



A Program of Santa Monica College

THE EMERITUS VOICE

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From the Corner Office

by Scott Silverman,
Associate Dean



To those that I've met, and those that I haven't, thank you for making Emeritus such a great place to be. Whether you are taking classes for personal growth and development, or because you're in class with a friend, I am glad that you're here, and I'm thrilled to be here as well. You'll find me in my office on the 4th floor, but also in the lobby, or enjoying our Art Gallery, sitting in on classes, or running around to fix or check on something. I like to keep my door open when I can, but sometimes I am on a deadline, or running to a meeting elsewhere at SMC. Please remember that I am always reviewing the Suggestion Cards that you submit.

A little bit about me: My wife (of almost 6 years), Peyvand, and I live in nearby Culver City with our two children, a 4.75 year old and a 2 year old. I love to read, and am also writing childrens books.

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Who We Are: Professor Nat Trives

by Michael Higgins



The poet Charles Olson, part of the Black Mountain Collective, considered his life to be an allegory, a fable if you will, with a distinctive beginning, middle and end. James Baldwin compared life to pulling a handkerchief out of one's pocket with the tip fully out as one draws one's final breath. In the person of Nat Trives, SMC Emeritus has a walking, talking allegory of its own, teaching a wildly popular course on current events or, as Ernest Hemingway put it "society, democracy, and all the other things".

Born in Alabama during the great depression, Trives' story unfolds along Pico Boulevard, first becoming a Santa Monica police officer and then, soon after, garnering a seat on the city council. From 1975-1979, he had a historic stint as the first mayor of African-American descent. With his rooted cosmopolitanism, Trives brought an "elegant resilience" in a turbulent time, one that was marked by the fist and the shout. During his mayoral term, he was instrumental in persuading the council to purchase the then private Newcomb Pier, an act that virtually saved the

Santa Monica Pier from certain demolition. In addition, he added a significant number of park acreage to the city's open space inventory, creating in the process both Virginia Avenue Park and Clover Park—two areas of greenery that have not only enhanced the city's reputation but also the relations between Sunset Park and Pico neighborhoods as well. As a council member he was vital in securing seed money for the Center for Healthy Aging which eventually became WISE. Through all his work for the city Nat has received many awards and has become known as "Mr. Santa Monica." He has taught at SMC Emeritus since 1997.

Now in his eightieth decade one is reminded of the ancient Egyptians who believe that there was a judgment after one's death, the first being the weighing of the heart. What they were implying was that the heart is the measure of our courage and our capacity for love. In the case of Nat Trives, one suspects there's a few more tugs of the handkerchief left, a few more lectures to prepare, many more committees and boards to serve and consult with before he's done. And then and only then they can begin their weighing.

Who We Are: Ray Marin

Profile of an Emeritus Student

by Peter Bergquist



How many people do you know who have financed a house in Brentwood with poker winnings? Ray Marin did.

Though recently retired, he's been a player for the bulk of his 79 years. His father was a gambler, so maybe it's in his genes; but his father lost more than he won. Ray remembers him running along the rail right beside his picked horse, screaming for him to pull ahead, to no avail. Ray started with marbles, pitching pennies and blackjack for comic books at a very young age, then graduated to bowling, gin rummy and the horses. But poker became his real love and greatest success. In his heyday Texas Hold'em hadn't taken over yet. He played straight games like five-card stud and five-card draw. He entered tournaments in Vegas now and again but mostly played in the homes of doctors and lawyers with lots of money and big egos. They were always the easiest marks, he says; he got so he could tell what they were holding just by looking at them. That's why he describes poker as a game of character and all about reading faces.

Ray has been married to his wife Pam for over 50 years. He has one daughter and one granddaughter who is 17. He grew up in Detroit, moved west with his family and got his high school degree at Los Angeles High School, then went back to Detroit for college at Wayne State, finally getting his BA in sociology and English. With a characteristic twinkle in his eye, he unapologetically relates that he did it by ordering the

best term papers that money could buy from all the finest universities.

