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Faculty Center NEWS

Serving the UCLA Community for 60 years | December 2019 Issue

photo: Matt Antonioli, Unsplash
MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER & COO

Dear Members,

I feel truly honored to have been a part of the Faculty Center’s turnaround journey in the latter half of this decade. Indeed, the first half of the decade was marked by uncertainty with regards to the continued existence of the Faculty Center. Thanks to some tough decisions and the support of the Association members and the Board of Governors, the Faculty Center is in a much better position to embrace the opportunities of the coming decade.

As a campus institution, ours is a seasonal business, with alternating busy and quiet periods. As such, our staff deserve thanks for their tireless dedication to the Faculty Center as we navigate our way toward better financial health and longevity.

We have lots to be thankful and hopeful for. Do come celebrate the end of year and the end of the decade at our Holiday Buffet Dinner on December 10th.

I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.

Luciano Sautto
General Manager & COO
UCLA Faculty Center

A SPECIAL END OF YEAR APPEAL

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO YOUR FACULTY CENTER

The recent major gift to the Faculty Center from Donald & Sherie Morrison and the University’s commitment to invest substantially in infrastructure repairs will have transformative impacts on the Faculty Center. Yet, the need for your support is as great as ever, since the aforementioned gifts cover very specific expenses, such as roof and seismic repairs and interior renovations. Critical upgrades not covered by these gifts are essential and include:

- State-of-the art AV systems in all meeting rooms
- Incorporation of “green” initiatives in renovations
- Sustainable landscaping projects
- New kitchen equipment and renovation of the servery

Only you, our members and supporters, can move us to the next level, through your continued use of our facilities for daily dining, social, and academic needs, and your donations. Your year-end gift, large or small, will get us to that next level. Your donation will ensure that this extraordinary campus treasure will be available for the professional and social needs of future generations of UCLA faculty and staff.

With thanks for your support and best wishes for a joyful holiday season.

The Board of Governors and Staff
UCLA Faculty Center

Please click here to donate
We have a stunning list of accomplishments to celebrate as we close out the decade. With new leadership under General Manager Luciano Sautto, we have much to be proud of, including the following:

- The University demonstrated its support for the Faculty Center through its $10-million contribution in support of building infrastructure, including replacement of the roof, sewers, and pipes.

- Donald and Sherie Morrison made an extraordinarily generous gift of $1 million to improve the interior of the building. In recognition of their support, the California Room will be renamed in their honor when the room is beautified.

- Under Luciano’s leadership, the Center’s finances have gone from red to black. Luciano is committed to bringing the Center into even greater financial strength in the new year.

- The north hallway, the south hallway, and the southwest hallway have all been refurbished. The walls are freshly painted and new flooring was installed. I now refer to the north hallway as “The Gallery” because of the curated display of reproductions of architectural images by Richard Neutra, A. Quincy Jones, Lloyd Wright, and S. Charles Lee.

- The Boardroom, Redwood, Sequoia, Hacienda and Sierra rooms have been refurbished.

- The Cypress Bar & Lounge has reopened after many years of non-use and is open Monday through Friday from 5 pm to close. New furniture and wall art have livened up the space. A new specialty cocktail list and bar menu have been added.

- The Playa Lounge has new beach-themed artwork and new furniture.

- The Library/Billiards Room has new furniture and new artwork and is becoming a popular place for individual and group gatherings.

- The Rose Patio has new furniture and the sculpture Serenade has been beautifully restored.

- The Coral Grill has new furniture and a new menu and now serves à la carte breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

- The Servery has new menu options, a Grab-and-Go section, and made-to-order sandwiches and panini.

- Afternoon tea is now offered in the Playa Lounge to rave reviews and is offered 3 to 5 pm weekdays. Reservations are recommended.

Many people have contributed to these changes. In addition to Luciano Sautto, I want to give a shout-out to Michael Heafey, Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, Octavio Olvera, Jane Permaul, Victoria Steele, and M. Belinda Tucker. I also extend my thanks to YOU, the members. We depend on your use of the Center for both everyday dining and hosting your own special events. Your business enables us to keep the Center busy so that we can keep our staffing levels stable and offer the facilities and services you expect. Your charitable contributions are deeply meaningful, too, and I hope you will consider a year-end gift to the Faculty Center.

With warmest good wishes for the Holidays,

Julie Kwan
President, UCLA Faculty Center Association Board of Governors
Distinguished Librarian & Librarian Emerita, UCLA Library
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We need you!

The UCLA Faculty Center’s continued presence on this campus is testament to the enduring and vital support of our association members and the entire UCLA community.

Donations from faculty, staff, family and friends launched this daring venture and have kept it alive and relevant through good times as well as the more challenging periods. We are especially grateful to the members of our founding organizations, the Faculty Women’s Club and the Emeriti Association, who have made considerable investments time and time again in our modernization efforts, as well as fundamental operational costs.

