Good Neighbors Campaign gets big boost from HSC

By Josh Grossberg
Donations from staff at the Keck Medical Center of USC—and a matching donation from the medical center itself—helped the USC Good Neighbors Campaign pass in 2012-2013 fundraising goal.

In total, $1.62 million was raised for the campaign, which supports nonprofit organizations affiliated with the USC Neighborhood Outreach and the United Way.

The goal was $1 million. Workers at USC clinics, Keck Hospital of USC and the USC Norris Cancer Hospital ponied up $79,000, with the medical center matching that amount.

In all, 5,363 donors participated, representing 32 percent of the university’s faculty and staff, said Carolina Castillo, executive director of development for USC Civic Engagement.

The university does not separate the amount raised at the Health Sciences campus and the University Park campus, but hospital efforts were key to the success, including setting up information tables around the hospitals Castillo said. “The hospitals do a great job of reaching out to their employees on a personal level. Tabling is one way they create visibility,” Castillo said.

For the 2013 campaign, HSC will be the site of a series of kickoff events at different locations around campus, Castillo said.

University Neighbor- hood Outreach gives grants to programs that serve the residents surrounding both the Health Sciences and University Park campuses.

Money raised benefits health, fitness, music, economic development, job creation, early childhood education, summer camp, college access, theater and the arts.

Since it started in 1994, the Good Neighbors Campaign has raised more than $16 million.

To learn more about the campaign or to make a donation, visit http://communities.usc.edu/gnc.

No shaggy dog story

USC Norris patient, lost pooch make a perfect pair

By Josh Grossberg
He was a dog in need of a home. She is an animal lover in search of a companion.

And so, they seem, they were destined to meet, this scrag- gily, underfed mutt and a patient at the USC Norris Com- prehensive Cancer Center and Hospital.

It was raining hard that February morning when Ronna Harris saw a dog running through traffic outside the hospi- tal. She and fellow social workers Vilekha Mohan and Jinsy Rogers managed to get hold of it.

“He was really filthy,” Harris said. “He had no collar. I made one out of my scarf.”

They were thinking they were going to take the pooch to an animal shelter, but just then, USC Norris Hospital patient Jeanette Applegate was walking out of the center.

“I thought, ‘God, that poor dog looks terrible,’” Applegate recalled. “But my daughter looked at me. I looked at her. She said, ‘You’ve been wanting a dog.’”

What she wanted was a poodle. This is Match Day, the annual event when medical students simultaneously receive instructions on where to report for their residencies.

At precisely 9 a.m.—and not a minute sooner—students from the Keck School of Medi- cine at USC who had gathered in the Hurry and Celesta Pappas Quad were handed their envelops in their hand and learned what their fate would be for the next several years.

This year, 103 students will stay in the country were doing at the exact same moment, Veronica Ramirez peeked back the envelope in her hand and learned what her fate would be for the next several years.

“Looks like I’m staying here,” she said, beaming. “It’s going to be great. It’s an achievement I’m happy about. I’m going to be a strong primary care physician no matter where I go.”

And she’ll have plenty of company as a resident.

Overall, 16,088 U.S. seniors participated in this year’s match, 520 fewer than last year. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Donna Elliott said the matches at the Keck School were outstanding this year, with 157 total students participating, including those who were matched in early rounds for the military, urology and ophthalmology.

This year, 103 students will stay in

Keck students ‘match’ into residencies

By Josh Grossberg
Just as thousands of medical students across the country were doing at the exact same moment, Veronica Ramirez peeked back the envelope in her hand and learned what her fate would be for the next several years.

This is Match Day, the annual event when medical students simultaneously receive instructions on where to report for their residencies.

At precisely 9 a.m.—and not a minute sooner—students from the Keck School of Medicine at USC who had gathered in the Hurry and Celesta Pappas Quad were handed their letters from the National Resident Matching Program, a nonprofit corporation that matches students with residency programs.

Shrieks and screams echoed across the quad as students learned if they were selected to work in the places they had hoped.

Ramirez got her second choice, and she smiled broadly when she discovered she would be staying in Los Angeles, close to her family in San Diego.

The 27 year old who is pursuing a career in primary care will be training at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center.

“Looks like I’m staying here,” she said, beaming. “It’s going to be great. It’s an achievement I’m happy about. I’m going to be a strong primary care physician no matter where I go.”

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This year, 103 students will stay in California for all or part of their training, with 46 of those going with Ramirez to LAC+USC Medical Center.
Keck School professor appointed to California Medical Board

By Amy E. Hamaker

California Governor Jerry Brown has appointed Felix Yip, a clinical professor at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, to serve on the board. “I find it exciting to work jointly on solutions to health care problems,” said Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. “This national recognition is a testament to our commitment to excellence in research and education.”

In fall 2012, 126 accredited medical schools and 23 schools of osteopathic medicine were surveyed for the ranking. Medical schools are ranked based on student selectivity (MCAT, GPA and acceptance rate), faculty to student ratio and total enrollment numbers, as well as National Institutes of Health research grants.

