Save Room For Dessert

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010
(Sack Lunch @12:30) Dessert & Program: 1:00-2:30
Arboretum Horticulture Building

"Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the Titanic who waved off the dessert cart."
~Erma Bombeck

As you can tell from our masthead, it is again time to heed Erma's wisdom and head for the UCSC Retirees Silver Slug Dessert-fest. Come join us for our annual dessert social at the Arboretum on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 1:00 P.M. Bring your favorite dessert to share. Plates, utensils and good fellowship will be provided. Just bring your appetite, good spirits and tooth brush. Our own Silver Slug Telephone Tree Oompa Loompas will be contacting you by phone to remind you and to provide a dessert sign up. If you are one of the few misguided souls who do not believe that "A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand" or believe that man (or woman) does not live by creme brulee alone, join us with your sack lunch at 12:30.

Remember: 'Stressed spelled backwards is desserts.' Coincidence? I think not!

Program: Michael Warren on the Upcoming 2010 Shakespeare Santa Cruz Season

For our program, we are delighted to once again have Professor Emeritus Michael Warren, who will preview the Shakespeare Santa Cruz 2010 season. A recipient of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Teaching Award, Michael is known for his "sense of humor, a love of his subjects, and a great desire to see his students learn. He strives to make Shakespeare's plays and other literature understandable, exciting and accessible." His talks in the past have always been extremely informative, entertaining and well received.

For more information and to purchase tickets see the SSC website at: http://shakespearesantacruz.org/

ATTENTION RETIREE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS!!
It's RENEWAL TIME!

The UCSC Retirees Association runs on a fiscal year system – from July 1st of one year to June 30th of the following calendar year. In an attempt to get us back on this fiscal accounting schedule we kindly request that you pay your dues NOW (or at least prior to June 30th) for the upcoming year – and to this end we have enclosed a payment envelope with this issue of the newsletter.

If there have been ANY changes in your name, address, phone number or email address PLEASE note these changes in the appropriate boxes on the envelope. We need this information so that we can send the newsletters, notify you of up-coming events, etc. We want to keep our records up-to-date and only you can help us.

Thanks in advance.
Dave Kirk, Membership Chair
At the May meeting of the Association’s board of directors, leadership roles for 2010-11 were discussed, and a slate of new officers was elected. I am especially pleased to announce that Jerry Walters has agreed to take on the Association presidency for the first half of the year beginning in July, 2010 and he will be succeeded by Dave Kirk for the latter part of the year term beginning in January, 2011. The Association’s immediate future is in very capable hands!

It has been an honor to serve as the Association’s president for the past three years, and a special pleasure to work with my board colleagues to enhance the Association’s activities and strengthen its relationships with the Santa Cruz campus administration, the Benefits Office staff in the Office of the President, and our sister retiree organizations at the other UC locations. I can look back with satisfaction at what we have accomplished together during this period of the Association’s history. Especially gratifying is the steady growth in membership, which now stands at almost 200. This is largely attributable to focused efforts by many Association members to reach out to former campus associates and a letter from Chancellor Blumenthal that encouraged all UCSC retirees to stay connected with the University through membership in the Association. I also am pleased that we have revitalized the Association’s scholarship program, and joined with UCSC’s Emeriti Group to co-sponsor programs of interest to all retirees.

In addition to forging effective relationships with our retired emeriti colleagues, we have clarified our affiliated status with the Chancellor’s Office, and established cooperative working relationships with the Staff Advisory Board and the Academic Senate’s Emeriti Relations Committee. The Association’s capacity to communicate with members has significantly improved with the development of our own web site (http://retirees.ucsc.edu/) and email address (ucsilverslug@gmail.com). And with the generous support of the Bay Tree Bookstore, a distinctive Silver Slug t-shirt is now available.

Thank you for your support and encouragement for these initiatives. I look forward to seeing you at our June dessert extravaganza! --Lee Duffus

From Silver Slug Scholarship Chair Maxine Lane:

The UCSC Silver Slugs presented nine student scholarships of $500 each at the March Soup Luncheon. Two of the scholarships were awarded in the memory of Bruce Lane. Recipients of the Bruce C. Lane Memorial Scholarships were: Joseph Cresalia, Business Management Economics, and Aaron Hart, Engineering and Computing. The seven Silver Slug Scholarships were awarded to Mary-Catherine Mayes, Psychology; Kable Hunsinger, Electrical Engineering; Jay Roldan, Computer Engineering; Christopher Morrow, Chemistry; Brian Weir, Information Systems Management; and Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology students Edward Leers and Nicholas Strehlke.

