

Chronicles

Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Associatior

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UCSD.URBAN: THE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY AS COMMUNITY ANCHOR

By Mary Lindenstein Walshok
Associate Vice Chancellor for
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UCSD Extension

Twenty-five years ago I published a book entitled Knowledge Without Boundaries in which I contended that universities, in particular research universities like UCSD, were increasingly becoming the "anchor" institutions in their communities. The evidence was clear, I pointed out, that innovation and entrepreneurship were creating radically new technologies that were transforming the nature of the economy and all forms of work. They were moving us at breakneck speed from the industrial era into an Information Age, in a world of far greater international interdependence, as Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, and our Latin American neighbors were becoming major actors. Companies, workers, and professionals as well as citizens and civic leaders now had to grapple with new realities for which their previous education and training had not equipped them: the increasing reliance on the computer and the internet, on cell phones and satellite mapping and communications; the revolution in biotechnology and non-fossil forms of energy; the shift of employment into the service sector (and now artificial intelligence, the latest looming disruptive technology). As a result, I concluded,



Mary Lindenstein Walshok

whether the issue was regional economic development, talent development, or civic capacity and adaptability, research universities had a unique and significant role to play Whereas previously colleges and universities had been a jumping-off point for young adults into professional careers and civic life, now higher education was becoming a lifelong enterprise. Colleges and universities still had to equip students with foundational knowledge and competence to get their first "job," but they also had to be resources for continual re-education and adaptation. Because innovation and economic shifts are occurring continuously and in shorter time frames, the job and professional requirements of college graduates

need constant renewal. As even advanced skill sets become obsolete, new forms of competency become essential. Equally, universities must now take account of the demographic and social realities of worldwide migration, market changes, and the new complexities of healthcare, law, and primary education. They need to impart skills for managing new technologies, understanding personal health care and nutrition, and even coping with new cultural sensitivities and family structure.

Because of these rapid changes, research universities must find ways to connect with people across the lifespan. And, with the aging of the American population, access to civic and cultural education for citizens aged 55 and above is critical to the vitality of our democracy. In other words, the university must become the home of lifelong learn-

ing. Lifelong learning is essential to economic growth and transformation, maintaining a competitive workforce, and assuring a quality of life that respects diversity, access, and prosperity for all. In order to accomplish these goals, universities need to serve people who live, work, and play off campus, not just full time undergraduate and graduate students who live, work, and play onsite. That is where UCSD.Urban comes in.

UCSD.Urban: UCSD'S Downtown Platform

The UCSD downtown initiative is a unique new platform reflective of the full array of our research, teaching, and public service programs serving the diverse communities of our region, including Baja California. It provides an accessible place in the urban core that fulfills the University's commitment to creating environments where it is possible to live, learn, and play. It will provide engaging experiences that draw from programs across the campus and connect the public directly to UCSD. It also will enable our students and faculty to link to the region in new and meaningful ways while amplifying our role in the city's dynamic innovation economy. The idea of UCSD.Urban is embedded in the deep commitment the campus has expressed through its strategic plan not only to assure research excellence and superbly qualified graduates, but to do so in a manner that benefits the regional economy and community life and assures access for an increasingly diverse society.

The downtown building will be a focus for these goals. Located at the corner of Park Boulevard and Market Street, a few blocks from the city's Central Library, San Diego Community College, Symphony Hall, and many other educational and cultural organizations, UCSD.Urban will be a reflection across the city of what we do and



UCSD.Urban (artist's rendering)

represent. I sometimes joke that attorneys and business people in Armani suits attending seminars will feel as comfortable entering our building as will first-generation sub-Saharan African families seeking college prep coaching or retirees enjoying a gallery exhibition and lecture. Each will find experiences and opportunities for learning and growing that they need and want. The space, which totals about 42,000 square feet on four floors plus a roof garden and a small amphitheater, promises to be attractive, welcoming, and bustling with activity 7/24. Because of the location and the trolley connections UCSD. Urban will be easily accessed by people from Tijuana and Baja California, East County, the Diamond District, Barrio Logan, and the East Village. Our solid glass structure will be open and welcoming to all, bustling with activity day and night. What follows is a general listing of the kinds of activities one can expect to see.

Key activities will include:

Performing Arts and Civic Programs

Indoor and outdoor performances of music, spoken word, dance, film

Talks and roundtables by leading researchers, scholars, authors,

artists

Collaborations with campus departments (Music, Theatre and Dance, ArtPower)

Collaborations with community organizations such as San Diego Symphony, San Diego Latino Film Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, CECUT Tijuana, Centro Cultural de la Raza.

Learning in Retirement programs like the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Gallery and Exhibition Space

2-3 exhibitions per year, free of charge, with ancillary talks, tours, workshops, performances

Opening Spring 2021, Drawings and Charrettes from the Stuart Collection, curated by **Mary Beebe**

Winter 2022, Photos by **Doris Ulmann** and musical instruments by John Jacob Niles, curated by **Weston Naef**, founding curator of Photography, Getty Museum

Art by Chicano Park Muralists.

Annual UCSD Student and Faculty Artists, curated by **Farshid Bazmandegan,** Division of Arts and Humanities.

K-12 Outreach

Library NeXt Professional Education for Teachers

> Sally Ride Science Academic Connections Parent Education Weekend Sciencefests

Center for Innovation and Design

Information Warfare Research Project

Community-Based Research
Design Challenges
Culture and Policy Incubator
Showcase/Demonstration/
Prototype Gallery
Design and Design-Driven Innovation Workshops

Talent Accelerator

Just-in-Time professional and executive continuing education Immersive programs that serve the needs of companies South of 52 Manufacturing Related Management Essentials
Legal programs
Defense and Security
Applied Data Sciences
Leadership Academies
Trans-border Collaborations
(CETYS, UABC)

Language Studies and Global Education

English language and global cultural studies

Professional English for hospitality industry

Professional certificates in Translation and Interpretation (Spanish/English)

Meetings, Conference, Special Events

Large convention groups
High-end executive meetings
Special events and performances in association with other
arts cultural organizations

Linkages with downtown con-

vention hotels and professional meeting planners

Integration of UCSD faculty with professional conferences and meetings

CONCLUSIONS

UCSD is transforming itself in profound and meaningful ways; more students, new research foci and a campus culture that supports diversity, public service and academic excellence. UCSD.Urban is an extension of that mission across the region. It will bring together the culture and benefits of university level engagements and outcomes with citizens young and old, from different cultures, neighborhoods and economic circumstances in a unique space. It will demonstrate and deliver value in ways that "anchor institutions" can and must in the face of continuous and accelerating change.



A Mentee Profile: Abdikarin Abdullahi, BS, Biology, UCSD '17

By Jack Fisher Professor Emeritus of Surgery and EA Historian

Mentoring students, especially pre-meds, always brings back personal memories. In the 1950s, when accelerated admission was still encouraged. I was lucky enough to be accepted by Buffalo's only medical school after my junior year in college there. These days, that's a lot harder. **Abdikarin Abdullahi**, my Chancellor's Scholar mentee, took a fifth year in college before applying.

Abdi and I share a few similarities in background. We both lived and studied at home through our college years (for me through medical school as well). Our mothers managed the home front while our fathers spent long hours on the road - mine as a salesman and his as a taxi driver. Both of us needed to exploit educational opportuni-

ties close to home because neither of our families had resources to spare.

In other respects our backgrounds differ. We were both descended from immigrant families but mine departed East Anglia in the 1640s while his came from Somalia in the 1990s. I had one sibling and Abdi had nine, which explains why he waited an extra year before applying so that he might work to help replenish family resources, thus assuring that his brothers and sisters would not be prevented from fulfilling their own plans for education.

As a mentee, Abdi proved to be a quick study, learning that I was not to be his judge but his champion, always in support of the important decisions he needed to make for himself, like changing his major from bioengineering to human biology. Given his exceptional

capacity for learning, maintaining a high GPA was not difficult for him. His MCAT scores were equally stellar. In addition, he had a warm personality and displayed impressive leadership skills: elected president of two volunteer organizations and vice-president of a third. With all this going for him, I felt safe in thinking he was a shoo-in for some



Abdikarin Abdullahi

Mentee Profile, cont. from pg. 3

medical school somewhere.

But first the application process loomed, and for this hurdle I can usually be helpful. For example, Abdi, like every pre-med I have mentored, wrote three times as much as he needed to for the required personal statement. Fortunately, he was receptive to a radical trimming of what became a wonderful story about taking his frightened and suspicious mother through serial medical visits, each one of them an inspiration and professional modeling experience for him.

Next came a suspenseful hiatus: would he be summoned for interviews or not? In fact, he received seventeen invitations (!!!) and accepted thirteen of them,

thereby consuming more aviation fuel than I thought necessary. but he was making his own decisions.

Great joy always accompanies arrival of the first acceptance letter. Abdi took delivery of his first and then received nine more! He was now ten for twenty tries, unprecedented in my mentoring experience. News of scholarships soon followed, including offers of a full financial ride from four schools. My advice at this point was to go with the money. Abdi agreed and proceeded to reject six of the medical schools that still wanted him.

Abdi and I were very close and entirely candid throughout. We even discussed whether or not some schools might be playing their race card. I maintained that it didn't matter: go with whatever is working. There was absolutely no

question about his academic prowess, his ability to continue performing, or his devotion to pursuing a medical career.

Space does not permit a recounting of the pros and cons he listed for the final four options. UCSD had accepted him in a heartbeat but didn't stand a chance; Abdi knew it was time to leave home and study somewhere else. Although I stayed in my hometown for medical school, I understood his desire to strike out for other parts. But would it be the Ivy League or the Big Ten or the UC System that won the competition for Abdi?

I watched as he made the decision he believed was the right one for him: UC San Francisco, where he currently thrives. I'm still receiving reports.

In Dublin's Fair City

By Henry Powell

Professor Emeritus of Neuropathology

Last October, I returned to Dublin for a visit. The weather was mild and balmy, much as I remembered from my college days there some five decades earlier. When I would ride into town on a moped in weather like this I would marvel at the coloration of the sky, a shade that might be called duck-egg blue.

Dublin itself is a landmark, the site of an epic clash between two very different cultures, Viking and Irish. As with other Irish cities, Dublin's harbor proved all too welcoming to the Norsemen's long ships. The foundations of literary Dublin are rooted in the verbal clash between natives and invaders; the Irish used gentle humor to ingratiate themselves with the Vikings and satire to abuse them when they behaved badly. The Viking era ended with an epic battle in 1014 followed by a centur

ry and half of self-rule. Internecine rivalry and acts of disloyalty brought in a new group of invaders, the Normans. They moved inland and rebuilt medieval Ireland. Independence came only much later, after the "rising" that ended colonial rule. In the oldest part of the city, known as "the liberties," Ireland's first medieval cathedral was built and still stands. A recent innovation is the Viking museum, located on the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin's premier Anglican cathedral. Nearby is St. Patrick's Cathedral, former home of Jonathan Swift, whose body, in his own words, lies where "savage indignation no longer lacerates his

Commuting to the city in the early morning was always a pleasure, because street after street marks the birthplace of one Irish writer after another. The former homes of Dublin's literary lions are marked with memorial plaques and

most date from the 18th century, so the city has the flavor of an open -air museum. Once in a while the street scene is enlivened by a real Dublin character. For me that happened one especially memorable morning when I reached a traffic stop at the bottom of Harcourt Terrace where an elegantly dressed man stood waiting to cross the street. His face was most arresting. partly because it was covered in make-up, the result of spending almost every night of his life in front of an audience. The traces of greasepaint could never be completely removed, nor could his theatrical manner be missed. The man behind the masque was Micheál MacLiammóir, one of Dublin's best known and most beloved actors.

MacLiammóir's walk across the city would take him to the Gate Theater, where he and **Hilton Edwards**, his life-partner, produced plays -- from time to time, featur-

ing the American actor **Orson**Welles. (There was a place on the ceiling of the theater where Welles had put his foot through the plaster and no one had seen fit to fix.) Although he had been born **Alfred**Lee Wilmore, in London, he embraced his Irish heritage with such fervor that he not only changed his name into one rooted in the Old Sod, but also pretended to have been born in Cork!

As I think back of him I recall another great actor, who introduced me to Shakespeare. He was Anew McMaster, whose sister happened to be married to MacLiammóir, and who founded a "touring theater" called The Intimate Shakespeare Company. McMaster came to my secondary school only once but I will never forget what I saw that evening. Alone on the stage, without costumes or make up, he played character after character from the best-known works. By turns he was Macbeth, he was Shylock, he was Othello, he was Lear. And most unforgettably, he was Hamlet. Performing alone, without sets or support of any kind, he punctuated each change of character by turning his back to us. Then he would revolve slowly to confront us with an altogether new character, as if he had changed his face too. One time after another, we were thunderstruck. McMaster's life was the subject of Harold **Pinter**'s book *Mac.* Pinter noted his magnificent appearance and "'great, organ-like voice."

Growing up, my next theatrical treat was to attend a performance by MacLiammóir of his oneperson play, "The Importance of Being Oscar" (which can be viewed, amazingly, on You Tube). In this piece he would play many parts from **Oscar Wilde**'s "The Importance of Being Earnest," including the role of Lady Bracknell. As the unlucky Ernest (alias Jack Worthing) reveals his origins

to her, including his ignorance of the identity of either of his parents, the actor's voice was clothed with sarcasm as he rendered her famous remark that "to lack one parent is unfortunate, but to lose both is negligent." When she asks how this could happen and where was he born, and hears his disarming reply that he was found in a luggage bag at a railway station, she erupts with indignation: "Found! Lady Bracknell's voice now sounded like a bell tolling out the word "found," the death knell of Ernest's social prospects. The Dublin audience loved it. They readily empathized with their wayward countryman, the inimitable Wilde. In 1957 the UK parliamentary Wolfenden Report recommended that homosexuality should no longer be viewed as a crime. A shift in judicial and public opinion followed, and I like to think that the persecution Wilde suffered and MacLiammóir's performance of his play had something to do with the change.

MacLiammóir's walk down Stephens Green would pass other landmarks, notably the Royal College of Surgeons, now a medical school. There, in 1916 part of the famous Easter uprising had been led by women soldiers. One of them was known by her married name of **Countess Constance Markievicz.** While doing some community work as a medical student I talked to an old lady who had witnessed the surrender of Madame Markievicz and her comrades. She told me that the ever-defiant grande dame kissed her gun before turning it over to the British officer. Markievicz, who designed the uniforms of the women volunteers with a sense of style and elegance, later became a social worker and sold off everything she owned, down to her jewelry, to help the poor to whom she ministered. All the while she remained a countess and expected the extra measure of respect that was her social due. Her spirit haunts the landmark.

After St. Stephen's Green, the next small park is Merrion Square. now the site of a recently erected statue of Wilde - whose full name was Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde. It is placed across the street from the family residence and consulting rooms of his father, Sir William Wilde, Ireland's leading ophthalmic and ear nose and throat surgeon and a famous antiquary. Nearby is Ireland's National Gallery of Art, well funded by the estate of **George Bernard Shaw.** The enduring success of My Fair Lady, as well as Shaw's own plays, books and other writings, continues to support the gallery, recently renovated and housing both Irish and classical European art. Rodin's statue of GBS stands in the fover, positioned so that one can easily mistake it for a living person, as I did.

A left turn at the foot of St. Stephen's Green will take you from the top of Grafton Street and into King Street where a well-loved landmark is the Gaiety Theater, the home of Christmas pantomimes stretching back to the nineteenth century. Locally and colloquially known as the "panto," these shows introduced audiences to comedy and horror. One youngster who never forgot the panto was Bram Stoker, a graduate of Trinity College Dublin who threw over a civil service job to work with the great actor **Henry Irving**. In the high Victorian period Dublin was very much into "Gothic" novels and horror stories. Irving's acting, along with his chilly personality, contributed to "Dracula," Stoker's iconic creation. Stoker was a fine writer who did a lot of his research at Trinity College Library, another literary landmark with a world-class collection. The TCD library houses not only the Book of Kells, Ireland's most celebrated manuscript, but an immense and diverse collection, owing to a royal

decree that designated it one of only three libraries entitled to a copy of every book published in the UK, forever. I never hesitate to recommend Dracula to a student, since I can respond to any concern about an author being a "dead white male" with the information that the subject is an "undead" white male and a film star to boot.

