



Charles Henry, PhD

Professor, African American Studies

“The Obama Phenomenon”

Saturday, December 3, 2011

The Faculty Club

Refer to the phrase “Bradley Effect” and many politically savvy people, particularly Californians, will recognize the allusion to the 1982 State race for governor. Going into the election the popular and long-standing Democratic Black Mayor of Los Angeles, Tom Bradley, was favored. However, when the results were in, White Republican candidate, George Deukmejian had won with approximately 100,000 more votes, or about 1.2 percent of the 7.5 million cast.

It was Professor Charles Henry who coined the term in a 1983 paper he authored referring to the phenomenon that while voters tell pollsters they are undecided or likely to vote for a Black candidate, they actually vote for a White candidate. Some 25 years later, the term resurfaced with the candidacy of Barack Obama.

Professor Henry, who earned his doctorate in political science at the University of Chicago in 1974, joined the Department of African American Studies at Berkeley in 1981 after serving on the faculty of Howard and Denison Universities. He has authored or edited eight books and more than 80 articles and reviews on Black politics, public policy and human rights. His forthcoming presentation to Emeriti is particularly noteworthy in view of the recently released book on President Obama, “The Obama Phenomenon” which he coedited with two others.

Among Professor Henry’s accomplishments in and outside the academic world are these: Former President, National Council of Black Studies; Former Chair, Amnesty International Board of Directors; Clinton appointee to National Council on Humanities; and Distinguished Fulbright Chair in American History and Politics at the University of Bologna, Italy; and one of the first two Distinguished Fulbright/Tocqueville Chair at the University of Tours, France. He was the first recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence, Spring 2008, which Chancellor Birgenau initiated to recognize outstanding contributions in research, teaching, public service in promoting diversity and equal opportunity.

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Berkeley Emeriti

TIMES

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The Obama Phenomenon, Continued...

When interviewed for "In What Ways is Obama Different," an article in the UC Berkeley News (October 2008) prior to the last election, Henry commented that Obama, like Michael Jordan and Ralph Bunche, appeared to be in a special category in which he transcended race. Henry went on to say that racial advancement in America has occurred at three critical historical points—all against the backdrop and aftermath of war; namely, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and WWII. "I think we're in one of these periods with Obama (with two wars and a financial meltdown)," he added.

As the political scene heats up in anticipation of November 2012, Professor Henry's presentation couldn't be better timed.

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

In lieu of a message exclusively for UCBEA members, I am providing (below) the report of our activities submitted to the Council of the University of California Emeriti Association (CUCEA) at its meeting at UC Davis on October 27, 2011. I add my wishes for a joyous Holiday season and a healthy, fulfilling and peaceful 2012 to you and yours.

Mentoring Program

UCBEA is initiating a mentorship program directed at two campus constituencies: undergraduate students who are first in their families to attend college; and assistant/associate professors new to the campus. The rationale for the program is to facilitate the academic and personal adjustment of newcomers to Berkeley who desire and would benefit from the wisdom and experience that is in ample supply among emeriti faculty. The UCBEA Mentorship Committee is developing mechanisms to help pair interested students or junior faculty with emeriti faculty so that there is an appropriate match between mentor and mentee. This semester we are in the process of identifying both emeriti mentors and students and junior faculty who wish to participate in the program. If all goes well, we plan to be up and running spring semester 2012. Professors emeriti have played lead roles in developing this. (See p. 3 for more information).

Luncheon Speaker Series

Each year UCBEA holds five Saturday luncheons for emeriti and their guests. The luncheon consists of an informal social hour, served lunch and a faculty speaker, frequently drawn from the Berkeley faculty. The September speaker was Professor Emeritus Charles H. Townes, Nobel Laureate in Physics and inventor of the laser, who re-

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President's Message, Continued...

ceived the Emeritus lifetime achievement award. Future speakers are:

December 3, 2011 – Professor Charles Henry, African American Studies, “The Obama Phenomenon”

January 21, 2012 – Professor Kenneth Goldberg, IEOR and New Media Center

March 17, 2012 – The Honorable Goodwin Liu, Justice, California Supreme Court, and Professor, Berkeley Law School

May 5, 2012 – Pamela S. Fass, Department of History

Colleagues from other campuses are invited to attend the luncheons. For reservations, contact the Faculty Club at 510-540-5678, ext. 224.

Luncheon Table

Beginning January 12, 2012, UCBEA will have a twice-monthly Emeriti Luncheon Table at the Faculty Club. A table will be set-aside at noon in the Great Hall exclusively for emeriti to gather for congenial, collegial conversation and repast. The Emeriti Luncheon Table will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

Membership

The current membership of UCBEA is about 300 out of a little over 1,000 emeriti faculty. A priority for the 2011-2012 year is to enlarge the UCBEA membership with special emphasis on recruiting newer emeriti and encouraging lapsed members to rejoin. Effective with the 2012-2013 academic year, annual membership dues will increase from \$15.00 to \$25.00 to offset the rising costs of conducting our activities.

