UCSC Retiree Association
2013-14 Annual Report

Board of Directors:
Jenny Anderson, Anita Diaz, Barbara Dileanis, Dave Dodson, Lee Duffus, Dave Kirk, Ilse Lopes, Maxine Lane, Virginia Lee, Corinne Miller, Nancy Pascal, Patt Takeuchi, Jan Tepper, Jerry Walters, Mary Wells, Lynne Wolcott

July 30, 2014

Chancellor George Blumenthal

Re: UCSC Retirees Association Annual Report 2013-14

Dear Chancellor Blumenthal;

The UCSC Retirees Association is pleased to present the Association’s 2013-14 Annual Report. Here are some highlights of what we regard as an especially successful year:

Bruce Lane/Retiree Association Scholarship Endowment
Perhaps you saw Dan White’s July 10, 2014 story on the UCSC Newscenter site (http://news.ucsc.edu/2014/07/bruce-lane-scholarship-endowment-success.html) that describes our remarkable success in exceeding the $50,000 fundraising goal after slightly more than two years’ effort. It provides significant evidence of the commitment of retirees to supporting UCSC students. As I indicated in the conversation which Dan reports, it was gratifying to call retirees in our fundraising campaign and learn of their desire to support the University and veteran students. As of June 30 total contributions to the fund were $51,301. With accumulated interest the market value of the fund now stands at $56,426. A dramatic symbol of retirees’ commitment to achieving our fundraising goal is the generosity of one of our active members. When we announced at our May meeting that we were just $668 short of $50,000, he and his wife decided to write a check for $700 allowing us to more than meet the endowment goal.

At our annual scholarship luncheon in March we awarded 10 scholarships to a group of especially talented veterans. Their pictures are included in the most recent Silver Slug newsletter at http://retirees.ucsc.edu/pdfs/newsletters/2014april.pdf. We are grateful to Virginia Rivera, Pete Ragias and Sarah Schuster Kudel of University Relations who provided invaluable help to us in our fund drive. The success of our fundraising would not have been possible without the generous support of Maxine Lane and her remarkable family. It is rewarding to know that we will be able to continue offering scholarships for years to come. And we plan to continue our fundraising so that we can provide even greater financial support to UCSC students.

Retiree/Emeriti Center at Kresge College
We are most grateful to you and EVC Galloway for agreeing to fund the Center on a trial basis. Although it has taken much longer than we had anticipated to complete the hiring process for our part time administrative assistant, we can now announce that our staff person will be in place and the Center will be up and fully operational as of August 18.
We expect this enhancement of our ability to communicate will mean that we are better able to serve faculty, staff, students and the membership of the two associations. We look forward to the opportunity to provide updates on the success of the Center and its service to the University in the coming months.

Retiree Recognition Event
We continue to receive good reports from the new retirees who were recognized at the first annual Welcome to Retirement event at Cowell College on June 19. Thank you for your participation and the statement of thanks and appreciation you provided to each of the new retirees. The seventy some participants have expressed their enthusiasm for this new tradition in the University’s recognition of the valuable service provided by retiring staff and faculty. We are also grateful for Cowell Provost Faye Crosby’s hospitality and the participation of Michael Cowan of the Emeriti Association and Fiona Weigant of the Staff Advisory Board.

Programs
We hosted four social events this year: the fall picnic at Harvey West Park; the holiday event where we enjoyed the musical presentation by Fiat Musica and were pleased to hear your remarks about the progress of the University; the March Scholarship Luncheon mentioned above; and our May luncheon where we were inspired to hear Co-director Mike Ryan describe the plays and prospects for success of Santa Cruz Shakespeare.

In addition this year we sponsored several new events: an October UCSC Farm & Garden tour lead by Professor Daniel Press which attracted 30 retirees and emeriti; a Backstage at the Boardwalk event in February lead by Tish Denevan which had 25 participants; an April Arboretum tour in which 37 emeriti and retirees participated; and a Beach Clean up on July 5 where 20 retirees, wearing their identifying UCSC Retiree tee shirts, made certain that the left over trash from the July 4 celebration was safely collected.

These additional events, which attracted both retirees and emeriti, have been so successful that we intend to expand them with the help of the Center staff. A whale watching tour is planned for October and we are contemplating other activities for both retirees and emeriti later in the coming year.

Membership
The Association’s membership and participation in programs and events continues to increase. We have instituted a new on line method for renewing membership which should allow us to be more effective in reminding members about renewal. During the 2013-14 year there were 210 regular members and 14 lifetime members.

Collaboration
One of the additional benefits of working with the Emeriti to develop the proposal and to hire the staff person for the Retiree/Emeriti Center has been an increased interest in joint events. The additional events mentioned above are one example of this collaboration. The Welcome to Retirement program and the Open Enrollment workshops, mentioned below, are two others. With increased awareness of our
individual associations and the greater influence we can have by working together, and with staff support, we anticipate that our service to the campus, to current faculty, staff and students can be significantly increased.

Workshops
With the assistance of the Emeriti Association, Frank Trueba, the Health Care Facilitator, and the Benefits staff we sponsored three Health Information workshops for emeriti and retirees during the Open Enrollment period. Because of changes in coverage and questions about the impact of the Affordable Care Act some 200 people attended the three workshops. Many attendees expressed their profound appreciation for the help in clarifying confusing information. In the spring, with the assistance of the Benefits staff, we presented a pre-retirement workshop that was well attended. The participant evaluations circulated at the end of the workshop indicated that potential retirees were most grateful for the specific and personal information and responses to questions from the retiree panel.

Communication
We continue to publish the Silver Slug newsletter four times each year, delivered both electronically and by mail. Thanks to the training received by Board members, Jan Tepper and Lynne Wolcott, we have been able to develop a most effective and frequently updated website (http://retirees.ucsc.edu/). It contains information about upcoming events and links to photos of recent programs. A Members Corner feature allows individual members to post items of interest to the membership. The newsletter link provides access to the electronic edition of the Silver Slug. We have also posted an In Memoriam link which allows us to remember those emeriti and retirees who have recently passed away.

CUCRA and AROHE Participation
The Association continues its active participation in both system-wide and national organizations. Lee Duffus, our former president, is currently Chair of CUCRA (the Council of University of California Retiree Associations.) Lee and Jenny Anderson of our Retiree Association Board will represent UCSC and CUCRA at the national conference of AROHE (Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education). Jenny will participate in a panel about forming effective retiree associations.

Thanks again for your invaluable support. I believe the success of the Association this year demonstrates that your support has indeed produced fine results.

In appreciation with warmest regards,

Dave Dodson
Retiree Association President
c.c. Associate Chancellor Ashish Sahni
Executive Vice Chancellor Alison Galloway
Emeriti Association President Michael Nauenber