

BERKELEY EMERITI TIMES

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MAY 2ND LUNCH WITH CAROLYN BERTOZZI – DEVELOPING NEW DRUGS TO FIGHT CANCER.

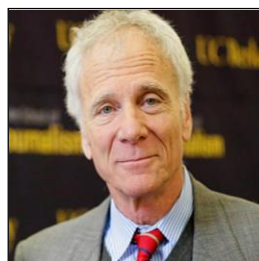
Our upcoming Emeriti Association lunch meeting (see the accompanying reservation sheet) brings us yet another distinguished speaker.

Carolyn Bertozzi, the T. Z. and Irmgard Chu Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, is a long-time Berkeley presence, earning her Ph.D. here in 1993. To list her honors and awards would take up the rest of this issue of the Emeriti Times! Let us select just a few: Pew Scholars Award in the Biomedical Sciences (1996); Joel H. Hildebrand Chair in Chemistry (1998-2000); MacArthur Foundation Award (1999); UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award (2001); Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2002); the Havinga Medal, University of Leiden (2005); elected member of the National Academy of Sciences (2005); Albert Hofmann Medal (University of Zurich) (2009); elected member of the Institute of Medicine (2011); Harrison Howe Award (2009); W. H. Nichols Award (2009); Willard Gibbs Medal (2008); elected member of the German Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina (2008).

Here on campus, she runs the Bertozzi Group, which studies cell surface interactions that contribute to human health and disease and runs specific projects in the areas of cancer, inflammation, and bacterial infection. The group uses complicated (to the uninformed viewer) techniques of organic synthesis, genetics, and biochemistry as tools to study and manipulate complex cellular processes. Much of their research involves cell surface oligosaccharides,

biopolymers that contribute to cell surface recognition and cell-cell communication. Professor Bertozzi also runs a biomaterials program centered at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

We look forward to hearing her discussion of the ways her research contributes to the constant effort to find new ways to reduce the threat of cancer.



MARCH 21ST LUNCH WITH EDWARD WASSERMAN – JOURNALISM AMID THE RUINS. WHY INSTITU- TIONS MATTER.

At our March lunch meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing Edward Wasserman, Dean of our Graduate School of Journalism. Rather than present the announced talk on ethical journalism in the digital era, he chose to discuss the status of journalism as a whole, and its deterioration from the time when it constituted an *institution*, a safeguard against any blatant disregard for ethics and even evil in our government.

On the 40th anniversary of the exposure of the Watergate scandals a 2012 panel in Washington included people like reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, while the audience included the son of legendary publisher, the late Katherine Graham. Bernstein insisted that the whole affair was ultimately not about the courage of individual reporters, but about Graham's newspaper, the *Washington Post*.

When Nixon threatened to sue the reporters concerned to get their notes on the matter, Graham stepped in and insisted that their notes – which could have revealed the ways they got their information – belonged not to them but to the *Post*, and thus to her personally as its owner and publisher! While Bernstein did talk of the courage of individual reporters, he

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stressed the role of the *institution*, the body that employed, paid, directed, and protected them.

Our speaker stressed that today publishing companies no longer hold to this kind of commitment to civic involvement. And more and more they worry more about being sued by aggrieved objects of reportorial investigation and routinely regard their employees as possibly exposing them to litigation.

As Dean of a journalism school, he sees students entering a media world quite different that Bernstein worked in. In part this is due to a business decline, especially in the *regional* newspapers like the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Miami Herald*, who can no longer afford, for example, their own agencies in Jerusalem, Beijing, etc., as people turn to the internet, TV, and radio for their information. The decline is not universal. Larger institutions like the *New York Times*, along with Reuters, Associated Press, and National Public Radio continue to grow and attract talent.

But online the three giants – Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft – have overwhelming clout, controlling information flow as they did when they blocked news of Tiananmen Square from their search results in China.

Still there are individual new sites/institutions, like BuzzFeed and Huffington Post, who are doing journalism – breaking stories and rallying their audiences – but they are brands, platforms, and do not claim to stand for any principles or public causes. (How would Bezos, the Amazon founder and now owner of the *Washington Post*, have handled Watergate?)

Rarely are our modern media groups willing to be players, to promote social justice – to become a part of that historically venerated, constitutionally ordained entity, *the Press*. We can't imagine the White House being forced before the Supreme Court by the *Daily Beast* – or by *Gawker*, or *Instagram*.

The traditional media bodies were not all great. They could be cowardly and mindless. Historically the press applauded evils like slaughtering Native Americans, internment of Japanese-Americans, invading Grenada – in the old South even announcing any upcoming lynching “as a public service”! But they did do a great deal of

good, and many of those who worked in the field understood the shortcomings of the system.

At the last conference of the Online News Association the young participants were full of talk of “the new media age,” of mobile apps, ramping up hits, etc., etc. All talk of technology! The idea that the press could topple dictators or raise up the downtrodden didn't arise. We need to use the gifts of technology to reassert the traditional valued roles of journalism.

