



Palos Verdes Alumni Chapter

October 2009 Newsletter

Forty Five and Counting. Going for the Gold

I've just returned from spending time with **David and Janice Champion** who are doing the major work on the video presentation for our 45th Anniversary Celebration. What fun to look back in time and savor the history of our chapter as it unfolded in the hands of the very capable members we had and still have. Don't delay. Make your reservations now. You won't want to miss the pictures of yourself when you were 25 or 35 or even 45. We were all so glamorous and handsome!

Similar to the wondrous sapphires that we are highlighting this year!!

Instructions are in the box below this column. Other highlights of our celebration include a musical program of the music of George Gershwin featuring our members as performers and organized by **Dr. Pat Harpole**, and capped off with a tasty meal by **Chef Michael Shafer**.

45th Anniversary Celebration
The Depot Restaurant
1250 Cabrillo Ave,
Torrance

October 11, 5:30 – 8:45 PM

Send reservations to **Ruth Cuccia**
(see address on the next page)

Reservation deadline October 5th

\$40 per person

no host cash bar available

We will have an impromptu choral group that will sing The Creed and a choral grace that will be conducted by **Dr. Joanna Nacheff**. We need singers for all parts, SATB. If you would like to sing please arrive at 4:30 for a brief rehearsal. Contact me if you would like music ahead of time. It would also be good to know about how many to expect so drop me an email to let us know of your interest in singing.

One thing more: Let's make sure that none of our members who no longer drive at night don't miss the fun. If you would be willing to pick up someone and give them a ride, please let me know. If you **NEED** a ride, please let me know.

District Conference

Also coming in October is our triennial District Conference. We will be represented on the Member Showcase Recital by **Akio Dohi, Maria Jaque and Deborah Aitken**. The conference runs from noon to 10 PM and includes a concert by

Ruslan Biryukov and Mary Au
at Meng Hall at CSU Fullerton.

Former National Officer **Kurt Alexander Zeller** is coming to give the keynote speech and a special presentation on **Body**

Mapping which is a method somewhat akin to the Alexander Technique in that it seeks to eliminate causes of body tension as one practices or performs. If you would like to be a participant (rather than an observer) in the **Body Mapping** Class please let me know. You can learn more about Body Mapping at www.bodymap.org.

A registration form with complete information on the conference will be attached to your email of this newsletter. The cost is \$35 which includes a light supper and a ticket to the concert. It promises to be an interesting afternoon and evening. Come join us!

As a member of the planning committee one of my responsibilities is overseeing a table of Foundation Fare. I will need help covering the table for the afternoon hours. If you can help with this please contact me.

September Potluck

We began our activities this year with a lovely potluck hosted by **Mary and John Feyk** ably assisted by **Teddy Greenwald**. Scholarship Winner, **Lizabeth Sanchez** sang **Viva Los Que Rien** from *La Vida Breve* by Manuel De Falla, accompanied by **Dr. Pat Harpole**. It was a joyous evening seeing everyone after our summer hiatus. A special treat was to see **Janette Moote and her daughter Maryann**. Janette was serenaded by the group on her recent birthday.

NAME CHANGE

We're still working on it. Our former member, **Neeltje Gingerich** weighed in with **South Bay Palos Verdes Alumni Chapter**. Keep those suggestions coming!

DUES ARE DUE NOW DUE ARE DUES
Dues were due on September 15 but we're not proud, we'll still accept them.

\$85 FOR REGULAR MEMBERS

\$75 FOR LIFE MEMBERS

\$25 FOR EMERITUS MEMBERS
(over 80 years old)

\$0 FOR MEMBERS OVER 90

PATRONS DUES ARE \$50

Ruth Cuccia is our treasurer

3408 S. Denison Ave., SP 90731

Directories will be mailed out mid October to those who haven't picked them up at a meeting before that time.

MEMBER NEWS

Our member, **Grigore Nica** passed away this past month. **Rebecca Rutkowski, Anli Tong and I** offered music at the Memorial Service to honor his lifelong commitment to and pursuit of the art of music. We offer our sympathy to his widow, **Anke**, **daughter Alexandra and son Michael**. A contribution in **Grigore's** memory will be made to the Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation. Should you wish to add to what we will send, please send your checks, made out to the Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation, to our treasurer, **Ruth Cuccia** before October 1.

THANK YOU

The Chapter has received a thank you letter from **Pat Maki** who is the Artistic Director of **Campus Concerts**. Through our Fund Raisers the chapter is a major supporter of this fine organization which brought musical assemblies to 21 schools in many local districts including Lomita, San Pedro, and Wilmington last year.

RECITAL

Maria Jaque, flute ably assisted by **Deborah Aitken**, piano, will be performing in recital at El Camino on Saturday, October 10 at 8 PM in Marsee Auditorium at El Camino College.

They will be performing music by J.S. Bach, Philippe Gaubert, Johann Joachim Quantz, Camille Saint-Saens, and Paul Hindemith.

Kurt Zeller, who is coming to the District Conference will be available for a Body Mapping Master Class at the studio of **Lenita McCallum** on Friday, October 30 from 3-6 PM. The fee to participate in the class is \$25. To audit the class the cost is \$10. Please make reservations with Lenita at LBANDCB@COX.NET by October 28.

New Patron

We are happy to welcome Dorothy Ingebretsen as a new Patron. She is a student of Mary Feyk. Please add her to your Directory.

Dorothy Ingebretsen
32859 Seagate Dr. Unit A
RPV, CA 90275
310-377-1479
maryhmusic@gmail.com

CALLING ALL MEMBERS.

THIS ITEM IS AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER BUT THAT DOES NOT REFLECT THE URGENCY OF THIS SITUATION. PLEASE READ AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP TO STOP THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF THE MUSIC PROGRAM AT CSUDH!