Ray has had many jobs in his life: seller of ladies' shoes, museum tour guide, investigator for lawyers. When he settled back in LA, he became a probation officer and did it for 35 years, 20 of those years with juveniles. He saved some kids and lost others. He likes to remember one with potential he forced to do homework in his downtown office. That young man became a successful CPA and spoke at Ray's retirement party.

Ray is still pretty spry for his age. He beat cancer of the tongue in 2000 and has been on a liquid diet ever since. He never complains though. Ray attends two Emeritus classes regularly, Creative Writing on Thursday and Autobiography on Saturday. He always arrives in either a cowboy hat or a beret and likes to give out chocolate bars and bottled water to his favorite fellow students, mostly ladies. As you might imagine, he never runs out of entertaining tales from his unique life.

Emeritus School Song

by Peter Bergquist

(to be sung to the tune of "God Bless America")

Here's to Emeritus,
A school that's for me.
I am yearning
For some learning
And can have all I want 'cause it's free.
I am older
But I'm bolder
And I'm eager to create.
Here's to Emeritus,

A New Class: Writing for Publication

by Caroline Feinstein

"Writing for Publication", taught by Professor Monona Wali, meets weekly on Mondays from 1 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. We produce the *Emeritus Voice*, published in the fall and the spring. Students collaborate to choose subjects for the newsletter and write most of the articles. Our other responsibility is to read and edit all submissions for two literary publications: *Emeritus Chronicles* and *The Ongoing Moment*. We read each submission aloud and make nominal suggestions so that we do not change the integrity of what each writer intends. The stories and poems are very heartfelt and entertaining and we are privileged as a group to have firsthand knowledge of all submissions. It is a challenging task but one that we thoroughly enjoy doing. It allows us, as students, to learn more about the writing process through editing. So we thank you for all the submissions and keep them coming.

It's never too late.

Here's to Emeritus,
The school that's for me.
It's a college
Full of knowledge
But hard to sustain 'cause it's free.
Give your dollars
So the scholars
Can learn for evermore
Help keep Emeritus
An open door.

2018 SMC Emeritus Fundraising Report

by Darlene Edgley

SMC Emeritus serves over 3,000 students annually and offers over 120 courses for free.

Each year a small team of volunteers come together to plan the fundraising campaign for the college and create new opportunities for students, volunteers, and staff to support the school's mission.

This year, SMC Emeritus has partnered with the Brentwood, Santa Monica, and Marina del Rey's California Pizza Kitchen (CPK). The campaign goes from March 1st through June 1st. To participate stop

by the Emeritus office to pick up your California Pizza Kitchen card. Each time you visit California Pizza Kitchen present your CPK card and 20% of every dollar you spend will automatically go to support SMC Emeritus.

SMC Emeritus College will host its annual one-week fundraising drive starting Monday, May 14 through Friday, May 18, 2018. Volunteers will be in front of the main office to accept donations and available to answer any questions. Last year, your contributions made it possible

to remodel the campus auditorium with upgraded video and audio equipment and furnish it with new chairs.

The 2018 fundraising goals are to increase student participation by 49% and raise a total of \$200,000.

SMC Emeritus needs your support to be able to reach its goals. Join the community of supporters today! You can also donate by calling (310) 434-4306 or visit the SMC Emeritus office at 1227 2nd Street, Santa Monica.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: *Spring Emeritus Events*

SMC Emeritus Chronicles Launch

Reading from new edition of the *Emeritus Chronicles* literary journal. Issues of the Chronicles are for sale in the 1st floor office.

Mon, April 2 | 3:30 p.m. | Free Emeritus Main Auditorium

Emeritus Concert Band

Yosuke Miyoshi, Conductor. June concert will feature island-themed music.