Emeriti Times

The Emeriti Times is now being distributed primarily online with a special “opt out” option for members who still wish to receive a paper copy. Cost reduction and producing a more attractive publication are the motivating factors for the change.

Senior Housing

Members of the UCBEA Executive Committee

are actively involved through the UCB Retirement Center Policy Board in discussions with campus facilities management and private developers concerning the development of an older adult housing project in Albany, which will be attractive to emeriti. Discussions are at a seminal stage. UCBEA will provide future updates.

In summary, this fall semester has been a busy time for UCBEA and spring 2012 promises to be even more so as the mentorship program gets off the ground.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edwin M. Epstein

President, UC Berkeley Emeriti Association

UCBEA Mentoring Program to Launch Spring 2012

The UC Berkeley Emeriti Association (UCBEA) is enlisting your energy to work with our incoming students, freshmen and transfer students, and our incoming Assistant Professors. The incoming students will be first generation college-goers, the trailblazers for their families. The Assistant Professors will reflect our many Departments. All of them need to learn the unwritten rules to navigate the University and maximize their success at Berkeley. They are all smart, motivated, creative leaders, whether undergraduates or new faculty. Retired faculty have enormous experience to share in order to guide, enlighten, and even amuse these new explorers of the Berkeley community and culture.

What is the value for you, the retired Faculty? You will be helping our newest campus members to stay the course, particularly when confronted with roadblocks. More importantly, you will be helping them AVOID roadblocks. You will be assisting them to move into the independence of thought and action to allow them to become campus leaders.

How does this happen? The UCBEA will facilitate the meeting, the matching of mentors

Continued on p. 4...

Mentoring Program, Continued...

CUCEA Report

and mentees, the monitoring of the process to coax successful interactions, and the collection of feedback to ensure the process works well for both parties. "Training" will be provided for both mentors and mentees about expectations and how to handle issues that arise. Mentors will meet to talk with each other about the process, and mentees will come together for sharing purposes, allowing feedback in both directions.

Why start this program? Many members are eager to stay connected with Cal and to share tips with newcomers about resources on and off campus. Because members have years of experience working the internal "gears" of Berkeley, they know whom to contact for information. Even though many years separate a UCBEA member from an undergraduate or an Assistant Professor, retired faculty have plenty to share and a willing ear to hear concerns. The goal is to make transitions as seamless as possible and to "grease the skids" to enable inclusion into the Berkeley community.

When does this begin; what's the time commitment? The plan is to hold the first "meet and greet" in early Spring. We are recruiting YOU now so that you can either attend a meeting or get information by email during the Fall semester. The students are being recruited with assistance from the Coalition for Excellence and Diversity in Math, Science and Engineering, though students in other disciplines can participate. A reception early in the Spring will allow prospective mentors/ mentees to meet informally. The Mentor Committee would "match" participants as a first step. Then, monthly meetings at a minimum would be expected, either in person (preferably) or electronically. A meeting once every 3 months for the mentors to share experiences and ideas is envisioned. Similarly, mentees would come together quarterly.

We welcome your interest in this effort and experiment. Please contact Caroline Kane, First VP, UCBEA at kanecm@berkeley.edu.

The acronyms CUCEA/ CUCRA stand for the Council of UC Emeriti Associations and the Council of UC Retiree Associations, respectively. These councils meet together twice yearly; in the Fall at a northern campus, and in the south in the Spring. An afternoon tour of the Mondavi Institute research winery and brewery was informative. The Thursday morning joint meeting was addressed by Mel Stanton of the Regents' Office of the Treasurer. His good news was that the retirement fund was up 22% at the end of June from the previous year. The not-so-good news--the fund assets are still not enough to meet the actuarial obligations to future retirees. None of this affects UC's obligation to continue paying pensions owed to current retirees. The formal University recognition of the retiree associations, which have covered our officers by the Universities liability policy, has been delayed because the Academic council has raised some trivial objections.

In the afternoon meeting of CUCEA, the treasurer reported that with reduced income due to budget cuts, the reserve fund will last only about ten years. The consensus was that a dues increase is not immediately necessary.

Some highlights from the campus reports;

--**Davis:** has 636 members. The Video Records Project is producing DVDs of interviews with emeriti and administrators to document the history of the campus.

--**Irvine:** will host the Spring 2012 meeting. A survey of emeriti and retirees regarding a possible on-campus retirement facility is underway.

--**UCLA:** has over 900 members. Several dinner meetings are held each year, as well as performances and concerts. They hope to make the title of Research Professor available to emeriti.

