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**April 2017**

A Joint Publication of the Southern California and  
San Gorgonio Sections of the American Chemical Society



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## **Southern California Section**

**Tolman Award Dinner  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

**Recipient of the 2016  
Tolman Medal:  
Prof. Paul S. Weiss  
University of California,  
Los Angeles  
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# Southern California Section

## Chair's Message



Hello Fellow ACS Members!



Spring is upon us! We at SCALACS are planning activities that will bring more of us together surrounded by our passion - science! Earlier in March we visited Firestone Walker Brewery to learn about the intriguing chemistry behind brewing. The tour was organized by local section member Heather Mott. Please visit our Facebook page to check out pictures and thanks to Firestone Walker for hosting us. Here is an interesting detail: Nowadays a symposium is a scholarly conference, although for the ancient Greeks it was an all-male after dinner drinking party which might have included educational discourse! Perhaps more tours like this are in order.

During April and May we have many activities and celebrations. We congratulate Professor Paul Weiss from UCLA who is the 2016 recipient of the Richard Tolman Award. We recognize his contributions to surface science and molecular devices where he continues to foster innovation and discovery in these fields. Join us in celebrating Paul's achievements on **May 24** at the UCLA Faculty Club. More details are on page 3.

On and around **April 22** we will celebrate Chemists Celebrate Earth Day! We be joining the March for Science in Pershing Square, Downtown LA. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Also, we will be collaborating with the California Science Center in their Annual CCED event on **April 23**.

On **April 22** SCLACS is hosting the local U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Test at Cal. State Dominguez Hills. Good luck to all participating this year!

On **April 30** at 1:00 pm SCALACS is hosting another event for NCW 2017 "Chemistry Rocks!" We will be at UCLA to visit their Meteorite Collection accompanied by a geochemistry talk by one of their researchers.

SCALACS will be participating in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) at the Los Angeles Convention Center, helping ACS National and acting as judges for the ACS awards. If you are interested in participating as a judge please contact Nancy in the SCALACS office at [office@scalacs.org](mailto:office@scalacs.org). Intel ISEF 2017 will take place from **May 14 to May 19**. Please visit our website for more information on these and other activities.

In closing, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families of Ron Weiner, Bert Osen and George Olah. Bert, Ron and George made significant contributions to our SCLACS family and will be missed. Ron, Bert and George will always be remembered for their friendship, kindness, and their tireless devotion to improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry.

- Armando Rivera, Chair  
- Bob de Groot, Chair Elect

## **Southern California Section**

### **Tolman Award Dinner Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

#### **UCLA Faculty Center Main Dining Room**

480 Charles E. Young Drive, East  
Los Angeles, CA 90095

### **“Exploring the Ultimate Limits of Miniaturization”**

**Paul S. Weiss**

**Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, UCLA**

6:00 p.m. Check-in and Hosted Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Presentation

**The Award:** The Richard C. Tolman Medal is awarded each year by the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society in recognition of outstanding contributions to chemistry in Southern California. The Tolman Medal recognizes broad accomplishments in chemistry rather than a single fundamental discovery. These contributions may be of several kinds, including seminal research of widely regarded influence, achievements of broad impact in chemical technology, significant contributions to chemical education, and outstanding leadership in science on a national level. To be eligible for the Medal, the recipient must have accomplished a major portion of his or her work while a resident of Southern California.

