

The Weekly



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Renowned physician-scientist named chief of hematology

By Katie Neith

Preet Chaudhary has been named chief of the Jane Anne Nohl Division of Hematology and Center for the Study of Blood Diseases at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

An internationally renowned physician-scientist, Chaudhary will serve as professor of medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, and as co-leader of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Program and associate director for translational research at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“Dr. Chaudhary has a very diverse background in translational research and clinical care, which has prepared him well to lead at this pivotal time of growth in the division of hematology and at our academic medical center,” said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine.

“Dr. Chaudhary is an outstanding physician scientist who will play a major role in the cancer center,” said Peter A. Jones, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. “He has an active basic science laboratory, as well as profound clinical skills, making him an exceptional addition to our institution.”

Chaudhary comes to USC from the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, where he is professor of medicine, director for translational research, leader of the hematologic malignancies



Preet Chaudhary

program and co-leader of the cancer stem cell program. He was recruited to USC after an extensive search led by Stuart Siegel, chief of the division of hematology-oncology at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

“USC has a combination of factors which make it a very exciting place to be right now. The dynamic and experienced leadership team is doing everything right to make it a powerhouse in patient care, education and research,” said Chaudhary. “The Nohl gift and recent acquisition of the hospitals have given us the financial resources and hospital infrastructure to combine with highly talented faculty and a rich scientific environment—all of which position us to take hematology to the next level at USC.”

As chief of the Jane Anne Nohl Division of Hematology and Center for the Study of Blood Diseases, Chaudhary has several priorities, including developing the division of hematology into a regional leader and center of excellence in the next three to five

years, and a national leader in the next decade.

He also hopes to employ strategic recruitment in key areas and build on existing strengths of current members of the division. Chaudhary is also planning for expansion of the hematology practice at the USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

The division was strengthened by a \$60 million gift from the estate of Jane Anne Nohl in late 2007. USC Norris and the division of hematology were chosen as beneficiaries based on the outstanding care a close friend of Nohl’s received from Donald Feinstein, hematologist and professor emeritus of medicine at the Keck School.

“Dr. Chaudhary is a nationally recognized physician-scientist whose vision for the Jane Anne Nohl Division of Hematology and Center for the Study of Blood Diseases will help to develop an outstanding scientific and clinical hematologic malignancy program—particularly in leukemia, myelodysplastic syndromes and lymphoma—

and to maintain and expand its outstanding reputation in thrombotic and hemorrhagic disorders,” said Feinstein.

As a physician-scientist dedicated to hematologic oncology, Chaudhary has research interests in several areas of cancer, including AIDS-associated cancers, cancer drug resistance, biology of normal and leukemic hematopoietic stem cells, programmed cell death and cellular signaling. He is also interested in molecularly targeted and biological therapies for leukemias, lymphomas, multiple myeloma and solid tumors, and novel strategies to improve the outcome of stem cell transplantation. Chaudhary holds six U.S. patents in the areas of hematopoietic stem cell purification, multi-drug resistance to cancer chemotherapy and cellular signaling.

His research has been continuously funded by multiple National Institutes of Health grants since 2000 and he currently serves as the

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‘USC [is] a very exciting place to be right now. The dynamic and experienced leadership team is doing everything right to make it a powerhouse in patient care, education and research.’

—Preet Chaudhary, chief of the Jane Anne Nohl Division of Hematology & Center for the Study of Blood Diseases

New USC hospitals human resources chief to lead aggressive hiring initiative

By Meghan Lewit

Matthew F. McElrath has joined USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital as chief human resources officer effective Aug. 31.

McElrath, formerly chief human resources officer at Arizona State University, will direct human resources operations at both USC hospitals. One of his immediate priorities will be heading recruitment efforts to fill some 300 current job openings. Both hospitals are working to increase staffing levels of nurses, physicians and other personnel such as administrators, therapists and environmental workers.

His other duties will include workforce planning, recruitment, performance management, organizational development and other employment services.

McElrath said he was drawn to the position at USC because of the opportunity to be part of a new era for the hospitals, which were acquired by the university on April 1, 2009, in an historic purchase agreement with Tenet Healthcare Corp. The hospitals’ current workforce numbers 1,700 personnel, exclusive of more than 500 USC faculty physicians associated with the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

“This is a unique opportunity to join the university leadership in really building the USC culture at University Hospital and at Norris,” he said. “The transition from Tenet is remarkable. It’s a great opportunity not only to help grow the hospitals, but also to integrate them with the wider USC community.”

