

Redstone gives Keck School \$24 million for cancer research

'I was fortunate to meet Dr. Agus shortly after I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and since that time I have benefitted from his expertise. He quite literally saved my life.'

—Media executive and philanthropist Sumner M. Redstone

Keck School of Medicine of USC Dean Carmen A. Puliafito announced a \$24 million charitable gift from media executive and philanthropist Sumner M. Redstone at a reception July 13 at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills.

The multi-million dollar gift will support cancer research directed by renowned oncologist David Agus, director of the USC Center for Applied Molecular Medicine and the USC Westside Prostate Cancer Center. Nearly 30 guests, including USC President-elect C. L. Max Nikias, CBS President and CEO Leslie Moonves, former studio executive Sherry Lansing, and film producer Robert Evans, applauded the gift.

"David Agus is not only an accomplished scientist who is literally changing how we think about cancer, but is also a remarkable physician who brings tremendous skill and compassion to his work with patients," said Redstone. "I was fortunate to meet Dr. Agus shortly after I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and since that time I have



Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito (left), oncologist David Agus (center left), professor of medicine at the Keck School, and USC President-elect C. L. Max Nikias (right) present Sumner Redstone with a mounted stethoscope at a July 13 reception in his honor. Redstone's gift will support cancer research directed by Agus, who is also director of the USC Center for Applied Molecular Medicine and the USC Westside Prostate Cancer Center.

benefitted from his expertise. He quite literally saved my life, as he has done for many others."

The donation to the Keck School of Medicine is part of more than \$100 million in previously announced chari-

table grants that Redstone has awarded to fund initiatives in the U.S. and abroad.

"Sumner is one of the most remarkable people I've ever met; it continues to be an honor to be involved in his care," said Agus. "We are

working on new treatments for prostate cancer, and this tremendous philanthropic gift from Sumner allows our team to think outside of the box. He gives us free rein to think about the world of health care

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USC hospitals ranked among best in seven specialty areas

By Leslie Ridgeway

USC University Hospital placed among the best hospitals in the nation in the *U.S. News & World Report* magazine's 21st annual rankings of "America's Best Hospitals."

In addition to USC University Hospital, USC-affiliated Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center also was ranked. Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, staffed exclusively by USC faculty physicians, was recognized in June as a top children's hospital.

The rankings, released July 15, are categorized by medical specialty, with the top 50 medical centers listed for most specialties.

USC University Hospital ranked in six specialty areas:

- Eighth in ophthalmology (USC Department of Ophthalmology at the Doheny Eye Institute)
- 16th in urology
- 28th in pulmonology
- 31st in orthopaedics
- 20th in neurology and neurosurgery (up 25 spots from last year)
- 29th in gynecology (up one spot from last year).

Rancho Los Amigos ranked 17th in rehabilitation, up one spot from last year.

This year's rankings include patient satisfaction, measured from a sample of patients surveyed after discharge from USC University Hospital. The hospital was rated "Highest or very high" by 74 percent of patients surveyed. Eighty-one percent of patients surveyed said they would "definitely" recommend USC University Hospital to friends and family. Both ratings are above state and national averages.

"The latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings

are a validation of the commitment to excellence of our Doctors of USC and all of our staff," said Mitch Creem, chief executive officer of USC University Hospital. "I also congratulate Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center for their rankings."

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles was one of only seven children's hospitals in the nation—and the only pediatric medical center on the West Coast—named to the national "Honor Roll" of children's hospitals in the United States.

"I'm proud of our Keck School of Medicine faculty and the hospital staff who did the hard work that made all of the recent rankings possible," said Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. "This national recognition of their dedication and professionalism is well deserved."

The Best Hospitals guide ranked 152 medical centers nationwide out of 4,852 hospitals in 16 specialties.