On the opposite side of St. Stephen's Green are buildings owned by the National University, and its constituent University College Dublin, which I attended. Founded by the British after Catholic Emancipation, the future university was first described as "the Catholic University." Cardinal Cullen, the Primate of Ireland, was determined to shape it, and upon being advised to "'first get Newman" he named as its founding president the ablest Catholic scholar of the time, John Henry Newman. Newman had been a leading Anglican divine at Oxford when, after a lifetime studying the teachings of the church fathers, he rejected the Reformation and promptly found himself out of a job.

When Newman took the rectorship in Dublin, little did he know what awaited him. All that remains of the first "Newman landmark" is a very beautiful facade on Cecilia Street where the first college building stood. Here Newman had to do the dreary work of setting up a chemistry lab for medical students. A Georgian building at 86 Steven's Green is known as Newman House and it is located next to a unique building known as "University Church," a Catholic chapel constructed under Newman's direction and utterly "Newmanesque" in that its architecture is Byzantine, in places even Islamic. Newman did not like the prevailing neo-Gothic style any more than he did the industrial revolution and the concomitant demands for "utilitarian" education. But his mind was busy planning a series of lectures for the general public -- to whom, he observed, "some explanation is due" about what he wanted to make of UCD. Newman turned his lectures into a unique and influential book, *The Idea of the University*.

Cardinal Cullen was far from pleased either with the spirit of intellectual independence Newman showed, or with his eloquent plea that the liberal arts be the focus of education. The Irish hierarchy simply refused to follow his lead. Byzantine architecture and patristic texts were one thing, but byzantine politics Irish style doomed his rectorship and he returned to England after a few years. He cannot be claimed as a Dublin writer, but he is often described as one of the finest prose stylists of his time. And fittingly, the latest piece of news from Ireland is that 86 St. Stephens Green, Newman House, will now be turned into a "Ulysses Museum" honoring James Joyce, a self-styled "misbeliever" who was even more disliked by the hierarchy.

A visit to Dublin today is a con-



James Joyce statue in Dublin

stant evocation of Joyce more than any other writer. As Joyce's writing often shows, Irish humor is grounded in a keen sense of incongruity quickly repurposed and disguised as plain speech. Eamon De Valera, the former President of Ireland and often elected head of government, was captured by the British in the town of Ennis, County Clare, and spent a year in jail. After being freed he went right back to Ennis

and gave a speech starting "As I was saying before being interrupted...." Of course, no comment on humor is complete without the insight of Yogi Berra, who upon learning that Dublin during the '50s had a Jewish Lord Mayor, is reported to have said "Only in America." No one bothered to mention that the Lord Mayor of Cork, Gerald Goldberg, was of the same faith and served in the same era. Perhaps Ireland returned the favor to Israel through the services of **Vivian Herzog**, son of the Chief Rabbi of Ireland, an RAF pilot during the war and a founder of Israel's Air Force, and later its President -- better known as Chaim, the translation of "Vivian" into its Hebrew equivalent.

A walk across St. Stephen's Green will take you to the old St. Vincent's Hospital, where both my father and I received our clinical medical training. My dad remembers walking down the steps facing Stephen's Green and seeing the poet William Butler Yeats walking towards him. "Did you talk to him?" I asked, hoping to hear

something memorable. "Of course not," my father said, "you didn't interrupt a man like that." And, anyhow, Ireland's greatest poet was not given to witty conversation and was therefore

not as popular as many with lesser talents. Moreover, he was into strange medical treatments aimed at "rejuvenation," which led Dublin's chattering class to refer to him as "Willie the Spook" and the "Gland Old Man." The old St. Vincent's Hospital, opened in 1834, was distinguished for its interior decor and plasterworks designed by **Robert Adam**. When **President Kennedy** visited Dublin in 1963,

his wife **Jacqueline**, rightly remembered as a connoisseur of art, made a discrete visit to the hospital to look up at Adam's remarkable ceilings.

On my visit, I turned back to Grafton Street, Dublin's main shopping street, in recent years closed to all but pedestrian traffic, a most welcome development. At the end of the thoroughfare looms another great landmark, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland's most prestigious university. Statues of two great alumni. Edmund Burke and Oliver **Goldsmith**. flank the entrance and look out over College Green. Although the entrance has little that is green, once you pass through it and cross the cobblestones, you behold the most verdant place in Dublin, the beautiful grounds of Trinity College.