McElrath comes to USC from Arizona State University, where he served as associate vice president and chief human resources officer for a university system that encompasses more than 4,500

See **MCELATH**, page 4



Matthew F. McElrath



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PLAYING IT SAFE—USC nurses and residents tended to participants at the Lakers 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on Aug. 15 and 16 at the USC University Hospital-sponsored medical station. Many tournament players stopped by the booth to have ankles and wrists taped, and to be treated for minor scrapes and dehydration.

School of Pharmacy dean appointed to second 5-year term

By Gabrielle Olya

As the end of Randall L. “Pete” Vanderveen’s fourth year as dean of the USC School of Pharmacy neared, President Steven Sample and Provost C. L.



Randall L. (Pete) Vanderveen

Max Nikias announced Vanderveen’s appointment to an additional five-year term beginning in 2010.

Toward making the reappointment decision, the university administration met with faculty, staff and students at the school, querying them about the dean’s leadership. Among the findings were strong support among stakeholders for Vanderveen’s accessibility, participation in and support of student activities, beneficial reorganization of the departments from four to two, public relations efforts to improve the school profile and participation

and leadership in national pharmaceutical associations.

Earlier this year, under Dean Vanderveen, the School’s Pharm.D. program received full re-accreditation through 2015, an action that speaks to its overall quality. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education cited the school’s curricular design as a model of best practices in pharmacy education and uses it as an example for schools nationwide.

Vanderveen has worked to expand the role of clinical pharmacy services in various practice settings, including partnerships with the JWCH Clinic at the Weingart Center and Queens Care clinics, where faculty, students and residents provide medication therapy management to patients.

This commitment to community outreach has led the school to win some of the most prestigious national awards in pharmacy practice over the last few years. These include the American Pharmacists Association Foundation Pinnacle Award, the American Society of Health System Pharmacists Best Practices Award and the

AACP Inaugural Award for Transformative Community Service.

Vanderveen has supported the school’s research units by providing bridge funding when scientists await grant dollars and enhancing core facilities throughout the school.

He has also successfully promoted interdisciplinary hires and collaborations with other USC schools.

In addition, the dean launched the school’s Diversity Initiative to increase the diversity in the school’s student body.

This program proactively recruits high-school students to join the school’s Pharmacy Explorers Program—a track of the USC Med-COR program designed to introduce LAUSD students to the health professions—through a Saturday enrichment program and mentoring activities.

Prior to coming to USC, Vanderveen was the dean of the Mylan School of Pharmacy and the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Duquesne University. He currently serves as a member of the corporate board of directors at Mylan Laboratories.

Berle Adams, longtime benefactor of USC cancer research, 92

By Sara Reeve

Berle Adams, longtime supporter of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, died Aug. 25 after a long illness. He was 92.

A past president of Cancer Research Associates, an early support organization for the Cancer Center, Adams was an advocate of cancer research at USC for more than 25 years.

“Berle Adams was a wonderful man whose support was critical to the early development of the Norris Cancer Center,” said Brian Henderson, distinguished professor of preventive medicine and former dean of the Keck School of Medicine. “Through his work with Cancer Research Associates, he helped raise money to build new programs and buildings and advance research.”

Adams, along with the Lucy and Berle Adams Foundation, funded the Lucy and Berle Adams Endowed Chair in Cancer Research at the Keck School in 2002. His wife,

Lucy Adams, a patient at USC Norris Cancer Hospital, died of melanoma in 1990.

“Berle Adams was an extraordinary man who was involved in supporting the Cancer Center from its early days,” said Peter Jones, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. “He established the Lucy and Berle Adams Endowed Family Chair to support melanoma research and took a keen interest in our progress. We shall miss such a staunch supporter very much.”

During a career that spanned more than 60 years, Adams was a force in the music and television industries. In the 1940s, he co-founded Mercury Records, helping to launch the careers of singers Frankie Laine and Vic Damone. He moved on to MCA, where he represented stars including Jack Benny, Rosemary Clooney and Alfred Hitchcock. In later years, Adams specialized in the distribution of television

programming, and was the sole international distributor of the Emmy Awards for more than 20 years.

When the Lucy and Berle Adams Endowed Chair was announced in 2002, Adams

aid that he hoped his gift would help changes people’s lives. “I’m glad to make the gift in memory of my wife and I hope it is able to help people,” he said at the time. “We want to stop cancer.”

Lisa Victor, USC pain management specialist, 62

By Meleeneh Kazarian

Lisa A. Victor, assistant professor in the Departments of Anesthesiology and Psychiatry at the Keck School of Medicine, died unexpectedly of natural causes on Aug. 13. She was 62.

