

*A program of Santa Monica College for older adults*

### Who We Are: Leticia Lua

#### Profile of an Emeritus Student

by Ada Hollie



Tremendous strength, courage, and determination brought Leticia Lua through two life-threatening surgeries. And she credits Emeritus teachers and fellow students for aiding in her recoveries by encouraging and supporting her throughout her difficult ordeals.

Leticia's first class at Emeritus was calligraphy with Marie Lewis. However, she often found herself drawing instead of doing calligraphy and so M. Lewis encouraged her to take a drawing class.

Leticia found happiness in Lynn Goodin's drawing class. However, a few months after it began, she was driving home and started seeing black. She went to the emergency room and received the devastating news that she had a brain tumor and needed surgery right away.

Leticia had surgery on December 3, 2012 and when the surgeon called her name to wake her from the anesthesia, the first thing she asked was "when can I go back to my drawing class?" They laughed and told her she would be fine. Her recuperation took a year but she was back in the drawing class after three months.

In November 2013, while enrolled in a watercolor class with Fred Manseau, Leticia had another medical scare. She was diagnosed with lung cancer. Worried that she would not survive, Leticia told Manseau that she would be back in class and Manseau told her that her classmates would be waiting for her. Knowing that people were waiting for her kept Lucia focused on the fight to come back. Her recovery from the lung cancer... *(Cont'd on Page 3)*

### From the Corner Office

by Gita Runkle, Associate Dean

As we welcome the Fall Term, I would like to update you on a recent Open Forum that was held at Emeritus on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4pm. About 60 people attended the event, which focused on updates regarding Facilities and Emergency Safety Tips.

SMC's Superintendent/President, Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, kicked off the event with a warm welcome. The Director of Facilities Management, Bruce Wyban, and the Assistant Director of Facilities Management, Carl Sheaffer, followed with a presentation on the status of multiple projects at Emeritus, including:

- Increases to bathroom servicing – now occurring daily at 9am, 12pm, 3pm, & after 10pm
- Deep cleaning of bathroom floors – recently cleaned 2 times in Summer 2016, goal is 4 times per year
- Schedule to fix the 4<sup>th</sup> floor deck which leaks into room 304 – after multiple repair attempts during Winter 2016 & Spring 2016, it was determined that this repair needs to be sent out to bid to an external vendor
  - external pre-assessments conducted in June & July 2016
  - a formal assessment and scope of work scheduled in August 2016
  - a public bid for a request for proposal to happen between September to November 2016
  - repairs estimated to occur between December 2016 to February 2017
- Carpet replacements – carpets deep cleaned in Spring 2016, estimated to be replaced in April 2017
- Room 304 & 308 floor cleanings – to be dust mopped nightly, Monday thru Friday... *(Cont'd on Page 4)*



Portrait by Audrey Roll

## Farewell to Schmoozing with Shirl

Shirl Grayson, the writer behind the popular column, Schmoozing With Shirl, is retiring her column from The Emeritus Voice newsletter. We thank Shirl for her many years of service to the newsletter and also for being the driving force behind relaunching the newsletter in 2014. The Emeritus Voice newsletter team and readers will miss you!

## Why is voting always on a Tuesday?

*Compiled by Tom Wendland*

*Ever wonder why elections are held on Tuesdays?*

The answer lies with America's 19th-century farmers. Americans first began the custom of weekday voting in 1845, when Congress passed a federal law designating the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November as Election Day. Before then, states were allowed to hold elections any time they pleased within a 34-day period before the first Wednesday in December, but this system had a few crucial flaws. Knowing the early voting results could affect turnout and sway opinion in states that held late elections, and those same last-minute voters could potentially decide the outcome of the entire election. Faced with these issues, Congress created the current Election Day in the hope of streamlining the voting process.