We need to affirm that journalists are professionals, not just employees. They have to establish standards and ethical norms independent of the companies who pay them. Second, the existing organizations of journalists should be pushing for what is right and important in the profession. And lastly, as online services continue to develop, their brilliant young leaders need to develop Katherine Graham's kind of courage to go beyond thin rewrites of newsfeeds and “warmed over celebrity slaving” (to use Dean Wasserman's own words). Let us hope that such better journalism continues to show up all the time as our graduates continue to mature!

- Phyllis Brooks Schafer



EMERITUS OF THE YEAR AWARD – NEIL SMELZER

We are delighted to announce that the members of the committee working on the selection of the next Emeritus of the Year were unanimous in their choice of Neil Smelser. Neil is Professor Emeritus of Sociology and former director of the Center for Studies in Higher Education here at Berkeley, as well as former director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. At the national level he has been president of the American Sociological Association, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences. More details of his copious work since retirement will appear in the next issue of the *Emeriti Times* this fall. Meanwhile, may we all congratulate Neil, and wish him many more happy emeritus years to come!

SHORT TAKES: Emeriti Lunch Table, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at noon in the northwest corner of The Great Hall in The Faculty Club. Pick up a salad or sandwich, and find the table with our reservation sign. All are welcome to join in our informal discussions!

And one that Elizabeth recalled gleefully in the address she gave at Ed's memorial service in 1991.

- Phyllis Brooks Schafer



Caroline Kane

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Emeriti,

This letter marks my last during my Presidency of your Association, and what an honor and pleasure it has been. Professor Shelly Zedeck has been the First Vice President for two years and will be the candidate for your President for the next two years. Your votes at our May 2nd Business Meeting (also our last Saturday lunch of this Academic Year) will install next year's officers. We also will be voting on minor ByLaws changes that will be sent to you in the next ten days. Come and enjoy a lively talk by Carolyn Bertozzi on new drug developments, good food and camaraderie at the Faculty Club...as well as the chance to vote on the leadership of your Association.

May is National Older Americans Month, and as reported in this Newsletter, our Retirement Center has events scheduled. These include a Learning in Retirement type of lecture series and a May 19th Reception for ALL of us who have retired from Cal. Your Emeriti Association is a co-sponsor of this reception that you will enjoy in the Maude Fife Room of Wheeler Hall.

Many of us are concerned about bubblings of changes in health insurance plans from the University. There is a systemwide meeting that will include a presentation from and questioning of Office of the President personnel concerning this issue in late April. That meeting is after this Newsletter is on the rack, but we will update you by email about what we learn.

For those of you whose dues are, well, due, expect to hear from us in the next month. Your support allows us to advocate for you as well as continue the engagement with our Retirement Center and organize other events that you have told us you enjoy.



APOLOGY TO TANIA LOMBROZO

Your editor apologizes to Professor Lambrozo (picture herewith) for inserting the wrong picture in the heading for the interview with her that appeared in our March issue. And a second apology, to Professor Özlem Aynuk, whose picture appeared in that spot. Mea culpa!

- Phyllis Brooks Schafer

A SUBVERSIVE EMERITA OF THE YEAR!

In the early 1970s my late husband, Edward Schafer, was Chair of the Budget Committee. Elizabeth Colson, our Emerita of the current year, was also on that committee and succeeded him as Chair in turn. Ed was always looking for ways to use this position to improve the lot of women on campus - often in subtle ways like conducting a re-examination of the status of *all* Lecturers on campus, several of whom (mostly women) were then raised to tenure-track positions. Elizabeth was an enthusiastic partner in these efforts.

After the Faculty Club agreed to admit women as members in 1972, he wanted to "liberate" the all-male faculty dining clubs - Humanities Club, Kosmos Club, and the Arts Club. He and Elizabeth connived to do this. She went as his guest (the first woman ever!) to a Humanities Club dinner around 1974, and Ed put her up for membership. In those days black balls still existed, but who would dare being suspected of black-balling the Chair of the powerful Budget Committee? She was elected, and all the other dining clubs soon followed suit in admitting women. Another small step forward!

Best wishes for a great summer and see you in the Fall (as your Past President),

Caroline, President UCBEA

RETIREMENT CENTER UPDATE

Retirement Center Location – The UCB Retirement Center is at 101 University Hall, on the ground floor of the building located at the corner of University Avenue and Oxford Street. Drop-in hours are Mon.-Fri., 1pm-4pm.

Retirement CenterExpress – If you have not yet signed up for this Newsletter, send your name and email address to ucbrc@berkeley.edu and ask to sign up for the *CenterExpress*. Retirees who currently receive the Center's weekly emails will be automatically subscribed.

May is Older Americans Month – Come to the Learning in Retirement formatted special lectures, to be given on May 5, 12, and 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. Call 510-642-5461 to register for the series and get information on the location of the lectures.

May 5 – “Aging Populations and Intergenerational Economic Relations: A Global Perspective,” by Ronald D. Lee, Professor Emeritus of Economics and Demography.

May 12 – “Population Aging and the Macro-Economy,” by Ronald D Lee

May 19 – “The Future of Medicare,” William Dow, Professor of Public Health. **Join the reception and social after this session, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.**

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EMERITI TIMES: Published before each meeting of the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association to give all our members information about meetings, Board actions, and pertinent campus policies, along with interviews and items of general interest. Editor-Writer: Phyllis Brooks Schafer.

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