

Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S



March 2012



The Honorable Goodwin Liu, Justice

California Supreme Court & Former Professor,
UC Berkeley Law School

“Academia and the Bench:
Reflections on the Relationship Between
being a Law Professor and being a Judge”

Saturday, March 17, 2012

The Faculty Club

On September 1, 2011, UC Berkeley School of Law Professor Goodwin Liu won confirmation as the newest Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California in a unanimous vote by a three-member Commission, thus making him Governor Brown’s first judicial appointment during his current term.

The son of Taiwanese immigrants who as physicians were recruited to work in underserved areas in the U.S., Liu grew up in Sacramento and attended public schools before heading to Stanford University where he earned a BS in Biology. Following graduation with honors, he won a Rhodes Scholarship and earned a master’s degree at Oxford. He graduated from Yale Law School in 1998 and joined the California Bar in 1999, becoming the first lawyer in his family.

Liu joined Berkeley Law’s faculty in 2003, earning tenure and promotion to Associate Dean in 2008. He won the Education Law Association’s Steven S. Goldberg Award for Distinguished Scholarship in 2007, and UC Berkeley’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2009—the university’s highest teaching honor. Liu joins eight previous Berkeley Law School faculty and alums appointed to serve on the state’s highest court. His remarks will focus in particular on former Boalt Hall professor and California Chief Justice Roger Traynor whose 30-year career on the California Supreme Court coincided with tremendous demographic, social, and governmental change in the state and country.

Prior to arriving at Berkeley, Liu was an associate at a Washington, D.C. law firm. Before that, he clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge David S. Tatel as well as serving as a Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education.

Although Liu is widely respected in the legal community and was President Barack Obama’s choice to serve on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Republican opposition in the Senate prevented his confirmation. After a second confirmation hearing, Liu withdrew his name. Senator Dianne Feinstein, chair

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2011-2012

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eepstein@berkeley.edu

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Mailing Address

UC Berkeley Emeriti Association
1925 Walnut Street # 1550
Berkeley, CA 94720-1550

UCB Retirement Center
Patrick Cullinane, Director

Office UCB Retirement Center
Phone 510/642-5461
Fax 510/643-1460
Web thecenter.berkeley.edu
Email emeriti@berkeley.edu

**Berkeley Emeriti
TIMES**

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Phone: 925/286-5745

Academia and the Bench, Continued...

of the confirmation hearing, strongly supported his nomination. She stated that the federal judiciary should be “made up of the best we can get, the intellectual and legal giants of our time, and that we should not dumb it down.”

Justice Liu serves on the Board of Trustees of Stanford University. He has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Constitution Society, the National Women’s Law Center, and the Public Welfare Foundation. In 2008, he was elected to the American Law Institute. He has also served as a faculty advisor to the California College Prep Academy, a public charter school co-founded by UC Berkeley and Aspire Public Schools.

Married to Ann O’Leary, the Director of the Children and Families Program at the Center for the Next Generation, Liu and his wife have two children. The Justice’s broad range of interests include running four marathons and displaying skill as a chef and fisherman.

President’s Message

Is UCBEA Serving Your Needs?!

Dear Colleagues,

The University of California, Berkley Emeriti Association (UCBEA), founded in 1980, is dedicated to:

- Advancing the general welfare of all emeriti and their spouses
- Exploring ways for emeriti to remain an asset to campus academic activities
- Safeguarding and enhancing emeriti retirement benefits
- Sharing camaraderie through social and cultural activities
- As is true of all organizations, it is essential for its leadership to assess periodically how well it is fulfilling its mission and serving the needs of members. You can assist the UCBEA Executive Committee in making this assessment.

Most of you have participated in or are familiar with UCBEA’s *traditional activities* and functions.

- The five annual Saturday luncheons with speakers drawn from the campus and Bay Area community (March 17th is the date of the next luncheon).
- The Emeriti Times printed five times during the academic year containing news and announcements of interest to emeriti
- Working synergistically with the UCB Retirement Center on projects including housing for older adults
- Representing emeriti on the UCB Academic Senate University-Emeriti Relations Committee, UCB Retirement Center Board, and system-wide Council of UC Emeriti Associations

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President's Message, Continued...

- Selecting the UCB Distinguished Emeritus of the Year and nominating UCB Faculty for system-wide Emeriti Prizes
- Interfacing with campus administration on matters of importance to Emeriti Association members

The Association has undertaken several *new initiatives* this year with which you may be less familiar.

- A mentorship program directed toward two campus constituencies: (1) undergraduates who are first in their families to attend college or university, and (2) younger faculty who have recently joined the campus community.
- A twice monthly (second and fourth Thursdays) Emeriti Table in the Great Hall of the Faculty Club, which provides an opportunity for informal conversation among Emeriti from throughout the campus.
- An opportunity for emeriti to contribute to articles in the Emeriti Times on self-selected topics of likely interest to their colleagues.

