



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC Santa Cruz

UCSC Lifelong Learners

**General Meeting, November 21st
Stevenson College Event Center**

General Meeting, Nov. 21st, 10 a.m. Stevenson College Event Center, UCSC

Guest Speaker:

Jerry Nelson , Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics

The Thirty-Meter Telescope: Galileo's Legacy 400 Years Later

Jerry Nelson is the Project Scientist for the Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT), currently in design. The TMT will be far more powerful than any existing telescope, with its 30-meter primary mirror providing ten times the light-gathering capacity of each of the Keck 10 meter telescopes. It will push the frontiers of telescope technology, integrating the latest innovations in precision control, segmented mirror design, and adaptive optics.

Jerry earned a B.S. in physics from the California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in physics from UC Berkeley.

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and in September shared in the \$1 million Kavli Prize in Astrophysics with two other re-

searchers for their innovations in the field of telescope design. Other awards and honors include the André Lallemand Prize of the French Academy of Sciences and the American Astronomical Society's Dannie Heine- man Prize for Astrophysics.



Classes in 2011

We are hearing happy reports (and not from gunfire) from the participants in the ongoing courses. Our classes provide opportunities for our members to delve more deeply into fascinating subjects, hear from outstanding teachers, and have fun as well: no exams, no grades, but ample opportunities to participate in discussions.

Classes may vary in length, but the contribution we ask for each class is the same — \$20. Because the lecturers are not compensated (except for the pleasure of having truly interested and interesting students) and the meeting spaces, audiovisual equipment, etc., are paid with Osher funds, all member contributions for our classes this year will be used for book scholarships for re-entry and transfer students.

Please sign up as early as possible so that you can be assured enrollment. Save the information in this newsletter about your classes; it is also on our website.

January 2011

The Work of T.S. Eliot John Dizikes

John Dizikes is going to devote four sessions to the poetry (and perhaps a word or two about the plays) of T.S. Eliot. The first will be devoted to the early poems and to "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"; the second, "The Wasteland"; and the final, two of the "Four Quartets."

John Dizikes, an emeritus professor of American Studies at UCSC, has taught

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many classes for Lifelong Learners. We are always impressed by his ability to engage us and the depth of his knowledge. He was a winner of the UCSC Alumni Association's Distinguished Teaching Award — well deserved indeed.

This class will be held Tuesdays, January 4, 11, 18, and 25, from 11 to 1, at the Museum of Art and History on Front Street. (We recommend you not park at Trader Joe's.)

How to Live with Talking Furniture.
Robert Goff

We will view three comedies in which sound (from noise to voice, listening, and silence) becomes a laughing occasion: Charlie Chaplin's first "talkie," *City Lights*; the Marx Brothers' polylingual treatise on international politics, *Duck Soup*; and Ernie Kovacs' joyously disinhibiting television sketches from the 1950s.

There will be three sessions of three hours each, with opportunity for questions and discussion.

Robert Goff is an emeritus professor at UCSC where he taught philosophy for many years. He has lectured widely on humor in silent film and philosophy, most recently at the Chicago Humanities Festival in 2009 and for the our group in 2010.

This class will take place three Wednesdays, February 9, 16, and 23, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Art and History on Front Street.

<i>Registrant(s)</i> <i>With this coupon, one or two people can register for courses.</i>	<i>Course Selections</i> <i>To register for a course, check box. If two are registering with this form and only one is taking a particular course, please indicate which person.</i>	<i>Donation</i> <i>(\$20 per person per course)</i>
Registrant 1: Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Work of T.S. Eliot.</i> Jan. 4, 11, 18, & 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If one person, who? _____	\$
Phone:	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>How to Live with Talking Furniture.</i> February 9, 16, & 23, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. If one person, who? _____	\$
Registrant 2 (if applicable): Name:	Total Enclosed: \$	
Phone:		
<p>Make check to the UC Santa Cruz Foundation. Mail to: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC, University Relations, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.</p> <p>Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. You will receive an acknowledgement of your contributions from the University. <i>Thank you!</i></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> Discover </p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> </p> <p> _____ Card Number Card Expiration Date </p> <p> _____ Name on Card </p> <p> _____ Signature (for credit card transactions) </p>		

Classes Later in 2011

Here are the classes that are planned for later in 2011. Details and a registration coupon will appear in the January newsletters and on the website. Please don't attempt to enroll in them now.

The Revolution in Music: 1900 to 1950 — Robert Kraft

Two Shakespeare Plays — Shakespeare Santa Cruz — Michael Warren

Bel Canto II: The French Connection — Miriam Ellis.

Getting to Know You

Lifelong Learners Biography-Writing Interest Group

Lifelong Learners, do you know Harriet Ann Isom? Yes, you do, but you might recognize her better as “Dusty” Miller. Dusty is the nickname given by her mother so her brothers could say her name. It strikes many as fitting that she shares the name with a lovely, popular flower.

