Season’s Greetings

Dear Members,

As the frantic pace of the last few weeks of the Fall term gives way to a more relaxed time of gatherings with friends and family, our thoughts turn to what the holiday season means to us individually. For some it’s Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Festivus; but for all it’s a time to take stock and appreciate what is important to us.

These past weeks have been stressful for many members of the UCLA community who have experienced the effects of the many fires that happened in the region; our thoughts are with all of you, and we hope you and yours regain wellness and peace of mind very soon.

From all of us at the UCLA Faculty Center, we wish you the very best the season has to offer, and look forward to greeting you in the new year.

Sincerely,

Luciano Sautto
General Manager
UCLA Faculty Center
As this most eventful calendar year ends, I want to express our deep concern and support for members of our extended UCLA family who have been affected by the massive and unprecedented wildfires. We are first and foremost a community and I know that our association members want to provide assistance and aid to those in need at this time.

We had a full and enthusiastic house at our Faculty Center Association Membership meeting on November 30, 2017. I was pleased to provide a report on our efforts over the past few years to restore fiscal solvency to the Faculty Center and to negotiate our first ever formal agreement between the Faculty Center Association and the UCLA administration. (The full PowerPoint presentation is accessible to members on the Faculty Center website.) In summary, with the hiring of our new General Manager, Luciano Sautto, and a new system of fiscal oversight, we have enacted changes that have vastly improved the center’s financial health. A turn-around specialist and accomplished chef in his own right, Mr. Sautto has already had an extraordinary impact on the Faculty Center’s overall well-being. In the face of very significant and unsustainable losses in Fiscal Year 2015-16, Mr. Sautto has successfully reduced our expenses by half. We have also had to face the fact that our business is seasonal and, unlike the typical restaurant, we have fewer customers in the summer. Many faculty members come to campus less frequently and everyone takes vacations at that time. Consequently, we have been compelled to reduce our operating hours in the summer.

Simply reducing our expenditures will not restore fiscal health, though. We must also expand our business and it is in this area that our membership can be most helpful. New offerings in our Playa Lounge include breakfast, small bites and evening meal service. This is bringing in an additional $10,000 per month. People are raving about the new options including a “killer” avocado toast and, my personal favorite, the tuna tartare! But, the most important revenue generators are special events, including banquets, conferences, meetings, and special social affairs such as weddings, graduation parties, and bat/bar mitzvahs. If your department or program is planning an event, please let them know about the virtues of having it at the Faculty Center. If you or friends wish to celebrate a momentous family occasion – urge them to bring it here! You are our share-holders, our customers, and our biggest boosters. We can all contribute to this storied institution’s success.

At the members meeting, I also conveyed our deepest appreciation for the many donors who have ensured the Faculty Center’s continued presence in campus life. We strive to list recent donors in every newsletter, but I especially want to thank the Emeriti Association, and Professor Patricia Greenfield for providing match opportunities, and the Faculty Women’s Club members for their enduring support.

I am extending a special thank you to all those who attended this very critical meeting. Your comments, insights, and advice were very helpful. I hope to see you at our annual Holiday Buffet on December 14 and our special members reception on the 19th. Wishing you all a peaceful and restful holiday break!

—M. Belinda Tucker, President, Board of Governors, Professor of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences
Greenfield Active Faculty and Researcher Matching Fund: To double your dollars, please donate before the ending date of 12/31/17!

Through the end of this calendar year, Patricia M. Greenfield, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Faculty Center Board of Governors President, 2016-17, will generously match on a one-to-one basis all contributions to the Faculty Center from current active faculty and researchers up to a total of $25,000.

This is an unparalleled opportunity for faculty members and researchers still actively employed to double the impact of their donations. All contributions are tax-deductible and can be quickly and easily made via credit/debit card or PayPal at the following website:


You may also make a check out to the UCLA Foundation, specifying Modernization Fund or Faculty Center Operational Fund on the notation line. Checks can be dropped off or mailed to the Faculty Center, 480 Charles E. Young Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90095. Please also note on the check that you are an “active faculty member or researcher.”

