



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Deans and Faculty

FROM: Elizabeth Garrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: February 14, 2011

RE: Provost's Distinguished Lectureship Fund

### Office of the Provost

#### Elizabeth Garrett

Provost and  
Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Frances R. and  
John J. Duggan  
Professor of Law,  
Political Science  
and Public Policy

I am pleased to announce a new program to support signature events that showcase the university to exceptional visitors and engage the broader university community. The Provost's Distinguished Lectureship Fund will assist schools, departments and programs in bringing distinguished faculty to our university, with the goals of increasing the visibility of USC's vibrant academic community and laying the foundation for the recruitment of transformative scholars to USC.

This new program extends my office's support for hiring interdisciplinary scholars ("Provost's Professors"), faculty whose scholarship and teaching promotes diversity, and faculty in neuroscience, humanities and social sciences. That support is targeted at providing resources that supplement offers being made by schools to outstanding faculty recruits. However, it is also important that we are aggressive in the initial identification and outreach to scholars who may enhance our academic community.

Each visitor supported by this fund will be designated as a holder of one of three lectureships I have established in honor of three transformative faculty members of USC's early decades: the "Frank Baxter Distinguished Lecturer" in the humanities and arts, the "Emory Bogardus Distinguished Lecturer" in the social sciences, and the "Irene McCulloch Distinguished Lecturer" in the sciences and engineering. For information on these faculty members, see the following appendix and the "Early Faculty Notables" page on the Faculty Portal: [www.usc.edu/faculty/](http://www.usc.edu/faculty/).

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Proposals to the Distinguished Lectureship Fund should include a biography of the visitor or visitors, a description of the event, the target audience, an explanation of how the event will increase USC's visibility and, most importantly, how the event will increase the likelihood of attracting transformative faculty either as related to one of the Provost's hiring initiatives or as part of a school's independent plan for increasing excellence. A budget (including amounts to be provided by the school or schools) and plan of execution should also be submitted.

Proposals should be submitted by a dean, and will be accepted on a rolling basis. These will be reviewed by the faculty committees associated with the faculty hiring initiatives, who will advise me on all proposals. To submit a proposal, or for additional information, please email Executive Vice Provost Michael Quick at [evp@usc.edu](mailto:evp@usc.edu).

### **Appendix**

English professor Frank Baxter, appointed in 1930, was a pioneer of using technology for distance learning. His television shows won a Peabody award and seven Emmys. His program Shakespeare on T.V. had an audience of millions on more than 25 stations nationwide. For a generation of youngsters he was the iconic image of the scientist, as "Mr. Scientist" or "Dr. Research" in eight Bell System Science Series films, many directed by Frank Capra. He was the founding president of the University Senate in 1947. Life magazine named him one of the nation's eight finest college professors.

Emory Bogardus studied race relations and the theory of social distance and directed a singular 40 year, 25 site, longitudinal study. A faculty member from 1911 through 1953, he founded both the sociology department and the school of social work and was second dean of the graduate school. He was president of the American Sociological Association, edited the journal Sociology and Social Research for 45 years, and formulated the Bogardus Ethnic Distance Scale. The Bogardus Courtyard in front of the Social Science Building memorializes his work.

Irene McCulloch, appointed to the zoology faculty in 1924, spent over 45 years doing teaching and research. She led our marine studies program, studying problems of marine resources, conservation and pollution. It was because of her that Captain Hancock brought his natural history collection to USC and established the Hancock Foundation for Marine Research in 1940. At age 94 she published her book on the single-celled ocean organism Foraminifera. Her name is memorialized in a collection, a monograph series, a chair in marine biology and the McCulloch Townhomes.