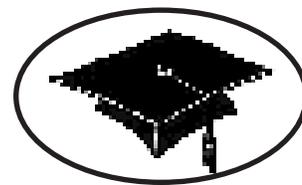

Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S



March 2004

Nobel Laureate Charles Townes Professor of Physics

“How the Laser Happened” Saturday, March 20, 2004

Professor Charles Townes of the Physics Department will be our guest speaker at the UCBEA luncheon in the Men’s Faculty Club on Saturday, March 20, 2004.

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Professor Townes received a Bachelor of Sciences degree in physics and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Modern Languages summa cum laude from Furman University in 1935, a Master of Arts degree in physics from Duke University in 1936, and his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 1939. After employment at Bell Telephone Laboratories from 1939 to 1947, he joined the Physics Department at Columbia University in 1948. In 1961, Dr. Townes was appointed Provost and Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, finally arriving at Berkeley in 1967. He has engaged in research on a broad range of subjects: nuclear and molecular structures, quantum electronics, interstellar molecules and radio and infrared astrophysics.

Together with the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1964 for his for fundamental work in the field of quantum electronics, which has led to the construction of oscillators and amplifiers based on the maser-laser principle, Professor Townes has received the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, the National Medal of Science and the Niels Bohr International Gold Medal. He is a foreign member of the British Royal Society, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Russian Academy of Science. He was chosen by the Academic Senate to deliver the Faculty Research Lecture in 1986.

UCBEA Special Event
Friday, April 16, 2004

Spring Time Visit to the UC Botanical Gardens

A 4 pm reception in the Garden’s Conference Center, hosted by Professor Emeritus Paul Licht, Director of the UCB Botanical Garden, will be followed by a brief, guided walking tour. The Gardens are especially beautiful in the spring; Asiatic rhododendrons and California natives will be in bloom.

See insert for registration. Space is limited; please register as early as possible.

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Mark Twain — Cool Social Climber and Free Spirit

On Saturday, January 31st, Professor Emeritus Robert Middlekauff addressed the Emeriti Association on the subject, “Mark Twain and Genteel Society,” posing two questions regarding Mark Twain’s entry into the genteel society: (1) how did it happen, and (2), what effect did it have on his writing?

Mark Twain’s character was of great interest to Jarvis Langdon and his wife when Mark announced his desire to marry their precious daughter Olivia. Their anxiety was understandable given Mark’s erratic and adventurous life. He had been a Confederate deserter, riverboat pilot, western adventurer and sometime journalist. The Langdons were well-bred, wealthy members of genteel society. Letters from referees chosen by Mark were not reassuring, but much to their credit the Langdons were willing to look beyond Mark’s eccentricities and assess his character, or “the state of his soul.” Mrs. Langdon’s inquiries led her to believe that his life had turned toward a new and better direction. Livy had read the letters with their negative assessments of Mark’s character, but said she would not believe them, even if she heard them directly from an archangel. Clearly, she was in love.

Although Jarvis Langdon was pious and wealthy, he was known to take independent actions. In earlier years he had formed an abolitionist church. The Langdon’s had also founded a feminine academy in Elmira, N.Y. These deviations from convention set them apart from many members of their class and may be a clue to their acceptance of an unconventional son-in-law.

Mark’s marriage to Livy was only the first step in his acceptance by genteel society. In a few years he was welcomed everywhere. His welcome even extended into New England society, the proudest, oldest and most self-confident in the country. Mark and Livy were accepted partly because society valued literary achievement, and he had become a well-respected writer.

How did the embrace of genteel society affect Mark Twain’s writing? One conventional view is that the heavy financial burden of the genteel lifestyle stunted his intellectual creativity. Indeed, maintaining grand houses with armies of servants took its toll. In 1894 Mark Twain went bankrupt.

Another way in which genteel society may have inhibited his natural creativity, was pressure exerted by its writers and intellectuals for him to eschew humor and write, “refined books” (read “boring”). With *The Prince and the Pauper* Mark made an effort at a serious book. Many readers admired it, but his old mentor and editor at the Virginia City *Territorial Enterprise*, Joe Goodman, wrote of his disappointment. The book was a mistake, and Twain did not again yield to the plea for more serious works. In 1885 he published the greatest and most subversive of all his works, *Huckleberry Finn*. The genteel didn’t get it. They regarded the book as a quaint memoir from Twain’s early life without being aware of

Berkeley Emeriti

I M E S



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Archiving the Past:

A One Day Conference, April 30, 2004

Among the scheduled speakers at “Archiving the Past” will be David Lowenthal, author of *The Past is a Foreign Country*; he, and others will introduce some of the almost philosophical problems of dealing with the past—from the earliest written records, through the Florentine fourteenth century business documents, to the personal letters of Nobel Prize winning scientists. What does the historian of the future want to see, and what can we, should we, provide?