To be considered for the rankings, a hospital must be a teaching hospital, be affiliated with a medical school, have at least 200 beds, or

have at least 100 beds and at least four of eight key medical technologies available, such as a PET/CT scanner and certain precise radiation therapies. Hospitals also must meet a volume requirement—a minimum number of Medicare inpatients from 2006 to 2008 who had certain procedures and conditions in a given specialty.

The full list of hospital rankings and methodology is also available online at <http://www.usnews.com/besthospitals>. The rankings will be published in the August issue of the magazine.



USC Norris awarded \$12 million for prostate cancer research

By Meghan Lewit

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers have received a \$12 million National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant to lead a multi-institution international project aimed at identifying new biological pathways critical to the development and potential treatment of prostate cancer.

The Elucidating Loci Involved in Prostate Cancer Susceptibility (ELLIPSE) is a four-year grant that will bring together researchers from 13 institutions across the United States and Europe to identify common gene variants involved in the developmental progression of prostate cancer. Insight into prostate cancer biology will assist in the development of new targets for preventive and therapeutic interventions. The grant was announced July 19.

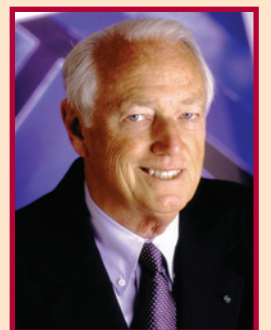
The grant is one of five awarded by the NCI for transdisciplinary research projects to exploit findings from existing genome-wide association studies and to accelerate new discoveries.

Brian Henderson, distinguished professor of preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and Kenneth T. Norris, Jr. Chair in Cancer Prevention, is principal investigator for the project.

"The overarching goal is to discover the pathways that drive prostate cancer development and to assess their role in clinical decision making," Henderson said.

Henderson and his colleague Christopher Haiman, associate professor of preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, have been searching for potential genetic markers

See **PROSTATE**, page 4



Brian Henderson

Dental patient has been all smiles for USC since 1954

By Beth Dunham

Addie Taylor of Inglewood always gets a lot of attention from faculty, students and residents when she comes for her

appointments at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC.

But she doesn't get the attention because she has some sort of rare dental complication. In fact, Taylor has a beautiful smile complete with every single one of her teeth—and she's 100 years old.

She's taken meticulous care of her teeth for years and brushes and flosses faithfully, said her daughter Gladys Chappel. But both she and Taylor also credit her healthy smile to the care she's received at the Ostrow School of Dentistry for more than five decades.

"USC's the reason I still have all my teeth," Taylor

said.

Since she became a patient of the school in 1954, she's been cared for by many different students and residents, and several of them keep in touch with her. But while the surroundings, technologies and faces of the students have changed, the level of care she has received over the years has not changed a bit, Taylor said.

"They are always so good and courteous," she said of the students and residents who have provided dental care. "I haven't had one bad experience; I have absolutely no complaints."

Sigmund Abelson, associate dean of clinical affairs for the Ostrow School of Dentistry, said serving patients such as

Taylor is an honor and a wonderful experience for students and residents.

"Ms. Taylor has a rich history as a patient for many years at the dental school. Patients such as her provide our students with an exceptional learning experience not only in terms of clinical dentistry, but also in developing their interpersonal communication skills," Abelson said.

"The students also benefit from learning from her life experiences. Thanks to patients such as Ms. Taylor, the end result is that our students graduate not just as competent dentists, but also as having the necessary skills to serve society as oral health care professionals."



Ostrow School of Dentistry patient Addie Taylor, right, with her daughter Gladys Chappel

Beth Dunham

USC School of Pharmacy receives \$400,000 grant to aid safety net clinics

By Kukla Vera

UniHealth Foundation, the first foundation to provide funding for the USC School of Pharmacy's involvement in safety net clinics, has awarded an additional \$400,000 grant to the school that will allow its already impactful work in these clinics to thrive and grow.