Our scholarships are given to needy and worthy UCSC military veterans as a way of showing our appreciation for their service to our country. In these economically challenging times, these students have particular need of assistance. The Silver Slug scholarships are one of the most important and manifest demonstrations of our continued support and commitment to serve the students of UCSC, even in our retirement. We currently have a balance of $1,445.00 towards next year’s scholarships: $758.00 in memory of Bruce Lane and $687.00 towards general Silver Slug scholarships.

We are totally dependant on the generous donations of members like you. Please give what you can to this worthy cause. When you make out your renewal dues check, please also consider including in the envelope, an additional tax-deductible contribution to the UCSC Foundation/Silver Slug or Bruce Lane Scholarship program.

(Please note that dues & scholarship contributions need to be written to different entities and can not appear on the same check.)

If you have any questions, please call Maxine Lane, 426-8353. Thank you for your continued generosity.
Since President Obama’s signature I have been getting many questions about how the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act and the Health Care Education Reconciliation Act (the official title for “ObamaCare”) will affect the University’s retirement coverage. Using UCOP’s Our University interview with Mark Esteban, Director of Benefits Programs (http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/ouruniversity/0510/), here are some often discussed issues.

Mark pointed out that generally speaking, the University’s plans already contain many of the provisions mandated in the new law, for example, our HMO plans already have no lifetime limits on benefits and cover preventative exams at 100%. Our plans already also include such mandated benefits as mental health & substance abuse services, prescription drugs, rehabilitative services & devices, preventive & wellness services and chronic disease management.

One of the most discussed new mandates is the ability for parents to continue covering their adult children until age 26. Currently, UC plans allow unmarried children to be covered until age 23. The effective date for many of the new mandates is September 23, 2010 or at the start of the next plan year. For UC, the changes will be effective beginning January 1, 2011, with the start of our next plan year. All the details will be available in our Open Enrollment information in October. There are still many details to be addressed and employers are waiting for regulatory guidance and definitions that will come out of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Regarding the changes vis a vis Medicare: while Medicare benefits remain fully intact, there still does need to be an assessment on how the mandated funding reductions for Medicare Advantage plans will affect premiums for UC’s Health Net Seniority Plus and Kaiser Senior Advantage plans. As Mark Esteban stated; “Historically, UC has covered the full cost of these plans, so our retirees have not had to pay a premium. Many factors outside the health care reform law will determine UC's costs and contribution to the premium, and hence retirees' costs.”

So, while there may be changes for 2011, the effects on any individual plan are still to be determined. As always, any plan and/or cost changes will be highlighted in the Open Enrollment information available just before the Open Enrollment period in November. A good source of information until then is the Retirees section of UC’s At Your Service website (http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/retirees/index.html) or call me (831-459-3573).

Dear Wellness Community: Happy May! Spring has sprung and now is the perfect time for everyone to enjoy some fun in the sun. There is no shortage of wellness action this month... So, see you all outside! – Lizzie

Monday, May 17: Adult Boating Program- Registration opens for the UCSC Community Boating Center. Adult evening classes available. . . Put the wind back in your sails! Click on the link above or call 425-1164 for more info.

Tuesday, May 18: Amgen Tour of California- 10:00am - 2:00pm, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk stage finish & festival!

Wednesday, May 19: UC Walks Day and the One Million Steps Challenge- Join the system-wide walking movement! On May 19, all UC campuses will be walking in support of wellness and living well at UC. It's a great day to kick off your walking program and win prizes as a Slug on a Stroll!

May 29 - May 30: 26th Annual Santa Cruz Longboard Club Invitational- Steamer Lane at Lighthouse Point, Santa Cruz The west coast's longest-running competitive surfing event, featuring amateur and pro surfers.
Welcome Retirees Who Have Recently Joined the UCSC Retirees Association

Meet Your Board Members

Jenny Anderson - New CUCRA Representative

Jenny started working at the University July, 1973 on a grant for Environmental Studies professors—Jim Pepper & Jerry Bowden. She said that she had so much fun that she stayed for 31 years first as the department's Internship Coordinator & then as the Coordinator of Fieldwork, Special Assistant to the Chair, and Lecturer. She was one of those fence sitters who was both staff and (non-tenured) faculty, and says she was fortunate to have been able to interact with a wide range of people both on and off campus in her job. The most exciting and satisfying things she did as part of her job was to work on getting a graduate program for Environmental Studies and to develop a field course in Alaska. And, she always loved working with the students!

Jenny is our new CUCRA Representative and recently went to her first meeting at UCSB’s Mosher Alumni House, April 28th and 29th. Here is her first report:

What’s CUCRA, you ask? It is The Council of University of California Retirement Associations. It was formed in 1993 and has representatives from the retirees associations of all of the UC campuses, labs, and the President/Regents Office. CUCRA’s mission is to speak with one voice on retiree benefits and privileges that affect you, and I must say that I’m impressed with how seriously they take their job.

