By Katie Neith

Making USC history as the first woman named to the position, Elizabeth Garrett was installed as provost Jan. 11 at a Town & Gown ceremony attended by colleagues, family and friends.

As the second-ranking officer under the president and the chief academic officer of the university, Garrett oversees all USC deans and vice provosts, as well as the CEO of the USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

“At USC, the role of chief academic officer is extremely, extremely important. The provost is the gatekeeper of academic quality, the guardian of academic values, the advocate of academic scholarship, the champion of academic excellence,” said USC President C. L. Max Nikias, in his introduction of Garrett. “All of our schools, including the medical enterprise, report to the provost. Because this position is so complex, it requires someone with special skill and rare talent. As members of the Trojan family, we should feel very, very fortunate to have Professor Elizabeth Garrett as our chief academic officer.”

In her remarks, Garrett said her thoughts “build on the vision laid out by our new president, who has challenged our community not to rest on our significant past accomplishments, but to move forward vigorously to greater academic excellence and expanded influence in the world.”

She emphasized multidisciplinary research and relationships as essential components of progress, citing the academic medical center as an example.

“With the rise in life sciences and medicine as the primary focus for national research, USC is again poised to be a leader. Indeed our work is enhanced, because the expertise we have developed in engineering and chemistry is the basis for a powerful intellectual convergence with the work of those who study biology and medicine,” said Garrett.

She continued, “The bold decision to purchase two hospitals nearly two years ago has provided a foundation for translational research that has already paid dividends. Our success in obtaining from the NIH more than $86 million for a Clinical and Translational Science Institute depended on our relationship with our Trojan family, we should feel very, very fortunate to have someone with special skill and rare talent. As members of the Trojan family, we should feel very, very fortunate to have Professor Elizabeth Garrett as our chief academic officer.”

“With the rise in life sciences and medicine as the primary focus for national research, USC is again poised to be a leader.”

—USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett

INSIDE: A Q+A with Elizabeth Garrett on the future of USC and the Health Sciences Campus  Page 3  

By Tanio Quatilla

USC University Hospital is breathing new life into its third floor with the transition of several clinical services into that space.

The transition began Jan. 24 with the relocation of non-oncology obstetrics and gynecology services from the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital outpatient clinic, and is fol-

owed by the Jan. 28 transition of the Sleep Disorders Program from its previous home in Health Sciences Research Center II (HSRC II). Then, in mid-February, administrators expect to open a stand-alone Infusion Center.

“The relocation of these three services represents im-
portant collaboration between our physicians and administra-
tive staff, and it is an important step in creating a multi-dis-
ciplinary clinic for outpatient services at the USC hospitals,” said Chief Operating Officer Scott Evans. “I can’t stress enough the amount of time, teamwork and effort it took to make this initiative a reality. We are very grateful to all those who worked tirelessly over the past several months to successfully transition these services.”

About ob/gyn services: In its new location, the USC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is providing the same services, with the exception of mammography, which will continue to be provided at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital outpatient clinic.

The third-floor space is newer and larger, and will help accommodate more patients and provide more flexible scheduling for this expanding practice, said Juanita Carrillo, practice manager.

Hospital administrators say the location will be a temporary home, while they and physician leaders work through plans to open a permanent, comprehensive Women’s Center in HCCII later this year.

About the Sleep Center: The transition of the current Sleep Disorders Program into a new Sleep Center is part of the Department of Medicine’s transition to a hospital-based program. The new center will offer the same clinical ser-

vices in an enhanced patient setting, said Jill Mathison, associate administrator of operations.

About the Infusion Center: The stand-alone Infusion Center will serve patients who need IV fluids, blood platelets, antibiotics and other related services at USC University Hospital. Currently, infusion patients are treated at the Evaluation and Treatment Clinic (ETC), as well as in some inpatient units. The center will have six dedicated infusion beds, freeing up critical space on nursing floors and in the ETC, said Annette Sy, associate administrator of ambulatory care.

HSC launches new web development team

A new web development team is focusing attention on short-term needs and a longer-term strategy for en-

hanced websites that meet the needs of USC patients, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. With support from Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito and hospitals CEO Mitch Croom, the new team is responsible for technical and content planning, development, oversight and management of the primary websites for the Keck School, the USC University Hospital, the USC Norris Cancer Hospital, the Doctors of USC and related sites. Bryan Schneider, for-

merly director of marketing in the Health Sciences PR and Marketing department, has been named Web De-

development Manager, with dual reporting to Health Sciences PR and Marketing and to Health Sciences Information Technology. Schneider led the redevelop-

ement of the Keck School site last year and the cre-

ation of new sites for the two USC-owned hospitals and the Doctors of USC, all since 2008. “With the growth of our health sciences enterprise, a single, dedicated team of creative and technical profes-
sionals has been needed to address the expanding web opportunities for enhanced communication, marketing and scholarly collaboration,” says Jane Brust, associate senior vice president for Health Sci-

ces Public Relations and Marketing.

