



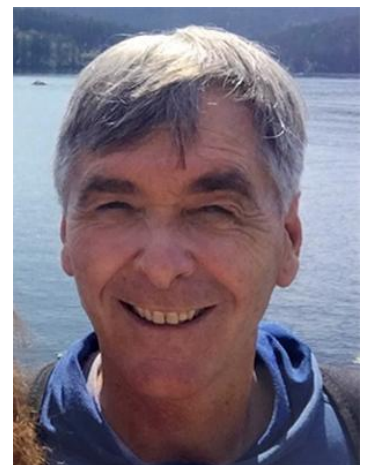
Happy Holidays from the Retirees Association

Message from the president

It was great seeing so many of you in person at the Holiday Gathering recently to enjoy the season and lots of laughs. Thank you to the entire board and volunteers for making the event so successful!

Sincerely,

Bill Parro
Retirees Association President





UC Retirees Travel

Frank Trueba, Retirees Association Board Member



As many of you know I'm involved in the UC Retirees Travel program and just returned from a wonderful trip to Iceland, which I heartily recommend to anyone interested in visiting the gorgeous country. You can check out the slate of trips planned for 2024 and the beginning of 2025 at <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>

In the meantime, here are two very interesting excursions which are almost full, so I thought I'd highlight them before they are fully booked.

Check out the trip details including detailed itinerary, optional additions, and activity level. Let me know if you have any questions. –Frank Trueba

Sicily's Ancient Landscapes & Timeless Traditions

March 30-April 14, 2024

Highlights include: Palermo, Mazara del Vallo, Piazza Armerina, Ragusa, Catania, and Mount Etna

Great Rivers of Europe Cruise

May 9-24, 2024

The Netherlands: Amsterdam | Germany: Cologne, Koblenz, Rudesheim, Heidelberg, Wertheim, Wurzburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau | Austria: Melk, Vienna

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



The Retirees Association is delighted to have the following Silver Slugs join us!

- Edwin Dunn – Facilities
- David Evans Jones – Music
- Christian Karzag – Student Affairs & Success
- Tracy Larrabee – Computer Science & Engineering
- Sue Matthews – Colleges, Housing and Educational Services
- Lezlie Ward – Student Affairs & Success
- Sara Walsh – Cowell College

SLUGS ON THE GO!

Second Harvest Food Bank fills an important role in the community



Food insecurity affects the lives of many across Santa Cruz County, including UCSC students. One in three residents of Santa Cruz County reported food insecurity in 2022. Second Harvest Food Bank helps combat that insecurity by reaching 65,000 people across the county each month and relies heavily on volunteers to do so.

UC Santa Cruz has partnered with the Second Harvest Food Bank to help alleviate food insecurity, participating in [holiday food drives](#) and coordinating volunteer efforts. Of the 1,896 people who [volunteer with Second Harvest](#) Food Bank in Santa Cruz County, many are UCSC retirees.

Read more: <https://retirees.ucsc.edu/slugs-on-the-go/volunteer-spotlight-second-harvest.html>

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Transfer student, STARS staffer, and mother of two

Silver Slug Award winner DeShonne Keller talks about finding her niche



DeShonne Keller gets it.

Just ask: Keller is a treasure trove of knowledge about scholarship applications, finding friends, and succeeding through the rigors of academic life. From her office on the second floor of the Bay Tree Building, the 51-year-old administrative specialist oversees the ins and outs of Services for Transfers and Re-Entry Students (STARS), UC Santa Cruz's one-stop-shop for students who do not fit the stereotypical undergraduate mold, such as veterans, parents, and foster children.

Read more: <https://news.ucsc.edu/2023/10/deshonne-keller.html>

Veteran students excel with Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship

Dan Palance and Devin Burkland are two recent recipients



After serving the U.S. in various branches of the country's military division, many veterans decide to return to school and further themselves in the classroom.

According to data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from 2018, nearly 700,000 veterans use VA education benefits, namely the GI Bill, to pay for college, graduate school, and training programs, and that number appears to be growing. Across the University of California system of 10 schools, nearly 2,000 veterans and students with military affiliations attend.

Read more: <https://news.ucsc.edu/2023/11/bruce-lane-memorial-scholarship.html>



The results are in! Thank you to everyone who helped support the Retirees Association scholarships on Giving Day!

Through generous support from the campus community, we were able to raise over \$5500 to support the Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment which supports military veterans, and the Silver Slug Award Endowment which supports UCSC staff, and the dependents of staff who are pursuing a degree with the university. Thank you!

NEWS AND INFORMATION



Helpful Reminder:

UCRAYS will be unavailable through January 2, 2024

Marianne McIvor, UCSC Health Care Facilitator

UCRAYS will be unavailable from December 15, 2023 at noon to January 2, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. UC Retirement At Your Service (UCRAYS) website for scheduled maintenance. During this period, members may contact the UC Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC) for any urgent needs. If you have a question or concern that is not time-sensitive, please consider waiting to call the RASC until January 2024.

Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC):

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/contacts/rasc.html>

IN MEMORIAM



Word of the deaths of the following retired UCSC staff and faculty has been received. Condolences are extended to their families, friends, and colleagues.

- May Diaz
 - Ruth Solomon
 - Gerald Weber
 - Richard Waymire
 - Theresa Yuen
 - Peggy McCray
 - Lucinda English
 - Emily Honig
 - T Taylor
 - Margaret Walker
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