"It has been tremendous for the School of Pharmacy and the community that UniHealth has supported us through our work in these clinics," said Kathleen Johnson, chair of the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy. "This support propelled our involvement forward and continues

to allow us to enhance and expand our services to the community."

The project, "Pharmacist Clinical Service Delivery Expansion and Medication Safety Improvement," aims to deliver clinical pharmacy services to the Center for Community Health (CCH), a clinic of the JWCH Institute located in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles, and to identify the benefits in medication error identification and resolution, and in quality of care. Additionally, the project increases access to care by freeing up physicians as pharmacists take on more of the medication therapy management and medication dispensing.

This project builds upon previous funding from the UniHealth Foundation, which helped established the framework for a clinical pharmacy program that now serves as a national model for more than 100 safety net clinics through the Health Resources Service Administration's Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Collaborative.

The funds from this grant will be used to expand existing pharmaceutical services at the Center for Community Health through the hiring of a full-time pharmacist and a resident clinical pharmacist, who will provide direct patient care, provide patient and staff education, and coordinate the

activities of student pharmacists and residents serving in the clinics. The overall goal of the project is to increase the number of patients who are provided clinical pharmacy services.

"The USC School of Pharmacy's commitment to safety net providers is exemplary," said UniHealth Foundation president Mary Odell. "This grant will enhance existing services at the Center for Community Health and hopefully provide data to support reimbursement for clinical pharmacy services in the future. We are proud to partner with JWCH and the USC School of Pharmacy to further our shared missions."

Johnson, the William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Professor in Community Pharmacy, will oversee the project along with associate professor Steven

Chen, who will direct the clinical pharmacists and residents providing care through the grant. The program strives to offer more patients health education and provide a structure that decreases medication errors while increasing overall medication safety. "

Also, training a resident pharmacist who completes the one-year program with the skills to take a job in another safety net clinic will expand the number of pharmacists available to work in similar urban settings," Johnson explained. "Additionally, because the pharmacists closely manage the most severe chronic disease patients, physicians can spend their time seeing a larger number of patients, which increases access to health care services for patients overall at CCH."

REDSTONE: Gift aimed at bolstering impact of cancer therapy

Continued from page 1

in a different way, and he pushes us to be more entrepreneurial by focusing on incremental gains and taking risks in areas where there are breakthrough opportunities."

Keck School Dean Puliafito also expressed appreciation for the gift. "This extraordinarily generous gift from Sumner Redstone will boost Dr. Agus' exciting research program, which we believe has the potential to make a revolutionary

impact on cancer therapy," he said.

Agus is co-leader of the National Cancer Institute-funded Physical Sciences in Oncology Center at USC, which aims to bring physical science researchers, including physicists and mathematicians, together with biological scientists, in hopes of creating new paradigms with which to approach and treat cancer. Agus is a member of the NCI-designated USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center faculty.

IN MEMORIAM

J. Paul Harvey, a legend in orthopaedic surgery who served for 30 years at the Keck School of Medicine, died on July 12.

He came to the Keck School in 1962 and served as chair of the division of orthopaedic surgery from 1964 to 1978. He was the first full-time chair of orthopaedic surgery at the school, and one of only a handful of full-time faculty at that time. He continued as professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery until his retirement in 1992.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of J. Paul Harvey Jr., MD, to: The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, c/o Development Office, 1975 Zonal Avenue, KAM 300, Los Angeles, CA 90033; or the USC Catholic Center, 3207 University Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007, Attn: Clare Faulkner, executive director.



Robert M. Nakamura, professor of obstetrics and gynecology who served at the Keck School for more than 30 years, died July 6 in Henderson, Nevada. Nakamura, who retired from USC in 1998 due to poor health, was 72.



His work to quantify hormone level measurements helped build the foundation for contemporary reproductive endocrinology.

A memorial service and tree planting on campus is planned for September.

The Weekly

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USC University Hospital aims to make ‘extraordinary’ patient experience routine

By Tania Chatila

USC University Hospital is intensifying efforts to provide patients and their families with a uniquely professional and comfortable experience while visiting the hospital.

