Foundation donates $6 million for stroke clinic

Lanni and Lee named to Keck School oversight board

USC President C. L. Max Nikias has appointed Deborah Lanni and David Lee to the Keck School of Medicine of USC Board of Overseers. Their terms began May 3.

“It’s an honor to have these two distinguished individuals on our Board of Overseers,” said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine.

“Guidance from the Board of Overseers is critical in making the Keck School one of the best medical schools in America. We welcome their wisdom and vision,” said Lee, an original member of the board, returns as chair of the Keck School Board of Overseers after having served as chair from 2001 to 2010. He succeeds John E. Bryson, named the Board of Overseers chair in late 2010. Bryson was appointed Secretary of Commerce in late 2011 by President Barack Obama.

Lee is a co-founder and managing general partner of the private equity firm Clarity Partners LP, based in Beverly Hills, Calif. He is a co-founder of Global Crossing Ltd., a global broadband communications company, and practiced public accounting at Arthur Andersen LLP.

Lee is a trustee of USC, The J. Paul Getty Trust and the California Institute of Technology, and a director of Dita Systems Group, a private equity firm. Lee also has served as group vice president of finance and acquisitions at TRW Information Systems Group, has held various executive positions at Comsat, a satellite communication services provider, serving as president and chief operating officer from 1997 until 2000, as well as a member of the board of directors (1997-2001).

From 1989 until 1997, Lee was a managing director at Pacific Capital Group, a private equity firm. Lee also has served on the board of the University of Southern California.

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By Imelda Valenzuela Fowler

Above, (from left) Theresa Murphy, associate administrator of inpatient care, pose for a photograph at the 2012 Nurses Week Awards Ceremony held on May 3 at Keck Hospital of USC. Morale won Nurse of the Year.

Foundation donates $6 million for stroke clinic

‘With the Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic, we will aim to reduce the burden of stroke in Southern California through prevention and education.’

—Nerses Sanossian, assistant professor of neurology and associate director of the neurocritical care/stroke section at USC

From left at the May 2 reception are: USC physicians Nerses Sanossian and Helena Chui; Deborah Massaglia, president of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation; and Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito.

Medical center events recognize hard work of personnel

The Keck Medical Center of USC recognized the achievements of staff and physicians over the last two weeks with activities celebrating National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week.

Above, (from left) Monica Chiu and Debbie Peterson, 9-East nurse manager, posed for a photograph at the 2012 Nurses Week Awards Ceremony held on May 3 at Keck Hospital of USC. Morale won Nurse of the Year.

Right, Keck Hospital of USC 7-North nurses Justine Pena (left) and Debbie Peterson, 9-East nurse manager, pose for a photograph at the 2012 Nurses Week Awards Ceremony held on May 3 at Keck Hospital of USC. Morale won Nurse of the Year.
Honorees at Academic Convocation include four from HSC Teaching.

By Debra Smith

The 31st annual USC Academic Honors Convocation was held April 4 to acknowledge the achievements of the university’s students, faculty and administrators. Among the honorees were four HSC dignitaries: Kelly Young-Wolff garnered the Phi Kappa Phi Student Recognition Award; Mark S. Humayun received the University Professor Award; Charles J. Gomer was given the Provost’s Mentoring Award; and Peter F. Crookes won the USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Young-Wolff is a Ph.D. candidate in psychology and a master of public health candidate. She has received significant recognition for her scholarly pursuits and will begin a two-year postdoctoral position at Stanford Prevention Research Center this fall.

“It is an honor to have my work chosen for the Phi Kappa Phi award,” said Young-Wolff. “I am grateful for the incredible training that I received from my mentors, teachers and supervisors in the Department of Psychology at USC.”

A leading ophthalmology expert with special emphasis on bioelectrics and the retina, Humayun is the Cornelius J. Pings Chair in Biomedical Sciences and professor of ophthalmology, biomedical engineering and cell and neurobiology, and associate director of research at the Doheny Retina Institute at USC.

Humayun is a co-inventor of a groundbreaking electronic retinal prosthesis, an implantable artificial device that has restored partial sight to blind patients. (Read more about his University Professor appointment at tinyurl.com/ToFpqrq.)

Currently a professor of pediatrics and radiation oncology and the vice chair of pediatrics for faculty development, Gomer called winning the Provost’s award “a tremendous honor.”

According to Gomer, “a top priority for the university is the development of a culture of mentoring. Academic leaders on the Health Sciences campus and at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles continue to emphasize the importance of mentoring, and I feel privileged to be able to actively participate in this important activity.”

Crookes has been a key member of USC’s Bariatric Surgery Program since he joined the university in 1994. Despite the challenges of maintaining an active clinical practice, he teaches both undergraduates and medical students, and mentors residents and junior faculty. He is also an accomplished violinist, and has participated in the Music Health Project, a USC volunteer program that brings monthly classical music concerts to Keck Hospital of USC.

