
Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S



May 2011



Amy Block Joy, Ph.D.

UC Davis Faculty

Cooperative Extension Nutritionist, Nutritional Ecology

“Blowing the Whistle at UC:
Lost in a Kafkaesque World”

Saturday, May 7, 2011

The Faculty Club

It is not unusual for academics to author books; in fact, it's expected. Conduct the research; journal articles and books follow.

Amy Block Joy, PhD, has authored plenty of material as an academic. However, as the author of “Whistleblower,” she travelled a very different path. The book, published last December, is the story of what happened when she “blew the whistle” after discovering the embezzlement in 2006 of funds for a program teaching nutrition to thousands of the State's poor. The events that unfolded from the discovery of the fraud to the publication of the book is a bizarre, almost surreal story.

Dr. Joy's academic roots are in Berkeley. She received her BA in Biochemistry and Bacteriology (with honors) at UC Berkeley in 1974, her Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences in 1979 and served for two years on the Academic Freedom Committee as the graduate student representative. In 1980 she was hired as a Berkeley campus Specialist in Nutrition. While on sabbatical at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1992, she developed a proposal to help poor families improve their economic and nutritional well-being. Returning from sabbatical, she joined the Davis faculty in the Department of Nutrition. The Dept. of Agriculture funded her proposal which over the next decade brought in more than \$120 million to the Davis campus. The funds supported the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program.

The reporting of suspected irregularities in time led to a federal grand jury indictment. The embezzler, a 67-year old woman viewed as a trusted employee, served a year in prison. More than \$2 million in state and federal funds had been misused. The University had to re-pay the sum to the Federal government as well as implement major procedural changes in the program's financial oversight.

“My book is the story of what happens when one “blows the whistle” at the university, although in the end, it's not much different than what happens in the corporate world,” says Joy. She admits being unprepared for the consequences. Among them, a cover-up by her department chair, snubbing and isolation from her colleagues and, most importantly, the inability to find some relief or distance from the issue because of the injunction to remain silent during the lengthy investigation. It was

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Berkeley Emeriti

TIMES



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Blowing the Whistle, continued...

during a four-month “no fault” administrative leave that she wrote the book which she regards as her “coping mechanism.” The book has been described as being in a partially “roman a clef” novel style, with the identities of many real people and the specifics of actual events disguised.

Today, the Davis faculty member and Cooperative Extension nutritionist teaches a class called “Eating Green.” She is an associate editor of California Agriculture, a peer reviewed journal published by UC, and contributes to other publications about the role of nutrition education in fighting poverty. She is looking forward to her daughter joining the spring 2011 graduating class at UCLA.

Note: Copies of “Whistleblower” will be available for purchase (and signing) at a discounted price of \$10.00 after the luncheon.

President’s Message

Two items of interest to members follow:

- First, UC Berkeley Professor Hubert Dreyfus, Philosophy, was among the recipients of the Edward A. Dickson Professorship Awards for 2010-2011. The award is named for Edward A. Dickson, the political editor of the Los Angeles Express and a former UC Regent, who was appointed in 1913 and served 43 years. Dickson left a sum of money to the UC system, stipulating that the funds be used to recognize the importance of sustained post-retirement service.
- Our May meeting will also serve as the Association’s Annual Meeting. The sole item of business is the election of officers for the 2011-12 year. The nominees are: President, Ed Epstein and First Vice President, Caroline Kane. The other officers, including the at-large members of the board, have agreed to continue so they are de facto nominees.

Additionally, Sue Cork will continue as steward; Joan Glassey has agreed to serve. Past presidents are ex-officio and thus are not elected.

Roger Glassey, President

A Note from Ed Epstein

On behalf of all the members of the Emeriti Association, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Roger Glassey for the excellent work he has done as President. He has set the bar high in his commitment to the Association, his leadership skills and the pleasant, “gentle” way he has of moving us along. Without doubt, he can take pride in knowing he has been a good role model for others who follow him.

Ed Epstein, First Vice President

Payment Policy Reminder

UCBEA is unable to accept cash or credit cards for dues payments. When paying dues, please submit a check or money order made out to UCBEA. *Thank you.*

Meet Your UCBEA Board - Part III Conclusion

Board members unable to participate in this column include Barbara Davis, Calvin Moore, Karl Pister, Dick Malkin, and Larry Waldron. Thanks to all for their service.

Member at large **Jack Kirsch** has been a member of UCBEA since 2006 having been invited to join by Richard Malkin. Professor Kirsch joined the University because



*Jack Kirsch,
Member at Large*

of the reputation of the Biochemistry Department which in 1991 was subsumed into Molecular Cell Biology and Chemistry. He values the opportunities UCBEA provides for continuing education and cultural events as well as collegiality with his peers. After a

lifetime in science, Kirsch says that he looks forward to speakers and programs that focus on the humanities.