Mark Amey, chief inform-

ation officer for Health
Pharmacy students win national community service award

By Gabrielle Olya

Students from the USC School of Pharmacy have been recognized for their dedication to community outreach.

"The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy presented the 2010-11 Student Community Engaged Service Award to students Terrance Yu, Phuong Ho, Jennifer Fu, Tina Patel and Sara Vaiyani for their leadership and active participation in the USC Volunteer Outreach Initiative & Community Education (VOICE). VOICE implements outreach catered to specific locations to increase access and optimize health outcomes of the targeted population groups. The goals are consistent with those of the federal government’s Healthy People 2010, including increased access to health care, diabetes care, education and community-based programs, heart disease and stroke education and prevention, and body fat and BMI awareness.

The two main components of VOICE are the phamacSC Clinic and SHARE (Students Helping and Receiving Education). The phamacSC Clinic is located at the Botica del Sol Pharmacy in Boyle Heights, where there is a largely underserved population. PharmSC, the first student-originated and student-run clinic at the USC School of Pharmacy, was created to make up for the lack of health services available to people in the area surrounding the Health Sciences campus. Students screen, counsel, vaccinate and provide medication reviews to local residents.

"The clinic is really special because it allows students to actually go in and see patients in a one-on-one setting," explained Patel, co-director of PharmSC. "Students conduct screenings and counsel patients on what to do to get their health back on track.

Vaiyani, a co-director of the clinic, said, "I have loved being a part of PharmSC because it’s a place where pharmacy students can work together to make an impact on the surrounding community, and in the process we’re learning how to improve our clinical and patient counseling skills.”

SHARE, the other project recognized in the award, offers mental health and smoking cessation courses to people living in a temporary housing facility on Skid Row. "SHARE is a unique program because it is very specific to the needs of the community members," said Yu, who leads the project.

"Many people in this area smoke, and many want to quit but don’t have the resources or the support," he said. "We try to motivate and inspire participants to quit smoking, and to see them want to make these changes has been amazing."

—Terrance Yu, director of SHARE on Skid Row

‘We try to motivate and inspire participants to quit smoking, and to see them want to make these changes has been amazing.’

GARRETT: ‘We see the influence of transformative faculty in all parts of our university’

Continued from page 1

We see the influence of transformative faculty in all parts of our university like USC is uniquely suited to excel in life science, health policy debate, to the researchers in molecular microbiology and immunology, who seek a better understanding of and treatment for viruses such as AIDS, hepatitis C and influenza," said Garrett.

She added that a research university like USC is ideally situated to make these changes has been amazing.

"Many people in this area smoke, and many want to quit but don’t have the resources or the support," he said. "We try to motivate and inspire participants to quit smoking, and to see them want to make these changes has been amazing."

As part of the award, Dean R. Pete Vanderveen will receive $50,000 to be used to support program expansion.

"We are so proud of the work students at the School of Pharmacy are doing to aid our community, and we are very honored to receive such a prestigious award," Vanderveen said.

The Weekly

Next Issue: February 4

The Weekly is published for the faculty, staff, students, volunteers and visitors in the University of Southern California’s Health Sciences Campus community. It is written and produced by the Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing staff. Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome. Permission to reprint articles with attribution is freely given.

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The institutional design of the university ensures, for example, that the work of scientists who pursue breakthroughs in stem cell research, or a better understanding of disease through epigenetics, is subjected to critical inquiry about the way these advances will change human behavior and social organization, as well as about the ethical implications of such progress,” Garrett explained.

In an enthusiastic endorsement of Garrett, Nikias said, “She possesses great integrity, tremendous energy, impeccable character and excellent judgment. I am certain that this is the beginning of a new age of intellectual vitality at USC.”

He added that he believes she will be the best provost ever to serve at USC.

Before joining the USC faculty in 2003, Garrett was a professor of law at the University of Chicago, where she also served as deputy dean for academic affairs. She has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, the University of Virginia Law School, Central European University in Budapest and the Interdisciplinary Center Law School in Israel.