**Abstract:** We use molecular design, tailored syntheses, intermolecular interactions, and selective chemistry to explore the ultimate limits of miniaturization. We direct molecules into desired positions to create nanostructures, to connect functional molecules to the outside world, and to serve as test structures for measuring single or bundled molecules. Interactions within and between molecules can be designed, directed, measured, understood, and exploited at unprecedented scales. Such interactions can be used to form precise molecular assemblies, nanostructures, and patterns, and to control and to stabilize function. We selectively test hypothesized mechanisms of function by varying molecular design, chemical environment, and measurement conditions to enable or to disable function and control using predictive and testable means. Critical to understanding these variations has been developing the means to make tens to hundreds of thousands of independent single-molecule/assembly measurements in order to develop sufficiently significant statistical distributions, while retaining the  
(Continued on Page 4)

## Southern California Section

### Tolman Dinner Abstract (Continued from Page 3)

intrinsic heterogeneity in the measured function of the molecules and assemblies. We have likewise developed and applied the means to map buried chemical functionality and interactions. The next steps are to apply these ideas to biomolecular assemblies and larger biological systems to understand the variations in structure and function that have been inaccessible to study.

Please see Prof. Weiss's biography on Page 5.

**Cost:** There is a choice of dinner entrees of Marinated Grilled Rib-Eye Steak w/ herbed polenta, veal demi glaze, and vegetables (\$40) or Portobello Mushroom Ravioli w/ Swiss chard, porcini cream sauce and truffle oil drizzle (\$40). Both options include a hosted social hour, salad, dessert, wine with dinner and tax and tip, payable at the door with cash or check. **Please RSVP to Nancy in the Section Office at [office@scalacs.org](mailto:office@scalacs.org) by Friday, May 5, 2017.**

**Directions:** For directions to the campus, use this link: <http://maps.ucla.edu/campus/?locid=83901>. Parking is \$12 for guest parking in Parking Lot 2 (just south of the Faculty Center).

### UCLA Meteorite Gallery Tour

**Sunday, April 30, 2017**

**1:00 p.m.**

#### UCLA Geology Building

595 Charles E. Young Dr.  
East, Los Angeles, CA, 90095

The UCLA Collection of Meteorites is the largest on the West Coast and contains over 2500 samples from about 1500 different meteorites. It is the fifth largest collection of meteorites in the United States and the second largest housed at a university.

**RSVP:** This is a free tour, but space is limited to 30 people, based on a first-come, first-served basis. Please RSVP to Nancy Paradiso in the Section Office at [office@scalacs.org](mailto:office@scalacs.org) by April 24. Meet in the Court of Sciences, in front of the Geology Building.

**Directions:** Parking is available in Lot 2. For a map of the campus, plus directions, please go to <http://www.meteorites.ucla.edu/visit/>

### **Congratulations to our 2016 Richard C. Tolman Award Recipient Paul S. Weiss**

Paul S. Weiss holds a UC Presidential Chair and is a distinguished professor of chemistry & biochemistry and of materials science & engineering at UCLA. He received his S.B. and S.M. degrees in chemistry from MIT and his Ph.D. in chemistry from UC Berkeley. He was a postdoctoral member of technical staff at Bell Laboratories and a visiting scientist at IBM Almaden Research Center. He served as the director of the California NanoSystems Institute and held the Fred Kavli Chair in NanoSystems Sciences at UCLA from 2009-14. Before coming to UCLA, he was a distinguished professor of chemistry and physics at Penn State, where he began his academic career in 1989. His interdisciplinary research group includes chemists, physicists, biologists, materials scientists, mathematicians, electrical and mechanical engineers, computer scientists, clinicians, and physician scientists. They focus on the ultimate limits of miniaturization, exploring the atomic-scale chemical, physical, optical, mechanical, and electronic properties of surfaces, interfaces, and supramolecular assemblies.

Weiss has been awarded a NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award, the BF Goodrich Collegiate Inventors Award, an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship, the ACS Nobel Laureate Signature Award for Graduate Education in Chemistry, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a NSF Creativity Award, and the ACS Award in Colloid and Surface Chemistry, among others. He was elected a fellow of: the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society, the American Vacuum Society, the ACS, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and an honorary fellow of the Chinese Chemical Society. He has been a visiting professor at Caltech, Harvard, the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Kyoto University, and the University of Washington. He is the founding and current editor-in-chief of *ACS Nano*. At *ACS Nano*, he and his team won the Association of American Publishers, Professional Scholarly Publishing PROSE Award, Best New Journal in Science, Technology, and Medicine, and ISI's Rising Star Award a record ten times.