Ed Epstein is completing his term as First Vice President and gearing up for the role of President during the 2011-2012 academic year. Epstein accepted an offer to come to Berkeley in 1964 after practicing law for a few years and teaching part-time at the University of Pennsylvania. He was drawn by the opportunity to become part of an excellent public university and to work in a new academic field. He has held appointments in the Haas School of Business as well as International and Area Studies, a multi-disciplinary major.

Professor Epstein sees UCBEA as a means to provide leadership to both the campus and to Emeriti community and to make new connections. He is committed to moving forward on the mentoring program. As he considers speakers for next year, he is mindful of the need to represent the breadth of the campus in subject matter, gender, personality—"all those good things."



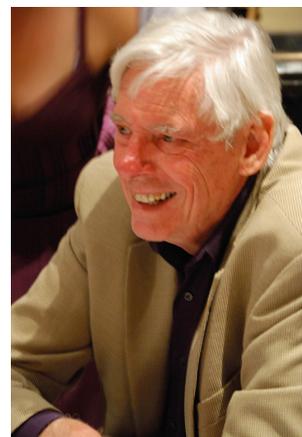
*Ed Epstein
First Vice President*

Acknowledging that there are many Emeriti who are not members of UCBEA, Epstein is interested in developing strategies for increasing membership (including personal invitations from existing members), particularly among the newly minted

Emeriti faculty.

President **Roger Glassey** is nearing the end of his two-year term. A member of the Dept. of Industrial Engineering/Operations Research, Glassey joined at the invitation of the Warwicks more than 10 years ago.

Following promotion to emeritus status in 1994, Glassey has continued to teach one course a year. The one he enjoys the most is an undergraduate introduction to mobile robotics. Students work in small teams to build a small robot from a Lego Mindstorms kit and write a Java program to control it. Each week students tackle an increasingly more challenging task. Glassey says he has a really good deal. "I get paid to play with Legos and work with some very creative students."



*Roger Glassey,
President*

As president, Glassey has enjoyed finding speakers, noting that almost all his invitations were accepted enthusiastically with good, often outstanding results.

An Insider Looks at The Politics of California's Air Pollution

Appointed to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in 1975 by Governor Jerry Brown during Brown's first term in office and appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2005 to head the agency provides Robert Sawyer, PhD, with a unique perspective on the agency recognized as a national and international model for science-based environmental regulation.

At the March meeting of the Emeritus Association, Sawyer pointed out the factors that have allowed California to achieve that recognition. Among them, the natural beauty of the state, its national parks and the environmental tradition established by John Muir together with moderate climate and a tradition of higher education.

Professor Sawyer shared some data about CARB that may be unknown to many Californians; for example, CARB is an independent governmental agency that adheres to the tenet that policy guidelines must be science-based. The agency employs 1200 people, has a \$1 billion budget which is not derived from the general fund, and currently operates with an 11-person board. Because of its independent tradition, CARB's relations with the governor's office can sometimes be tense.

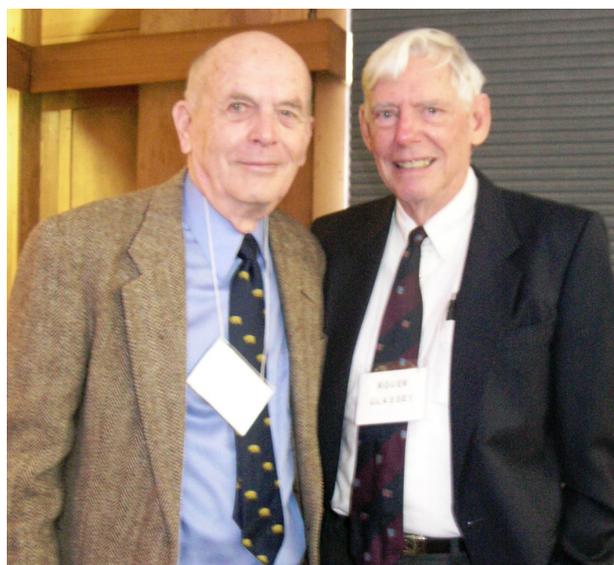
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An Insider's Look...

Of considerable interest to the audience was Professor Sawyer's ability to describe, as a knowledgeable insider, the personalities and the different operating styles of the offices of the two leaders with whom he worked—a Brown vs. Schwarzenegger comparison. Governor Brown utilized a "hands on" approach to securing information to guide his decisions while Governor Schwarzenegger delegated the data-gathering, exhibiting a more indirect style.

Among the efforts of which he is most proud during his tenure as Chair, Sawyer pointed to Assembly Bill 32. The Legislature passed and Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which set the 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal into law. It directed the California Air Resources Board to develop discrete early actions to reduce greenhouse gases while also preparing a scoping plan to identify how best to reach the 2020 limit.

Asked whether California would reach that goal in 2020, Sawyer answered that there was more blue sky over LA today than when he was growing up. "That's a good sign of success."



President Roger Glassey thanks Professor Sawyer following his remarks to members at the March luncheon.