*But why a Tuesday in November?*

The answer stems from the agrarian makeup of 19th-century America. In the 1800s, most citizens worked as farmers and lived far from their polling place. Since people often traveled at least a day to vote, lawmakers needed to allow a two-day window for Election Day. Weekends were impractical, since most people spent Sundays in church, and Wednesday was market day for farmers. With this in mind, Tuesday was selected as the first and most convenient day of the week to hold elections. Farm culture also explains why Election Day always falls in November. Spring and early summer elections were thought to interfere with the planting season, and late summer and early fall elections overlapped with the harvest. That left the late fall month of November—after the harvest was complete, but before the arrival of harsh winter weather—as the best choice.

## ECAC Happenings *by Charlotte Horstein & Marsha Franker, ECAC Co-Chairs*

Welcome back to Emeritus College after a warm, pleasant summer!

Your Emeritus College Advisory Council (ECAC) is back at work on behalf of Emeritus students to represent your needs and look out for your interests with our administration. As you may know, we have meetings every two months throughout the year to discuss matters pertinent to improving our programs and to help in planning special events like our 40th Anniversary Celebration. We are a twelve-member council elected by fellow members of the ECAC. The ECAC has four subgroups that have worked on specific areas this past academic year, namely, Curriculum, Fundraising, Student Feedback and Student Services.

In the spring of each year, all students may apply to join the Council, based on available openings. We welcome and are pleased to announce that our four new members for 2016-2017 are Michael Baroff, Edie London, Natalie Newman, and Jerry Schneir.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable fall filled with interesting classes. Please say hello to any of our ECAC members that you may meet.

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## 2016 Fund Raising Report *by Walter Coronel*

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The fund raising letter mailed in April of this year resulted in \$63,080 in donations. This brought the total for the year to \$104,065 by the end of June. This is about \$2,000 more than what was collected at this time in 2015. The total number of donors was 27.93%. We would very much like to increase the participation of our students to 40%. Hopefully we can reach this goal by the end of 2016. Thank you for your generosity!



AARP is a membership organization open to adults fifty years of age and older. It is a non-profit advocate for older adults and is a powerful lobbying group with more than 35 million members.

AARP stays in touch with its members through its monthly magazine, *AARP The Magazine*, which has articles about celebrities, financial and lifestyle information, trends, health, puzzles, games, and news. *AARP Bulletin, The Newspaper for 50-Plus America* is published 10 times a year and sent to subscribing members. This bulletin includes timely articles about issues that affect older adults. AARP also sponsors radio and television programs and two Expos each year (one in the East and another in the West United States) with products and services of interest to mature adults.

The following sponsored activities may be of particular interest to Emeritus students:

**AARP Driver Safety Classes** – Taught in-person by trained volunteers or can be taken online, these classes teach defensive driving techniques and provide information on age related changes that can affect driving.

**AARP Experience Corps** - A non-profit charity that encourages people over 50 to mentor and tutor young children.

**AARP Discounts** - Members receive discounts on a wide range of products and services. Visit [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) to stay informed about all the services that are offered including educational, volunteering, and social opportunities in your state and neighborhood.

AARP has charitable foundations focusing on the needs of disadvantaged older adults and business foundations that are incorporated separately. The business foundations market travel and leisure products, Medicare supplemental insurance policies and other policies. You can find more information about AARP at the library, senior centers, and online.

## What's Happening: Fall Emeritus Events

### Emeritus Art Gallery Exhibits

**Emeritus Students: Cheri Dickinson, Lorraine**

**Ginsberg, Starrie Ming**

September 22-November 2, 2016

Opening reception September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm

**The Ongoing Moment Journal Exhibition**

November 10, 2016 to January 11, 2017

Opening reception November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

**Emeritus College Concert Band Concert**

November 6, 2016 at 3pm

The Broad Stage at SMC Performance Arts Center

1310 11th Street in Santa Monica

**The Emeritus College Acting Troupe**

January 28, 2016 at 1pm

The Edge at SMC Performing Arts Center

1310 11th Street in Santa Monica

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## Who We Are: Leticia Lua *(Cont'd from Page 1)*

... was more difficult than her previous surgery, but she persevered.