The Patient Experience Department, led by Yolee Casagrande, has started several new initiatives to improve patient experience, including the placement of a complimentary snack cart with coffee and pastries in the surgical waiting area and new uniforms for the six patient experience employees.

“USC is known internationally for excellence, and we want to be sure that the USC hospitals and the Patient Experience Department reflect that tradition of excellence as well,” said Casagrande.

New initiatives include the department’s hosting of internal workshops to improve customer service staff skills, and creating new materials to be distributed to patients describing what services Patient Experience has to offer.

Casagrande said her team has been “especially integral



The Patient Experience Department is made up of six employees: (from left to right) Jennifer Luna, Mina Harvey, Genny Carta, Sandy Alcalá, Maria Chavez and David Rubio.

in contributing ideas and taking initiative to help improve the whole experience for our patients and their loved ones.”

Jennifer Luna and Genny Carta are tasked with better organization and presentation of the USC University Hospital concierge desks; David Rubio manages pagers given out to the relatives of surgical patients as a means of notifying them when there is

news about their loved ones; and Mina Harvey initiated the launch of tours for surgical patients and their families to see areas they might frequent during a surgery admission.

The department also received new uniforms, which patient experience employees began wearing recently. The uniform includes black vests and suit jackets over white collared dress shirts. Employ-

ees said the uniform gives a consistent look and more readily identifies members of the Patient Experience Department.

“We are the first people our patients and their families interact with when they enter the hospital,” Carta said. “It’s of the utmost importance that we greet them and do all that we can to address their needs.”

‘USC is known internationally for excellence, and we want to be sure that the USC hospitals and the Patient Experience Department reflect that tradition of excellence.’

— Yolee Casagrande, director of patient experience

Henri Ford Elected to Princeton University Board of Trustees

Henri Ford, vice dean for Medical Education and professor and vice chair for clinical affairs at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, has been elected to a four-year term on the Board of Trustees of Princeton University in New Jersey, effective July 1.

Ford is an internationally recognized medical leader in pediatric surgery, having published hundreds of articles and having won many honors in his field. Recently, Ford served as a key member of the USC/LA County Haiti Medical Aid Team. He was deployed to his native country, Haiti, by the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services following the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake.

Ford also serves as vice president and chief of surgery at USC-affiliated Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Ford earned his bachelor’s degree, cum laude, from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton in 1980, along with certificates in African American studies, Latin American studies and science in human affairs. He earned an M.D.



Henri Ford

from Harvard Medical School. He is a member of the Association of Black Princeton Alumni.

The 40-member Princeton Board of Trustees has charge and control of the finances and funds of the University. It sets the operating and capital budgets and supervises the investment of the University’s endowment, which is managed by the Princeton University Investment Company. All campus real estate and long-range physical planning, the determination

of architectural styling and landscaping and the general condition of the University’s physical plant are overseen by the board.

In his role as a professor in the Department of Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Ford has been an important role model for young physicians and medical students. As the vice dean for Medical Education at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Ford advances the medical school’s educational mission by promoting excellence in medical education as one of its highest priorities.

ETCETERA

Mark Lew, professor of clinical neurology, has been awarded the HollyRod Foundation’s first HollyRod Founder’s Award for his commitment to treating Parkinson’s disease and to the foundation’s Compassionate Care program.

The Compassionate Care program, started in 2002, is a partnership with the foundation and the Center for Parkinson’s Research and Movement Disorders at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The program provides care, services and resource information to patients with little or no health care insurance and limited finances.

Since 2002, 60 patients have been served by the program.

“The HollyRod Founder’s Award was created this year specifically with you in mind to recognize your longstanding commitment to our ... program,” wrote Lori Schulman, the foundation’s executive director. “The bright light you bring to all of your patients

provides an enormous lift.”