You have known her in her past role as membership coordinator when she was honing our membership directory. Nowadays those close to her recognize the rather unassuming, inwardly shy woman who serves as Interest Group Coordinator by her outwardly free spirited, enthusiastic “go for it gal” persona. Her immense talents have become the glowing spark of our Interest Group resurgence. The new Interest Group Directory was her idea.

Reaching beyond her many volunteer roles for Lifelong Learners, she has also served in our community as an ombudsman for seniors in care facilities and as a driver for the Volunteer Center.

Dusty was born in 1942 in a “small mining town in the west,” Cedar City, Utah, where she was raised in the Mormon tradition. She earned a master’s degree at Hayward State University in Counseling in 1979. She found a calling as a teacher preparing students for their GED exams and later as a licensed therapist teaching Parent Education, experiences where she “loved every moment.”

Dusty is of English ancestry so it seems fitting that she lives in a beautiful 1885 Victorian home. Her home is her respite as well as her artist’s pallet,

a veritable museum of carefully displayed personal treasures, collections of dear items she has rescued, repaired, and displayed with careful attention to authentic, original, detail. She and husband Craig, our Adventuring Interest Group Leader, moved here fifteen years ago after meeting at the University of Utah, marrying in 1965, then living in Washington D.C. and Oakland.

They are close to their two daughters, Liza Miller, who lives next door, and Trina Miller, an architect living in Oakland. They share Dusty and Craig’s collecting propensity, passed down from Dusty’s mother. Dusty tells of finding beauty in nostalgia, and those fortunate enough to enter her home will enjoy that sense while viewing intricate collections of middle eastern coffee pots, depression glass, telephones, record players, toasters, bowls, Niagara Falls souvenir plates, bottles, and kitchen utensils of long ago whose function Dusty loves to describe. Amazingly, she even rescues and restores Victorian beadwork furnishings, meticulously replacing the bead work and cutting replacement dowels on the lathe.

About preserving and restoring items that have passed from everyday use, she enthuses, “I like to rescue things that have been mistreated and need repair.”

The couple began collecting by digging up old

buried bottles while sharing a love of discovery and preservation of a special past time. Now, she says, she often starts a collection, then Craig voraciously adds items. Asked how to begin a collection, she says “you cannot decide to collect; it just happens with a chance find.”

Contentedly at home, she enjoys reading, tending her amazing garden, singing with a women’s group, and the ever present opportunity to rescue yet another item of yore.

Her motto might be, if she were to assume one, Research — Discover — Rescue — Support.

A humanist at heart, her life’s chosen purpose is helping people have better lives: “Sometimes all it takes is a smile.” Fortunately for us who count her as a friend, she has stunningly succeeded.



Interest Group News & Events

Interest Groups are described in the printed interest-group directory that was mailed to members in September, and on our website.

Bridge Group — New! Will meet weekly at Cowell College Provost House. Day and time TBA to maximize participation. Leader Bob Newman is looking for bridge players. Group size and levels of sophistication and interest determined by initial contacts. Group to continue during summer. Bob Newman, 297-7223, bob@tomandcarole.org.

Current Affairs Discussion — The Current Affairs interest group will have its second meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 3rd, at the Quaker Meeting House, 225 Rooney Street, Santa Cruz, from noon to 1:30. The subject will be the Google driverless car and other robots. It's a brown bag affair, so bring your lunch. New members are welcome. Please contact Robert Franson, rfranson@cruzio.com.

Discovering UCSC — On Wednesday, Nov. 10th at 10 am, we will visit the Health Sciences program, a unit within the Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology Department. It of-

fers a B.S. major in health sciences designed for students interested in careers in medicine or biomedical research – a major which satisfies the admission requirements for most U.S. medical schools. In addition to a presentation by Prof. Martha Zuniga, there will be a tour of the Sinsheimer building/labs, and more. Details: Sandy Brauner, sanjan@cruzio.com.

Envisioning the Future — We research and discusses what the world may look like in the next fifty years in such areas as technology, culture, natural environment and climate, energy, transportation, food, housing, health and medicine, security and war, communications, etc. Meeting details will be announced by email. Don Hoernschemeyer, 661-0310, dh1618meyer@cruzio.com.

Exploring Santa Cruz — Our November outing will occur on the 2nd Friday of the month, Nov. 12th (not our usual 3rd Friday date). We will be visiting Kennolyn Camps in the Santa Cruz Mountains, 3.5 miles from Soquel Village. Kennolyn Camps consist of two very different facilities about half a mile apart. Hilltop Hacienda is a gorgeous Spanish style facil-

ity with sweeping bay views used for special events like weddings. Stone Creek Village is a sprawling complex draped on a steep hillside among the redwoods with cabins, sports facilities, and a small version of an old western town. Les Franz, 425-4685, LesFranz@aol.com.