Recent donations and investments have helped us turn a very critical corner. Donald and Sherie Morrison, acclaimed scholars and UCLA benefactors, have made the largest donation ever to the Faculty Center—a $1 million gift to modernize our major event venue and other key features of our historical facility. The UCLA administration’s investment of $10 million for essential structural repairs, including the roof, plumbing, and seismic retrofitting quite simply will give new life to a building that has graced our campus for over 60 years without major structural maintenance.

These investments cover very specific and sorely needed renovations. However, our core needs extend beyond these areas and can only be achieved with your help. The Board of Governors Fundraising Committee, comprised of Barbara Lippe, R. Michael Rich, Victoria Steele, Ben Zuckerman and myself, is working hard to develop a fundraising plan that can engage every association member and all who benefit from the Faculty Center’s central campus presence. We plan to launch a new campaign during this academic year that outlines a variety of ways that supporters can invest in the Faculty Center’s future.

Meanwhile, we request that you remember the Faculty Center in your year-end donation plans with a tax-deductible gift to our modernization fund or our general fund. As noted in our accompanying appeal on page 2, we view the following domains of support as essential for everyday use and our growing events trade (including academic and professional conferences and meetings, and vital social events such as weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, celebrations of life, graduation parties). These include:

- A vastly improved, state-of-the-art audiovisual system that would include ceiling mounted projectors, drop-down screens, and high-quality sound, among other enhancements.

- Sustainable landscaping projects that complement and extend the modernized indoor facilities. Each of our meetings rooms includes patio space that, in the tradition of mid-century modern architectural vision, should be visually and conceptually linked to its companion room.

- “Greening” the Faculty Center with renovations that incorporate sustainability principles. These could potentially include a higher efficiency HVAC system, reducing heat loss/gain through enhanced window/walls/roofing, water conservation with low water use planting and more efficient plumbing fixtures, and the possible use of solar energy.

- Ongoing efforts to improve the environment for members who use the Faculty Center daily for meals, meetings, and social engagement (seating, flooring, lighting, etc.).

- Updating the kitchen equipment and renovating the servery.

Your donations are essential for these projects. However, we also need our members to be ambassadors for the Faculty Center and hope that you will urge your colleagues and friends to become association members and will encourage the use of our facilities for all of your professional and social needs. We are ever-grateful for your continued support.

M. Belinda Tucker
Chair, Board of Governors Fundraising Committee

Faculty Center members ordering from the afternoon menu in the Playa Lounge
Photo credit: Victoria Steele
MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Here’s hoping that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break and that you are looking forward to the Winter Holidays.

In my third year as Treasurer of the Faculty Center Association, I have learned a great deal about the fiscal and accounting challenges of the Faculty Center. Fiscally we have been “in the black” now for a couple of years.

The key issue now is an outdated accounting system, both in terms of the software we use and our fiscal transactions with UCLA campus accounting. However, I am hopeful that we are close to updating everything. Also, by the beginning of the new year 2020, we hope to have a well-experienced accountant serving as our chief financial officer.

Also, we are hoping to transition to a new point-of-sales software system, which will directly enter your charges to your account, saving the need for staff input of data and thus eliminating errors. The software system will also enable us to more efficiently account for all other fiscal transactions. This transition, as is true with most technical changes, will most likely create “glitches”. To minimize glitches, YOU can help.

Here’s what you can do to help with the transition:

➡ Be sure your payment information, i.e. credit card and other data, are up to date by calling or stopping by the front desk.
➡ If you have not given us a credit card, we strongly urge you to provide us with a credit card for automatic billing.
➡ Check and review your monthly billing for accuracy and make any needed adjustments with Accounting.

We will of course keep you up to date on when the actual transition will take place, which hopefully will be over the Winter Holidays or in January. You can inform us of any discrepancies.

Many thanks for your support of the Faculty Center and wishing all of us a productive and fruitful 2020.

Jane S. Permaul
Treasurer, Faculty Center Board of Governors
FUN FACTS ABOUT THE UCLA FACULTY CENTER

Did you know?

As we close out the Faculty Center’s 60th year, below are some fun facts about the club’s early years. They were derived from John Sandbrook’s fascinating report, The UCLA Faculty Center and The UCLA Faculty Center, Inc., issued in October 2004. The full report may be found online on the Faculty Center’s website (About > History). We thank John Sandbrook, UCLA historian extraordinaire, for his extraordinarily interesting and complete documentation of the story of the club up to 2004 – and hope we might entice him to bring the story up-to-date.

Victoria Steele, Ph.D.
Member, Faculty Center Association Design Committee

➡ An early idea — from 1943 — about providing a building for the UCLA Faculty Center was to relocate the residence building (not the library building) from the grounds of the William Andrews Clark Library in the West Adams district of Los Angeles to the Westwood campus. Given financial stringencies owing to World War II and other factors, the proposal was abandoned. The Clark Library residence building was subsequently demolished.