We begin with a letter from our member, Shirley Yamamoto.

DEAR Mu Phi Epsilon Alumni Members,

It is inevitable that during an economic crisis there will be cutbacks and laying off of teachers in schools. But what I wish to bring forth to all of you is a very serious situation at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) where the Provost and the President is planning a very hasty process to close important departments of CSUDH. The music department is in danger of this closure by Fall of 2010.

What makes this process so incredible is the fact that there is still no budget for 2010-2011. The Provost is not under any pressure to do any cutbacks, yet he wants this process of elimination completed by December of this year. Is he leading this process with such haste in order to remake the University in his own image? The music faculty feels that the Provost does not believe that "Music and the Arts is a vital part of the University learning experience."

We in the Music Department feel that the Provost is not looking at all the costs of the University, analyzing in detail where certain cuts can be made administratively, but instead he is basically putting all the departments' chairs into a pit (like gladiators fighting against each other) and having them fight it out to see who wins. Then, the chairs vote on which departments will remain. The Provost has hired a facilitator to conduct this meeting of chairs. I can't believe that he is going about this process as if it is a reality game show, where the faculty decides who gets eliminated by a competition. This sounds like the Provost wants a way out if he is confronted by disgruntled people who are angry about the closures.

Furthermore, the music faculty heard that the Provost is allowing his facilitator to have "pre"discussions with certain faculty members, but not to the music department faculty. Word is spreading that Music and History are two of the departments that the Provost wishes to be eliminated.

I **urge** all of you to read the memo on the next page written by a faculty member of the Fine Arts Department at CSUDH to get more details of what is happening.

After you read this memo, please write a letter to Dr. Richard Kravchak, chairman of the Music Department to voice your disappointment about this process, the detrimental effects and negative impact this will have upon students at CSUDH and the heartlessness of laying off tenured professors with families prematurely when there is still plenty of funds in the current budget. Dr. Kravchak will collect these letters to help him defend the music department if he finds out in November that the music department will close.

Thank you for reading this important message from me. I am not a full time faculty member of CSUDH, but a part-time flute instructor at the University, so I am not writing this article to merely save my job. I find it important to convey to the everyone at CSUDH that learning music is a necessity in everyone's life.

*Shirley Yamamoto,
Flute Instructor, CSUDH
MuPhi Liaison for CSUDH*

Open Letter to the Campus Community The Provost's "Program Closure Planning Process"

As many of you know, Provost Vogel recently rolled out what he calls a "Program Planning Process." What he is attempting to accomplish will result in the

complete dismantling of CSU Dominguez Hills as we know it. The process will result in the destruction of campus programs and the layoff of tenured and non-tenured faculty. It will have a negative impact on current and future students.

He has only allowed four short months to rush through this process. Programs that took years to build will be eliminated summarily with no meaningful campus conversation. Once this "process" is completed on December 21st the administration will be in a position to issue "pink slips" just in time for the holidays.

In addition to moving very hastily, the Provost has ignored existing campus and systemwide policies, opting instead to create procedures out of thin air. Nothing in his "Program Planning Process" is the result of shared governance. The curriculum is the purview of the faculty; pretending that his "process" is faculty driven is simply bogus.

Moreover, if we begin with the assumption that programs must be eliminated, as the Provost's plan does, then of course programs will close. The saner alternative is to start at the other end, looking at the whole university for significant cost savings that don't permanently foreclose our students' choices and eliminate faculty colleagues' jobs.

Sadly, the Provost's "process" seems designed to maximize divisiveness across the campus by pitting programs against one another. He is, at the same time, controlling the discussion through the means of a hired "facilitator who, we have learned, is already having one-on-one "pre-discussions" with designated faculty (something not mentioned publicly in the plan). Furthermore, neither the cost of this

facilitator nor the source of funds used to pay him have been publicly explained.

Less than 8 months after arriving at CSUDH Provost Vogel has demonstrated a profound lack of understanding and lack of respect for our campus programmatic structures. By developing and imposing a process that was not the result of faculty shared governance he has ended up with a distorted view of how we serve our students. We are not CSU Long Beach.

So we have to ask, "Why is Provost Vogel, with the apparent tacit support of the President, so intent on doing this to Dominguez Hills?"

The only explanation he has provided so far does not pass the "smell test." While the system has a budget for 2009/10 he has apparently concocted a fantasy "budget" for 2010/11 that does not yet exist.

His budget scenario bears no resemblance to the budget that the Chancellor's Office is currently developing and that was presented to the Systemwide Budget Advisory Committee. Those proposals request full funding, including backfill of recent cutbacks.

We have to ask why this Provost, among all twenty-three campuses, is the only one pursuing this destructive path. We would hate to think that he sees Dominguez Hills with its large diverse student body as the campus least likely to resist this kind of reckless downsizing.

Instead of eliminating programs that help our students and their communities succeed, he should be working with us to preserve the diversity of educational options that Dominguez Hills offers. What a terrible irony that our president has urged local communities of color at "super Sundays" to

send their children to a campus whose programs are being eviscerated.

Why is Provost Vogel determined to make permanent cuts to solve a temporary problem? This economy will turn around but we will live with these cuts forever. Once programs are gone, they will never come back. A financial crisis is the worst possible time to make irreversible decisions on the future of the university.

We call upon President Garcia and Provost Vogel to abandon this misguided "Program Planning Process" and instead work shoulder to shoulder with the entire campus community to preserve this treasure and the opportunity it provides the citizens of the South Bay.

The students, faculty and staff of Dominguez Hills are ready to work with the administration to preserve our campus. We are also prepared to fight to save it.

In union,

Dave Bradfield
CSUDH CFA Chapter President