Speaking about the convocation, Crookes said he was “pleased that the University Park campus gets some idea of what we do on the medical campus. Teaching is a big part of what we do and I enjoy it. It’s nice that all the other schools recognize our work. It’s an honor for our department.”

USC researchers find link between depression, obesity and infertility in Latina women

By Amy E. Hamaker

The link between depression and infertility has long been documented in the medical community, but how they are related is poorly understood among Latina women, but it’s becoming clearer thanks to a recently published study.

In “The Incidence of Depression by Fertility Status in Overweight and Obese Latina Women,” published in the March 2012 online version of the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, a team of researchers from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC described their efforts in determining rates of symptoms suggestive of depression in specific subgroups of Latina women.

Researchers gave a patient health questionnaire to 76 new patients of the Diabetes and Obesity in Reproductive Age Women, who were seen between June 2008 and June 2009. They then looked for median scores and scores higher than the 50th percentile, which can be indicative of major depressive disorder (MDD), and compared the results by fertility status.

Of the women who had scores indicative of MDD, there were more infertile than fertile women, and infertile women had “marginally significantly higher” scores than their fertile counterparts.

The number of previous births was also inversely correlated with MDD indicators. Those who had never previously given birth had higher overall scores and were more likely to have indicators of MDD than those who had previously given birth. Among respondents who were fertile, postpartum women had significantly lower overall scores, while non-postpartum women were much more likely to have a score indicative of MDD.

“Our findings are novel because in women’s health, postpartum depression is the first thing that often comes to mind,” said lead author Penina Segall-Gutierrez, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, and family medicine at the Keck School.

“We found that among Latinas at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, depression is more common in women with infertility. Because depression is so common among Latinas of reproductive age who are not postpartum, we believe more clinics should not only be screening for postpartum depression, but for depression in women in other phases of their reproductive life span, including those without children.”

Janet H. Pine, clinical associate professor of psychiatry at the Keck School and a senior author, said, “There’s a really interesting medical-psychological connection, and there are two really interesting findings from this study. First, there’s the low incidence of postpartum depression in this group, and second, the main finding that shows the association of depression along with infertility. This was a group of patients who were selected for this clinic because they’re obese, and they often have diabetes. It begs the question that if you could deal with obesity or depression, would that help with the infertility?”

Further investigation is needed to determine if reproductive success is protective against MDD among Latina women who are overweight and obese urban Latinas. Overall, depression is common among overweight and obese reproductive-age Latinas, so routine screening is recommended.

“This paper is a great example of a project that involves collaboration between a number of different researchers, including medical students, residents and undergraduates,” added Segall-Gutierrez, who is also the co-director for the Fellowship in Family Planning and the Diabetes and Pregnancy Service. “It’s also an example of research that can be completed without funding.”

USC Norris Cancer Hospital will host the 22nd annual Festival of Life on June 2 at Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad. The event, held in recognition of National Cancer Survivors Day, will feature music, entertainment and inspiring speakers who will share their personal stories of living with cancer.

The free event for survivors and their families will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (323) 865-3118.
Overseers: New Keck Board members to help guide school’s strategic plan

Continued from Page 1

Philanthropist Deborah Lanni is president of the Lanni Family Charitable Foundation, and the widow of former Keck School Board of Overseers member Terry Lanni, who passed away in 2011. She will serve a three-year term on the Keck School board.

Lanni sits on the Board of Trustees at Loyola Marymount University, as well as LMU’s Governance Committee and its Communications and Fine Arts Council.

She also is involved with St. Vincent Meals on Wheels program; The Colleagues, a nonprofit organization that raises funds for Children’s Institute Inc.; and is on the National Committee for the Performing Arts, under the Kennedy Center. Lanni is a graduate of USC and worked for nine years in USC’s development office.

The Keck School Board of Overseers serves as an advisory group to the Keck School leadership. Its priority is helping the school’s leadership develop and implement a plan to make the Keck School one of the top 10 medical schools in the nation. The Keck School Board of Overseers meets three times per year to hear updates on the Keck School’s strategic plan, learn about key programs, support the Keck School’s philanthropic efforts and serve as ambassadors for the Keck School.

Hodges: Roxana Todd Hodges TIA Program aims to diagnose and treat stroke

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The greatest impact on stroke prevention and treatment can be made immediately following a TIA event if rapid diagnosis and treatment occur. “I believe that research, diagnosis and treatment of TIA patients can yield the greatest benefits because an averted stroke is the best outcome,” said Sanossian.

