The Veekly



theweekly.usc.edu

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 11



William Watson

Development leader rejoins USC to lead Health Sciences fundraising

After a national search, William (Bill) Watson has been named vice president for Health Sciences Campus development at USC. In this role, he oversees development functions for the Keck School of Medicine of USC, USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

Watson is a recognized leader in medical and hospital development who most recently served as senior vice president and chief development, officer at Saint John's Health Center and John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, Calif. At Saint John's, he led a successful campaign to raise \$300 million for a 275,000-square-foot diagnostic and treatment center and was instrumental in campaign planning to expand the health center campus for a variety of programs and services, including additional patient resources, education and wellness programs, a translational science center, a conference center, and senior housing

Prior to Saint John's, Watson served as chief development officer at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, where he managed the Board of Overseers and raised money for the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute, USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, and the Keck School, as well as other health sciences priorities. He previously

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USC University Hospital ranked among best

USC University Hospital ranked third among 44 hospitals in Los Angeles and Orange counties in a new survey published by *U.S. News World Report*. The rankings are available online at www. usnews.com/hospitals.

The new rankings recognize 622 hospitals in or near major U.S. cities with a record of high performance in key medical specialties, including 132 of the 152 hospitals already identified as the best in the nation. Children's hospitals were excluded.

USC University Hospital ranked third behind Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center (first) and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (second). USC Norris Cancer Hospital ranked 21st in a four-way tie.

"Our physicians, nurses and staff work tirelessly to give

the best care to our patients, with a commitment to safety, excellence and continuous improvement," said Mitch Creem, chief executive officer of USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital. "Ranking so highly in these first-ever metro area rankings is an indication of the value our hospitals have to the community."

USC-affiliated Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center also was ranked, at number seven. Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center was ranked 36th, in a nine-way tie.

The new metro area rankings use existing data from the 2010-11 "Best Hospitals" rankings published in *U.S. News* last July. In those rankings, 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).

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, the new metro area rankings are relevant to a much wider range of health care consumers. They are aimed primarily at consumers whose care may not demand the special expertise found only at a nationally ranked "Best Hospital." Patients and their families will have a far better chance of finding a *U.S.*

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'Ranking so highly in these firstever metro area rankings is an indication of the value our hospitals have to the community.'

—Mitch Creem, chief executive officer of USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital

USC alum Norman Levan Pledges \$8 million in Keck School scholarships

By Ryan Ball

When dermatologist Norman Levan was enrolled in the medical school at USC, tuition was a mere \$400 a year. During a recent visit with Henri Ford, vice dean of medical education for the Keck School of Medicine and chief of surgery at USC-affiliated Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Levan was reminded that the average medical student is now paying \$50,000 annually.

Levan last year gave \$2 million to endow the Norman E. Levan Chair for Medical Ethics at the Keck School, to which he plans to give another \$2 million.

He also pledged \$8 million in scholarships for Keck students. The gift will greatly lighten the load for many future Keck students.

"Thanks to you, we can actually lower the level of indebtedness they're going to experience," said Ford. "We cannot afford to just turn our backs on medical education. My concern is if we do that, then there won't be anybody to take care of me when I get a little older."

Ford thanked Levan, a former chair of the Department of Dermatology at USC, for his continued support of the Keck School and its students, noting, "You make my job easier."

Levan said he personally reads essays of students applying for scholarships. He said that literacy and clarity are two qualities he looks for. He also prefers students with a background in the humanities rather than the sciences.

"They have more stringent ideas about what ethics are," he explained.

In 2007, Levan donated \$6 million to USC to establish the USC Norman Levan



Left, Henri Ford, vice dean of medical education for the Keck School of Medicine, meets with Keck alumnus Norman Levan on March 2 to thank him for his gift to fund scholarships for medical students.

Institute for Humanities and Ethics to provide a forum in which students can explore different modes of thinking and responding to the world.

While Levan's commitment to USC and the Keck School of Medicine are extraordinary, so too is his dedication to his chosen profession. Though

he certainly doesn't need the money, he continues to see patients once a week at his practice in Bakersfield, California. He has cared for three generations of some families, and said he continues to learn and grow as a physician.

"On Monday I saw a case that I never saw before in my life," he said. "As a matter of fact, the largest dermatology textbook doesn't mention it."

What advice does Levan offer students entering medical school? "Don't waste your time reading the medical journals," he quipped, arguing that literature is a more worthwhile pursuit. At the time of most recent visit to the Keck School, the 95-year-old avid reader had recently finished all of Jane Austen's novels and had moved on to Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent*.