## Southern California Section

### In Memoriam George Olah



It is with great sadness that we heard of the news of the passing of Prof. George Olah of the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute at USC. Prof. Olah was the Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry and founding director of the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute.

In addition to receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1994, Prof. Olah was also the recipient of the ACS Priestly Medal in 2005 as well as the Southern California Section's Richard C. Tolman Medal in 1991.

Prof. Olah's post-Nobel research focused not only on developing a promising new approach for solving long-range dependence on dwindling and nonrenewable fossil fuels, but also on mitigating global climate change caused by derived greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. His novel approach — which he termed “the methanol economy” — was based on the use of methanol for energy storage as a convenient renewable liquid fuel to replace gasoline and diesel and as a feedstock for making petroleum-derived products. He made significant contributions to the development of improved lead-free gasoline, cleaner high-octane gas and other promising nonpolluting fuels, as well as many chemical processes now used in pharmaceutical and industrial chemistry. His research also led to the development of a new kind of fuel cell, called the direct liquid methanol fuel cell, a highly efficient source of electricity.

Prof. Olah is survived by his wife, Judith, and his sons, George and Ronald. Details of a USC campus celebration of Olah's life are pending. Source: <http://news.usc.edu>.

### Outreach Activities

The 2017 theme for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day is “Chemistry Helps Feed the World”.

**April 23, 2017: Chemists Celebrate Earth Day Activities at the California Science Center**, 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037, website: <http://www.californiasciencecenter.org>. Join volunteers for CCED activities. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer please contact Henry Abrash at: [abrash8@aol.com](mailto:abrash8@aol.com).

**The Intel Science Fair will take place on May 14-19, 2017.** If you would like to volunteer as a judge, please contact Armando Rivera at [riveraam@elac.edu](mailto:riveraam@elac.edu).

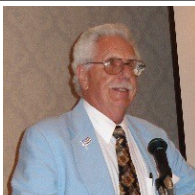


## Southern California Section

### In Memoriam Ronald Weiner

Ronald Ellis Weiner, PhD, member of the Executive Committee of the Southern California Section, died February 25, 2017 of complications from pancreatic cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Ron was born in Utica, New York and graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a BS in Electrical Engineering and went on to get his PhD in Biophysics. His post-doctoral position was at Yale University. He then focused his research on radiopharmaceutical chemistry in Radiology Departments at Yale University, University of Kansas Medical Center and at Indiana University Medical Center. This was followed by 18 years at the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC). Ron taught Nuclear Medicine and Radiology residents, technologists, Cardiology fellows and medical students. He performed research on a variety of radiopharmaceuticals resulting in numerous publications. He was Director of the UCHC Radiopharmacy. He rose to Full Professor in the Department of Diagnostic Imaging and Therapeutics. Along the way, he also worked at NIH and wrote chapters for several medical textbooks. His last full time position was at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO), a federal agency near Sydney, Australia where he was Head of a Radionuclide Development Institute. After retirement, he moved to California and taught chemistry at Pasadena Community College to students who were on track to become nurses, which he saw as service to the medical community. Ron is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Carole, as well as by his daughter, Ilana Orea.



### In Memoriam Lambert "Bert" Osen

March 10, 2017 at 1:30 AM, Lambert "Bert" Osen succumbed after a long and lingering period of slow and steady decline in immobility and health. His passing was peaceful, and in his sleep. Bert was a very active, and spirited, member of SCALACS. He was an excellent paint chemist. His years in industry spanned decades of technological change and growth. He was a voracious reader of technical papers and journals and was always at the forefront of technology. He is survived by his wife, Shari and his son, Larry.