Also speaking at the reception was Deborah Massaglia, president of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation and a close friend of Hodges. “I know that Roxie would be extremely proud and honored to have these centers in her name,” she said, using Hodges’ nickname. “I am so proud and grateful to the Keck School of Medicine of USC for this opportunity. Years ago, TIAs were rarely ever mentioned and now to have a program to treat TIAs is something even we would never have imagined.”

An April 29 story by the Associated Press featured a reception at the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach April 29 for more than 80 Keck School alumni and friends. USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center Director Stephen Grodner (center) spoke at the dinner about the latest advancements in cancer research. Above at the event are (from left): Diana Calyer; Hook McCullough, Grodner and Les Lopes.

Usc Norris CanceR UpdatE—Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito hosted a reception at the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach April 29 for more than 80 Keck School alumni and friends. USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center Director Stephen Grodner (center) spoke at the dinner about the latest advancements in cancer research. Above at the event are (from left): Diana Calyer; Hook McCullough, Grodner and Les Lopes.
Calendar of Events
This Calendar of Events is also online at www.usc.edu/kscalendar for the Health Sciences campus community

Saturday, May 12
7 a.m. – noon, Revlon Run/Walk For Women at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at Exposition Park. The cost to run/walk is $35 through May 11 (40 day of the event). Your registration fee includes an EIF REVLO Run/Walk For Women T-shirt and goodie bag. It will also include a USC Norris Team T-shirt. Info: (323) 965-6068

Monday, May 14
Noon, RSMO Research Seminar “RSIV: Latency and Reactivation,” Blossom Daumani University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill NRT Arroyo Aud. Info: (323) 442-7732

Tuesday, May 15
10 a.m., Keck Medical Center of USC Guild Outreach Speaker Series - “Regenerative Medicine: An Organ Recital,” David Warburton, USCZCOH. Presentation of Outstanding Faculty Award to Henri Ford, USCZCOH. Private Club in Pasadena. Reservations by May 7 and info: (626) 440-6179

Wednesday, May 16
Noon, ZNI Seminar “Mitochondrial Dynamics in Mammals,” David Chan, Caltech. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Friday, May 18
8:30 a.m., Surgical Grand Rounds: Clinical Research Presentations from Breast/Soft Tissue and Endocrine Surgery. Various presenters. DOH 1st Floor Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-2506
10 a.m. – 3 p.m., HTE @ USC Frontiers Symposium “Mitochondria 2012: Linking Clinical Needs with Engineering Research.” David M. Weaver, Fujitsu Laboratories of America. SSF 1st Floor Conference Room. Info: (323) 442-7352
11:30 a.m., RSMO 50 Year Fellows Luncheon, honoring medical school alumni who graduated prior to 1963 and distinguished eminent faculty. Emceed by Phil Manning, M.D. LGAS USC Medical Center. Info: (323) 442-1830

Saturday, May 19
8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Department of Surgery Symposium. “Professionalism and Systems of Care: Challenges and Opportunities.” Various speakers. NRT Arroyo Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-2506

Monday, May 21
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., ZNI Mini-Symposium “Advancing Biomedical Technologies.” Various speakers. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Tuesday, May 22
8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Cancer Center Grand Rounds. Annual USC Norris Cancer Center Poster Session for Postdoctoral Fellows and Graduate Students – “Searching for Creativity.” NRT LG 503/504 and Arroyo Foyer. Info: (323) 442-7893

Friday, May 25

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) 442-8183, or email to eblaauw@usc.edu. Entries must include day, month, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location and a phone number for information.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EXPERT FLORENCE CLARK SHINES IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

By Mike McNulty
Florence Clark, associate dean of the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, reaffirmed the university’s longstanding history of leadership in the profession of occupational therapy at the 90th annual conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) held April 26-29 in Indianapolis.

While overseeing research, educational and administrative responsibilities at USC, Clark is serving a three-year term as president of AOTA, which includes more than 43,000 members.

“The AOTA, the nation’s largest professional association of occupational therapy practitioners and students, represents their interests around the world,” Clark explained. “As director of AOTA, which merged two separate perspectives—attitude and evidence—into one cohesive picture, Clark explained. “The attitude of empowerment with the credibility of scientific evidence,” she said, will make occupational therapy a “powerful, widely recognized, science-driven and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society’s occupational needs.”

In a subsequent segment, Clark introduced a panel discussion on military occupational therapy featuring U.S. service members Tammy Duckworth and Jessica Lynch. Duckworth, an Iraq War veteran who sustained triple amputations as a result of combat wounds, is the former assistant secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Lynch is a former U.S. Army private first class who, in 2003, was captured by Iraqi forces and subsequently was recovered by U.S. Special Operations Forces, becoming the first American female prisoner of war to be rescued. Duckworth and Lynch discussed the ways in which their military and VA occupational therapists instilled a spirit of hope throughout their physical rehabilitation.

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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.

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