At a reception in honor of her appointment as William M. Keck Endowed Chair of Biochemistry, Peggy Farnham poses with (from left) Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito; Michael Stallcup, chair of the Department of Biochemistry; and Peter Jones, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor of Urology and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. Before coming to USC, Farnham was a professor at UC Davis from 2004 to 2010. In recognition of more than two decades of highly collaborative, cutting edge science she was elected as an AAAS Fellow in 2009. Her future research will be strongly focused on the analysis of the epigenomes of normal and diseased human cells. In particular, she wants to test the effects of various clinical drugs on the epigenomes of treated patients.

Town Hall offers update on Clinical and Translational Science Institute

By Ryan Ball

Keck School of Medicine faculty and students assembled to get the latest news on the USC Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), a Keck School-based, university-wide initiative to accelerate the pace at which research discoveries are translated into clinical practice.

CTSI director Thomas A. Buchanan, director of research development Carlos N. Pato and director of scientific translation Roberta Diaz Brinton were on hand at the March 7 town hall meeting to provide an update on the institute's forward momentum since receiving a \$56.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in July of 2010.

They were joined by Richard Hull, senior director of New Ventures and Alliances at the USC Stevens Institute for Innovation. USC Stevens works closely with the CTSI to promote development of novel therapeutic and diagnostic tools for human disease.

Buchanan outlined the vision for CTSI, which is to conduct research to improve health in the diverse urban environment of Los Angeles and to gain knowledge to improve health in urban settings and megacities across the globe. Current priority diseases include cancer, cardiovascular disease, child health, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, neurosciences and mental health.

With the NIH funding, CTSI has been able to award a total of \$700,000 to 24 pilot programs to date. During the next round of funding, CTSI plans to award seven to 10 pilot grants of up to \$40,000

For faculty, trainees and students considering applying for pilot grants, Buchanan noted that the CTSI values the full spectrum of translational research, ranging from clinical trials to outcomes research on large populations. He also stressed that CTSI is very focused on interdisciplinary research.

"We're really not looking to support a lot of fundamental science at the discovery level until it has some evidence that it's translatable," Buchanan remarked

Pato offered an introduction to the Office of Research Advancement's first major initiative, Patients Partnering in Health and Discovery.

"We want to invite every patient to play a role in the discovery process," said Pato. "It ensures that each of our patients has the opportunity to consent to partner in and learn about our health discoveries."

Diaz Brinton spoke about the CTSI Center for Scientific Translation. The center serves as a bridge that enables basic researchers to translate novel discoveries into innovative therapeutics, devices, biomarkers and diagnostics to meet the health needs of the diverse Los Angeles Popula-

Among the center's novel programs is Partnership for Cures, which is managed by UC Davis. The program provides access to a vast repository of existing drugs in hopes of finding new uses for them.

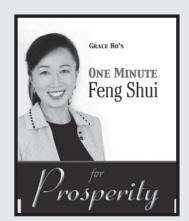
Richard Hull said the main focus of the New Ventures and Alliances team has been building out resources to assist emerging startups. Services include pro-bono legal advice and connections to industry mentors and funding sources. Last year, the program spun off half a dozen USC-based startups. Now the program is tracking and assisting more than 50 potential startups.

For more information visit http://labetsi.org.

The Weekly Etcetera

Grace Ho, who received her master of occupational science and occupational therapy from USC in 1982, recently made the #1 best-seller list for Amazon. com in Japan and #2 in the U.S. Amazon.com Kindle category for her book, *One Minute Feng Shui for Prosperity*.

She has been featured by media outlets in Japan and the United States.



Since graduating from USC, Ho said, "I have been working with business executives of Fortune 500, because I want to promote public wellness before they become sick. I use Chinese Feng Shui and Japanese Zen philosophy for a balance and harmony of love, health and prosperity."

Ho is currently serving as a Board Councilor of Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

Penina Segall-Gutierrez, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology and family medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, won first place for best oral abstract at the recent meeting of the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The abstract, "Maintenance of Knowledge, Behavior, Confidence, and Professional Responsibility Regarding Oral Emergency Contraception after a Novel OB/GYN and Pharmacist Developed Educational Intervention on First Year Pharmacy Students," described an interdisciplinary project between the Department of OB/GYN and the USC School of Pharmacy.

Keck School of Medicine professor **Michael Cousineau** and his students in the master of public health program participated in a conference in Sacramento on Feb. 2.

