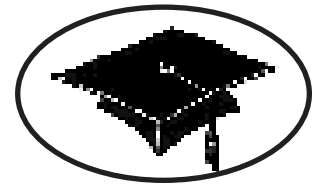


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# Berkeley Emeriti

# TIMES



May 2009

**Professor Martha Olney, Ph.D.**

Department of Economics

**“How Did We Get Here?  
Understanding the Recession and the Route to Recovery”**

**Saturday May 9, 2009**

**The Faculty Club**

Martha Olney joined Berkeley’s Economics Department in 1991 as a Research Associate at the Institute of Business and Economic Research. She was a visiting associate professor from 1993 to 2002, when she became an adjunct professor. Professor Olney has been an organizer and host of the Economic History Lunches for graduate students and faculty since 1996. Prior to joining Berkeley, she was a visiting associate professor of economics at Stanford University in 2001 and associate professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she had taught since 1984. She received her Ph.D. from Berkeley in 1985. Professor Olney is the recipient of UC Berkeley’s Distinguished Teaching Award (2003), the Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History (1997) and the Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Massachusetts (1991). She was selected as a “Great Teacher in Economics” by the Stavros Center for Economic Education in 2007. She is a member of the American Economic Association, Business History Conference, Cliometric Society, Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, Economic History Association and the Social Science History Association. She currently serves on the board of the AEA’s Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession and on the academic advisory board of the Financial Services Research Program of George Washington University.

Professor Olney, a Bay Area native, proudly confesses that she teaches Econ 1 at Wheeler Hall where her father took beginning economics from Ira B. Cross. Martha, her partner and their son are planning a vacation to the South, one destination – the State of Arkansas – marking her 49th State visit. Only Alaska remains.

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**Berkeley Emeriti**  
**TIMES**



**Volume 18, Number 5**

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## 7-Up is Food for Thought

On Saturday March 14, 2009 Professor Barrie Thorne gave a presentation to the UCBEA luncheon titled, "The 7-Up Documentary Film Series and Different Ways of Inhabiting Time."

This remarkable film series began in 1963 when Granada Television in England chose nearly equal numbers of upper class and working class 7-year old children (total of 40) to be interviewed in depth on camera about whatever plans, hopes, and ambitions they had. The same group has been interviewed at 7-year intervals since, up to the latest sessions when the subjects were 49 years old.

The extremely short video excerpted from the seven-part series left me short of background information. Why were no middle class children included? It appears that the producers' English obsession biased them toward the view that class puts a life-long stamp on the individual. Several times Professor Thorne repeated the reputed Jesuit maxim about having the first years of a child's life determine the adult's character. It wasn't clear whether the series confirmed or refuted this aphorism. In any case, one may wonder if being born into a social class and being exposed to early Jesuit indoctrination are equivalent

I remember the video being mostly about Tony, a working class boy, who early on articulated plans—first to be a jockey, and failing that, to be a taxi driver. He became a successful taxi driver-owner whose wife was a fellow driver.

They were financially successful; in a later sequence he is shown enjoying life at his second home in Spain with his grandchildren. It wasn't clear if Tony's middle class attributes of planning, steady work, saving, financial success and good living qualify him to enter this class. Are his humble origins still revealed in ways that disqualify him from this status? I felt that a definition of class beyond income was sorely needed.

The only indirect reference to the speech differences of the children was Professor Thorne's imitation of the plummy self-confident speech of the upper class 7-year olds announcing their plans (largely realized) to move through the elite schools into professions. I had hoped for the ghost of Professor Henry Higgins to step out and explain to us not only the class and district from which each child came, but to identify Londoners by their very street. Do decades of movies and TV make this impossible?

Four of the subjects dropped out, one of whom returned. Some resented the public exposure and analysis of their life experiences. One woman described each 7-year interview as a poison pill where painful things get stirred up. On the other hand, one man sought to exploit the publicity the series had given him to promote a business scheme. (Apparently no one asked for residuals.)

Each of the 7-year up-datings takes several days and the accumulated record forms a memory scrapbook for the group. In it they see themselves aging and some feel regret for hopes not realized. One man had experienced serious mental illness. In looking back they all regarded with some amazement the 7-year old stranger they see on the first video. One acknowledged that

*Continued on next page*

he behaved like a spoiled brat and hoped that he had improved. Others showed promise that in some cases was realized, but in others came to naught. Professor Thorne pointed out that unlike many sociological studies where individual differences are flattened out to fit people into categories, this study certainly emphasizes individual personality differences, influences of environment and family relations.

Professor Thorne remarked that historical time was very much in the background. No war mobilization or activism such as anti-war, ban the bomb, civil rights and feminism seem to have reached this group. Are these activism just middle class preoccupations or did this English generation have the good fortune not to have lived in interesting times?