Known by colleagues as dedicated and enthusiastic, Victor joined USC in 2001, where she trained many post-doctoral fellows in the area of pain psychology.

Long-time colleague Steven Richeimer, director of pain management in the Departments of Anesthesiology and Psychiatry, described Victor’s interaction with patients and colleagues as unique and endearing.

He added, “She felt her patients’ pains, and she provided

relief. Lisa Victor was the therapist for all of us.”

He added that Victor practiced the idea that individuals may not be able to control their circumstances, but they can control their reactions—and she encouraged her patients to do the same.

Victor, who was also director of pain management psychology, received her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from UCLA.

She was a frequent lecturer in her area of expertise and authored numerous articles and chapters for books published in her field.

She is survived by her sister, Dana, the Kassoy family, her friends and the USC community.

The Weekly

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Did We Say That?



The front page photo (at left) that illustrated a story on campus white coat ceremonies in the Sept. 4 issue of *The Weekly* appeared with the wrong caption. *The Weekly* regrets the error and the correct caption is as follows:

Kevin Kaneko, assistant professor and manager of ambulatory care pharmacy services at the USC Norris Cancer Hospital, proudly “coats” his daughter, Mari. Kaneko is an old hand at this, having also coated his son, who entered the School of Pharmacy in 2006.



The Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) at the Health Sciences Campus recently hosted its annual Student Leaders Meet and Greet at the Edmonson Faculty Center to introduce its new HSC Governing Council members and familiarize student leaders with the organization and its services. The meeting, on Sept. 1, was also designed to encourage advocacy, joint programming and interaction among the different schools and organizations on campus. Above, from left are GPSS HSC Governing Council members: John Mahajan, community service chair; Erika Chien, publicity chair; Rosanne Yetemian, HSC chair; Jennifer-Ann Bayan, programming chair; and Donna Dueker, operations chair.

Cure in the Canyons breast cancer event slated for Oct. 4

By Joe Peters
Celebrities including Shannon Tweed, Lorraine Toussaint of “Saving Grace,” and Marcellus Wiley of ESPN will host a tea party for breast cancer patients and survivors Oct. 4 at the Westlake Four Seasons as part of “Cure in The Canyons,” a fundraising event for breast cancer research.

The fundraiser is billed as a ‘luxury-fest,’ and includes a variety of activities for guests, including wine-tasting, spa and beauty treatments, and the opportunity to sample new products from high-end food, health, and entertainment vendors. Desserts for the tea party will be provided by Chef Soerke Peters of Chef is Chef. Cooking demonstrations and mini-seminars will also be in evidence, and guests in the Men’s Ultra Lounge will have the chance to test drive new 2010 Lexus Luxury Hybrids. A silent auction will be held during the event.

Cure in the Canyons is located at 2 Dole Drive, Westlake Village, and will begin at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$75. Funds raised will support breast cancer research at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and other local institutions.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.cureinthecanyons.com, or call (818) 575-3000.

Volunteers sought for Oct. 3 Heart Walk

Faculty, staff, students and residents from the Keck School of Medicine and USC hospitals are invited to join the USC Heart Walk Team on Saturday morning, Oct. 3, for the American Heart Association’s annual walk to raise money for research to fight heart disease and stroke.

The walk starts at 9 a.m. at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. All registered team members will receive a USC team

t-shirt and an invitation to a USC team gathering before the walk.

USC University Hospital is the official sponsor of the finish line.

More than 8,000 people are expected to participate in this year’s Los Angeles Start! Heart Walk. In addition to the non-competitive 5k walk, the event includes a Wellness Festival featuring health screenings, food, a

Kids Zone, music, giveaways and more.

The American Heart Association is the largest voluntary health organization working to prevent, treat and defeat heart disease and stroke, the nation’s No. 1 and No. 3 killers, which claim more than 910,000 American lives a year.

For more information or to join the USC team, visit <http://tiny.cc/sGTT4>.

CHAUDHARY: Research focus is on cancer, cancer drug resistance and stem cells

Continued from page 1
principal investigator of two R01 grants, two R21 grants and one grant each from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

“Dr. Chaudhary’s outstanding combination of skills and experience in translating basic research into new therapeutic approaches for patients with cancer will enhance the mission of the Department of Medicine as we focus both on moving research from the laboratory to the bedside, and rapidly growing our clinical cancer programs,” said Edward D. Crandall, chair

of the Department of Medicine, Hastings Professor and Norris Chair of Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine.