## Undergraduate Research Conference

The 2017 Undergraduate Research Conference in Chemistry and Biochemistry will be held at the **University of California, Los Angeles on Saturday, April 29, 2017**. The Second Call for Abstracts will be on March 8th and the deadline for submissions of abstracts is **Friday, March 31, 2017**. For more information, please visit the conference website <http://www.chemistry.ucla.edu/southern-california-undergraduate-research-conference-scurc> or contact Prof. Tom Calhoun at [tcagoon@chem.ucla.edu](mailto:tcagoon@chem.ucla.edu).



## **This Month in Chemical History**

Harold Goldwhite, California State University,  
Los Angeles  
hgoldwh@calstatela.edu

In my last column and this one I am looking at the careers of two extraordinary women who made fundamental contributions to our understanding of surface chemistry. Last month I focused on Agnes Pockels, a self-taught German experimenter. This month it is the turn of Katharine Burr Blodgett, an American scientist who made her significant contributions as an industrial chemist. Katharine Blodgett was born in Schenectady, New York on January 10, 1898. To her family and friends she was always known as Katie. Her father was a patent attorney for General Electric, but Katie was born just after his death. They were left well-supported and moved to New York city, then to France when Katie was 3, and back to New York when she entered her teens. She attended high school in New York, showed an aptitude for mathematics, and graduated at 15. Earning a scholarship to Bryn Mawr she earned her bachelor's degree at 19. It was there that she developed an interest in physics. She revisited some of her father's old friends at Schenectady and was introduced at General Electric's laboratories to Irving Langmuir. On his recommendation she continued her education; at the University of Chicago she earned a Master's degree with a thesis on gas masks (it was the time of World War I). She was immediately hired by General Electric in Schenectady but was encouraged to continue her education and joined Rutherford's team at Cambridge University in England working on ionization in mercury vapor. She became the first woman awarded a Ph.D. in physics at Cambridge.

Back at General Electric she was a frequent collaborator of Langmuir's. He was then working on thin films on water surfaces and had invented the Langmuir trough to explore this field. (Agnes Pockel had developed a very similar apparatus for her investigations decades earlier, but her work was not well-known at the time). Blodgett and Langmuir examined very thin films of oils, lipids, polymers etc. on water, glass, and metal surfaces. Blodgett improved the techniques to the stage where she was able to attach films one molecule thick on top of each other on what became known as the Langmuir-Blodgett trough. A practical application soon followed; a film of barium stearate on glass cut down reflection until the glass was 99% transmissive – invisible glass. This Langmuir-Blodgett coating was used on cameras during and after World War II.

Blodgett's inventions continued. Her color gauge measured accurately the thicknesses of molecular coatings on surfaces. Together with Langmuir, she improved the performance of incandescent light bulbs. They also began studies on electric discharges in gases that helped advance plasma physics. In all Katie authored eight patents and over thirty scientific articles. She was honored with the Garvan medal of the A.C.S. in 1951; an Achievement Award from the American Association of University Women in 1945; recognition from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; the Katherine Blodgett Day in Schenectady in 1951; and posthumous induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2007.  
*(Continued on Page 9)*

## This Month in Chemical History

(Continued from Page 9)

But it wasn't all science for Katie. She was an enthusiastic amateur actress; an amateur astronomer; and a renowned cook. Her popovers and applesauce were locally famous, but alas that was one area where she left us no publications. She never married but had long-term relationships with two other women - called (quaintly) at that time "Boston Marriages". She died quietly at home on October 12, 1979 at the age of 81.

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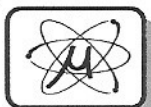
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## Insights Into IP Law

**Keith Orso\***, Irell & Manella LLP  
KOrso@irell.com

The United States recently adopted a new definition of “prior art”—the publicly-accessible information against which the subject matter of a patent claim is compared in order to determine whether that subject matter is patentable. The previous edition of this column explained that the new definition of prior art applies to any patent application that contains—or contained at any time—a claim to an invention having an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013. As explained, the effective filing date is essentially the filing date of the application itself or the filing date of the oldest related application that supports a designation of priority and describes the claimed invention. So far, so good? Hold on to your hat.