*Larry Waldron*

### **Committee On Research Grants to Emeriti**

I wish to make all Emeriti aware of a change in policy by the Committee on Research (COR) on research grants. Because of anticipated cuts in their budget, the COR has determined that REG grants for emeriti will be capped at \$500, rather than at the current level of \$1000. Cal Moore, University-Emeriti Relations Committee, and I vigorously protested this decision to the Chair of COR and also to the full committee, but even after our arguments, the committee went ahead with its decision.

Emeriti remain eligible to apply for a \$700 conference travel grant to present their research. A COR travel grant supports a scheduled presentation of an applicant's original scholarship at a major meeting of a recognized learned society, an organized panel discussion, or an organized symposium. Travel awards also are available for poster presentations, discussants, panelists, commentators and conference/panel organizers.

*Dick Malkin, President*

### **Annual Business Meeting**

This is to notify all members that the May 9th Saturday Luncheon will serve as our annual business meeting. At that meeting, new officers for the Association for the 2009-10 year will be elected and there may be other business. I hope for a large crowd.

*Dick Malkin, President*

### **How're We Doing?**

The Retirement Center's mission is to develop programs and services that contribute to the well being of retired faculty and staff and their families and that support the UC community. You can review the Center's current activities at <http://thecenter.berkeley.edu>. The Center's new Director, Patrick Cullinane, welcomes Emeriti ideas on how the Center can improve its service to retired faculty. Feel free to contact him at [pcullinane@berkeley.edu](mailto:pcullinane@berkeley.edu), 510-643-3212 or arrange an office visit. If it fits your style you can use the U.S. Postal Service.

*Patrick Cullinane, Retirement Center Director*

### **Galaxy: A Hundred or So Stars Visible to the Naked Eye**

On display until August 30

"There is nothing quite like looking through a museum's collection in storage, where the art—often stripped of its honorific framing and flattering lighting—becomes a vulnerable thing... In storage too, the works are not arranged chronologically ... which make possible the experience of many unexpected, often jarring, and occasionally illuminating juxtapositions...

A museum collection evolves over time, and its shape results from the dual influences of accident and intention... by purchase and by gift, works that are actively sought after and works that arrive unheralded...

When the [Berkeley Art] museum was founded in 1963, it inherited... several nineteenth-century landscapes by artists such as Albert Bierstadt and Théodore Rousseau that had belonged to the University for decades... [and] forty-seven canvases by the Abstract Expressionist painter Hans Hofmann. "Our first director, Peter Selz... grew the museum's collection in kinetic and Funk art, Old Master prints, photographs (including rare daguerreotypes) and Ming and Ching Chinese paintings.

..."Not all of my favorites are on view, but these are all works that I love and want to know better. I invite you to get to know them along with me..."

*Lawrence Rinder, Director BAM/PFA*

### **Obama's First 100 Days**

When you receive this *Berkeley Emeriti Times* there are still seats available for **President Obama's First Hundred Days**, Faculty Club, Thurs. May 7, 2009. Call the Retirement Center, (510) 642-5461. Now!

### Reflections from the Ave.

“One summer, walking along Telegraph Ave in Berkeley, I crossed paths with a former student. He had always been a very upbeat and enthusiastic guy. He had graduated about a year before – near the height of the Silicon Valley boom – and gone directly into a job he enjoyed. But when I saw him, he looked about as glum as a boy who had lost his puppy. ‘Hey, how are you? What’s up?’, I asked him (in the middle of crossing Durant Avenue!). He had been laid off and hadn’t had any success yet in finding a new job. He was terribly depressed, feeling – as I suspect most unemployed folks feel – that he was somehow responsible for being unemployed. If only he had worked harder, more hours, more diligently. If only he hadn’t been sick for three days one time. If only he were smarter. If only . . . I listened for awhile and then reminded him of what he’d been taught: unemployment is due to insufficient aggregate demand. ‘It’s not about you,’ I told him. ‘It’s about the economy.’ Yeah, he supposed, but it sure felt as if it was about him. ‘But it’s not. You’re part of the rising unemployment in the Bay Area, and that’s not your fault.’ Yeah, he began to acknowledge, maybe that’s right. He gave me a hug, thanked me, and we went our separate ways.

And that is why I teach economics.”

*MLO*

# UC BERKELEY EMERITI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009

SOCIAL HOUR AT 11:00 A.M. – LUNCHEON AT NOON – SPEAKER AT 1:00 P.M.

THE FACULTY CLUB

→ NOTE: there is an increase in the price of the luncheon ←  
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Professor Martha Olney, Ph.D.

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“How Did We Get Here?”

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To guarantee your luncheon choice, your reservation must be received three days prior to the event. All entrée options are \$18. Payment can be made by a charge to your Faculty Club Account # \_\_\_\_\_ or by enclosing a check made payable to *The Faculty Club* and mailed to UCB Emeriti Association, The Faculty Club #6050 Berkeley, CA 94720-6050 or by faxing this form to 510/540-6204.

<i>Please fill in name:</i>	<i>Please indicate a preferred entrée for each participant</i>
Member Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta
Spouse/Partner/Guest Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta
Guest Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta