

A program of Santa Monica College for older adults

Who We Are: June Yamada

Profile of an Emeritus Student *by Ada Hollie*



As a girl, June Yamada was always drawing or sketching, so much so, her classmates often asked her to draw portraits or figures for them. She dreamed of going to college and majoring in art, but World War II delayed and almost shattered that dream. In April 1942, her family of seven was forced to leave their home and was detained in California's

Manzanar Relocation Center. Families were only allowed to take what they could carry and pets were not allowed.

June speaks frankly about the injustice, bigotry, and loss suffered by her family and other Japanese Americans: they lived in barracks with no privacy; scorpions came through the floorboards; and, in the afternoon, strong winds filled their mouths and noses with sand and dust.

In 1943, the Japanese American Student Relocation Council of the American Friends Service Committee gained permission to move the American born children of Japanese people (called "Nisei") from the camps to attend school in the east. As a result, June and her siblings were released from the camp while her parents remained. June was relocated to attend school in Cincinnati.

In 1948, June returned to Los Angeles with two goals: she wanted to take art classes and get a job. She achieved both by taking classes at LACC and securing a position at Bullocks Wilshire... *(Cont'd on Page 2)*

From the Corner Office

by Gita Runkle, Associate Dean

In the Spring 2015, Emeritus launched a new Student Learning Outcome assessment form across all classes. There have been a lot of questions from students on this process. Following are answers to the most common Student Learning Outcome questions asked by students:

What is a Student Learning Outcome (SLO)?

SLOs describe the knowledge, skills, abilities or attitudes that a student should be able to demonstrate by the end of a course. SLOs describe the broadest goals for the class and require students to synthesize many discreet skills or areas of content to apply what they have learned. The focus on SLOs is not: What did we cover? It is: What can students do or produce at the end of the course that they couldn't at the beginning?

What is the purpose of the SLO assessment forms?

The purpose of the SLO assessment form is to provide a tool for faculty to measure what their students have learned and to use that data to continuously improve their classes to meet the evolving needs of students.

Why is filling out the SLO assessment form important?

Your participation in the SLO process helps faculty receive the feedback they need to continuously improve courses and helps the College meet the accreditation requirements related to assessment of SLOs.



Portrait by Audrey Roll

What's the best way to answer the SLO questions?

Students should fill out the SLO assessment forms honestly. *(cont'd on Page 3)*

Curating the Emeritus College Art Gallery *by Helen Wachs*

Jesse Benson curates the Emeritus College Art Gallery, located on the first floor of Emeritus College at 1227 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Jesse is a graduate of the Otis College of Art and Design, an artist represented by the Michael Benevento Gallery, and an instructor at Emeritus College.

As the curator of the EC Art Gallery, Jesse is responsible for all exhibits. Some exhibits are thematic and some highlight the work of a single artist or a group, but all are planned, built, and installed by Jesse who leads a team of staff, students and artists to execute each exhibit.

Although he works with a team, as the curator, it is Jesse who sets the standard that must be met in order for an exhibit to come alive. Thus, he looks at the way each piece fits into an exhibit and how the piece will be placed in the show. He is responsible for choosing each piece, assessing its value, and then insuring it. And if a piece requires special transportation arrangements to get it to the exhibit, Jesse is responsible for that too. Much of this is behind the scenes, but it is the necessary frame for the show (forgive the pun).

When we, as spectators, visit the exhibit, what we see is the placement of objects within a space. However, the curator has made strategic decisions on the best way to display these objects of art in order to set the desired tone for the exhibit.

The curator skillfully balances fashion and time to open our minds to a new way of appreciating art. Please visit our Gallery to experience Jesse Benson's curating genius and see the latest creations from our artists.

Schmoozing With Shirl: The Path Less Traveled *by Shirl Grayson*

**Charlie Fig
and the Lip**

Steven Charnow

Steven Charnow took an unconventional path to become the songwriter and author that he is today. Hailing from New York City, Steven is a graduate of Queens College, where he majored in English Literature. He went on to teach for two years in a junior high and high school in Astoria, Queens, and then was employed as a social worker with the NYC Bureau of Child Welfare before joining the Peace Corps. In the Peace Corps, he completed an intense course in Spanish and then was assigned to work for two years in Medellin, Colombia. Living with a local family, he was totally immersed in Spanish language and culture. He and his Colombian family kept in touch for years after Steven left Colombia.

Upon his return to the States, Steven settled in Los Angeles, partnered with a composer, and wrote song lyrics in English and Spanish. He then moved on to writing screenplays for the film studio, American International Pictures (AIP).

Steven's debut novel, "Charlie Fig and the Lip" (Unsolicited Press), was published the earlier part of 2015. It was inspired by his childhood explorations along the marshes of New York City's Jamaica Bay. Steven lives with his wife, Shelley, and his dog, Luke. He thinks Santa Monica is the best place on earth to live.

Who We Are: June Yamada *(Cont'd from Page 1)*

June embraced her work at Bullocks Wilshire with enthusiasm and went on to become the first Asian American assistant buyer for the retailer.

Years later, June retired from retail to pursue her passion for art. She became the driver for artist friend, Martha Saudek, and they traveled throughout the Southwest U.S. exhibiting Martha's work. June made the most of her travels by taking classes in various locales to perfect her artistic skill and technique.

Today, June's favorite medium is oil painting. She has taken many classes at Emeritus and enjoys the interesting people she continues to meet.

Monona Wali Wins Book Award

by Betty Herman

Our Emeritus instructors are shining lights in our lives. Sometimes the light shines brightly on them as well.

In June 2015, Emeritus writing instructor, Monona Wali, won the 19th annual Independent Publisher Gold Award for Best Multicultural Fiction for her novel, “My Blue Skin Lover.” There were over 4,000 total entries across the competition categories.



Wali worked with Blue Jay Ink, a small publisher in Ojai, to publish the book. The story is about Anjali, a 32 year-old Indian-American woman. One day, Anjali stops to help a woman who has collapsed on a Manhattan street. Anjali, in turn, gets help for the stricken woman with the arrival of a mysterious stranger. Meeting that stranger upends Anjali’s life and marriage. The novel builds through Anjali’s personal crises and her focus on the Hindu god Shiva to a final reckoning.

Wali said the book was appealing to a wider, more varied audience than she had expected - including a 95 year-old man who said he loved it.

Born in India, Wali came to the United States at age four with her parents. She received a Master’s Degree from the Film School at UCLA and began teaching at Emeritus in 2008. She enjoys telling stories that explore the challenges of blending cultural differences. She is finishing the final editing on a new book that tells the story of an immigrant Indian family living in America over a fifty-year period.

“My Blue Skin Lover” is available online and in bookstores throughout the Santa Monica and Los Angeles areas.

Become a Health and Wellness Coach

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFSLA) is seeking seniors, ages 55 and older, to volunteer as Health and Wellness Coaches to assist other seniors by participating in their Senior Health and Wellness Program. As a Health and Wellness Coach you will be trained to help other seniors age in place by providing them with companionship and connecting them to community resources.

Come be a part of something special!

For more information, call Erika Zambrano-Morales, MA, at (213) 260-7919

Fund Raising Update by Walter Coronel

Thank you for your contributions during our annual Spring Fund Drive, which yielded \$59,899 with 19.41 % of students participating.

Our year-to-date contributions through July are \$128,648 with 27.55 % of the student body partaking. Even though this amount exceeds last year’s contributions by about \$15,000, the percentage of students donating dropped by 2.5 %. Our goal is to increase student participation to 50 %. Please note that any amount you donate will get us closer to this figure.

We also requested that the student body help us celebrate our 40th anniversary by donating an additional \$40. This request resulted in a total of \$6,690.

Thank you again!

From the Corner Office (Cont’d from Page 1)

There is no need to “game the system” to try to make faculty look good. This is not an assessment of your faculty. It is an assessment of your own student learning. It is OK if you do not remember what you put on a previous form. Just answer how you honestly feel in the moment when filling out a current form.

Is the SLO assessment form also considered an evaluation of our faculty?

