 2020. He was eighty-five years old. He joined the UCLA English Department in 1967, along with the late Chuck Berst and Andy Kelly (author of this memoir). Chuck took VERIP III in 1993, Andy became emeritus at seventy in 2004, but Ed, a very popular mainstay in the early English survey, 10A, remained until 2009 at the age of nearly seventy-five, setting a record at that time for longevity.

Edward Ignatius Condren was born in New York in 1934. He attended Fordham University during the Korean Conflict and majored in Russian Studies. During those years he set his sights on an acting career, along with his roommate, Alan Alda, and they used to do gigs together in Manhattan (I witnessed a moving reunion of the two in the 1990s when Alda was playing at UCLA’s Huntington Hartford Theater in Hollywood).

When Ed received his BA in 1956, he moved from the Naval ROTC to the Navy itself, serving as a carrier-based aviator, remaining for seven years; and during this time he married Gail Hurliehy and had their two sons, Sean and Hilary, and two daughters, Sloane and Ellen. Naval Air was a dangerous profession, and Ed and Gail sometimes had the duty of informing the new widows of the loss of their pilot husbands, like the scenes described by Tom Wolfe in The Right Stuff. Ed himself lost two planes because of mechanical failures, but fortunately was able to push the ejection buttons in time (he spoke of the sensation of floating down in his parachute over the Mediterranean on a beautiful day).

Towards the end of his career in the Navy, Ed enrolled at Cornell University for a Master’s degree in English literature, which he received in 1964, and then entered the doctoral program at the University of Toronto, not in English, but in Medieval Studies, covering Old English, historical linguistics, Old Norse, Old French, and Middle High German. As ABD in 1967, Ed accepted the offer to join UCLA, and piled his large family and St. Bernard dog into a station wagon for the 3000-mile trip to Los Angeles. They had picked out Sherman Oaks on the map as a place to settle, but overshot it by a few minutes on the new, and still empty, Ventura Freeway and unknowingly settled in Thousand Oaks, on a spacious estate in horse country.

In two years he completed his dissertation, which was on Chaucer studies, but, unusually, instead of revamping it into a book for his tenure promotion, he submitted six articles on widely varying subjects: not only Chaucer, but also Chrétien de Troyes, Icelandic sagas, Beowulf, and the troubadours of Provence. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1973. Even though he taught graduate courses and directed dissertations, Ed’s forte was as an enthusiastic undergraduate teacher, and he was especially valuable in teaching 10A, which introduced generations of English majors to our early literature, from Old English through Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton, and instilled in them a love of literary culture that would remain with them for life.

His scholarship continued at the article and book-review and conference-paper level until later, when he produced a series of three books, Chaucer and the Energy Creation: The Design and the Organization of the Canterbury Tales (1999); The Numerical Universe of the Gawain-Pearl Poet: Beyond Phi (2004); and Chaucer from Prentice to Poet: The Metaphor of Love in Dream Visions and Troilus and Criseyde (2008). The last was an expansion of his original dissertation. He was at work on an edition of the Gawain-Pearl manuscript long into his retirement, until his health began to fail.

During the Vietnam protests, as a conservative military man, Ed was a founder of an anti-anti-war group, Concerned University Faculty (CUF). More important, he co-founded the UCLA Faculty Association, which succeeded in acquiring and increasing many benefits for the professorial staff. Like many of our medical and scientific and social-science colleagues, but unlike most humanities professors, Ed had an interesting side-profession. He served as a forensic English scholar, and expert witness, specializing in language use,
In Memoriam
Remembering UCLA Faculty & Faculty Center Members

Ed Condren (cont’d)

including defamation (e.g. for Rip Torn, in Torn v. Dennis Hopper, 1994—Torn won); copyright infringement, theft of ideas, and unauthorized use of intellectual property (e.g., against Stephen King, in King v. Allied Vision, 1992—King won); and the dissolution of community literary property (e.g., Carl and Linda Sagan, for Linda). His most famous case was the libel suit of Jerry Falwell against Larry Flynt over a satirical ad in Hustler. Even though Ed had been active in the anti-pornography group Citizens for Decency through Law (CDL), he testified in support of the first-amendment rights of Flynt, which were verified in a unanimous decision of the US Supreme Court, Hustler Magazine v. Falwell, in 1988.

Ed was an outstanding athlete, especially in golf, tennis, and skiing (in college he made the Fordham basketball team), and a lively raconteur, living up to his early theatrical aspirations. He had a flair for the dramatic, both in and out of the classroom. We missed Ed’s gregarious nature when he and his beloved Gail left Los Angeles permanently for Lake Tahoe, and we were very sorry to hear of his recent decline and final demise. He was a character worthy of the great literature he taught, and his passing will be sorely lamented.

—Henry Ansgar Kelly
Distinguished Research Professor
UCLA English Department

Note: The above was featured in the May edition of the FC News (not published due to COVID-19 closure).

John Wasson, Professor Emeritus and Research Professor, Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences (1934-2020)

John Wasson, cosmochemist and co-creator of the UCLA Meteorite Collection, died at his home in Los Angeles on September 8 at the age of 86.

Wasson joined the UCLA faculty in 1964 and remained active on campus, cycling to his office every day until suffering a stroke in January of this year.

A passionate promoter of science in California, Wasson collected meteorites at a furious pace, gathering specimens that would form part of the largest collection on the West Coast, one that eventually filled a large room on the third floor of UCLA’s Geology Building (Room 3697). In this room visitors can see the Canyon Diablo Meteorite, an enormous 357-pound mound of iron and nickel that slammed to Earth 50,000 years ago, creating a 560-foot-deep crater just outside of what’s now Flagstaff, Arizona. Wasson’s favorite in the 1,500-piece collection was the La’gad, a small meteorite that fell in the Western Sahara Desert. It contains angular fragments from the light-colored lunar highlands, which according to Wasson made it “the most spectacular” meteorite in the world.

Wasson was born July 4, 1934 in Springtown, Arkansas (pop. 100). His father was a farmer; his mother a teacher. He milked cows on the family farm and learned his letters in a one-room schoolhouse, and then traveled to a neighboring town to attend high school. He fell in love with chemistry while studying at the University of Arkansas.

His stellar academic achievement led him to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which he chose over Harvard for his doctorate because it offered $10 a month more in study support. After graduating from MIT in 1958 he left for Munich, Germany, where he met Gudrun, who would become his wife 18 months later. Wasson and his young family then headed to UCLA to pursue a career in nuclear chemistry.

Wasson wrote two books and more than 300 papers on the chemical and petrologic properties of meteorites and lunar rocks. He even had a chemical named in his honor — “wassonite,” a form of titanium sulfide. He became president of the Meteoritical Society and was awarded its highest honor, the Leonard Medal, in 2002. The next year he received the J. Lawrence Smith Medal from the National Academy of Sciences. Throughout his life he energetically campaigned to preserve Arkansas rivers from developers and polluters.

Wasson is survived by his wife, Gudrun, and two daughters, Christina and Kerstin. Those who wish to donate in the name of John Wasson can contribute to the Meteorite Gallery at UCLA or to the Flint Creek Preserve in Arkansas.