Leticia has also taken life drawing with Jesse Benson, described as a wonderful teacher, and photography with Jerry Schneur, who loaned her a camera for the class. At first she was afraid to take it out of the box, but, thankfully, she finally did. Because her pictures were so good, they were featured in a recent Emeritus Photography Exhibition.

Leticia wants to thank all of her teachers for “being there” and her fellow students for their kindness.

## See Something. Say Something.

by Danielle Gautt, SMC Crisis Prevention Case Manager Coordinator

The Crisis Prevention Team (CPT) was formed in fall 2007 in response to the tragic incident at Virginia Tech. The CPT employs a proactive and collaborative approach in an effort to prevent, identify, assess, intervene and manage situations that may pose a threat to the safety and/or well being of individual students and the campus community. The mission of the team is to promote campus safety.

The Crisis Prevention Team has evolved over time and now includes 15 members who represent management, faculty and staff. Team members are chosen by virtue of the roles they play at the college and include representatives from the following departments: Campus Police, Student Judicial Affairs, Psychological Services, Health Services Center, Ombuds Office, Counseling, Disabled Students Programs & Services, International Education Center, Academic Affairs, Human Resources, Case Manager Coordinator and Legal Counsel.

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to refer worrisome students/ SMC community members to the CPT when they:

- Hear mention of thoughts or gestures of self-harm or harm to others
- Receive inappropriate emails
- Observe inappropriate behavior
- Suspect family or domestic problems
- Suspect alcohol or drug abuse
- Suspect the possession of weapons
- Wonder, "Should I?"

When one or more of these behaviors are observed, faculty, staff and students are encouraged to fill out a referral form that is also used by the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Title IX. The referral form can be accessed from the SMC website: <http://www.smc.edu/CPT>

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### From the Corner Office (Cont'd from Page 1)

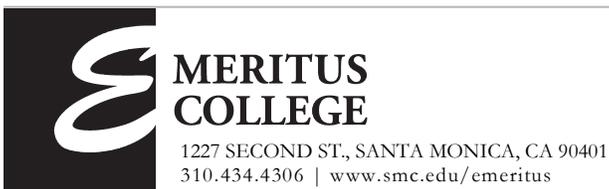
- Hand sanitizer refills – Facilities will replenish with their remaining supply
- Repairs to the roof that leaked into rooms 404, 407, 408 & 409 – fixed in Spring 2016

After the Facilities presentation and discussion, Chief Johnnie Adams and I led a presentation on Emergency Safety Tips that included:

- What number faculty/staff/students should call in emergencies to reach Campus Police
  - Dial 4300 from a classroom phone
  - Dial 310.434.4300 from a cell phone
- Classroom phones provide emergency alerts through verbal and written information
- Defibrillators and evacuchairs (for going down stairs) are located on each floor
- For more information, see posters in classrooms or visit SMC's website: [www.smc.edu/emergency](http://www.smc.edu/emergency)

At the forum, a couple of additional topics were raised by students – we plan to order more comfortable chairs for the art rooms and hired an external company to clean our existing yoga blankets. Please note, within a year we will phase out the providing of yoga blankets. Starting Fall 2017, students will need to bring their own yoga blankets, as well as clean their own yoga blankets. Scholarships are available (up to \$30 reimbursement per term) for students to purchase blankets of their own.

We hope that you decide to join us for our next Open Forum on November 9, 2016 at 12pm in room 107.



Emeritus College 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 Emeritus headquarters at 1227 Second Street, Santa Monica, as well as at community sites located throughout the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu.

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#### Got Suggestions?

You can give Emeritus your feedback in several ways: by emailing [emeritus@smc.edu](mailto:emeritus@smc.edu); calling 310-434-4306; through the suggestion boxes located on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> floors of Emeritus; and in-person on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Emeritus administrative offices.