Financial Education — Our group meets monthly on the 2nd Monday at 10 a.m. at Caffè Pergolesi, 418 Cedar St., Santa Cruz, to discuss pros and cons of specific strategies, options, investments, financial & protection products. The goal is a frank exchange of views and a shared base of knowledge. Each session is open to any member who would like to present to the group, but the leader will be prepared to present on the specified topics. Steve Edmonds, 338-3106, steve@2rs.com.

Opera — On Wednesday, Nov. 10th, Miriam Ellis will discuss the Donizetti opera, "Don Pasquale." All Opera Talk discussions take place at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz. Verdi's "Don Carlo" will be the subject of the Dec. 8th Opera Talk discussion conducted by John Dizikes. Leader: Alice Miller, alimat@comcast.net, 661-0398.

Advances in Biotechnology and Medicine: Stretching the Moral Boundaries

As a follow-on to our classes "A Look at Modern Molecular Biology," some of our members may want to attend this event. Our home page has a link to more information.

In this discussion, Ellen Suckiel and Mary Rorty will consider current and upcoming practices in biotechnology and medicine which, while having distinct benefits for human health and well-being, may at the

same time erode long-standing and valued concepts of respect for the person. Professor Suckiel will discuss potential moral difficulties wrought by advances in genetics, specifically the paradox of "genetic perfectionism." Professor Rorty will consider some ways in which persons (or their parts) are "property."

Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Stevenson College Fireside Lounge.



President's Message

Our organization is off to an impressive start this year. We had good attendance at our Interest Group sign-up meeting in September, and we were very privileged to have UCSC Chancellor George Blumenthal as our speaker in October. Chancellor Blumenthal took the occasion of this, the university's 45th anniversary year, to review its history and take stock of its present position in the academic world. We're all aware, I think, of some of the strengths of UCSC, such as its exceptional astronomy and astrophysics departments, but we learned much more about the exciting work going on in other fields. We also heard that the Times of London recently ranked the school as 68th in the world among the thousands of other universities that were examined. All the more impressive in a school so young. It was an inspirational talk that left many of us feeling particularly proud to be a part of this UC family. Of interest too was the reminder that our efforts to provide book scholarships are of special importance during this time when so many are experiencing grave financial limitation.

You've been apprised that a science lecture series would be the first course

offering of our year. These four talks, conducted during October, proved to be extraordinary in their scope and depth. The speakers were all molecular biologists, and they covered subjects ranging from stem cells to the genomics of the Neanderthal. Those members who attended were thrilled to be part of the class. It was arranged for us by the chair of the biologic sciences, Barry Bowman, who with his wife is also a member of Lifelong Learners. Barry himself was one of the presenters. He spoke to us of the proton pump that facilitates molecular movement across each cell membrane. Barry and his wife Rusty long have been co-investigators of this subject. It is also of note that Barry was voted a distinguished lecturer by the students at UCSC. We are greatly in his debt. Moreover, when Dean Thorsett learned of what had been done, he asked all other department heads in the physical sciences to do the same. Details have yet to be worked out, but you can look forward to hearing from many more of the sciences in times to come. We are most grateful for this generous sharing of intellectual resources.

Recently University Relations called a meeting of heads of all the various "UCSC Friends Groups," of which we are one. It was clear to me that the university wishes to broaden the scope of interaction amongst these various groups and between the university and Santa Cruz townspeople in general. I believe this is a step in the right direction. I was happy to report to them that Lifelong Learners' growth numbers were good and that we enjoy a healthy status, both financially and in the extent of programs available to our members. Recently we made application to renew our Osher grant and have been told that the material we submitted met with favor. I believe we are on target to receive another \$50,000.00 in January of 2011. Following that, if we stabilize our membership at 500, we will be eligible to receive the million dollar endowment that will formalize our designation as an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Thank you all for your contributions to our organization, and please remember: your input is always welcome.

Nancy Mead
nancymeaddsc@gmail

Juried Art Exhibit on Campus for our Members

You may be aware that there are many artists among our members. This has come to the attention of Linda Pope, who directs the Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery, Cowell College, UCSC. To our great delight she has conceived the idea of a gallery show of works by members of Lifelong Learners. She has scheduled it for the spring quarter

of 2011, to run from mid-April to the end of the quarter. Entries in the form of .jpg images may be submitted from now until the deadline on February 11 at 6 p.m. Any medium will be considered, but size is limited to 36 inches in any direction. Linda will select the pieces to be included in the show. She estimates that the gallery could house

approximately 45 art works. We hope that many our members will submit their work for consideration for this campus gallery exhibit.

Send all inquiries and expressions of interest in entering the show to lapope@ucsc.edu and Linda will email you more information.

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Keep up to date with the latest events at <http://lifelong-learners.wikispaces.com/>

For further information about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC, call 831-459-2552.