Annual Picnic Potluck & Benefits Update

Wednesday, September 9, 2009
11:30 am to 2:30 pm
Oak Picnic Area, Harvey West Park

The Annual Silver Slug Picnic Potluck and Benefits Update is right around the corner. Join us to reconnect with former colleagues, old friends and new.

Our featured guest will be Frank Trueba, UCSC Health Care Facilitator. He will bring the latest breaking news, updates and changes in our 2010 health plan benefits. This is a topic of interest to all of us. Remember, the UCSC Retiree Association is your primary advocacy group for retiree benefits. It is important that you become a member and participate in events.

Lizzie Yazzer, who provides wellness updates for our email blasts will also join us for a wellness/stretch break. Lizzie is the OPERS Wellness Coordinator.

Family and friends are welcome! Bring a dish to share and spend a fun afternoon with us. You will also need your own place setting. You can also bring gently used books, CDs, DVDs for the Scholarship Fund book sale.

SILVER SLUGS AT THE 2008 ANNUAL PICNIC

“The University as we knew it -- arguably the world's greatest public institution of higher education -- is undergoing profound and anguishing changes which will have impacts for decades to come for California and the entire nation.”

Lee Duffus
President

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

These clearly are not the best of times for our University. State funding per UC student has declined 40 percent during the last 19 years. During the past two fiscal years alone, 2008-2010, UC's state support has declined by $813 million. The University as we knew it -- arguably the world's greatest public institution of higher education -- is undergoing profound and anguishing changes which will have impacts for decades to come for California and the entire nation.

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The cuts for the current fiscal year have resulted in unprecedented salary reductions and mandatory furloughs for our successors, reduced administrative budgets to support their activities to further the University’s educational, research and service missions, and yet another substantial increase in student fees. For further information, go to www.ucsc.edu/news_events/text.asp?pid=3102.

As UC retirees we have much to be thankful for. For many, if not most, of us UCSC provided an extraordinarily stimulating work environment during the extended periods of economic prosperity and campus growth and development for four decades through the 1990s. We were privileged to work with and support bright, innovative, and inspiring students and world-renowned faculty colleagues. And we had the opportunity to work in a spectacular physical environment. We now enjoy the advantages of a protected defined benefit pension plan and a choice of comprehensive health insurance plans, as well as an array of ongoing campus benefits for those who continue to reside near the Santa Cruz campus.

There are several ways acknowledge our good fortune. First and foremost, we can advocate for the University with the governor and state legislators. If you are not already participating in the "UC for California" advocacy program, I urge you to do so. More information is available at www.ucforcalifornia.org. Locally, even in the midst of troubling times, we can join with other members of the UCSC family to celebrate UCSC's successes at special occasions such as the annual Founders' Day event on October 23 (www.ucsc.edu/founders) and Scholarship Benefit Dinner on February 6, 2010.

As I reported in the spring issue of the Silver Slug, President Yudof has appointed a Task Force on Post-Employment Benefits to develop a comprehensive, long-term approach to UC obligations for retirement benefits. Retirees are represented directly on the Work Group by CUCRA Chair Marian Gade (Berkeley) and CUCEA Chair Charles Hess Davis. Chancellor Blumenthal is a member of the Steering Committee, and Executive Vice Chancellor/ Provost Kliger has been appointed to the Work Group. Three work group teams will focus on the pension plan, health benefits, and financing. The teams have been meeting and are beginning to develop recommendations that will be presented to retirees and other stakeholders for their evaluation and input at "Listening Forums" to be held on each campus this fall. As soon as we know the schedule, we'll get the word out to Association members.

Finally, I am happy to report that our membership reached an all-time high last year! Thanks to your efforts to reach out to former colleagues, the Association membership increased by 10% and now stands at 171. Dues for 2009-10 are payable now. Take a moment now to write your check and mail it today in the enclosed envelope. And please consider an additional donation to the Silver Slug Scholarship Fund.

On behalf of your board of directors, thanks for your continued support.

Lee Duffus
FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

On April 30th, 20 Silver Slugs attended a class: *Shoot First, Fix Later*, taught by Dave Kirk. Dave teaches the same class for Norwegian Cruise Lines. Dave gave us informative and useful tips about traveling with a camera and having great pictures to show later. Feedback from attendees was very positive.

