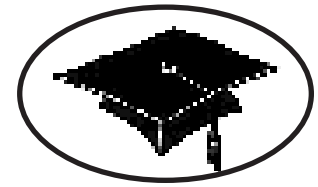

Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S



May 2005

Professor Vincent H. Resh

Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management

“The Control of River Blindness in West Africa”

Saturday, May 7, 2005

The control of river blindness (onchocerciasis) in West Africa is considered to be one of the most successful public health and economic development achievements world-wide. It involved massive insecticide applications (greater than 30,000 miles of rivers per week for 20 years), extensive environmental monitoring, and an eleven country community-based drug distribution program. The disease is no longer of public health importance and the control program has opened land to agriculture which provides food for 17 million people.

Professor Resh received his B.S. from Georgetown University (1967), his M.S. from Niagara University (1969) and his Ph.D. from the University of Louisville (1973). He became Professor of Entomology, Division of Insect Biology (1975), and conducted research on river blindness (onchocerciasis) in West Africa for more than a decade. From 1998-2003 he was the senior environmental advisor to the World Health Organization’s Onchocerciasis Control Program in eleven West African Countries.

The research program in Professor Resh’s laboratory follows three lines: (1) Studies of the evolutionary biology and ecology of aquatic insects, crustaceans, and molluscs in stream and river habitats. These studies are currently being conducted in California coastal streams and on the diadromous fauna in oceanic island streams near the UC Berkeley research station in Moorea, French Polynesia, where he was the director (1996-2001); (2) The evaluation of habitat manipulations for use in environmental restoration or enhancement. These approaches have been used in the habitat restoration of Strawberry Creek on the UC Berkeley campus; and (3) The development of techniques for the biological assessment of water quality. In addition to the program in West Africa, Professor Resh is helping the Mekong River Commission develop a biological monitoring program.

Professor Resh was the first recipient of the National Resources Teaching Award from the University of California, Berkeley (1990) and the Distinguished Teaching Award (1995).

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Berkeley Emeriti

F 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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The Sun Rises in Purgatory

On Saturday, March 12th, 2005, Professor Emeritus Robert M. Durling, author of a highly acclaimed recent translation of Dante's *Purgatorio*, guided his listeners at the UCBEA luncheon on a virtual trip to purgatory.

The whole idea of purgatory began with the Roman poet Virgil (70-19 B.C.). According to the poetic imagination, there is a deep pit in the earth where souls are waiting to be ferried across to the island of purgatory. The island is in the antipodal position of Jerusalem, placing it on modern maps in the South Pacific Ocean. *Purgatorio* is a rich and moving poem in which Virgil, a man revered by both the real Dante and fictional Dante of the poem, conducts Dante on a tour of the underworld.

Theologians assign to purgatory an exclusively punitive function – where souls who have been freed from eternal punishment by repentance of sin still suffer a temporal debt that must be paid. Dante's view is radically different and less depressing. In his view each of us is born with imperfections of temperament and character which earthly experience tends to reinforce. Purgatory is a place not only of punishment, but a place of discipline and growth where souls may regain freedom from their imperfections. Furthermore, souls in purgatory may pray for the living, something not imagined or sanctioned by theologians. Medieval Christians were preoccupied with lightening the suffering of souls in purgatory, leading to the payment of indulgences to the church by survivors of the deceased, a practice which contributed to the Protestant Reformation. Dante nowhere mentions indulgences and holds that it is the fire of love in the living, not money, which is redeeming.

Professor Durling believes that *Purgatorio* speaks to nonbelievers as well as to believers. It contains an extended analysis of the nature of love, and a love story – Dante and Beatrice, a girl with whom he, at age nine, fell in love. It makes a significant contribution to the history of European art and literature, for it relates to events occurring in Dante's time (1265-1321), and addresses the corruption threatening Dante's deepest values.

In the first excerpt Professor Durling read to us (from Canto 1), Dante and his guide Virgil have emerged from hell and approach purgatory on the morning of Easter Sunday. Morning in purgatory? Yes, the progress of the sun is our chief indicator of the passage of time, and the passage of time is a central issue in purgatory. Furthermore, it seems that the travelers have passed through hell and have arrived in the southern hemisphere on the other side of the earth, for the narrator states, "I turned to the right and considered the other pole, and I saw four stars never seen except by the first people." The "other pole," Professor Durling explained, refers to the earth's south pole. Only the "first people" would have seen the four stars mentioned because the island of purgatory is the site of the Garden of Eden.

