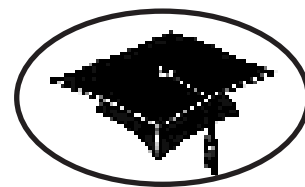

Berkeley Emeriti

TIMES



January 2005

Professor Judith Campisi
Senior Scientist, Life Sciences Division
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

“How and Why We Age: The Paradigms of Basic Aging”
Saturday, January 22, 2005

We are pleased to bring you Professor Judith Campisi as our speaker for the January luncheon. Of her talk, Professor Campisi says, “The regenerative capacity of renewable tissues allowed organisms to live longer. However, renewable tissues also pose a risk for developing cancer. I will discuss recent findings suggesting that the mechanisms that help suppress cancer are in balance with processes that promote aging and age-related diseases, including late-life cancer.”

Professor Judith Campisi obtained her undergraduate degree in chemistry and her Ph.D. in biochemistry at the State University of New York, Stony Brook. She was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School and Assistant Professor at Boston University Medical School. In 1991, she came to Berkeley in the Life Sciences Division of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory where she later became the Cell and Molecular Biology department head. She is now co-head of the LBNL Center on Research and Education on Aging and a professor at the Buck Institute for Aging Research.

Professor Campisi has received the MERIT Award from the National Institute on Aging and the Glenn Foundation Award from the Gerontology Society of America. Among over 200 articles unraveling the mystery of aging, she is probably best known for “Replicative Senescence: An Old Lives Tale?” and “Aging and Cancer: The Double-Edged Sword of Replicative Senescence.”

UCBEA Special Event
Drawn by the Brush: Oil Sketches by Peter Paul Rubens
March 4, 2005, 3:30pm– 5:00pm
UC Berkeley Art Museum

Join Lucinda Barnes, Associate Director for Art, Film and Programs at the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives, for an exclusive exhibition tour and refreshments. *Drawn by the Brush: Oil Sketches by Peter Paul Rubens* is the first exhibition in the United States to present a comprehensive survey of Rubens’s oil sketches (See insert).

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**LaPlace and the Superfluous God:
Political Correctness in the Age of Reason**

On November 13 Professor Roger Hahn of the History Department, biographer of the stellar mathematician, physicist and astronomer Pierre-Simon, marquis de LaPlace, shared with the UCBEA luncheon audience his investigations of LaPlace's religious beliefs and their relation to his scientific work.

LaPlace lived through the French revolution and had become a minister in Napoleon's cabinet. He had dedicated a work on astronomy to the General, and after perusing it, Napoleon remarked that nowhere in the work had LaPlace mentioned God. "Sire, I have no need for that hypothesis!" LaPlace replied. (This retort was recorded in the diary of English astronomer William Hershel, who was present at the meeting.) Even though the remark may have been accurately preserved, it was controversial and ambiguous. Was it a rejection of the existence of God or merely a prudent avoidance of unnecessary assumptions? As LaPlace's biographer, Professor Hahn could hardly ignore it, for LaPlace at age 19 had had a profound crisis when he rejected the religious vocation his father had proposed for him.

In his research in the French archives Professor Hahn came upon a sealed document concerning LaPlace marked not to be opened for 50 years, a date obviously long past. When it was opened by a proper authority, Professor Hahn was rewarded with a 25-page manuscript that explicitly spelled out LaPlace's anti-Christian views. (Historians must live for moments like this!)

In this tract LaPlace is scornful of Christian belief in miracles, resurrection and particularly in transubstantiation, which he considers the greatest absurdity in the universe. Given the atheistic materialism then current in French intellectual circles, LaPlace's attitude is remarkable only for the vehemence with which it is expressed, and it nowhere bears directly on his scientific work.

However, he published in 1773, a belief of absolute determinism in the physical universe, hedged by the mathematics of probability, a subject that he pioneered. He had shown in his study of celestial mechanics that the solar system was stable – there was no need for God to periodically reset the orbits of planets and satellites as Newton had proposed. (LaPlace's information led him to believe that Newton in his later years had suffered a breakdown.)

Why did LaPlace so carefully avoid public disclosure of his atheism? Professor Hahn pointed out that doing so would have incurred the wrath of the establishment to which he belonged. He was a government minister, and in 1801, Napoleon had signed a concord with the Pope restoring a degree of religious presence in France. Politically LaPlace could not afford to be at odds with government policy and a resurgent religiosity in the country.