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Co-hosted by the Academic Medicine Career Advancement Seminar Program, the Dean’s Translational Medicine Seminar Series on Jan. 19 featured Francine R. Kaufman, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and Communications at the Rockefeller School of Medicine and the USC Annenberg School for Communications & Journalism. Presenting on “Diabetes Innovation—From Academia to Industry,” Kaufman gave an inside view of her career in diabetes, which has included clinical care, research and industry development, among many other accomplishments in the field. She currently serves as chief medical officer and VP of Global Clinical, Medical and Health Affairs at Medtronic in Northridge, Calif., and also is an attending physician at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

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Provost Garrett sees health sciences as key to USC’s future

USC President C. L. Max Nikias (right) presents Provost Elizabeth Garrett with a gift at her 11th installation ceremony.

Q: What is the role of the provost at USC?
A: One of the advantages the Health Sciences Campus has is being aligned with the Keck School of Medicine for undergraduate pre-med, which has just been revamped. And the Institute for Global Health involves faculty from a number of schools on both campuses and some of very best students.

Q: What do you see as the role for USC in educational programs or in continuing education for the health sciences?
A: First, think all of us who teach need to think about how to effectively use new technologies to better articulate the concepts that we’re helping our students understand. You can use some of that technology in a residential setting to help students learn in different ways or help them collaborate in new ways. For example, one can use avatars to help train health professionals to ask the right questions, to diagnose disorders, before they perform similar activities with real people.

We are also developing degree-granting programs that are offered largely online. The School of Pharmacy has been a real leader in the use of these techniques in some of their programs, such as in the pharmacoeconomics and regulatory sciences area. I think there are additional possibilities on the Health Sciences Campus.

Q: What are some examples of collaborations that already exist?
A: The School of Pharmacy has collaborated with the School of Public Health through the Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, which is now one of the leading centers for research in comparative effectiveness in health economics in the country. We have terrific work being done now on the stem cell area through the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research on the Health Sciences Campus but involving a number of leading researchers at Children’s Hospital. Simultaneously, the group at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute is working with Children’s Hospital researchers, who are of course our own faculty, as well as with faculty on University Park Campus.

There’s tremendous collaboration also in education. For example, there’s a joint program between the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences that ours has—for researchers to come together to get a handle on the most pressing problems of our time: whether that is trying to cure cancer, delivering drugs in a more effective way, figuring out how to make health care affordable to all people regardless of their economic well-being, or taking what we learn here into other areas of the world.

Q: What are the major priorities for the Health Sciences Campus?
A: One of the advantages the Health Sciences Campus has is being aligned with the great schools at the University Park Campus, so I think one thing that we need to do is to increase interschool and inter-disciplinary work.

What a university environment allows—particularly a university environment with the kind of rigorous professional schools and vibrant administrative in the Provost’s office so that he and I have an excellent working relationship.

One reason I was excited to be chosen for the position is that I believe that the President has the right vision for this university at this time—a vision that is at all times committed to academic excellence, a vision that acknowledges that we are working in a global environment, a vision that is integrative and bold.

Other staff make it possible for our students to get the financial aid that they need or for our students to get the medical help.

For example, there’s a joint lab on University Park Campus. Who are of course our own faculty, as well as with faculty on University Park Campus.

Our university like the University of Southern California needs not only the great basic science research capacity that we’ve developed, but we also need the ability to produce translational work. Owning our own hospitals and having robust clinical practices allows for such connections between basic science and translational work.

We really have to be able to take the discoveries that our scientists make in the laboratory and bring them to the bedside of our patients. A university like the University of Southern California needs not only the great basic science research capacity that we’ve developed, but we also need the ability to produce translational work. Owning our own hospitals and having robust clinical practices allows for such connections between basic science and translational work.

What a university environment allows—particularly a university environment with the kind of rigorous professional schools and vibrant environment for that endeavor.

Just as important is creating an environment where student staff can flourish. None of us could do the work that we do without the support of terrific professional and administrative staff. Consider, for example, the way the campuses look. We’re working on campus beautification at San Gabriel Valley. We’re working on University Park, and also producing the very best possible education that our students can have.

But there’s good news on the research front, he added. A vaccine is being tested to keep pancreatic cancer from returning after it has been removed.

The story also was covered by the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and the Los Angeles Times, KNBC and Beverly Hills Courier.

A Jan. 24 story in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune quoted Heinz-Josef Lenz about the risk factors for pancreatic cancer. Lenz said sometimes the only alert that a patient has pancreatic cancer is after the tumors have invaded neighboring structures. This migration can cause pain or other symptoms, which prompts the patient to seek medical help.