Cousineau moderated a panel at the Uninsured Project's 15th Annual Conference on "Building the New Delivery System: Increasing Primary Care Capacity." The students attended the conference and had an opportunity to meet and hear from health committee staff in the Capitol.

Inderbir S. Gill, chair and executive director of the USC Institute of Urology, was selected as the journal *European Urology's* first North American editor. *European Urology* has been published for over 35 years and is read by more than 20,000 urologists across the world.

This journal is a leading publication in the field of urology.

The USC Los Angeles County Cancer Surveillance Program (CSP) CAFÉ Cancer Inquiry Database, developed by the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center Research Informatics and the CSP to document and track public and research requests for information and data, has been adopted for use by the California Cancer Registry and other cancer registries in California

This database was developed using the framework called CAFÉ (Common Application Framework Extensible). CAFÉ is a home grown framework that can be used to create any custom application for Health Care Research.

Established in 1972 at USC for the purpose of etiological cancer research, the CSP collects demographic and treatment data on all new cancers diagnosed in Los Angeles County.

'We're really not looking to support a lot of fundamental science at the discovery level until it has some evidence that it's translatable.'

—USC Clinical and Translational Science Institute Director Thomas A. Buchanan

BEST: USC University hospital lauded in first metro rankings

Continued from page 1 News-ranked hospital in their health insurance network and might not have to travel to get care at a high-performing hospital.

To be ranked in its metro area, a hospital had to score in the top 25 percent among

its peers in at least one of 16 medical specialties.

"All of these hospitals provide first-rate care for the majority of patients, even those with serious conditions or who need demanding procedures," said Health Rankings Editor Avery

Comarow. "The new 'Best Hospitals' metro rankings can tell you which hospitals are worth considering for most medical problems if you live in or near a major metro area."

For the full list of metro area rankings visit www. usnews.com/hospitals.

The Weekly

Next Issue: April 8

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.

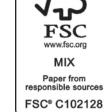
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USC-CHLA Transplant Symposium attracts hundreds of patients, clinicians

By Leslie Ridgeway

More than 350 patients, family members and caregivers, clinicians and providers came together to share knowledge and hope at the USC University Hospital and Children's Hospital Los Angeles Transplant Symposium, held March 24 at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena.

The event, "Leading Through Education," featured presentations from USC and Children's Hospital faculty physicians, partner groups and colleagues. Tse-Ling Fong, associate professor of medicine, Keck School of Medicine, moderated the discussion.

"This is about education," said presenter Mike Donnell, chief administrative officer of the USC Transplant Institute at USC University Hospital.



At the transplant symposium are (from left) Scott Evans, Cynthia Herrington, Judy Winston, Bob Winston and Mike Donnell. The Winstons, along with USC University Hospital, made the symposium possible with generous donations. Herrington and Donnell presented at the symposium

"We can do better when we educate patients and providers about what a transplant is and how it works."

Sessions focused on everything from living donor liver transplants and the psychological aspects of face transplantation, to improving patient care through research, posttransplant malignancy and the social worker's role in assisting transplant patients.

Presenters included Cynthia Herrington, chief medical officer of the USC Transplant Institute; Yuri Genyk, director of USC Abdominal Organ Transplantation; Mark Barr, associate professor of surgery at the Keck School; Emily Blodget, assistant professor of medicine; and Sophoclis Alexopolous, surgical director, USC Kidney Transplant program.

Other speakers were Kiran Dhanireddy, surgical director, USC Pancreas Transplantation division of heptobiliary surgery and abdominal organ transplantation; Marvin Mailom, clinical coordinator of cardiovascular transplant; Linda Sher, director, Clinical Research, division of heptobiliary surgery and abdominal

organ transplantation; John Donovan, medical director, USC Liver Transplant program; and Jeremy O'Connor, cardiothoracic social worker.

"We're delighted we have such quality hospitals," said Bob Winston, who with wife Judy co-sponsored the event with USC University Hospital. "We sponsored the first symposium four years ago, and this time we wanted to include recipients of transplants so they can learn, and be advocates of the skills USC and Children's offer to adults and children in Southern California."

Seven years ago, the Winstons' grandson Ryan received a new heart at Children's after a catastrophic illness. Though the transplant was successful, Ryan later passed away, and the Winstons dedicated themselves to supporting the Children's and USC transplant programs in part by establishing the Ryan Winston Chair in Transplant Cardiology at Children's Hospital.

The Winstons' intent to educate and advocate was not lost on Pat Chavez, whose husband, Raymond, had a liver transplant last year.