Thanking our Valuable Donors

We are sincerely grateful to the Faculty Center members who have made the following generous donations since our last report:

$500—$1,000
Thomas C. Calcaterra
Anita L. Cotter
Charles & Carolyn Knobler
In Memory of Robert L. Scott

$100—$499
Janet D. Carter
Malcolm & Carol Gordon
Thomas M. Liggett
Christine Dunkel Schetter
The UCLA Faculty Center welcomes your feedback and suggestions. Here are two comments that members and guests sent our way:

I am writing to you about the excellent service I received this past week at the Faculty Center. I called the office on Thursday morning to make a reservation for that night’s dinner service. I had invited a number of alumni from my department to join me for dinner at 7:00 that evening.

Juan was quite accommodating and I was able to relax knowing my event could proceed as planned. I greatly appreciated Juan’s professionalism and courtesy as he handled my situation in a way that gave me great confidence in the staff at the Faculty Center.

The Scholarship Banquet was a successful event!

The staff was timely and kind, especially Ramon, the team lead; he was especially helpful and accommodating. Overall excellent service. The dinner was delicious and perfect.

The bartender service and room set-up were excellent.

Worth Sharing

Important Notices

Please note:

The UCLA Faculty Center will be closed for the Holiday Break from Thursday December 21st 2017 to Sunday January 7th 2018 inclusive.

Due to the Holiday Break closure, we will be processing all members’ monthly dues and outstanding balances on Thursday December 21st.
Meet Your Service Team: Our Ongoing Series

The Faculty Center takes great pride in its team of servers and custodians whose focus is to provide a welcoming environment and excellent service to its members and guests. Here is a profile of two of our team members.

Presenting Ailin Menasians

Ailin is known to Faculty Center members for her high level of engagement and customer service. She came to the United States with her family in 2009, and joined the team at the UCLA Faculty Center five years ago.

Ailin has worked as a cashier and served countless dinners. She has also served cocktails, specialty coffees and small bites in the Playa Lounge for the past year, and this is a position that she enjoys very much.

She has one child, a 17-year-old daughter, who is studying very hard and wants to become an engineer. A hard worker, Ailin’s primary goal is to ensure a better future for her family.

Presenting Mauricio Gutierrez

Mauricio joined the custodian team at the Faculty Center in 2013, after fighting fires for two years with Cal Fire CDF. During his experience as a firefighter, he travelled to different locations, from San Diego up to Kern Country and Eureka, California. A born and bred Angeleno, Mauricio discovered the awe of sleeping under the stars and battling the elements to preserve California’s beautiful natural heritage. He considers it to have been a great experience to have been part of a brotherhood and working as a team.

Mauricio is passionate about tattoos; he even apprenticed for a year as a tattoo artist. He got his first tattoo at the age of 13, and ever since he has acquired lots of tattoos, with each one having a personal meaning for him.

A family man, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, Giselle (9) and Marisol (2). In his spare time, he keeps in shape and can often be spotted running the beaches from Santa Monica to Dockweiler. He is a Lakers and Dodgers fan, and feels really lucky to be living in Los Angeles, where there are so many places to visit and things to do.
Recipe of the Month: Pumpkin Empanadas

The word *empanada* comes from the Spanish verb *empanar*, meaning to wrap or coat in bread. Try this sweet variation and make something festively different for your guests this season.

**WHAT YOU NEED**

- 2 pie crusts
- 14 oz pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 heavy cream
- Pinch of nutmeg
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 2 oz raisins (optional)

**METHOD**

To make the filling, combine the pumpkin puree, sugar, heavy cream, and raisins (optional) in a mixing bowl. Lay the pie dough out flat and cut 6 inch circles with a cookie cutter.

Place 2 oz. of the filling in the center of each dough circle. Fold dough over like a big half moon, then crimp edges with a fork, or with your fingers.

Beat one egg in a separate bowl for egg wash. Dip brush in egg wash and brush over empanada. Sprinkle top with a mixture of cinnamon, nutmeg, and sugar.

Bake at 375 degrees F for 20 minutes. Makes 12 empanadas.

Adapted from a recipe courtesy of Flying Star Café & [www.visitalbuquerque.org](http://www.visitalbuquerque.org)

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Mark Your Calendars: Introducing Monthly Themed Dinners!

We are kicking off the new year in style with a new tradition: monthly themed dinners! Don’t miss the Faculty Center’s very own Prime Rib Dinner, on Thursday, January 25, from 5-8 PM.