The award was presented to Lew at the foundation’s 12th annual DesignCare fundraiser July 24 in Beverly Hills. One of Lew’s patients, Wanda Milton, was given the Matthew T. Robinson Award of Courage.

Zul Surani, program specialist at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, has received the 2010 Susan Matsuko Shinagawa LiveSTRONG Cancer Control Leadership Award, sponsored by the Intercultural Cancer Council and the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

The award recognizes exceptional “leadership in the area of cancer control through the formulation and execution of policies, programs, partnerships and/or research to eliminate the unequal burden of cancer among racial and ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations.”

Surani manages the Patient Education & Community Outreach

Center and the Jennifer Diamond Cancer Resource Library at the Norris.

He has served for more than 15 years as a public health administrator, consultant and ardent advocate in the field of cancer prevention, control and survivorship. He served as the National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Information Service, Partnership Program Coordinator for Southern California for almost a decade before the program ended.

At its Champions of Health Awards on June 16, National Medical Fellowships honored **Althea Alexander**, assistant dean of minority student affairs at the Keck School, as its “Academic Champion of Health.”

The award, which recognizes public service and commitment to achieving equity of opportunity in medicine and equity of access to quality health care, honors Alexander’s more than 30 years of service at USC, where she has helped guide more than 620 alumni.

Three members of the Health Sciences Campus received USC Mellon Mentoring Awards at a ceremony attended by former awardees, deans and department chairs.

Supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching, the USC-Mellon Mentoring Awards honor individual faculty for helping build a supportive academic environment at USC through faculty-to-faculty and faculty-to-student mentoring.

Recipients from the health sciences, all honored as faculty members, mentoring fellow faculty members were: **Peter Conti**, associate professor of radiology at the Keck School of Medicine; **Malcolm Snead**, professor of dentistry at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC; and **Michael Stallcup**, professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Recent Keck School grad named Fulbright Scholar

By Katie Neith

As a public health professional, Shanelle Ueyama values the use of preventive efforts as solutions to problems over waiting to take action after a problem has already developed. This year, the Keck School alumnus (MPH ‘09) will get the chance to develop prevention efforts abroad during a Fulbright Fellowship in South Korea.

Ueyama, a project assistant at the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center at USC, will be studying the “Socio-cultural and Gender Specific Correlates of Smoking among Young Women in South Korea.” Currently, the smoking rate of middle school girls in South Korea is at 9 percent, which is nine times higher than it was in 1990. Moreover, the smoking rate among young girls is even higher than that for adult women, which currently is at 5 percent.



Shanelle Ueyama

Ueyama said smoking prevalence among young adults is an important signal of future smoking patterns in a country: “Unless researchers and tobacco-control advocates immediately address the issue of smoking among young females in Korea, the consequences will be devastating, as has already been seen in many Western nations.” She said the study findings will be critical in serving as baseline information for policy development and cessation programs tailored to Korean women. Upon completion of her project, she hopes to present her findings at public health conferences throughout Asia and the U.S.

“Making the data accessible internationally is essential in order to build global interest in smoking [cessation] among Korean women and to encourage further research on the topic,” Ueyama said.

Geller tapped to lead pre-health student advising program

USC College Dean Howard Gillman has announced the hiring of Kenneth Geller as the new director of the USC College-Keck School of Medicine Academic and Advising Program.

Geller, who was chosen following a national search, will lead the creation of an advising office specific to pre-health students across the university together with the integration of new and existing pre-health academic programs. He presently serves as the co-director of the Baccalaureate/MD program in the College.

In 1998, Geller joined the Keck School of Medicine of USC as an associate professor of clinical otolaryngology. He also serves as a clinical assistant professor of surgery/otolaryngology at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Geller is vice chairman in the Department of Surgery and the director of the Division of Otolaryngology and Communicative Disorders at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. He is also the coordinator of the Pediatric Otolaryngology Rotation for residents from Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center and UCLA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residency. In addition to his medical degree, he has a master’s degree in education from USC.