"I have signed up to be an organ donor," said the El Monte resident, watching her husband chatting with other transplant recipients. "People think it can't happen to them. It changes your whole life." 'This is about education. We can do better when we educate patients and providers about what a transplant is and how it works.'

—Mike Donnell, chief administrative officer of the USC Transplant Institute at USC University Hospital

WATSON: 'I'm excited to be back at USC'

Continued from page 1

served as director of development and external relations for the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"I am delighted Bill Watson has returned to USC and joined our team," said Al Checcio, senior vice president for university advancement. "Having such a talented fundraiser and manager overseeing our efforts gives us a tremendous advantage. I'm confident he will make immediate and long-lasting contributions toward our ambitious goals."

"I'm excited to be back at USC," said Watson. "The university has taken great strides in the past few years to advance the mission of the Health Sciences Campus, and I'm eager to address the challenge of taking USC's recent success even further."

Watson is a graduate of Fresno State University.

Translational research awards' deadline looms

The Center for Education, Training, and Career Development (CETCD), part of the USC Los Angeles Basin Clinical and Translational Science Institute, is now accepting applications for cohort 2 of the Pre- and Post-doctoral Research and Career Development Awards.

For pre-doctoral students, the two-year award program provides education, training and mentored career development and helps recipients acquire the expertise to perform clinical and translational research in diverse populations

World Health Day event needs volunteers

As part of World Health Day, USC will team up with community organizations on April 9 to host "Pollution Solution: The Port to a Healthy Globe," to promote environmental awareness, advocacy and action in Los Angeles County.

The event will include a health fair with screenings and educational booths, live entertainment and a community cleanup. Volunteers are needed; to volunteer, contact global.health@usc.edu.

The full list of Global Health

Awareness Week events is online at

http://tinyurl.com/4f8d34d.

with a multi-disciplinary, team-based approach. Candidates must have attained "advanced to candidacy" status according to the Graduate School at USC.

For holders of health professional or research doctoral degrees, the KL2 Mentored Research Career Development Award is a two-year program that supports mentored research career development and advanced education and training.

The deadline for letters of intent is April 15, and applications are due April 29. For more information and an online application, visit www. labctsi.org/index.php/cetcd.



SUCCESSFUL RUN—The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center team raised \$3,000 for breast cancer research in the 2011 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. The 15th annual race, which took place on March 6 at Dodger Stadium, attracted more than 15,000 runners, who raised a total of \$1.5 million. The USC Norris team was made up of about 30 members, including Norris staff and supporters. "This year's team was a huge success," said team captain Tonya Strom. "Thanks to their dedication, we doubled our team members from last year and nearly tripled our fundraising dollars. We made this year truly special."

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

A March 21 story in *Science* ran a Q&A with **Martin Pera**, professor and foundation director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at the University of Southern California, who will leave the university to head a stem cell consortium in Australia. The story stated that in five years as head

of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC, Pera built a stem cell program that ranges from basic research to clinical trials. USC has reached a milestone, Pera said. "At our Doheny Eye Institute in a CIRM-supported program, Professor **Mark Humayun** [of the Keck School and the USC Viterbi School] and **David Hinton** [of the Keck School] are planning to trial stem therapies for macular degeneration, and my colleague **Michael Kahn** [of the Keck School] has just started a phase I clinical trial of a drug for colorectal carcinoma that was developed using a stem cell-based screen."

A March 22 article in WTVQ News quoted **Thomas Lee**, retina specialist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, about using flash photography to detect possible eye problems in children. Lee recommends that "if a child's picture has an abnormal or unusual eye glow, an eye exam is highly recommended," the story stated.

New Master Plan sets strategy for Health Sciences Campus growth

By Ryan Ball

Since taking office last year, USC President C. L. Max Nikias has made it abundantly clear that the Health Sciences Campus is a major priority for the university and a key component of its overall growth strategy.

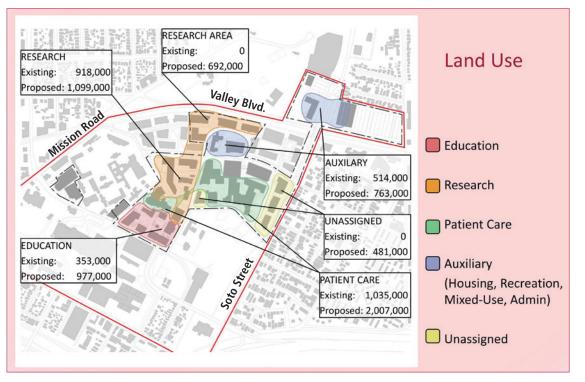
Evidence of this commitment can be found in the Health Sciences Campus Master Plan, which was approved by trustees on Jan. 26. It can be viewed online at www.usc.edu/community/hscmasterplan.