Chaudhary has published in some of the top scientific journals, including *Cell*, *Immunity*, *JNCI*, *PNAS* and *Blood*. He has been the recipient of numerous honors, fellowships and awards from national and international research organizations and has been elected to the prestigious American Society for Clinical Investigation, an honor society of the top physician-scientists in the country.

After graduating from Maulana Azad

Medical College in India, Chaudhary obtained his Ph.D. under the guidance of Igor Roninson at the University of Illinois at Chicago, performing pioneering research in the isolation and characterization of bone marrow stem cells and mechanisms of multi-drug resistance to cancer chemotherapy.

He did his residency training in internal medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago and fellowship training in hematology and oncology at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the University of Washington in Seattle.

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

A Sept. 13 Reuters article quoted public health expert **Michael Cousineau** about the cost of health care for illegal immigrants.

A Sept. 12 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted University Park Health Center Executive Director **Lawrence Neinstein** about how universities are preparing for swine flu.

A Sept. 11 MedCenter Today online featured a USC News story on **Matthew McElrath** joining USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital as chief human resources officer. The *L.A. Weekly* also reported the announcement.

A Sept. 10 *New York Times Magazine* article quoted public health expert **Thomas Valente** on new research showing that behaviors spread through people’s social circles.

A Sept. 8 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article quoted ophthalmologist Mark Humayun about the retinal implant project.

A Sept. 7 *Boston Globe* article quoted liver expert **Neil Kaplowitz** on screening out drugs that could have adverse effects on liver cells.

On Sept. 5 KNBC-TV quoted pharmacologist **Roger Clemens** of the USC School of Pharmacy about new drinks that claim health benefits but haven’t been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration.

A Sept. 2 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted cardiologist **Leslie Saxon** about a combination implant that appears to help more heart failure patients.

The September issue of *Smart Business Magazine* featured USC hospitals CEO **Mitch Creem** in a cover story.

Calendar of Events

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

Saturday, Sept. 19

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The 4th Annual Medical Student Leadership Conference. “Your Future in Medicine Awaits. Shouldn’t You Help Shape It?” Various speakers. KAM Mayer Auditorium. Info: www.cmanet.org/studentleadership

Monday, Sept. 21

Noon. KSOM Research Seminar. “Can One Make an Enveloped Virus Outside the Cell?” Bill Gelbart, UCLA. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 442-7874

Tuesday, Sept. 22

9 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. “Multiple Sclerosis: Links Behind Place, Time and Self,” Lilyana Amezcua, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7686

11 a.m. Endocrinology Grand Rounds. “Paget’s Disease,” Frederick Singer, John Wayne Cancer Inst. HMR 100. Info: (323) 442-2806

Noon. Cancer Ctr. Grand Rounds. “Young Adults and Cancer: When Two Worlds Collide,” Planet Cancer Roadshow and Stuart Siegel, USC/CHLA. Info: (323) 865-0801

Wednesday, Sept. 23

Noon. ZNI Seminar. “Paving the Axonal Highway: Molecular Control of CNS Myelination,” Q. Richard Lu, Univ. of Texas Southwestern Medical Ctr. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Noon. Renal Grand Rounds. “Renal Imaging: Cases,” Vinay Duddalwar, USC. GNH 4420. Info: (323) 226-7337

Thursday, Sept. 24

Noon. “Metabolism of Vitamin D and Bone Density,” Vicente Gilsanz, USC/CHLA. HMR 100. Info: (323) 442-1283

Noon. “Mechanisms of Death Responses in Pancreatitis,” Anna Gukovskaya, UCLA. HMR 100. Info: (323) 442-1283

Friday, Sept. 25

8 a.m. Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Grand Rounds. “Wilms Tumor,” Jeffrey Bonadio, Mary Birch Hospital for Women & Newborns. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 442-1180

11 a.m. Hematology Grand Rounds. “Current and Future Approaches to the Treatment of Adults with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia,” Dan Douer, USC. IPT C2J103. Info: (323) 865-3950

Noon. Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar. “Attacking the Pool of Latently HIV Infected Cells,” Milton Yatvin, Oregon Health Sciences Univ. PSC 104. Info: (323) 442-4118

Monday, Sept. 28

Noon. KSOM Research Seminar. “The Many States of Pluripotency,” Martin Pera, USC. NRT Aresty Aud. (323) 442-7874

Tuesday, Sept. 29

11 a.m. Endocrinology Grand Rounds. “Thyroid Eye Disease,” Eli Chang, USC. HMR 100. Info: (323) 442-2806

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Noon. Renal Grand Rounds. “Renal Biopsy,” Michael Koss and Vito Campese, USC. GNH 4420. Info: (323) 226-7337