Dave will be teaching a second class in the fall, **FUN WITH POWERPOINT & FUN WITH WORD-PROCESSING**

Covered topics include how to make an entertaining photo show with PowerPoint that can be emailed to friends; how to make illustrated newsletters, address books, photo cards and invitations, travel journals, Holiday letters, mailing labels, illustrated household inventories and more. Watch your Silver Slug email for an announcement.

LIVING WELL, STAYING WELL

Dear Wellness Community,

Please find the August newsletter at http://opers.ucsc.edu/wellness/PDFfiles/Wellness_Newsletter_August_2009.pdf. This is one healthy issue—rife with nutrition answers, packed with job-loving tips, and loaded with fiber (101 salads!). Also, UCSC Wellness is teaming up with Training and Development to offer some fantastic (and FREE) work/life balance workshops. Check them out at http://shr.ucsc.edu/topics/training-development/prof-dev/_signup-form_prof-dev.htm#Worklife.

Drop-in fitness classes continue this month through early September, following the summer schedule (http://opers.ucsc.edu/wellness/PDFfiles/Summer_Wellness_2009-1.pdf). For info about other wellness-related happenings, please visit http://wellness.ucsc.edu and look under "Staff, Faculty, Retiree Wellness." Stay well!

Sincerely,  
Lizzie     502.7375

Silver Slug Scholarships

The UCSC Silver Slugs (retirees) presented six student scholarships at their May Dessert Event at the Arboretum. Three of the six scholarships were awarded in memory of Bruce Lane, a respected architect who joined UCSC early in 1964, before the first buildings were constructed. Mr. Lane passed away last October and Lane family members were there to award the scholarships.

Recipients of the **Bruce C. Lane Memorial Scholarship** awards were Joseph Cresalia, Business Administration; HenrY Mun Hong Dea, Biochemistry; and Loc Van Do, Health Sciences. Silver Slug scholarships were presented to Ezekial Bennett, Politics; Jay Roldan, Computer Engineering; and Lane Sharon, Biology.

*Photo: Left to right: Loc Van Do, Joyce Lane Dedera, Maxine Lane, Joseph Cresalia and David Lane.*

IN MEMORIAM

Yvonne Ames  Roger Judge  Patricia Nelson

Georgianna Zimm  Frances Duerr

& Friend of Retirees Association, Michael Lorilla
A Message from Maxine Lane, Scholarship Fund Chair

We retirees are lucky to have our pension coming in every month, while many young people are struggling to “make ends meet.” When renewing your membership in the UCSC Retirees Association, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the retirees’ scholarship fund. This will give a helping hand to student veterans, who have served in the United States military and who are faced with increased educational expenses.

Perhaps you or your children have received scholarship (or G.I. Bill of Rights) assistance in the past and would like to repay just a little of that by helping a UCSC student now. Our **2009-2010 Fiscal Year Silver Slug Scholarship Fund Drive** is just starting and it is a good time to share our good fortune. If you have any questions, please call me at 426-8353. Credit Cards are accepted.

FROM DAVE KIRK, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Dear Association members – once again it is that time of year when you need to make out that check for your 2009-10 dues. Rates are $12 for single or $18 for dual membership. Mail your check in the enclosed envelope and pop it into the mail. That way you will continue to receive our great newsletter with all the latest news about the Association, our social events, special guest speakers, and up-to-date information from system-wide concerning retiree benefits and needed advocacy. Do it today!

When you send in your renewal check this month please take a few moments to fill in ALL the information on the flap of the membership envelope including

1. your email address  
2. the year you retired,  
3. what campus unit you worked in,  
4. AND the year you first became a member of the Association.

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**UCSC RETIREES ASSOCIATION**  
Carriage House  
1156 High Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

**NEW MEMBERS:**  
Ann Caudle - Extension - Science Illustration  
Renee Flowers – Artist  
Patrick Lecuyer - ITS  
Jim MacKenzie - Publications  
Laurie Salatich Office of the Registrar  
Lorraine Warren - Bay Tree Bookstore

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**Your UCSC Retirees Association Board is:**

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Nancy Pascal- nipascal@cruzio.com  
Jerry Walters- jwalters@cruzio.com  
Barbara Dileanis- dileanis3@cs.com  
Maxine Lane- 426-8353  
Jeffrey Powell- teampowell@aol.com  
Mary Wells mrwells@sbcglobal.net  

NEW PERSON????????