The Master Plan is a longrange development strategy looking forward to 2035.

New construction and demolition of older buildings is expected to occur in eight to nine phases, depending on how quickly the University moves forward and what its priorities are.

Kristina Raspe, associate senior vice president of real estate and asset management for USC, said the Master Plan was given the green light once USC started looking into acquiring the two hospitals, now known as USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

"The university knew that integration of the hospitals into the campus fabric would



The new Master Plan for the Health Sciences Campus, which serves as a blueprint for campus growth through 2035, allows for greatly expanded research, education and patient care spaces as well as construction of additional student housing, a hotel and a new clinical outpatient building.

be key to making the academic medical enterprise successful," said Raspe. "In order to become a top-ten academic medical center, you need a successful campus with sufficient space and amenities to enable you to recruit the best physicians, the best clinicians and the best students."

Laurie Stone, executive director of land use and planning, noted that the Master Plan was largely informed by the campus community, with numerous meetings and workshops with all the various campus stakeholders, a number of town halls and other community meetings. "We feel this plan represents a very broad perspective of what the campus needs," she said.

While the full impact of the Master Plan will take place over a number of years, some changes are already starting to take place. Beautification of the campus is currently under way as a landscape architect begins the work of making San Pablo and Alcazar streets more pleasing to the eye. In addition, design work has begun on a grand entrance for the campus at the Soto/Alcazar intersection, with construction slated to start during the summer.

Other early-phase projects could include the construction of student housing and a hotel, as well as a new outpatient clinical building.

The first new research building that is planned would be built behind the Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research. A new academic building is also planned. Timing for both the academic building and research building will depend on funding and university priority.

The Health Sciences Campus currently consists of 2.88 million gross square feet of development.

Through the course of the Master Plan, the university will end up demolishing close to a million square feet and building 4 million square feet. With a net gain of roughly 3 million square feet, the campus will more than double in capacity over the next 25 years.

Another major issue addressed in the Master Plan is inpatient and outpatient access. With roughly 300,000 outpatient and 90,000 inpatient visits to the campus annually, traffic on San Pablo Street gets problematic at times with everyone using the same entrance.

The Master Plan proposes the outpatient access be separated from the inpatient access. Once this is accomplished, San Pablo Street can be narrowed, making room for much wider, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks double-

lined with trees and potentially a landscaped median, as well.

"This can be a really hard campus to walk across," Stone remarked. "Size-wise, it's much smaller than University Park Campus, and people don't think twice about walking across that campus. But they do here, because we don't have a lot of landscaped pedestrian paths and also because of the topography. The Master Plan proposed beautiful new pedestrian paths and linkages, as well as two bridges in key locations, to address that issue."

While the Health Sciences Campus will always have a more modern look and feel than its traditional, collegial counterpart, President Nikias is keen on unifying the two campuses aesthetically by bringing more of the USC brand to HSC.

Expect to see brickwork in the sidewalks, as well as some of the same types of street furniture, lighting fixtures and gateways found on the University Park Campus.

While the Master Plan offers an exciting glimpse into the future of the Health Sciences Campus, Stone encourages the HSC community to also look back at the history of the campus and how it has grown since USC first purchased land adjacent to the county hospital in 1949 and began forming the nucleus of a medical campus.

That historical background can be found, along with the Master Plan, at www.usc.edu/community/hscmasterplan.

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Calendar of Events

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

Tuesday, Apr. 5

 $\bf 9$ a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. "M & M Conference," Justin Cho, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7686

Noon. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Do Family Dynamics Matter in the Treatment of Childhood OCD?" John Piacentini, UCLA. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

Wednesday, Apr. 6

Noon. ZNI Seminar. "The Regulation of Critical Periods and Plasticity in the Mature CNS," Aaron McGee, CHLA. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Noon. Global Health Lecture. "Innovation for the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases," NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 865-0419

Friday, Apr. 8

8:30 a.m. "Innate Immune Dysfunction in Asthma: The Role of Surfactant Protein A," Monica Kraft, Duke Univ. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 226-7879

Noon. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Peripheral Artery Disease," Sarah Elsayed, USC. IPT Conference Rm. B. Info: (323) 226-7556

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.



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.