This buffet will feature favorites such as prime rib, roast chicken, salmon, along with delicious canapés, sides, salads & desserts. All for $39.95 per person.

We look forward to hosting this event and welcoming you to this most special dinner!

Please contact club@ucla.edu or call 310.825-0877 to make a reservation.

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The Play Readers will be reading *You Can't Take It With You*, a comedy by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, at the Faculty Center on Thursday January 11, 2018, 7 pm.

On Thursday January 11th, the Play Readers will present *You Can’t Take It With You*, a comedy by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. Directed by Kaufman, it opened on Broadway in 1936, and won a Pulitzer prize in 1937. Frank Capra directed a film version in 1938 which won an Academy Award. The play is set in the Columbia University neighborhood of New York, and features a cheerful but eccentric large family whose daughter falls in love with the son of a wealthy and rather conservative business man. With 18 characters, there are lots of roles for volunteer readers. They read script in hand, so no need to memorize. Please contact Rochelle Caballero at rccb90272@cs.com, if you’d like to be a reader. There’s one rehearsal for readers, usually a week before the reading.

Play Readers’ performances are in the library/billiard room at the Faculty Center at 7 pm. Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month from October to May, except for December. Each reading includes a chance to discuss the play with the cast and director. Guests are always welcome, and there’s no charge to attend the readings. Meetings of the Play Readers are preceded by dinner at the Faculty Center at 5:30 pm, with the director and members of the cast. Each person pays for his or her own dinner. Please RSVP to Marjorie Friedlander at Friedlander.marjorie@gmail.com if you’d like to reserve a place for dinner before a performance. If you’re coming just for the performance, no reservation is required, but they would appreciate knowing so they can plan accordingly. And do let them know if you’d like to be on the Play Readers’ mailing list.

If you missed the October reading of Reginald Rose’s *Twelve Angry Jurors*, or *True West* by Sam Shepard in November, January with its lighter theme is the perfect time to get involved. Next up, in February, the Play Readers will be presenting *Separate Tables*, two one-act plays by Terence Rattigan.

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**FWC News**

UCLA Faculty Women’s Club
3rd General Meeting, Annual FWC Scholarship Dinner
with DGSOM Dean Kelsey C. Martin and FWC Scholarship Recipients
5:30 PM Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Faculty Center

The first meeting of the new year—the FWC Centennial Year!—will celebrate 12 bright and talented UCLA scholars and feature a talk by Kelsey C. Martin, MD, PhD. Dr. Martin is the first woman dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Dr. Martin’s topic for the evening, “Lessons in Leadership: Peace Corps, Memory Research, and Medical Education,” will briefly cover her storied educational trajectory. The 12 scholars will also relate their educational journeys to date.
Our Mission
UCLA Staff Assembly is an organization “for staff, by staff.” Through educational, social, and community programs, we foster staff engagement in support of UCLA’s mission. The benefits include leadership opportunities, networking, personal and professional development, recognition, and campus involvement to name a few. All staff are encouraged to be a part of our community.

About Us
UCLA Staff Assembly is an organization for staff dedicated to promoting the interest and welfare of all staff employees. Founded in 1978 and supported by the Office of the Chancellor and Campus Human Resources, Staff Assembly provides a forum where staff employees at all levels can discuss University issues of mutual concern and forward their opinions on policies, procedures and activities related to staff to University Administration.

Notable Staff Assembly Events
- All-Staff Picnic Celebration
- Breakfast with the Chancellor
- Emerging Research Speaker Series
- Small Business Resource Fair
- True Bruin Move & Groove 5K Run/Walk
- VIP Reception with Mrs. Block
- Recognition Awards & Staff Scholarships
- Monthly Learn @ Lunch Event Series

Join Our Listserv
Would you like to sign up for the Staff Assembly listserv and receive messages about Staff Assembly programs, events, campus news, and opportunities for staff? You are in the right place! [http://bitly.com/uclasalistserv](http://bitly.com/uclasalistserv)

Staff & Faculty Scholarships
Each year UCLA Staff Assembly offers scholarships for career enhancement and professional growth. For more information on these opportunities, including criteria and deadlines, visit [http://staffassembly.ucla.edu/](http://staffassembly.ucla.edu/).

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A Message from UCLA Staff Assembly