The Keck School is at the forefront of medical education with a recently redesigned and integrated hands-on curriculum. The school is among the first medical schools to adopt Introduction to Clinical Medicine courses for first-year students to give them real-world experience in patient care from the start of medical school. And, the school is home to Health, Technology and Education at USC (HTE@USC), an innovative educational program developed in 2010 along with the USC Viterbi School of Engineering to facilitate cross-disciplinary education for medical and engineering students to work jointly on solutions to health care problems. USC's Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy and the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy were ranked number one in the last ranking for those disciplines, which took place in 2012. Both divisions are housed within the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry at USC.

The USC School of Pharmacy was ranked 10th in a four-way tie in 2012 with the University of Arizona, University of Utah and University of Washington. The health rankings in physical therapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy are based solely on the results of peer assessment surveys sent to deans, other administrators, and/or faculty at accredited degree programs or schools in each discipline.

U.S. News and World Report highlights key HSC programs

By Leslie Ridgeway

The Keck School of Medicine of USC improved its ranking by three places in the 2014 U.S. News & World Report's Annual Guide to Best Graduate Schools.

The Keck School now ranks 31st in research in a four-way tie with Brown University, Oregon Health and Science University, and University of Rochester.


I attribute this important move up in the rankings to the strength of our faculty, staff and students, who make the Keck School one of the best medical schools in the country,” said Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. “This national recognition is a testament to our commitment to excellence in research and education.”

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Participants sought for clinical trial on cancer prevention

Faculty and staff of USC are strongly encouraged to participate in the Cancer Prevention Study-3, a clinical trial run by the American Cancer Society. Participants between the ages of 30 and 65 will be asked to complete a survey that will help identify environmental, genetic and lifestyle factors that increase or lower cancer risk.

Sign up by March 26 at www.cps3usc.org. Enrollment will occur on April 11, 2013.

Dogs: Patient adopts furry companion

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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Next Issue: March 29

The dog turned out to be barely a year old. He had worms, eye damage and was scared in places by some unknown caustic substance.

Everybody thought he was brown, but after three baths, he turned out to be white.

Harris is not surprised that the dog went home with Applegate. “She takes care of stray people,” Harris said. “She’s adopted two foster sons. She’s worked in the prison system. She’s just one of those kinds of people.”

For Applegate, bringing the dog home was the right choice.

“It was a spiritual inter- vention,” she said. “He is the most adorable, loving, great watchdog. He’s great.”

Other bonds were formed as well—Applegate and Harris became friends. And as a therapy social worker, Harris was able to provide expert consultation, as well as emotional support when Applegate was preparing for her surgery.

Even though she has had both kidneys removed, Applegate does not regret her decision to get a pet. “Health issues or not, dogs are great companions.” And then there was the issue of a name. She tried a few—Sparky, Curly—before she found one that seemed more appropriate. She named him “Norris.”

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Next Issue: March 29
Nobel laureate examines puzzles of brain disease

By Noah Grossberg

The population is getting older and neural degenerative diseases are on the rise, but there are glimmers of hope for the aging, according to a Nobel Prize winner who spoke to staff and students at the Keck School of Medicine of USC on March 14.

Stanley Prusiner, recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, addressed his discovery and years of research into the prion, a self-replicating protein that can cause a variety of neural degenerative diseases.

"Why are we interested in prions?" Prusiner said. "We remain very interested in creating awareness around women's health and to develop programs in breast cancer detection and treatment for Russian women," said Stephen Sener, chief of breast and soft tissue surgery at the Keck School.

The annual Keck School participants in both the 2010 and 2013 cancer discussion were: Christy Russell, associate professor of clinical medicine and director of the USC Norris Breast Center, and Vladimir Zelman, associate professor and clinical co-chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, professor of neurology and neurological surgery, and a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The discussion on cancer and women's health was a follow-up to a 2010 meeting at Medvedeva's request. Several Keck School faculty members spoke at the XVII Congress of the Union of Pediatricians of Russia.

Additional Keck School of Medicine of USC on March 14.

"The statistics are daunting: By the time Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed, it's irreversible. The work remains challenging, but Prusiner remains upbeat. "I'm very optimistic," he said after the talk. "I'm a scientist. All scientists are optimists."
Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, Mar. 26**

**Noon, Global Health Lecture.** “From Policy to Implementation—Challenges in the Field,” Joel Lamstein, John Snow, Inc.; UPG; TCO: 450. Info: (323) 865-0419

**4 p.m.-5 p.m., Diabetes & Obesity Research Institute Seminar.** “Adipose Tissue Cells in Pathology and Approaches to their Targeting,” Mikhail Kolomin, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; CSC 250. Info: (323) 442-2500