This is the present. But what about *the future*? Are there needs and desires among emeriti that are not being addressed adequately or at all? For example, it has been suggested that:

- UCBEA sponsor a book group
- The association membership should assist Emeriti who are socially or physically isolated or have special needs associated with aging
- UCBEA sponsor interview-style informal conversations with distinguished faculty

More generally is UCBEA addressing the concerns and interests of younger emeriti (those individuals who have recently retired and are in their 60s), which may be significantly different from those of older colleagues thereby necessitating both new programmatic endeavors and more effective use of available technologies?

Moreover, how can we stimulate greater participation by Emeriti Association members in ongoing activities or new undertakings?

Finally, we would like to encourage interested Emeriti to assume leadership responsibility on the UCBEA Executive Committee. This group is not a "closed shop." Rather, it seeks to be inclusive of all segments of the Emeriti community.

Please take a few minutes to indicate your areas of satisfaction and/or dissatisfaction with UCBEA as it currently exists; suggestions for adding, terminating, and revising the organization's programs and processes; and your desire to participate in its ongoing endeavors (e.g., the executive committee; mentorships; the Emeriti Times). Please send your responses (short or long) to emeriti@berkeley.edu by April 1st. Or, if you wish to communicate with me directly, I can be reached at eepstein@berkeley.edu or (510) 527-7379. Your responses will help make UCBEA an organization that truly serves your needs!

Most Cordially,

Ed Epstein, UCBEA President 2011-2012

Recap - Social Media & Robotics

Professor Ken Goldberg, Craigslist Distinguished Professor of New Media, gave a talk on his research on social media at the Emeriti Luncheon on Jan 21.



Professor Goldberg at the January Luncheon

Goldberg spoke about the "Two Cultures" as defined by C.P. Snow in 1959 and how he works at the intersection of research in art and technology. Professor Goldberg founded and has served as Director of UC Berkeley's Art, Technology, and Cul-

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Social Media, Continued...

ture lecture series, an internationally recognized forum for ideas that challenge conventional wisdom about technology and culture. This series has been running since 1997 and remains free of charge and open to the public. It presents artists, writers, curators, and scholars who consider contemporary issues at the intersection of aesthetic expression, emerging technologies, and cultural history from a critical perspective. Details on upcoming lectures are available at: <http://atc.berkeley.edu>

Goldberg described one of his earliest projects, the Telegarden, which resulted in a book he edited with Emeritus Professor Hubert Dreyfus: *The Robot in the Garden: Telerobotics and Teleistemology in the Age of the Internet*. (MIT Press, June, 2000). He then described his recent work applying ideas from robots to social media. He explained that social media has tremendous potential for innovation and problem-solving, but existing tools can be quickly overwhelmed by extreme viewpoints. Many social media interfaces such as Facebook and Twitter still rely on linear lists and hence don't scale well. Robots operate in non-linear, spatial environments, and rapidly filter noisy multi-dimensional data, so techniques from Robotics can be applied to improve social media interfaces.

Goldberg's new project, "Opinion Space," is a social media technology designed to help communities generate and exchange ideas about important issues and policies. A version of Opinion Space is being used by the U.S. State Department. It has attracted thousands of participants from around the world to organize, visualize, and analyze constructive suggestions on foreign policy.

In 2010, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated: "Opinion Space will harness the power of connection technologies to provide a unique forum for international dialogue. This technology presents an opportunity to extend our engagement beyond the halls of government directly to the people of the world."

Our speaker encouraged Emeriti to try it at:
<http://state.gov/opinionspace/>

Highlights - Clark Kerr Lecture Series

The recently completed 2012 Clark Kerr Lecture Series featured three lectures by Neil J. Smelser, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, on the theme "Higher Education: The Play of Continuity and Crisis." Professor Smelser, who joined the UC Berkeley faculty in 1958, is highly regarded as an insightful observer of American higher education. The author of 18 books, his most recent is entitled, "Reflections on the University of California: From the Free Speech Movement to the Global University."

The first lecture, "The Dynamics of American Universities" set the theme for the subsequent talks and focused on the myriad changes in the history of higher education, especially on the "structural accretion" or the continued addition of new functions/structures without shedding old ones. The second lecture, "The Dynamics Ramify: Academic Politics, Conflict, and Inequalities" delved into the consequences of a history of accretions; namely, a structured inflexibility—an inability to respond to demographic and economic changes and competitors for resources. The third lecture, "Contemporary Trends: Diagnoses and Conditional Predictions" looked at the present and future. The forecast suggests a "perfect storm" whereby adverse economic, political, and institutional changes indicate revolutionary transformation, perhaps even doom, for higher education. Factors at play include budgetary starvation and loss of autonomy; the corporatization of academic life (language/culture of managerialism, university-industry cooperation); on-line instruction and the rise of for-profit institutions; and rapid growth of non-tenure track and part-time faculty. Clearly, Professor Smelser presented an in-depth analysis of higher education thusfar and a sobering look at what the future may well hold.

