



## Department of the Month

# Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (LACERS)

## Ensuring a Rewarding Retirement Is Goal of Los Angeles Retirement System

by Robert Aguillo, General Manager, Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (LACERS)

When people think of LACERS, they think about their own retirement: when they can retire, how much monthly income they will receive, and what benefits they will be given. What they don't think about is all the staff and work involved to provide these things to approximately 24,000 civilian City employees and 13,000 retirees.

Great care is taken to ensure that each and every LACERS member will have a comfortable retirement. However, with the uncertainty of the economy and rising health care costs, this is a great challenge. Fortunately, LACERS is staffed with 120 dedicated employees who rise to the challenge and continue to protect the interests of members. LACERS is administered by a Board of Administration, made up of seven members, whose integrity and vast experience guide the benefits administration on behalf of our members.

Although the recent markets have been difficult for most pension funds, LACERS' investment and portfolio returns have been strong over the last four months. On behalf of our

members, we have a portfolio management division that studies the market and economy with great care so that they can make the most informed decisions to protect the investments made with employer and member contributions. By diversifying our investments into stocks, bonds, real estate, and private equity, LACERS is able to effectively balance risks with market returns. Currently, the LACERS portfolio is approximately \$6.8 billion.

LACERS' successful portfolio allows us to assist members in acquiring health care. LACERS provides a health insurance subsidy to offset the insurance premiums of participating health care providers—currently Kaiser, Blue Cross and PacifiCare/Secure Horizons. LACERS staff has developed positive working relationships with the health care providers and continually negotiates plans



Robert Aguillo, General Manager

that will provide the best coverage possible at competitive rates. In addition, LACERS offers members different supplemental insurance plans for protection should any unforeseen circumstances arise.

As you think about retirement, please consider planning for your future. LACERS regularly distributes literature, conducts seminars and provides counseling services to active members to assist them in determining the best retirement package to meet their needs. Should members have any questions about

retirement or the retirement process, a call center has been created and is always available to offer assistance. Also, we are currently upgrading our Website ([www.LACERS.org](http://www.LACERS.org)) to give easy access to reliable information necessary for a smooth transition into retirement.

LACERS has a great responsibility, but continues to handle it with great competence and pride. ■



Sandy Davis, Messenger Clerk, 3 years.



The Accounting Dept. from left: Hoa Huynh, Accountant, 4 years; and May Tran, Accountant, 4 years.



Member Accounts Dept., from left: Linda Huynh, 18 years; Rhodora Pornela; Rede Escario, 21 years; Lourdes Quintos, 6 years; and Alexis J. Raymundo, 15 years.



Betty Smith, Clerk Typist, 4 years.



Executive Division, from left: Jack Amanti, 22 years, and Pat Escarsega, 32 years.



From left: Rebecca Ehayati, Accounting Clerk, 32 years; and Inge Setiabudi, Accountant I, 1 year.



From left: Ursula Ruiz, Clerk Typist, 1 year; Marshall Davis, Principal Clerk; 3 years; and Star Daniels, Clerk Typist, 3 years.



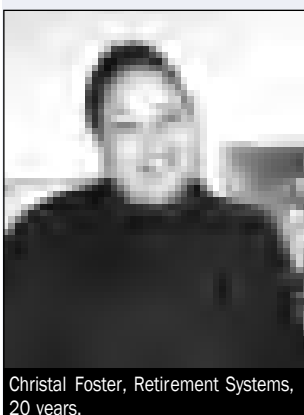
From left: Veronica Sanchez, Senior Clerk Typist, 2 years; and Jedial Johnson, Clerk Typist, 3 years.



Lilly Esparza, Information Systems Manager, 34 years.



From left: Alex Rabrenovich, Communications, 12 years; James Aeron, Communications, 2 years; and Sandra L. Dyson, Chief Management Analyst, Health Benefits & Administrative Services, 28 years.



Christal Foster, Retirement Systems, 20 years.



Li His, Accounting Director, 15 years.



Eva Caraveo, Operations Special Projects, 8 years.



Benefit Technicians, from left: Rene Melo, 11 years; Cathy Hagopian, 27 years; Tiffany Hy, 3 years; Lynda Chiang, 6 years; Latrece Johnson, 3 years; and Vince Koeller, 19 years.