In the second reading (from Canto 30), Dante and Virgil witness the arrival in purgatory of a grand procession. From an elegant coach a lady emerges, hidden by a "white veil girth with olive" and "clothed in the color of living flame." Virgil flees, and Dante trembles, for he immediately recognizes that it is his beloved Beatrice: "I recognize the signs of the ancient flame!" It seems that he has reason to tremble, for he must face the fury of

Continued, page 3

Adrian Kragen and Early UCBEA

At a luncheon October 20, 1980, a group of faculty who had been meeting informally for years moved to start an emeriti association and to appoint a subcommittee to draft a Constitution and By-Laws. The first association luncheon meeting was attended by 90 emeriti and spouses April 7, 1981; at a later dinner business meeting Dick Jennings presented drafts of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws, together with a slate of officers. These were adopted and the new officers introduced “to tremendous applause.” Carl Helmholtz was the first President, and soon there were 150 dues paying members

In 1987 the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) was founded, and in 1989 the Berkeley Emeriti voted to join. President Sheridan Warrick attended meetings as did Adrian Kragen, then chair of the University-Emeriti Relations Committee. Soon Adrian was talking of a proposed new office in University Hall, with room for retired staff and emeriti. Chancellor Chang-Li Tien graciously provided funding for this proposal. Meanwhile, Molly Balamuth, Mary Dee Vermeulen, Betty Carpenter and others attended to general UCBEA affairs.

During the summer of 1990, a group met to discuss starting a newsletter (proposed name: BE TIMES), production and mailing costs to be borne by the Chancellor’s Office. (At CUCEA Adrian had seen how the UCLA Chancellor supported his local Association.) This publication should be “friendly, objective, interesting, personal and well laid out to the advantage of an older membership”.

When the Association moved from University Hall in 1996, it was Adrian, along with several other campus emeriti who negotiated the space at Boalt Hall as well

“Purgatory,” Continued

Professor Durling read each selection first in English, then in Italian (printed text was provided). His fluent, sonorous reading clearly conveyed his enthusiasm for the subject and the Italian language. He said his fascination with Italian began when he was 15 years old when his father brought home 78 rpm recordings of the great Italian basso Ezio Pinza. He resolved then to learn the language and began to study it on his own. Thus was launched a worthy and productive career.

Adrian Kragen, UCBEA/Boalt Legend Dies at 97

Adrian Alan Kragen was born in San Francisco on June 3, 1907, the elder child of Simon Kragen, who owned a furniture store, and Minnie Kragen. After dropping out of high school during his senior year to take a job with a jewelry company, he was persuaded by a friend to apply to Berkeley, completed high school and in 1927 became the first member of his family to attend college. He graduated from Berkeley in 1931, went on to Boalt and received his law degree in 1934.

From 1940 to 1944, he was deputy attorney general of California under Earl Warren. When Mr. Warren was elected governor, he urged Mr. Kragen to run for attorney general, but he declined because the office was moving from San Francisco to Sacramento. He decided instead to join Loeb & Loeb, [the leading firm in the motion picture industry], where he became a senior partner.

In 1952, Mr. Kragen was representing 11 major studios and handling actors like [Deborah Kerr], William Holden and Cary Grant.

That year he was offered a law professorship at the University of California Law School (Boalt Hall), with a salary of \$12,500, or one-fifth of what he was earning at Loeb & Loeb. He accepted the offer at once and continued to teach at Boalt Hall for the next half a century.

As a leading expert on tax law, he argued cases before the United States Supreme Court, drafted legislation, published widely in professional journals and was the co-author with John K. McNulty, a fellow Boalt Hall professor, of a series of books on taxation... [now] considered standard texts in the field.

Judge David Flinn, a former student, wrote about Professor Kragen on the web site of the California Alumni Association: “In 1954, soon after he arrived, the Internal Revenue Service drastically revised the federal tax code, and Adrian became one of the country’s leading experts on the new code. Listening to him talk about it was like listening to Einstein talk about the atom.”

*Excerpt from the New York Times
Christopher Lehmann-Haupt*

“We have lost a giant in the law and in our Boalt community. I feel very fortunate to have met him a few months ago, and we had a lovely chat about everything from my ambitious youthful efforts to teach taxation, [to new construction plans at Boalt and for Cal’s Memorial Stadium.] His insights and fierce love for the institution were at once quite moving and instructive for me as a novice dean.”

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**End of the Academic Year
Last Chance for “Culture” and Other Activities**

Hertz Hall Wed Noon Concerts: April 27, *Gamelan* - May 4 (final) *New Works* by composers from the graduate composition seminar of Professor Jorge

UC Botanical Garden: Saturday, April 23, *Waterwise Workshop, Gardening Where You Are* 10:00 a.m. – 1p.m., free with pre-registration. *Spring Plant Sale* Friday, April 29, 5 – 7:30 p.m. members, and Sat, April 30, 9:00a.m.– 2 p.m. public

University Art Museum: *Drawn by the Brush: Oil Sketches of Peter Paul Rubens*
Guided Tour – Sunday, April 24, 2p.m., and Thursday, April 28

Main Library, Morrison Room: *Lunch Poems*, student readings, Thursday, May 5, 12:10p.m.

PFA Theater, 2575 Bancroft at Bowditch: Mondays at 3 p.m., *Buddhism and Film*. April 25, *The Reincarnation of Khensur Rinpoche & The Marathon Monks of Mt. Hiei* May 2, *Little Buddha*, May 9, *Words of My Perfect Teacher*

Hearst Museum, Kroeber Hall: *Tesoros Escondidos: Hidden Treasures from the Mexican Collections* ongoing through Sunday, June 26