➡ The final proposal for the Faculty Center eliminated a swimming pool and an apartment for the UC President.

➡ The first General Manager of the Faculty Center, Col. Oliver Trechter (1959-1967), had retired in 1959 from the department of Military Science at UCLA before accepting the position of Faculty Center General Manager.

➡ For the first decade of the operation of the Faculty Center, all male members were required to wear a coat and tie inside the Faculty Center.

➡ From 1959-60, Faculty Center dues were $0.50 per month. Food service was provided on a buffet, eat-as-much-as-you-want basis, at a fixed price of $0.90 per meal.

➡ During the early years of the operation of the Faculty Center, members were prohibited from having students join them as guests.

➡ Initially, the “Game Room” in the Faculty Center was restricted to male members only.
CHEF’S CORNER

SEASONAL FAVORITES

Welcome to December’s edition of Chef’s Corner. I can’t believe how quickly the last ten months have passed since my arrival at the UCLA Faculty Center.

I’d like to share a nice little winter warmer recipe I have often served in the past at this time of year: Butternut Squash, Sage & Mascarpone Risotto with Toasted Hazelnuts.

This dish may be served as a vegetarian entrée or as an accompaniment to roasted poultry. I personally enjoy serving this dish with pheasant, as the richness of the risotto and flavors and juices of the bird really complement each other. If you can get your hands on some venison from your local butcher or farmer’s market I would recommend that as another option.

I would like to thank you for your continuous support and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2020. I’ll be heading back to bonnie Scotland for the Festive break and ringing in the new year with my family and friends, so until next year.

Slàinte Mhath!

Richard Heller
Executive Chef

Chef’s Butternut Squash, Sage & Mascarpone Risotto with Toasted Hazelnuts
Serves 4

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 butternut squash
- 1 small Spanish onion, peeled and minced
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and minced
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 3 tbsps unsalted butter, divided
- 1 cup Arborio rice
- 3 cups chicken stock (vegetable stock for a vegetarian dish)
- 1 cup white wine
- 1 cup mascarpone cheese
- ½ cup parmesan cheese, freshly grated
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh sage
- A few sage leaves for frying as garnish
- 4 tbsps hazelnuts, peeled, toasted and coarsely chopped
- Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400°F.

1. Toast a batch of hazelnuts.*
2. Peel squash and dice into 1/2 inch cubes. Coat in 3 tbsps olive oil and salt. Place on baking sheet and roast in oven for 25-30 minutes. Remove from oven, let cool.
3. Purée half of the squash, place the remaining cubes in a bowl and set both aside.
4. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine 1 tbsp olive oil and 1/2 cup parmesan cheese. Sauté 1 tbsp chopped fresh sage and a few sage leaves for frying as garnish.
5. Add 1 cup Arborio rice to a pan. Fry sage leaves over medium heat. Make sure not to let oil get too hot.
6. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine 1 tbsp olive oil and 1/2 cup parmesan cheese. Sauté 1 tbsp garlic and 1 cup Arborio rice until Arborio rice is browned. Add 1 cup white wine and reduce to 1/2 cup.
7. Add the remaining 2 cups chicken stock. Continue cooking for 20 minutes until rice absorbs most of the liquid, creating a creamy risotto base.
8. Fold squash purée and cubes into rice until incorporated. Add parmesan and mascarpone cheeses just before turning off the heat. Add 1 tbsp sage, fried sage leaves, and the remaining 1 tbsp nuts.

* To toast hazelnuts:
   - Lay raw hazelnuts out on a cookie sheet and roast at 350°F for 15 minutes.
   - Let cool completely on the baking sheet (they’ll keep cooking until cooled).
   - To remove the outer skin, rub with a clean kitchen towel once cool. Store nuts in a medium-sized jar with a tight lid in the freezer.
Reminder: Upcoming Events at the Faculty Center

HOLIDAY BUFFET DINNER
Tuesday, December 10
5:00 - 7:30 PM

Dear Members,

We are looking forward to welcoming our members and their guests to our annual Holiday Buffet Dinner.

Featuring the Other Reindeer Carolers from 6 to 7 pm, your evening promises to be a memorable one with delectable buffet options including canapés, salads, seafood station, carving station, hot buffet, delicious sides & desserts.

Book your table today!
Adults $59 | Children 6-12 $24 | Children 5 & under: free

MEMBERS’ RECEPTION & GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, December 17
4:30 - 6:30 PM

You are invited to attend our annual Members’ Reception. We are also holding our biannual Faculty Center Association General Meeting, during which you will be able to hear about latest Faculty Center developments, hosted by Board President, Julie Kwan.

Join us for complimentary canapés and a glass of wine or beer. No reservations necessary.

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