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Benefits Processing Division, from left: Mark Blunk, Sr. Management Analyst, 13 years; and Michael Zamora, Management Assistant, 2 years.



Call Center, from left: David Nuno, Clerk Typist, 4 years; Lynn Ho, Sr. Clerk Typist, 3 years; Susana Tostado, Clerk Typist, 2 years; and Monica Smith, Principal Clerk, 23 years.



Member Advocate Department, from left: Rico Bautista, 1 year; Margaret Drenk, 14 years; Terri Alexander, 11 years; Michelle Cooley, 8 years; and Shirley Howard, 30 years.



Thomas Moutes, Chief Management Analyst, 19 years.



From left: Wai-Hog Jung, Accounting Clerk, 7 years; Travon Moss, Accounting Records Supervisor, 13 years; Honorato Villanueva, Accountant, 3 years; Vincent Tsui, Accounting Records Supervisor, 7 years; Mikyong Jang, Sr. Accountant, 5 years; and Linda Hong, Accounting Clerk, 19 years.



Administrative Service Unit, from left: Simone McDade, Principal Clerk, 19 years; Denise Michele Cormier, Clerk Typist, 4 years; and Kathy Fuller, Chief Clerk, 21 years.



Asset Management Division, from left: Wayne Ige, Investment and Cash Management Officer, 15 years; Daniel Gallagher, Chief Investment Officer, 25 years; and Rodney June, Investment and Cash Management Officer, 12 years.



From left: Farhad Sheikholeslam, Systems Analyst, 12 years; Rebecca Salazar, Principal Clerk, 24 years; and Inson Chang, Sr. Systems Analyst I, 23 years.



Personnel, from left: Mimi Lin, Sr. Management Analyst, 15 years; Cindi So, Management Analyst, 6 years; Joseph Salazar, Management Assistant, 2 years; and Sonia Cervantes, Sr. Court Typist, 3 years.



Retirement Services Counseling Department, from left: Greg Gomez, 23 years; Anna Ingram, 21 years; Delia Hernandez, 10 years; Pan Gibbs, 18 years; Art Avila, Clerk Typist, 4 years; Ruth Perry, Supervisor, 12 years; and Lucy Artinian, 20 years.

### Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (LACERS)

PROFILE

The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) is a public pension fund providing service retirements, disability retirements and health insurance subsidies to our members and their families. Established in 1937 under the exclusive management and control of a Board of Administration, LACERS covers approximately 24,000 active employees and 13,000 retirees. It proactively manages the delivery of benefits and the investment of more than \$6 billion of trust assets for the exclusive benefit of its current and future members. The board has seven members, each serving a four-year term.

#### Board of Administration

- Shelley I. Smith, President
- Marvin Adams, Jr.
- Eric L. Holoman
- Thomas J. Mizo
- Rick Rogers
- Vicky L. Schiff
- Ken Spiker

#### Administration

- Robert Aguinaldo Jr., General Manager
- Lorraine M. Osuna, Executive Officer
- Sandra L. Dyson, Chief Management Analyst, Health Benefits & Administrative Services
- Lilly Esparza, Senior Systems Analyst II, Systems
- Dan Gallagher, Chief Investment Officer, Portfolio Management
- Li Hsi, Fiscal Systems Specialist II, Fiscal Management
- Tom Moutes, Chief Management Analyst, Retirement Services

**Number of Employees:** 120

**Annual Budget:** \$11.9 million

**Portfolio Value:** Approximately \$6.8 billion (as of 7/10/03)



From left: Jason Leung, Systems Analyst, 13 years; Madeline Pagvio, Sr. Systems Analyst, 3 years; Edilyn Oriol, Systems Analyst, 19 years; and Aleli Cangco, Systems Analyst, 5 years.



Input Unit, from left: Armando Ruiz, 1 year; Audrey Dymally, 3 years; and Annabelle Arriola, 1 year.



Lorraine Osuna, Executive Officer, 23 years.



Jamie Bergantz, Member Services Counselor

### Hey, LACERS: I'm Your Counselor!

Hi, I'm **Jamie Bergantz**, your Club Member Services Counselor. I can help you with insurance products ... advice ... ticket discounts ... and all your Club benefits. It's my job!

I'm over at tLACERS all the time. Call or e-mail me to schedule an appointment: (800) 464-0452, or [jbergantz@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:jbergantz@cityemployeesclub.com)