The new definition of prior art also applies to a patent application that has never contained any claim to an invention having an effective date on or after March 16, 2013 but that claims priority (or ever claimed priority) to an earlier application that did.

If there ever existed in a patent application itself, or in an earlier application to which it asserts priority, even a single claim having an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013, then the new definition of prior art applies to all claims of the application—even if the claim subjecting the application to the new definition is later canceled.

Conversely, the old definition of prior art applies to any application filed before March 16, 2013. And part of the old definition applies even for applications subject to the new definition if the application itself, or a later application asserting priority to it, contains any claim having an effective filing date before March 16, 2013. Nobody said these rules are simple.

Now that we know when the new definition of prior art applies, we can examine the new definition itself: “A person shall be entitled to a patent unless—(1) the claimed invention was patented, described in a printed publication, or in public use, on sale, or otherwise available to the public before the effective filing date of the claimed invention; or (2) the claimed invention was described in a patent issued under [the Patent Statute], or in an application for patent published or deemed published under [the Patent Statute], in which the patent or application, as the case may be, names another inventor and was effectively filed before the effective filing date of the claimed invention.” As can be seen, the categories of non-patent prior art documents and activities are set forth in section (1) and the categories of prior art patent documents are set forth in section (2). The next edition of this column will unpack the new definition further.

\* The author earned engineering and chemical engineering under-graduate and graduate degrees, and is a patent attorney and partner at the law firm of Irell & Manella LLP. This column does not constitute legal advice and does not necessarily reflect the views of the firm or its clients.



### Chair's Message

"April showers bring May flowers." This statement brings back many memories to me as one who grew up in Western Washington. Rain was quite common the first months of the year and provided the ample moisture for beautiful blooms in spring and summer. Now that I am in Southern California and especially this year, the updated statement should be January and February showers bring March flowers. This is particularly true in our local deserts where the wildflower blooms are the greatest they have been in years. And who has failed to see how verdant the hillsides are this year. Last month I wrote about plant biochemistry and in the context of all the growth we see around us this spring I want to recognize an April-born chemist, Melvin Calvin. Calvin and his group carried out the definitive studies that showed how plants convert atmospheric carbon dioxide into the carbohydrate needed for plant growth. For this discovery of what we know as the Calvin Cycle, Professor Calvin was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1961. This metabolic process increases in significance as the world tries to deal with increasing carbon dioxide levels and brings to mind a second statement: "Have you thanked a green plant today"?

Our February meeting on the Chemistry of Wine was excellent as usual. Ernie Simpson guided us through several exercises that helped us appreciate the complexities of wine tasting. Personally I found that I was poor at identifying specific smells and would probably never be the one who could classify a given Pinot Noir as having aromas of raspberry, cranberry, along with developing nutmeg, clove, and smoke notes. Guess I'll just enjoy the taste. In March we again this year had approximately 300 high school students sit for the first round of the Chemistry Olympiad. A couple new high schools, but we will continue to try to involve more schools in the program.

Now for April. As indicated on page 13, the annual Goldstein Lecture will be on Friday, April 7 at Cal Poly Pomona. Dr. Luis Campos from Columbia University will be the speaker. On Saturday, April 22, we will have the second round of the Chemistry Olympiad. This year the event will be held at the University of California, Riverside. We thank the Chemistry Department at UCR for making their facilities available to the Section. Our last event in April is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, April 27, and will be at Marie Callender's in Ontario. The title of the presentation is "The "Full Court Press" – Treating depression in a comprehensive manner". Complete details are to be found on page 12.

In May we will be having our annual High School student and teacher recognition evening so watch for details in the next SCALACS. As usual I continue to welcome suggestions of possible topics for our meetings as well as suggestions for speakers. You can always contact me via e-mail at [dpedersn@csusb.edu](mailto:dpedersn@csusb.edu).