Because of the location of the pancreas, this form of cancer can quickly go from being operable to not operable with just a couple of months. If nothing is done, the patient will die. But there’s a chance the patient can be saved, Lenz added.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 1
Noon ZNI Seminar. “Rapiddion of Neural Development of Dnctate Neurons by DISC 1 Signaling.”, Ja Young Kim, Johns Hopkins. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144.

Thursday, Feb. 3

Monday, Feb. 7
4 p.m.–7 p.m. “Cranioikeyt: Grave Robbing and the Search for Genius,” Collin Dickey, author. Following a talk with Collin Dickey, USC Norris Medical Library will display its rare historical works on phrenology and anatomy. XML West Con- ference Room. Info: (323) 442-1130.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Wednesday, Feb. 9
5 p.m. “Vitamin D and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Risk and Prognosis,” James Cerhan, Mayo Clinic. NOR 4444. Info: (323) 865-3950.

Thursday, Feb. 10

Tuesday, Feb. 15
10:30 a.m. USC Hospital Guild Women’s Health Focus. “How to Look as Young as You Feel,” Regina Baker and Kristy Morrell, USC Hospital. NRT Jersy Aud. Info: (323) 254-0600.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Friday, Feb. 18


Thursday, Feb. 24

Notice: Deadline for calendar submission is 4 p.m. Mon- day 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) 442-2812, or e-mail to eblauwe@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.

WEB: New team consolidates, expands services
Continued from page 1 Sciences Information Technol- ogy, agrees: “The expectation is for our websites to go far beyond providing information. We want to promote more interac- tion between our faculty, staff, students and various constitu- ents.”

Web Development team priorities for the six months remaining in this fiscal year include:
• Completion of Phase II of the Keck School website re-development project. This includes integration of clinical division pages and most research institute sites into the new website to strengthen brand identity, along with enhancements to site content, functionality and navigation.
• Develop and begin implementation of a plan to move the four key Health Sciences websites—for the Doctors of USC, the Keck School and the two hospitals—into a single content management system for increased efficiency in making updates and functional improvements.
• Collaboration with PR and Marketing staff on timely updates to clinical sites offering information about priority service lines and implementation of a digital media strategy that will promote key service lines among consumers through digital ads and search engine optimization leading consumers to our websites.
• For stronger promotion and protection of the USC brand, the development of a schedule of integration for all USC consumer-focused healthcare-related websites currently functioning outside the official, health sciences sites (Keck School, USC-owned hospitals, Doctors of USC),
• Assembly of a web gov- erning body of health sciences leaders to facilitate policy decisions related to health sciences web properties and priorities.
• Development of a long- term web strategy for the Health Sciences sites in order to maximize their usefulness to internal and external audiences including patients and donors.
• Development of a preliminary plan for creating a new Intranet site to serve the information needs of Health Sciences faculty, staff and students in all units.
• Development of web portals for physicians, patients and employees.
• Training for Health Sci- ences personnel designated “web liaisons” for their units.

The Web Development manager and members of the team will be meeting with Keck School department chairs, physician leaders, hos- pital administrators and web support staff from around the Health Sciences Campuses in the coming weeks to discuss their web needs and how the team can best work collabora- tively to address those needs going forward.

Pharmacy student Bahar Yaghoubian, 25
Bahar Yaghoubian, a member of the School of Pharmacy Class of 2011, died on Jan. 9 as a result of injuries sustained in an automo- bile accident. She was 25.

Bahar was an exemplary student who had achieved an excellent record at the School of Pharmacy and was slated to graduate in May 2011.

At the School of Pharmacy, Bahar served as the director of communications of the USC student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists As- sociation. She was also an active member of Skull and Mortar, the honorary service organization at the school. Additionally, she was a member of Phi Delta Chi, the national pharmacy fraternity.

During this academic year, Bahar had been pursuing various rotations as part of her final year of pharmacy school training. She aspired to ultimately serve as a community pharmacist and to own her pharmacy.

Bahar is survived by her parents, Fariba and Behzad Yaghoubian and sister, Shadi, currently a medical student.

In case of an emergency...
Call the Emergency Information Phone: 213-740-9233 The emergency telephone system can handle 1,400 simultaneous calls. It also has a backup system on the East Coast.

Visit the USC Web: http://emergency.usc.edu This page will be activated in case of an emergency. Backup Web servers on the East Coast will function if the USC servers are incapacitated.

In case of an emergency...