Mentor Program Update

This program is underway for engaging emeriti with undergraduate students and new faculty to help each cohort learn the rules of the road at

Mentor Update, Continued...

Berkeley and the resources to help them be successful.

RE: Students - The first “matches” of mentors and mentees for the retired faculty and the SAGE Scholars have just been proposed, and faculty will be contacting students from freshman through seniors in a variety of majors. The first meetings will be held before March 1st. Thanks to Marjorie Weingrow, Director of the SAGE Scholars Program for her help in suggesting good connections. There will be follow-ups with both mentors and mentees to facilitate the first and subsequent meetings, and to work with any challenges.

RE: Faculty - Interactions with emeriti mentors and assistant professors will be facilitated by strong introductory communications from the office of the Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion. Sheila O'Rourke is working with UCBEA President Ed Epstein and First Vice President Caroline Kane to communicate with Assistant Professors and other new faculty. Emeriti from many different departments and disciplines have volunteered to be sounding boards and advisors to these newer members of the Berkeley academic community. Events this semester and in the early fall will enable partnerships to develop. For more information, contact kanecm@berkeley.edu.

Emeriti Luncheon Table

We invite you to share stimulating conversation, warm fellowship and good food at the next EMERITI TABLE, Thursday, March 8, 12-2 pm at the Great Hall of the Faculty Club. At previous gatherings, colleagues from different departments partially resolved the U.S. debt crisis, tax policy, gas pipeline strategy and the media’s political impact. Add your wisdom, or at least your opinions, about these or any other subjects of your choosing. Whether or not you have a compelling issue to discuss, simply come to enjoy the company. And bring along a colleague. If this forthcoming Thursday doesn’t work for you, the next ET will be Thursdays, March 22, April 12 and 26. Try it, you’ll like it!

Volunteer Opportunity - Feeling Buggy?

The CalBug Project at UC Berkeley’s Essig Museum of Entomology is looking for volunteers to handle and photograph insect specimens!

Eight Californian entomology collections have come together to create an online database of insect and spider specimens. This data will allow scientists to study how insects, such as pollinators and agricultural pests, have responded to climate change and habitat modification over the past century. The potential value of this information is enormous, but gathering the data will be a formidable task - the Essig Museum alone has over 5 million specimens. To this end, Calbug is partnering with an innovative international citizen science organization, called Zooniverse, to create an interactive website that allows volunteers to enter specimen data from images online.

UC Berkeley’s Essig Museum of Entomology now needs volunteers to help take photographs for this state-of-the-art citizen science project. Volunteers will gain experience working with a variety of museum specimens, produce images for a pioneering international citizen science website, and contribute to global change research. Participation in the project is flexible depending on volunteer’s availability and commitment. However, because volunteers’ tasks require training, the Museum’s staff asks that volunteers agree to work at least 3 hours a week for two months.

For more Information visit:
Essig Museum of Entomology:
<http://essig.berkeley.edu/>
Calbug: <http://calbug.berkeley.edu/>

If you have other questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Rosemary Gillespie at gillespie@berkeley.edu or 510-642-3445.

FYI: UCB retiree Christine Merritt has indicated that her book describing her experiences teaching parasitology at a Chinese Medical School is now available on Amazon.

Berkeley Emeriti T I M E S

University of California, Berkeley
1925 Walnut Street #1550
Berkeley, CA 94720-1550

E. A. Dickson Emeriti Professorship - Call for Nominations

The Committee on Faculty Awards is pleased to announce its call for nominations for the 2012-13 Edward A. Dickson Emeriti Professorship. **The deadline for submission of nominations is April 6, 2012.**

CRITERIA: The Professorship is awarded annually to an emeritus faculty member who has an outstanding record of post-retirement contributions in any of the following areas: teaching, research, and public or University service. Funding in the amount of \$10,000 will be made for the upcoming fiscal year as an award, a salary stipend, or to provide for support for these activities. The highest priority will be for support of activities that benefit the campus and for which funding is not available from other sources.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Each Department may submit one nomination for this Professorship. The Department Chair should prepare a letter of submission summarizing the post-retirement activities of the candidate and their significance for the campus community. Only post-retirement activities will be considered. The nominee's planned activities for the year in which they would hold the Emeriti Professorship should be detailed, and include a budget for allocation of the professorship funds. No supporting letters are requested.

Deadline for submission: April 6, 2012

Submit by e-mail:
acad_sen@berkeley.edu

Or mail to:
Committee on Faculty Awards
Academic Senate Office
320 Stephens Hall #5842

For information, contact:
Marilyn Kwock
Committee Administrator
mkwock@berkeley.edu