--**Santa Cruz:** meets on a Thursday for lunch and speaker every other month with an average attendance of 35. They also sponsor two community-wide lectures per year, featuring distinguished Emeritus professors.

Roger Glassey

Retirement Center Updates

Planning Underway for 15th Anniversary

Next year the UCB Retirement Center will celebrate its 15th anniversary. An anniversary committee with Professor Emeritus Howard Mel as a member is planning a series of activities for next year. Please feel free to share your suggestions with him.

Educational Programs

On December 1st, the Center is jointly sponsoring with the Faculty Club, a lecture by Professor Emeritus Frederic Tubach on "German Voices: Memories from Life in Hitler's Reich." Lecture will be at the Faculty Club from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Register with the Club at 510-540-5678; \$10 fee for Club members. Learning in Retirement continues to offer free educational programs for retirees. The Center's January newsletter will announce the spring programs, including a four-part series on the new Bay Bridge.

Caregiving

In collaboration with the UCB Elder Care Program, the Center is supporting a class on "Caregiving and the 'Holiday Blues'" on Dec. 6 at the Tang Center, noon to 1:30 pm for emeriti in caregiving roles, Contact Care Services at 510-643-7754 to register. The Center is also developing a retiree caregiver support group; more details to follow in the next edition of *the CenterPiece* newsletter.

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)

HICAP provides free assistance to people with concerns related to Medicare: billing and claims, Medicare Supplemental Insurance and Advantage Plans, Part D plans, Long Term Care Insurance, and insurance fraud or abuse issues. Retirement Center constituents are eligible to make an appointment and meet with a HICAP Counselor for a personalized session at the Retirement Center. Follow these easy steps: 1) Call HICAP at 510-839-0393 and 2) Identify yourself as a Retirement Center constituent and request

an appointment. Appointments are on the second Wednesday of each month. HICAP is part of the Legal Assistance for Seniors program in Alameda County.

Faculty Club Christmas Dinner

The annual Christmas parties will be held on December 7, 8, & 9, 2011. The staff has begun planning the feast and preparing decorations, and the Monks, blessed with several emeriti voices, have started practicing their choral offerings. The Faculty Players are rehearsing their new skit and the Brass Ensemble is polishing their instruments. As usual, reservations are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Cost for an entertaining evening, a five course meal and ample libations is \$75 per person. Contact Susan Christie at The Faculty Club, 510-540-5678 ext.224, for more information.

OLLI@Berkeley Winter Programming

OLLI @Berkeley is an inquiring and stimulating community of adults, age 50 and above, exploring new areas of knowledge and traditional disciplines. There are no exams/grades and instructors are encouraged to teach the courses they have always wanted. Such teaching is rewarded by the opportunity to work with mature and intelligent students drawn from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Membership in OLLI @Berkeley means discovering new friends, new knowledge, new capacities, and new ways to bring meaning and enjoyment to our lives.

Learn about the Winter 2012 courses at the Open House on Tuesday, January 17, from 10 am – 12 noon. The term's UCB faculty includes Ronelle Alexander and Steve Tollefson, as well as Alex Saragoza, who will also lead a group tour to Cuba. Also check out our course offering at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The Winter 2012 term begins on January 30. Course schedule and other details available at olli.berkeley.edu or by calling 510-642-9934.

Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S

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Kudos to UCBEA Presidents

- Congratulations to president, Ed Epstein, recent inductee to the Hall of Fame of the Central High School of Philadelphia, PA. The school, founded in 1836, is the second oldest public high school in the U.S. after Boston Latin. It is the only high school in the U.S. with the authority to grant the Bachelor of Arts degree and is considered one of our top college prep schools. The Hall of Fame includes such distinguished graduates as the painter Thomas Eakins; architect Luis Kahn; Nobel Laureate Howard Terpin as well as Noam Chomsky, Bill Cosby and NASA astronaut James Bagian. Three sets of brothers in the Hall of Fame include Ed and his late brother Charles, Professor Emeritus of Medical Genetics, UCSF, together with Industrialists and Philanthropists Daniel and Simon Guggenheim.
- Roger Glassey, immediate past president, UCBEA, was appointed to the Edward A. Dickson Emeriti Professorship for the 2011-2012 academic year, in recognition of his post-retirement teaching activities. Roger has taught a course every year since 1994, when he retired from the department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research. For the last 10 years, his course has been an introduction to mobile robots. The student teams in this course each have a Lego Mindstorms kit complete with motors, sensors, and 3" x 4" control box containing a microcomputer and Bluetooth radio. Students program their robots in Java to complete a new step in a major project. By the end of the course, they write programs to control the robot from a PC. Roger says the course is very satisfying because of the students' enthusiasm and pride of accomplishment when robots do exactly what they are programmed to do.