No. There is a separate form for students to evaluate faculty. The instructor evaluation process will be launched at Emeritus in the Fall 2015 term. Faculty who are selected to be evaluated will implement an Instructor Evaluation Form for all students to fill out, which includes questions on: communication skills, organization, teaching methods, critical thinking, feedback and learning objectives.

Welcome To Our New Band Leader *by Shirl Grayson*

Emeritus College will have a new band director beginning Fall 2015. Yosuke Miyoshi is pleased to celebrate his thirteenth year of teaching as he becomes the director of the Emeritus College Concert Band.

Mr. Miyoshi began his music career playing the alto saxophone in the fourth grade band program within the ABC Unified School District. In high school he switched to playing the trombone and euphonium, which have remained his primary instruments to this day.

Mr. Miyoshi received his teaching credential and Bachelor of Arts in Trombone Performance and Music Education from UCLA and his Master of Arts in Education from Point Loma Nazarene University. In 2006, Mr. Miyoshi served as the brass caption head for the Impulse Drum and Bugle Corps when they won the *Drum Corps International Division 3 World Championship and the Spirit of Disney Award*. He has also been on the staff and a clinician for marching bands at various high schools in Southern California, including Palisades Charter High School, Santa Monica High School and Venice High School. In 2009, Mr. Miyoshi was awarded the *Petrick Excellence in Education Award* from the Palisades Charter School Foundation. He is currently the director of bands at Paul Revere Charter Middle School in Brentwood, California.

Yosuke was born in Cebu City in the Philippines. He is married to Dr. Yuri Inoo, a percussionist who is also on the percussion faculty at Occidental College and University of Redlands. They celebrated their first wedding anniversary in July, 2015.

What's Happening: Emeritus Events

Kot Concert Series

(Held at Emeritus Campus Rm 107, 3-5 pm)

- Oct 08 Damon Zick – Clarinet & Piano
- Oct 22 Susan Greenberg – Flute & Piano
- Nov 12 Brian Green - Guitar
- Nov 19 Steven Vanhauwaert – Piano
- Dec 10 David & Junko Garrett – Piano & Cello

Emeritus Art Gallery Exhibits

- Sept 17 - Nov 4 Emeritus Student Katya Kompaneyets: Tarkovsky's Hamlet
- Nov 12 - Jan 6 Journal Exhibition: *The Ongoing Moment*
Opening Reception: Nov 12

Emeritus College Concert Band

December 13, 2015 at 2pm

The Broad Stage at SMC Performance Arts Center
1310 11th Street in Santa Monica

The Emeritus College Acting Troupe

Performing scenes and skits from theater
January 16, 2016 at 1pm

The Edge at SMC Performing Arts Center
1310 11th St in Santa Monica

T e s t y T r i v i a & B r a i n t e a s e r s

1. While studying at the Academy of Ancient Art in the Medici Palace, this artist not only developed his genius, but also excited the wrath of his rival, Torregiano, who struck him with a mallet, crushing the nose on his face and disfiguring him for life. Who is it?
2. This author loved to wear crazy hats to parties. When he was having a hard time coming up with rhymes, he would sometimes put on one of his many "thinking caps" for inspiration. Who is it?
3. The world's best-selling fiction writer wrote 78 crime novels that sold more than 2 billion copies. Who is it?
4. What late 19th-century French painter was known for his pictures of ballet dancers?
5. This artist began painting his famous work in 1503. He was still working on the painting when he immigrated to France in 1516 and is believed to have finished it three years later, just before he died. The painting has remained in France ever since and is owned by the state. It once hung in Napoleon's bedroom. Name the author and his famous work? *(See answers below)*

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE



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Emeritus College is committed to life-long learning for older adults. From art and literature to health and safety, personal finance, and digital technologies, Emeritus College students connect, discover, renew, and reinvent. Classes are held at the Emeritus headquarters at 1227 Second Street, Santa Monica, as well as at community sites located throughout the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu.

Brainteaser & Trivia Answers: 1) Michelangelo; 2) Dr. Seuss; 3) Agatha Christie; 4) Edgar Degas; 5) Leonardo DaVinci and the Mona Lisa