Here Jonathan Swift befriended the philosopher George Berkeley, later writing a very enthusiastic testimonial for Berkeley, who wanted to create his own university on the island of Bermuda. (At least Berkeley gave his name to a university in California that was to become illustrious.) Trinity was Wilde's alma mater. His adored mentor John Pentland Mahaffy was a classics scholar, a famous wit, and eventually Provost of the College. While he was aspiring to the position, Mahaffy was told that his predecessor was ill and replied, "Nothing trivial, I hope." Appointed to the position Mahaffy was asked by a women's rights activist to explain the difference between women and men. Mahaffy responded: "Madame, I cannot conceive." On religious matters too Mahaffy's comments were pointed. He once defined an Irish atheist as a man who wishes to God he could believe in God. Wilde described Mahaffy as "the first and finest teacher I ever had," but that didn't stop him from writing an unfavorable review of one of Mahaffy's books. Samuel **Johnson** had something to say

about that kind of behavior: "The Irish are a very fair people. They never say anything good about one another." It should be noted that the great "'Dr." Johnson, after failing to get a doctorate from either Oxford or Cambridge, applied to Trinity College and received the degree. Could any people be fairer

than that? Even the film censor, a Dubliner, once complained that his job left him caught "between the Devil and the Holy See."

Powell was invited to Dublin by the Royal Dublin Society (founded in 1731) to present a lecture on lay contributions to the advancement of medicine.

Remembering Kurt Benirschke Edward A. Dickson Professor Emeritus

By Henry Powell

Kurt Benirschke was the most charismatic pathologist I have ever met. Habitually cheerful, energetic, ever organized, he was always in good humor. And although he was the most diligent of scientists, he also had keen cultural interests. He had a tremendous love of opera and was happy to fly to any part of Europe to hear a diva like Joan Sutherland.

Kurt spent a good deal of his life in the Hillcrest hospital basement where, in cheery defiance of regulations, he puffed away at his pipe. He did things other faculty are loath to do: after an autopsy he would clean up the whole place, even swabbing the floors with mops and brooms. He worked away solving problems and explaining mechanisms of disease with panache and gusto. His pediatric pathology conferences drew such a crowd that bleachers were installed in the morgue to facilitate attendance. The undisputed expert in placental pathology, his book on the subject was the standard text. He was also fascinated by twin births and the biology of twinning.

As a comparative pathologist, he was eager to understand reproductive disease in every species. He was deeply fascinated by peccaries, armadillos and dolphins, to name but a few. He spent many years practicing pathology at the San Diego Zoo, explaining such puzzles as why koalas got cirrhosis and eagles, avian pox virus. Drawing on a rich fund of experience over six decades, he loved to reason his way through problems. Working with him was always a delight. The only thing that puzzled him is why everyone in medicine didn't find such problems as utterly fascinating as he did.

Kurt Benirschke was much too unique ever to be replaced. Those of us who mourn him will console ourselves that we are blessed to have known and happy to remember this altogether admirable and remarkable colleague.



Kurt Benirschke

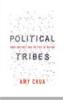
UCSD Emeriti Association Book Club

All EA Book Club Meetings are held at the UCSD Faculty Club, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



Monday, November 26, 2018
Frankenstein;
The Modern Prometheus
By Mary Shelly
Presented by Professor Emeritus
Fred Randel

Monday, December 10, 2018 Political Tribes, by Amy Chua





Monday, January 28, 2019 After Europe by Ivan Krastev

Chronicles

Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Association

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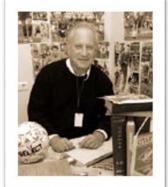


Mark your Calendar!



Emeriti & Retirement Associations Festive Holiday Party (\$10 per member \$50 for non-members)

Saturday, December 8, 1 - 4 PM 94th Aero Squadron, on Aero Drive Please mail in your checks in today.



Professor Robert Edelman, History

"Sports and the Academy: The Scholarship of Popular Culture" with Professor Robert Edelman, History Wednesday, January 9, 3:30 - 5:00 PM Ida & Cecil Green Faculty Club

Professor Emeritus John Wixted

"The Role of Eyewitness Memory in Wrongful Convictions of the Innocent"

Wednesday, February 13, 3:30 - 5:00 PM Ida & Cecil Green Faculty Club

