

HONOR ROLL

With Distinction



Community Connections

Emeritus Heroes



Serving our Communities

Too often we overlook the true heroes who are working every day to better our communities. This month, we would like to honor members of our emeritus faculty for their commitment and dedication to service. Mimi Kalland, Emeritus Professor of Biology talks about her work:

The year that I retired, there was a mini scandal involving University of California Profs returning to the classroom after retirement to teach for enormous salaries – double dipping. So they passed a state law forbidding the rehiring of any retired professor. In retrospect, it was probably just as well for me. Instead of going back and teaching a class now and then, something for which I had finally lost enthusiasm anyway, after 10 years of public school teaching and 24 at the university, I had to cast about for something new to do. So I trained as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court System, and served ten years as a guardian ad litem for children in foster care. It was difficult, frustrating but extremely rewarding work. When, on occasion, I told a child, or a parent that I was not paid for my work, they looked at me as if I was loony.

When we moved from Los Angeles to the California Central Coast, I cast about for something to do. First I served for a year on the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury. Then I was appointed to the local Los Osos/Baywood Park Community Advisory Council, which I

found so distasteful, and I resigned after 18 months. But out of the viciousness of small town politics, I formed a committee of neighbors to plant and maintain a series of center-divider islands on our feeder street. I learned how to raise money, form a non-profit and write a successful grant (well, I learned that at Dominguez Hills). Then I joined with another woman in our community to start an organization called Celebrate Los Osos. We are an all-volunteer community-based organization whose goal is to “make a difference, one project at a time by improving public spaces in Los Osos and Baywood Park.” We utilize volunteers to plant, paint, beautify, repair, refurbish and maintain projects that directly involve many community members in order to stimulate community pride and leave a legacy for all to enjoy. We now have over 200 volunteers.

You can visit our website at www.CelebrateLosOsos.org.

Our next project will be a reinvention of the outdoor space at our local library. It will involve a collaboration with an advanced landscape design class from Cal Poly, the Los Osos Friends of the Library, San Luis Obispo County, and our Celebrate Los Osos volunteers.

I am now 80 ½. Last year I was selected as Citizen of the Year for Los Osos/Baywood Park. I got to ride in the Christmas Parade. It was a real hoot.

Dominguez Hills Emeritus Faculty Rock!

Jackson Henry (Mathematics), **Frank Miles** (Mathematics) and **Sue Gemmell** (Teacher Education and Student Affairs) are volunteer drivers or riders for Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels. Jackson is completing his second three-year term on the Board of Directors, Frank is completing his first three year term on the Board during which he also served as Board secretary, and Sue has one year remaining on her first term. They each drive or ride along to deliver meals to homes of 10 to 15 Torrance or Lomita residents who are unable to shop or cook for themselves. Deliveries begin about 11:15 AM. Most routes are completed by 12:45 – 1:00 PM. Volunteers work as much or as little as they wish. Most average about one day a week. Jackson also volunteers with Books on Wheels through the Torrance Library. He picks up books from the library which are requested by the client or selected by Jackson based on the topic or type specified by the client. He delivers them to the client who notifies him when the book is ready for him to pick up and return to the library.

We thank our Emeritus Faculty for helping to lead the way for community engagement.



Did you know?

CSUDH was awarded the **President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction** for the past two years?

CSUDH has received the prestigious **Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement** designation

For information on engaging with the community, contact Center for Service Learning, Internships, & Community Engagement

310 243-2438

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Shirly Brice-Heath's seminal work, "What No Bedtime Story Means: Narrative Skills at Home and School," introduced us to the importance of story reading to young children as important literacy events. She reminds us that "ways of taking from books are as much a part of learned behavior as are ways of eating, sitting, playing games, and building houses."

Research from Jumpstart for Young Children show that children who develop preliteracy skills are not only more likely to go to college, but they are more likely to graduate.

Diana Wolff (Teacher Education) started a program called "The Reading Grandmas and Grandpas" which is now in its fourth year. She takes 8-10 seniors, who live at THE CANTERBURY in Rancho Palos Verdes, to read with Kindergarten children at Normont Elementary School in Harbor City every Monday afternoon.

THE CANTERBURY provides their bus for transporting the participating residents to and from the school. For those participants unable to go to the local library on their own, (to choose the books they want to read to the children) Diana checks out the books for them each week.

Here's another example of Emeritus Faculty making a difference:

*Volunteer activities of **Gene Kalland**, Biology Department, 1966 – 1996*

I currently live on the California Central Coast in a community called Los Osos. My main volunteer activity is serving as a docent at the Coastal Discovery Center at Hearst State Beach. The Center is an educational facility jointly sponsored by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and California State Parks and focuses on environmental and cultural topics related to the Central Coast. The Center is open to visitors on the weekends and contains displays on a number of topics, such as steelhead trout, local history and marine exploration.

As a docent, I staff the center one or two days a month on the weekends to answer visitor questions about the displays and outdoor activities available in the area. I have also prepared educational materials, such as a collection of "quick fact cards" on some of the animals that are in the area which docents can refer to. I write a Science Corner column for the Center's newsletter. There I cover topics like Tides, Adaptations of Tide Pool Animals and Adaptations of Diving Marine Mammals. I also participate in the program for school field trip visits which the Center offers.

In addition to this docent work, I manage the website for Celebrate Los Osos, a group of volunteers that performs improvement projects in public areas of the community, and I am the treasurer for a group that landscapes and maintains traffic islands in our neighborhood