“As an alumnus of our medical school and a faculty member who has won awards for outstanding teaching and

educational research, Ken is particularly well-suited to designing a program that is tailor-made for students interested in health careers,” said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC. “This exciting new program will help USC attract more of the best students as undergraduates and to retain them as highly qualified candidates for medical school.”

In this newly created position, Geller will help plan and implement a signature experience for pre-health undergraduates with new courses, including introduction to pre-health careers, ethics in medicine, research methods, scientific writing, third world medicine, medical Spanish and peer mentoring.

“I consider the professional and ethical development of physicians and other health professionals to be of the highest importance; it should start as early as possible,” Geller said. “A solid foundation that is built and nurtured in the pre-health years will impact students throughout their entire careers. It is our job to be sure that the foundation is of the highest quality.”

Pre-health has long been a popular area of study in the College with more than 30 percent of first-year students at USC College enrolling as pre-health majors. Additionally, a high number of students throughout USC pursue pre-health studies. This past fall, 451 of the 2,800 first-year USC students registered as pre-health majors.

PROSTATE: Program explores cancer’s causes

Continued from page 1 of prostate cancer within the African-American, Latino and Japanese populations of the Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) study.

The ELLIPSE program comprises three integrated projects:

- Project 1 aims to take advantage of existing genome-wide association studies of prostate cancer in European, African-American, Latino and Japanese populations to discover new risk variants that may be associated with advanced disease and that contribute to ethnic differences in disease risk.

- Project 2 is focused on understanding the genes and biological mechanisms that the risk variants are acting through. Hypotheses will be systematically explored using a wide variety of established and emerging techniques.

- Project 3 will investigate the genetic basis of cancer susceptibility through gene-to-gene and gene-to-environment interactions, with a goal of providing new treatments and cancer prevention strategies.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer worldwide among men. Incidence rates are

characterized by wide variation among racial and ethnic populations. For the past 15 years, Henderson—in collaboration with the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii—has headed the MEC study to evaluate genetic susceptibility to breast, prostate, colorectal and other cancers.

“We’ve come a long way in a short time. Until about five years ago we knew essentially nothing about prostate cancer’s cause. Now we have identified regions in the genome where there is clear evidence of areas that influence prostate cancer risk,” Henderson said. “With this new research collaboration we hope to move to the next step and look at how we can apply information to treatment and prevention to have a real impact on the disease.”

The institutions involved in the project are:

- USC
- Harvard School of Public Health
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Cambridge
- The Institute of Cancer

Research, Royal Marsden Hospital

- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

- Columbia University
- New York University
- Duke University
- Children’s Hospital

Boston

- University of California, San Francisco

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Deutsches

Krebsforschungszentrum

Calendar of Events

This Calendar of events is also online at www.usc.edu/hscalendar for the Health Sciences Campus community

Tuesday, August 3

9 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. “Teaching the Teachers: Neurology Resources,” Emily Brennan and Eileen Eandi, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7686

Noon. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “Psychiatric Emergencies: Code Green,” Penny Panettiere, USC. Info: (323) 442-4000

Tuesday, August 10

9 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. “Men Are From Mars and Women Are From Venus: Gender Differences in Headache Disorders,” Soma Sahai, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7686

Noon. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “General Competencies, Practice-based Learning and Improvement Using PIP’s,” Michele Pato, USC. Info: (323) 442-4000

Tuesday, August 17

9 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. “Brain & Space: A Clinical Approach,” Thedi Landis, Univ. of Geneva. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7686

Notice: Deadline for calendar submission is 4 p.m. Monday to be considered for that week’s issue—although three weeks’ advance notice of events is recommended. Please note that timely submission does not guarantee an item will be printed. Send calendar items to *The Weekly*, KAM 400 or fax to (323) 442-2832, or e-mail to eblaauw@usc.edu. Entries must include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location, and a phone number for information.

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