Sun, June 10 | 3 p.m. | Free The Broad Stage at SMC Performing Arts Center

Emeritus Players Acting Showcase

Mark your calendar for our performance showcase featuring silly, serious, and quirky scenes that inspire, entertain, and—hopefully!—give you something to think about.

Sat, July 7 | 1 p.m. | Free The Edye at SMC Performing Arts Center

EMERITUS ART GALLERY

The Emeritus Art Gallery is located on the first floor of the Emeritus Campus, 1227 2nd St., Santa Monica. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For further information, visit the Emeritus website (smc.edu/emmeritus). Exhibits and opening receptions are FREE.

Annual SMC Emeritus Student Photography Exhibition Thu, March 15 – Wed, May 2,

Take a look at the photographic visions of SMC's talented Emeritus students. Opening reception on Thursday, March 15, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Annual SMC Emeritus Student Art Exhibition Thu May 10 – Wed, July 11

Don't miss our popular annual group exhibition of creative works by students in SMC's Emeritus program. Opening reception on Thursday, May 10, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



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Events subject to change. For details, please call (310) 434-4306. The Edye and The Broad Stage are located at the SMC Performing Arts Center at Santa Monica Blvd. & 11th St., Santa Monica.

From the Corner Office

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I love stand-up comedy, but I am generally not as funny as I think I am. I like Shark Tank, TED Talks, and podcasts, including StoryCorps from NPR.

I have a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Southern California, where I researched the effects of social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc) on college student experiences. I also have a MS and BS in Environmental Science from the University of California, Riverside.

I have spent over 15 years working in higher education, both at the University of California, Riverside, and California Lutheran University before coming to Santa Monica College and Emeritus in January; and I have worked both in student affairs and academic affairs, so I have run programs in and out of the classroom. I have worked with people of all ages, and many years ago, I worked for the City of Riverside to develop enhanced services for a growing senior population.

In terms of my goals here at Emeritus, the first one is to listen and hear what works and what doesn't; and then work on solutions accordingly. You may have already heard of some of the things that I am working on: 1) ensuring our Course Descriptions match the official state Chancellor's office approved text, 2) planning for future course revisions, 3) ordering digital signage to be installed late Summer to better publicize everything, 4) minimizing class cancellations by leveraging substitute teachers, 5) working on facility needs.

I could not make any of this possible without the amazing support and work of Vivian Rankin-Scales, Jessica Riojas and Lauri Arneson. Please thank them when you can. Of course, we could not make Emeritus what it is without you as well!

Visit and "Like" us on Facebook. com/SMCEmeritus. We will be sharing photos from our gallery shows and other events on this page, so you can forward it to friends and family.

Thank you, and see you soon!



**1227 2nd Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401**

Business Hours:
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Telephone: (310) 434-4306
Email: emeritus@smc.edu
Website: smc.edu/emeritus

SMC Emeritus is committed to life-long learning for older adults. From art and literature to health and safety, personal finance, and digital technologies, Emeritus College students connect, discover, renew, and reinvent. Classes are held at the SMC Emeritus headquarters at 1227 Second Street, Santa Monica, as well as at community sites located throughout the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu.

Got Suggestions?

You can give Emeritus your feedback in several ways: by emailing emeritus@smc.edu; calling (310) 434-4306; through the suggestion boxes located on the 1st & 2nd floors of Emeritus; and in-person on the 1st floor Enrollment Services or 4th floor Administrative office.

Brain teasers and Trivia

1. What word has twenty-six letters but only three syllables?
2. Who wrote "I think, therefore I am"?
3. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away?
4. Who wrote "the most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious"?
5. What word can have four of its five letters removed and still retain its original pronunciation?

Brain teasers and Trivia Answers: 1) Alphabet 2) René Descartes 3) Charcoal 4) Albert Einstein 5) Queue

This edition of the *Emeritus Voice* was written and produced by students in the "Writing For Publication" (E34) class taught by Monona Wali. Photo credits: Teri Kinne.



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