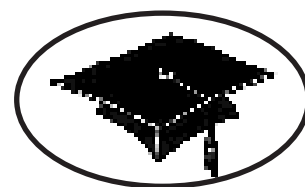

Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S



January 2009

Professor Chris Somerville

Department of Plant and Microbial Biology
Director, Energy Biosciences Institute, UCB

“Fuels for the Future--Cellulosic Biofuels”

Saturday, January 17, 2009

The Faculty Club

Chris Somerville received his training in genetics at the University of Alberta. He is presently a professor in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology and is also the Director of the new Energy Biosciences Institute at UC Berkeley, University of Illinois and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. As Director of this Institute, Dr. Somerville oversees all open activities at the Institute, including research, communications, education and outreach. Prior to his position at Berkeley, he was the Director of the Carnegie Institution Department of Plant Biology and a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Stanford University. He has published more than 200 scientific papers and issued patents in plant and microbial genetics, genomics, biochemistry, and biotechnology. He has served as a member of the scientific advisory boards of numerous academic institutions, corporations, and private foundations in Europe and North America. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society of London and the Royal Society of Canada and has received numerous scientific awards and honorary degrees.

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Berkeley Emeriti

TIMES



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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.

Editor: Claude Babcock
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A SWEETER MUSIC

“Why play new music?” At the UCBEA luncheon on November 8, 2008, Sarah Cahill, pianist, music critic and radio producer, responded to this challenging question. Her weekly radio program, in which she interviews performers and composers, has been called by *Citysearch* “One of the Hundred Best Things about the Bay Area.” More than a half dozen composers, including John Adams, have written piano works dedicated to her.

She defined new or contemporary music as music that is being composed now and is not beholden to a particular style or dogma. She challenged *New Yorker* critic Alex Ross’s assertion that while the public has embraced new art, new music has been found forbidding and has not attracted a substantial audience. She contended that new music speaks to all kinds of people including teenagers. Sarah played an anti-Iraq War piece by a 16-year old Berkeley boy, who has studied with John Adams since he was 9 years old.

Over the 20th century many different styles and ideas appeared. She cited the example of Ukrainian-born Leo Ornstein who wrote radical, wild music in his younger years, but later adopted a romantic mode, quite out of fashion in the 1970’s and 1980’s. Sarah interviewed him in 2000 when he was 107 years old and played for us a calm, lyrical selection he wrote at age 86, titled “Morning in the Woods.” (Of particular interest to a UC audience, she told us that Ornstein was a music teacher of the very young Andrew Imbrie, and encourage him to take up composition.)

Mamoru Fujiedo, whom she had approached and interviewed, subsequently summoned her to Tokyo to perform, on an old upright piano in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Imperial Hotel, music communicated to him by plants. Exactly how he receives such communications remains his secret. Different plant species apparently sing different tunes. Sarah played for us the music of an unidentified plant that in no way had a sound we might associate with Japan.

Her last contemporary music example was a composition by Australian-born composer and pianist Percy Grainger (1882-1961) titled “Shepherd’s Hey.” As she played, her enthusiasm for the music was affecting.

A further key to her success in having contemporary composers write music dedicated to her reflecting their mutual respect; she is serious in her regard for their work, and composers appreciate performing artists and perceptive critics who take them seriously.

Sarah currently has commissioned 18 composers to write music expressive of peace. Most of them have strong anti-war views, although some strived to move beyond those feelings to express the essence of peace, rather than simply writing anti-war pieces. The title of the production, to be presented

Continued on next page

... A Sweeter Music

January 25, by Cal Performances in Hertz Hall, is “A Sweeter Music,” taken from Martin Luther King’s Nobel Prize lecture in which he called for “a sweeter music than the discords of war.” Music perennially has been used to arouse the martial spirit in warring populations. It is to be hoped that music also can be enlisted to arouse a spirit of peace. A laudable project!

(Disclosure: Your reviewer has known Sarah Cahill since she was 11 years old and began playing chamber music with my violinist daughter Rachel.)

Larry Waldron

Closer Networking

One of the goals of the Berkeley Emeriti Times is “... to provide closer networking for members...”; this meets that criteria:

I would like to share a beautiful West Berkeley loft workspace with one or two other retirees—desk, bookcases, file cabinets, peace and quiet—two blocks from Café Trieste, \$350/month. Contact 510/644-9840 or jlave@berkeley.edu.

Jean Lave, Professor Emerita

Economic Challenges for the New Administration and the Rest of us

If the bombardment of stories about bail-outs and recession, the ups and downs of the Dow, housing foreclosures and the rise of the unemployment rate is causing brain fatigue, the Retirement Center’s next Learning in Retirement series **Economic Challenges for the New Administration**, organized by Professor John M. Letiche of the Department of Economics offers refreshing relief. The series runs four Tuesdays in January from 1-3 pm:

January 6 **Prospects for the American Economy, with a Peace Dividend**

Professor Lawrence R Klein, Nobel Laureate, University of Pennsylvania

January 20 **Housing: The Mortgage Market and Financial Turmoil**

Professor John Quigley, Dean, School of Public Policy

January 13 **The Need for a New Financial Architecture**

Professor Barry Eichengreen, Department of Economics

January 27 **Globalization and the New Administration**

Professor Maurice Obstfeld, Department of Economics

There are no enrollment fees for Learning in Retirement courses, but advance registration is required. Contact the Center at email ucbrc@berkeley.edu or call 510/642-5461. Enrollment is limited.

Another Perspective on the economy

To get your brain around the dollar figures being thrown around, take a bundle of \$1000 bills and stack them up:

- 4” stack = \$1 million
- 350’ stack = \$1 billion,
- 65 mile stack = \$1 trillion

Dues Due

Check the year above your name on the *Emeriti Times* mailing label. This will tell you when your membership expires. Your membership is important to us, and we hope you will continue your involvement with the UCBEA. Dues are only \$15/year. Please mail your dues (payable to UCBEA) to the UCB Retirement Center, 1925 Walnut Street # 1550, Berkeley, CA 94720-1550. Remember to indicate the years to be covered by your dues in the memo area of your check.

Just do it.

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University of California, Berkeley
1925 Walnut Street # 1550
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On-campus Holiday Season Entertainment for Grandchildren and Others

Creature Features: A festival of current and classic animated animal films at the Lawrence Hall of Science auditorium 11:30 am and 2 pm.

December 26 and 27	Madagascar	January 1 and 2	Finding Nemo
28 and 29	Jungle Book	January 3 and 4	Muppet Movie
30	Lady and the Tramp		

Lawrence Hall of Science's **New Year's Eve Day Party:** December 31, noon until 2 pm. Young revelers celebrate 2009 as it dawns around the world. The party includes a balloon drop and celebratory apple juice.

The Berkeley Art Museum presents **Bending the Word** every Wednesday through Sunday until February 8. Four artists actively re-interpret shared narratives, from ancient fables and religious texts to official history and current events, mixing fact and fiction and inserting personal and anecdotal into larger cultural narratives.

Exhibit: Mark Twain at Play, Bancroft Gallery, Bancroft Library, 10 am - 4 pm every Monday through Friday, until March 31. How did Mark Twain spend his time when he was free to relax and amuse himself? His leisure pursuits included amateur theatricasl, yatching and his "play" among others. This exhibition brings together manuscripts, documents, albums, vintage photographs and other rare artifacts from the Mark Twain Papers archive.