CUCRA meets twice a year and they have recently decided to meet at the same time and place as CUCEA (Council of University of California Emeriti Associations), so that they can have a joint meeting for shared concerns. This joint meeting allows center directors and committee chairs to attend both meetings and not only improves communication, but also it gives us a stronger voice and presence. For instance, the Joint Benefits Committee (JBC), made up of members from both CUCRA and CUCEA, has been a watchdog/advocate for staff and emeriti benefits during the work of the Post Employment Benefits Task Force. The JBC was able to get the chairs of each group included in the efforts of the Task Force. Informing the work of the Task Force has been the main thrust of the agenda of both groups for the past year, but there are other concerns. For a detailed account of the meetings, please see my report on our UCSC Retirees Association website: http://retirees.ucsc.edu/. It should be available in June.

CUCRA is your university-wide advocacy group. Our next meeting will be in Berkeley, October 27-28, 2010. If you have questions/concerns now, or before that meeting, please feel free to contact me, jka@cruzio.com, 831-423-8039. To become your own advocate for the University check out this website: http://www.ucforcalifornia.org/uc4ca/home/ Supporting the University of California in statewide politics keeps the University strong and that ultimately affects all of us and our retirement benefits.

In Memoriam

We sadly note the passing of these friends and former colleagues:

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June Dessert Social Book Sale

Remember to bring your gently read books (hardcover, paperback and audio) to sell at the June Dessert Social and bring dollars to replenish your own personal library. As always, all book sale proceeds add to our scholarship.

Resources For Financial and Estate Planning

(Provided by retired UCSC staff & faculty in conjunction with the Financial Planning Workshop in March.)

Professional Expertise:

Senior Network Services, 1777 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, 462-1433  www.seniornetworkservices.org/
Senior Citizens Legal Services, 501 Soquel Avenue, Suite F, Santa Cruz, 426-8824 and 114 East 5th Street, Watsonville, 728-4711  http://seniorlegal.org/

Publications:

Survivor and Beneficiary Handbook For Family Members and Beneficiaries of UC Retirees. Available from UC Benefits, P.O. Box 24570, Oakland, CA 94623-1570, 1-800-888-8267; Email: customer.service@ucop.edu; and online at http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/forms_pubs/alphabetical/s.html

Broadcast Media:

  Money Talk - Bob Brinker, Saturday and Sunday, 1-4pm, 810 AM
  Elder Law - Len Tillum, Sunday, 4-7pm, 810 AM

Web Sites:

  Fidelity Investments http://personal.fidelity.com/planning/investment/
For useful information and tools for managing retirement finances, trusts and estate planning, and IRA withdrawal strategy.

  Bob Brinker’s Marketimer Newsletter http://www.bobbrinker.com/books.aspreadinglist
For useful information on a variety of financial topics, including recommended books on investing/finances.

Retirees with helpful sources that they would like to share are invited to send them for inclusion in a future issue to:
Editor, UCSC Retirees Newsletter, Carriage House 1156 High St. Santa Cruz, CA. 95064  Email: retir_ng@mac.com

A Final Word(s)

As you see from his above President’s Message, Lee Duffus will be returning to ‘civilian life’ at the conclusion of this ‘school’ year. At the Board’s request, he has already served a year beyond his initially agreed upon term. During this time, we on the Board have been in awe and appreciation of his steady leadership, grand vision and boundless energy. We did everything we could think of to try to ‘squeeze’ one more year out of him- from invoking military ‘Stop-loss’ to trying to change his appointment to one ‘in perpetuity’ but to no avail. He will be a difficult act to follow.

As he says in his message, we are in good capable hands for our immediate future but everyone in the Association owes him a tremendous Huzzah!

Thanks for everything Lee, glad you will still be around and as you always say: “ONWARD!”
Don’t forget to renew your membership. Invite a friend to join as well.

UCSC Retirees Association- There’s Strength- And Power- In Numbers

Special Editor’s Thank You to Anita Diaz for once again producing the last newsletter in my absence. There is indeed, strength in numbers.

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UCSC Retirees Association
Carriage House 1156 High St.
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Your UCSC Retirees Association Board is:

President: Lee Duffus- 426-6960; duffus@cruzio.com
Vice President: Under Recruitment
Treasurer: Anita Diaz- ana8Lucila@yahoo.com
Secretary: Fay Levinson- fayJoel1@comcast.net
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See you at the Dessert Social…