Dennis Pederson, Chair

## San Gorgonio Section

### April Dinner Meeting Thursday, April 27, 2017

#### The "Full Court Press" – Treating Depression in a Comprehensive Manner Dr. Sam Althausen

#### Marie Callender's

2149 E Convention Center Way  
Ontario, CA

Social and Checkin: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Program: 7:30 pm

**Program Overview:** Major Depressive Disorder is one of the most common mental health disorders in the United States, with roughly 16 million adults suffering from a Major Depressive Episode in the past year. While there have been advances in the treatment of mental health and reduction in the stigma surrounding mental illness, far too many people fail to seek treatment. Even when treatment is sought, comprehensive care is often not obtained. Psychotherapy, medication management, and a healthy lifestyle, are all part of complete and proper treatment of depression. During this talk, we will discuss these modalities and the evidence behind their use in the treatment of depression.

**Speaker:** Dr. Sam Althausen was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He traveled west to Northfield, MN where he obtained his B.A. in Chemistry from Carleton College. He attended medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, prior to starting his residency at Loma Linda University. Currently a second year resident, he will be a chief resident at Loma Linda next year. His interests include psychosomatic medicine and academic psychiatry.

**Dinner, Cost and Reservations:** Choose one of the following: Soup & Salad Bar, Braised and Slow Roasted Pot Roast, or Lemon-Crusted Salmon. These entrees will come with Caesar Salad, Cornbread, and Fountain Drinks, Iced Tea, or Coffee. The meal includes a slice of Apple, Chocolate Cream, or Lemon Meringue Pie. The cost will be \$20 for ACS members, \$25 for nonmembers, \$15 for retirees and \$10 for students. Please make your reservation no later than **Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** by contacting either Dennis Pederson (909-886-2196, [dpedersn@csusb.edu](mailto:dpedersn@csusb.edu)) or Eileen DiMauro ([EDiMauro@MtSAC.edu](mailto:EDiMauro@MtSAC.edu)).

**Directions:** From the west, take Interstate 10 to the Vineyard Ave. Exit (54). Turn right on Vineyard Ave., turn left onto E. Convention Center Way, turn left onto Kline St., and turn left at the Holiday Inn sign. The restaurant is located behind the Holiday Inn. From the east, take Interstate 10 to the Holt Blvd. Exit (55A). Follow Holt Blvd. to the Marie Callender's sign, turn right, and then turn right again at the Holiday Inn sign. The restaurant is behind the Holiday Inn.

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## 10th Annual Goldstein Distinguished Lecture Friday, April 7, 2017

### Kellogg West Conference Center

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### “Physical Organic Chemistry Approaches to Polymer Science and Engineering” Speaker: Dr. Luis Campos, Associate Professor

Department of Chemistry  
Columbia University

Lunch (No Charge) 12:00-1:00  
Lecture 1:00-2:00

RSVP for lunch by March 31st to [goldsteinaward@cpp.edu](mailto:goldsteinaward@cpp.edu) or call  
909-869-3653 for reservations. No reservation is needed for the  
lecture.

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**Bi-Section Chemists' Calendar**

For more information on these events, please check our website at  
[www.scalacs.org](http://www.scalacs.org)

**April**

- 2-6 National ACS Meeting in San Francisco
- 7 SG Goldstein Lecture—see page 13
- 22 Earth Day and March for Science in Los Angeles—see SC  
Chair's Message on page 2
- 23 SC CCED Event at the California Science Center—see page 6
- 27 SC UCLA Meteorite Gallery Tour—see page 4
- 27 SG Dinner Meeting—see page 12
- 29 SC Undergraduate Research Conference at UCLA—see page 7

**May**

- 14-19 Intel Science Fair—see page 6
- 24 SC Tolman Award Dinner honoring Prof. Paul Weiss at UCLA—  
see page 3