To answer this question, and the very practical one of what does the University want from its emeriti and retirees, in terms of their records, books and papers—scholarly, administrative, personal—accumulated over their years of service on the campus. Attending University specialists — archivists and librarians—will have advice. The conference will take place in a comfortable venue and lunch will be served. *Keep this date open.* Call the Center for a detailed brochure,

Spring Time Visit to the UCB Botanical Garden

On April 16, Professor Emeritus Paul Licht, Director of the UCB Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, will host Emeriti members at a 4 pm reception in the Garden’s Conference Center, followed by guided walking visits into one or more of the Garden’s nine geographically separated, magnificent world collections of plants.

The Conference Center, which accomodates 71 people, is a short walk from the main entrance. Across the street, a limited number of parking spaces are available for campus permit holders or for \$.50/half hour, on a first-come, first-served basis. An electric cart is available to transport persons wary of inclines to the Conference Center and can accomodate up to three persons on an abbreviated Garden tour. Persons wishing to come early and browse in the Garden or the gift shop are welcome.

To facilitate planning and arrangements members are encouraged to make reservations for the event as soon as possible. Admission for emeriti members and

its challenge to a complacent society.

Mark Twain was a vigorous opponent of imperialism, whether of the American or British kind. He publicly expressed his disgust with the Boer War in the presence of one of its heroes, young Winston Churchill. The Spanish-American War and the Phil-

SATISFACTORY SERVICES



Reprise: 2003 Recommendations (concluded)

Anne Vigneri (444-5665) or annevigneri@webtv.net, an excellent painter of house interiors, will take on small jobs. Provides a written estimate, shows up promptly, finishes in the estimated time, and leaves rooms as neat or neater than she found them. (Sheldon Messinger)

Tim Warner, Clerestory (415/740-6452 or 510/525-1762) for Web site design and maintenance, and custom illustrations. (Jane Bendix)

Johnny Murberg (532-9800) at “Dreamscapes” is a superior (Norwegian) gardener and designer; he is hard-working, reliable, and imaginative. (Leonard Johnson)

Sullivan Counter Tops (652-2337) is recommended without hesitation for high quality, no fuss, on-time completion of job. (Valerie & Dick Herr)

Costco Wholesale Richmond (527-6500) & San Leandro (562-6701); good prescription prices. (Sheldon Messinger)

Draperies by Susan (652-7027); all kinds of window treatments. (Mappie Seabury)

David Love (415-661-3666); piano tuning, rebuilding, repairs, etc. (Mappie Seabury)

Andy Lagerquist (450-0639); Harpsichord tuning, rebuilding, repairs, etc. (Mappie Seabury)

Accurate Appliance (925-676-5060); For prompt appliance repair. A one-man operation. (Alan Foss)

CJS Systems (849-3730); Independent Mac repair service. (Alan Foss)

Mary Mahoney at Diablo Realty (925-933-9300, ext.

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Upcoming Campus Events

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER, DANCE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

All's Well That Ends Well

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Beth Hoffmann

April 1 - 3, 2004

Zellerbach Room 7

Shakespeare's bittersweet comedy follows the tale of Helen, a resourceful young woman, in her pursuit of impossible love.

April 1 (8 pm), April 2 (8 pm), April 3 (2 pm and 8 pm) – \$5

Spring Choreography Workshop

Directed by Christopher Dolder

May 7, 2004

Durham Studio Theater

Students in the dance program present their original group works.

May 7 (4:30 pm and 8 pm)

LUNCH POEMS: A NOONTIME POETRY READING SERIES

12:10 -- Morrison Room, Doe Library

Lyn Hejinian

March 4, 2004

Lyn Hejinian is the author or co-author of 14 books of poetry, including the award-winning *My Life*. *Poetry Flash* has described *My Life* as a work that has "real, almost hypnotic power, obvious intelligence, and is astonishingly beautiful." Hejinian teaches in the UCB English Department.

David St. John

April 1, 2004

David St. John was a National Book Award finalist for *Study for the World's Body*. His newest book, *The Face*, is a book-length poem. He has been awarded an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the O.B. Harrison prize from the Folger Library, and now teaches at USC.