Tuesday, Oct. 6

11:30 a.m. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “U.S. Mental Healthcare Trends,” Anand Pandya, Cedars Sinai. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Noon. Renal Grand Rounds. “Incontinence,” David Ginsberg, USC. GNH 4420. Info: (323) 226-7337

Tuesday, Oct. 13

11:30 a.m. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “Grief and Bereavement,” Sidney Zisook, UC San Diego. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Noon. Renal Grand Rounds. “Prostatitis and BPH,” Matthew Dunn, USC. GNH 4420. Info: (323) 226-7337

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Noon. Renal Grand Rounds. “Renal Biopsy,” Michael Koss and Vito Campese, USC. GNH 4420. Info: (323) 226-7337

USC surgeons perform novel kidney surgery

By Leslie Ridgeway

For the first time in Southern California, urologic surgeons at the Keck School of Medicine Institute of Urology and USC-affiliated Childrens Hospital Los Angeles recently performed “belly-button” single port laparoscopic kidney removal surgery in a child with non-functioning kidneys.

To date, four children have undergone the procedure since Aug. 30.

The technique is called laparo-endoscopic single-site surgery (LESS). The entire procedure is performed using specialized instrumentation through a small incision completely concealed within the umbilicus, leaving virtually no visible scar.

The procedures were performed by surgeons from

the USC Institute of Urology: Chester Koh, assistant professor of Urology (pediatric) and director of the Pediatric Robotic Surgery program at Childrens Hospital; Roger De Filippo, assistant professor of Urology (pediatric) at Childrens Hospital, and Mihir Desai, professor of Clinical Urology at the Keck School of Medicine and director of Robotics at USC University Hospital.

“We are delighted we can offer a procedure with so many advantages,” said Koh, “The LESS technique really lives up to its name – less scarring, and the potential for even less pain and less

recovery time.” Desai, a noted pioneer and leader in the field of LESS surgery, indicated that the USC team has developed many applications of LESS surgery in urology. “Patients typically go home after an overnight hospital stay after these cutting-edge procedures,” he said.

Among the children who received the surgery was a six-year-old girl whose kidney was obstructed and enlarged. Another child, a three-year-old boy, suffers from multiple medical, cardiac and intestinal problems; one of his kidneys was removed because of urinary tract infections.



Chester Koh

CHLA names new chief of orthopaedic surgery

David L. Skaggs, professor of orthopaedic surgery at the Keck School of Medicine and a nationally recognized expert in pediatric spinal deformity and orthopaedic trauma, has been named chief of the division of orthopaedic surgery at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Skaggs appointment was effective on Aug. 1.

He replaces Vernon T. Tolo, who served as head of the division since 1987, and who is now chief emeritus at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Tolo will continue his full-time clinical practice at Childrens Hospital.

“I am grateful and enthusiastic for the opportunity to serve our patients and to

serve Childrens Hospital Los Angeles,” Skaggs said. “I am very fortunate to be surrounded by a group of outstanding pediatric orthopaedic surgeons, who are committed to giving the best customer service possible to families and referring physicians, with prompt appointments and family-centered care.”

MCELRATH: Brings expertise in health care, ‘energy and enthusiasm’

Continued from page 1
faculty and 16,000 classified staff, professional and student workers. Prior to his position at ASU, he was chair of the division of human resources at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Ariz., and served on the executive steering committee for the building and opening of the Mayo Clinic Hospital.

He received his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., and later earned a master’s degree in organization management from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

He is a member of a num-

ber of professional organizations, including the American Society for Healthcare, Human Resources Administration.

“Mr. McElrath brings a terrific mix of university and health care HR experience to our USC hospitals, along with considerable energy and enthusiasm,” said Mitch Creem, CEO of the hospitals. “He will play a vital role in the growth and development of USC’s hospitals and our integrated academic medical center.”

McElrath noted that it is a great time for individuals to consider a career at USC hos-

pitals: “We have a number of exciting career opportunities available in a tough market. We are actively working in the community to tell our story about what wonderful places USC and the hospitals are.”

An acute care hospital, USC University Hospital currently tracks 7,700 inpatient visits and 56,000 outpatient visits each year.

The USC Norris Cancer Hospital is devoted exclusively to the treatment of patients with cancer and is affiliated with the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, one of the original eight comprehensive cancer centers in the U.S.

We’re Tweeting...

HSC Public Relations and Marketing is now live on Twitter.

Please follow us at <http://twitter.com/USCHealthNews> for the latest USC Health Sciences news and updates.

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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 HSC 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.