If the dues to gain Dues and \$10 a year and can be paid by a check made out to the UCB Emeriti Association and mailed to the Association, 2 Boalt Hall #7200, Berkeley, CA 94720-7200. If you contribute an amount in addition to the dues payment, please indicate this on your check.

If you are not sure of your current dues status, the last year for which dues have been paid can be found above your name on the *Times* mailing label.

Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S



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Published before each meeting of the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association: To provide closer networking for members with meeting announcements, meeting reviews, executive committee actions, pertinent campus news, and to reach out to members who cannot attend the meetings.

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2001-2003 Biobib Survey Defies Emeriti Mortality

A news headline in 2003 reported a stunner: **Miners Refuse to Work After Death**. This sobering situation utterly failed to stir UC campuses, however, because here things are often the other way around. Academic miners by nature, many UC emeriti pursue their professional work unabated no matter how many colleagues drop around them. In fact, some seem driven to persist into the Great Beyond.

Such commitment has appeared in the results of the Council of UC Emeriti Associations' biennium biobibliographic survey for July 2001 through June 2003. Reported this summer, the university-wide tally and supporting materials have been forwarded to all chancellors, selected deans, the President's Office, and the Regents.

Odds don't favor attempts to pry much biobibliographic data from emeriti since most bask in their liberation from the repeated nuisance of similar prying in their old promotion-ladder days. Then too, although the impressive data of former surveys have promoted emeriti prestige and benefits, still-youthful souls may find the siren call of a recreational hour more seductive than a biobib form. So it would seem on one campus where survey fuses fizzled at a 2% response rate. On another, however, spirited communal incentives coaxed forth 46%. All told 725 emeriti responded, 20% of those canvassed.

From a broad perspective, a landmark distinguished this survey: for the first time since the mid '90s, the number of non-VERIP respondents (pre-1990 and post-1994) nearly equaled the number of VERIP respondents (1990-1994). As the three VERIPs had lured many faculty into departing abruptly, such emeriti formed not only an exceptionally large retirement group, but also a younger one with more continuing academic involvement. Now the relative decline in their numbers, and the six to eight years since the last VERIP, largely neutralized the warp, making this survey the most balanced, "normal" one yet.

Reflecting this normalcy, figures this time show somewhat less teaching and service than in the previous biennium. Thwarting reason, however, they also reveal that emeriti publications actually increased. So to make an argument fit the data one may guess that age is becoming ever more youthful; or new emeriti reflect the increasing prestige of the university; or perhaps pre-retirement promotion priorities prevail perpetually as academic miners among us seek immortality more than ever.

Whatever the perversity, publication entries for the 2001-2003 biennium are striking: 301 books, 2,949 articles, and 612 book chapters. Not far behind are 379 book reviews, 730 abstracts, 385 professional reports, and 203 consulting reports. Meanwhile, colleagues with an artistic bent report 27 literary works, 175 art works (many displayed in 72 exhibitions), 50 film or video productions, and 298 performances of music, dance, or theater.

In pursuing this plethora, respondents utilized 121 extramural grants, hiring 247 graduate research assistants, post-doctoral fellows, other professional staff, undergraduates, and secretaries. About 10% express a need for funding, and another 12% could use secretarial help, a laboratory, or office space. The fact that 352 report having campus space, however, suggests that most campuses have been accommodating, perhaps reflecting an increased awareness of emeriti contributions.

Responses to queries about emeriti teaching, on the other hand, flag a matter that might be actively addressed. Given current budget cuts and objections to the university's reliance on non-faculty instructors, emeriti seem to be an underutilized resource. Since the previous biennium, the number of respondents teaching on their home campuses declined from 211-179 - reflecting expiring VERIP recall arrangements more than expiring emeriti? As talents of emeriti seldom retire with them, some of the 107 who report teaching elsewhere, might have been tapped closer to home.

As it is, many were tapped for professional and university service. Although their numbers declined from the last biennium, 155 served on professional committees, with 75 employed as officers. Editorial appointments were held by 187 who, along with others, reviewed a total of 881 articles. From such activities emerged in 186 professional honors.

Meanwhile departments snared 112 from this group for various slots plus 179 for doctoral committees, and Academic Senate's Committee on Committees, desperate to fill vexing vacancies, seized scores, depositing 94 in nooks and crannies of the Senate; one even chaired a division. Administrative demands were not far behind, engaging 75 while 41 took on advisory roles and emeriti interests attracted 85. "Other" committees employed 37, and fundraising occupied 19 a significant number since emeriti financial contributions to the University totaled \$ million in the January 2005 biennium.

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