**Thursday, Mar. 28**

**Noon, Cellulose Homeostasis Lecture.** “Nitric Oxide (Synthesis) Regulation of Mitochondrial Functions,” Cecilia Giusti, DG Davis. MCRI 156. Info: (323) 442-3324

**4 p.m., Diabetes & Obesity Research Institute Seminar.** “mHealth Interventions for Diet and Activity: Are They Ready for Prime Time?” Bonnie Spring, Northwestern University. CSC 250. Info: (323) 442-2500

**Friday, Mar. 29**

**8 a.m., Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Grand Rounds.** “Clinical Microbiology in the Molecular Era: A New Age in Rapid Diagnostics,” Rosemary Shue, USC; XOR. 7409. Info: (323) 442-1390

**8:30 a.m., Surgical Grand Rounds.** “Tissue Engineering Applications in Surgery,” Bo Han, USC; DOR. 101. Info: (323) 442-9066

**8:30 a.m., Medicine Grand Rounds.** “Mechanisms Regulating Lung Injury Repair and Lung Tumor-Propagating Cells,” Carla Kim, Harvard; IBD. 732-734. Info: (323) 226-7923

**Monday, Apr. 1**

**Noon, Medicine Grand Rounds.** “Myocardial Viability,” Vamshi Gade, USC; IPT Conference Room B. Info: (323) 226-7356

**Tuesday, Apr. 2**

**7:30 a.m.-9 a.m., USC Institute for Integrative Health Breakfast Reception and Speaker Seminar Series.** “Pro-Clinical and Clinical Studies of Botanical Agents for Breast Cancer,” Debra Tripathy, USC; Breakfast reception at 7:30 a.m.; speaker at 8 a.m. NRT LG 503/504. Info: (323) 442-2638

**Wednesday, Apr. 3**

**Noon, ZNI Seminar.** “Information Flow in the Auditory Cortex: Anatomical and Physiological Correlates,” Troy Hackett, Vanderbilt University. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

**Thursday, Apr. 4**


**Friday, Apr. 5**

**11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center Seminar.** “Best Practices for Designing Built Environments to Promote and Protect Health,” Jean Armbruster, LA County DPHE. SSB 116. Info: (323) 442-1096

**Saturday, Apr. 6**

**8 a.m.-1 p.m., 6th Annual Fight for Air Climb.** The Keck Medical Center of USC is a proud sponsor of this event to raise awareness for the 37 million Americans who suffer from lung disease. Am Center, Los Angeles. Register online at http://www.lung.org/pledge-events/climb-los-angeles-climb-fy13/

**Tuesday, Apr. 9**

**Noon, Psychiatry Grand Rounds.** “Human Factors in Surgery and Team Handoffs,” Ken Carithers, Cedars Sinai. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

In case of an emergency...

Call the Emergency Information Phone: (413) 740-3323. 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.

**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 450 or fax to (323) 442-2832, or email to eblauw@usc.edu. Entries must include date, day, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location and a phone number for information.

**MATCH:** Students matched to residencies in suspensorycelf event

Continued from page 4 for some, or all, of their training. The rest of the students will relocate in 20 states and the District of Columbia. For the fourth year in a row, New York will receive the highest number of Keck School students.

Emergency medicine and internal medicine were the most popular programs, with 28 students each. Obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedic surgery, and radiology followed, with 11 students each.

Andrew Gausepohl, Keck School co-president of the student body, was thrilled that he was picked to go to his No. 1 choice, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. “I fell in love with the program,” said Gausepohl, whose residency will be in emergency medicine. “It’s a new program, and I feel I can make my mark there.”

Kelsey McClure will head to St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix with a residency in general surgery.

“I’m pretty excited,” she said, arm wrapped around her fiancé and the other holding a dog’s leash.

“That’s where we want to go. It’ll be hot, but I really like the program. I’m from Oregon, but the sunny side.”

But there was sadness along with the celebration. Many students knew that their time together was coming to an end.

“It’s bittersweet leaving USC and my friends,” said 27-year-old Scott Honwota, who opted for a residency in radiology. “But other than the last day I got into USC, this is the most exciting.”

For the first time this year, students were asked to stick pins in a map where they would be heading. By the end of the ceremony, pins were spread out across the country.

Before they received their news, Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito raised a glass of champagne to toast the students.

“I have some advice,” Puliafito said. “The two months between now and graduation should be the greatest of your life. You’re freed from some of the tremendous pressures and responsibilities of academic achievement. You can work with your friends and enjoy a tremendous sense of accomplishment. We celebrate you all here today.”

Ramirez is not worried about hard work and wants to hit the ground running. Saying she did not sleep much the previous night, she’s happy the nervousness of Match Day is behind her.

“This is the most nerve-wracking day,” she said. “It’s the culmination of the last four years and the end result of that effort and a lot of sleepless nights.”

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From top: Keck School of Medicine student Julia Pratt and her father Frank Pratt react to learning that she matched in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; medical student Cindy Luu examines a map showing where she and her peers had matched.