



# The Silver Slug

The Official Newsletter of the UCSC's Retirees Association

Volume 28, Issue #2, November 2017



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**SANTA CRUZ**



## Annual Holiday Party

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 11:30am – 2:00pm

Peace United Church of Christ

900 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Come join us for a festive celebration of the season! Enjoy music, decorations, and holiday greetings from the Chancellor's office. Please bring a dish to share - your favorite holiday appetizer, entrée, salad, side dish, or dessert. Cold drinks and coffee will be provided. If you wish, bring your own place setting. Plants and crafts will be for sale. Look forward to seeing you there!



## President's Message November 2017

Hello Fellow Retirees! There is quite a bit of important news to share with you, but first I want to publically recognize Chancellor George Blumenthal and Associate Chancellor Ashish Sahni for their ongoing support and commitment to UCSC retirees. They show this commitment at every opportunity including funding the expansion of the Retiree Emeriti Center to a half-time position and supporting us in our efforts to expand our membership. It's clear they value our contributions both on and off campus. If you see them take the opportunity to thank them. Now on to the news!

### Retiree Health Benefits Work Group

As you know, UC spends hundreds of millions of dollars annually for retiree health benefits, with future costs expected to rise. Like other organizations UC is evaluating options to ensure the long-term financial viability of the retiree health benefits program while managing costs.

In early 2018, the UC Office of the President will convene an advisory work group to explore potential strategies and options for UC leaders to consider. In formulating its recommendations, the work group is charged with considering plan and program design strategies to sustain the benefits, benefits offered by peer institutions, and the implications to both UC and retirees of different options. The work group is expected to begin its work early next year and deliver its recommendations by June 2018.

To read the entire message from UCOP, go to <http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/index.html> and search for the article on Oct. 11, 2017 titled "Work group to be formed to study, make recommendations about health benefits for retirees."

### UC Retiree Activity Survey

The UC Retiree Activity Survey, sponsored by the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA), has been published and can be viewed on the CUCRA web site at <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/survey/index.shtml>

The purpose of this first system wide survey is to document staff and non-Senate academic retiree's post-employment activities and contributions. The results of the survey will be used to:

- Help the UC Office of the President and campus and laboratory administrators better understand the many contributions made by retirees,
- Enable CUCRA, retiree associations, and retiree centers to advocate more effectively on behalf of UC retirees,
- Provide retirees with comprehensive information about their collective contributions and achievements, and
- Assist local retiree associations and centers create and improve programs for retirees.

### UC Travel Interest Group Program

Looking for new adventures? You may want to consider traveling through the CUCRA Travel Program. CUCRA's travel maven, Frances Fernandes, has arranged tours for 2017 and 2018 and you can find information about what is being offered at <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/news/travel/index.shtml>. Further information about UC travel opportunities is available at <http://www.gocollette.com/en> *When conferring with Collette staff, retirees should be certain to indicate their UC affiliation.*

(President's Message continued ....)

## Help with Membership

Want to help out but don't think you have the time or know what to do? A simple activity is to encourage those retirees you might know, that don't belong to the association, to join. There is more to joining than entertaining social events and great scholarship programs. Membership dues (\$15.00 per year – quite a bargain) allows us to continue fighting for the retiree benefits that impact **all** retirees. Dues cover the costs of attending system-wide meetings and support CUCRA where all campus retiree associations gather to develop strategies to advocate on behalf of us all.

For more retiree information visit our website at: [retirees.ucsc.edu](http://retirees.ucsc.edu). That's it for now. I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming holiday party on December 7.

Ilse (Kolbus) Lopes

## What's New

Welcome to our New Board Members

- Cori Houston – Newsletter Editor
- Richard Vasquez – Vice President

Welcome to New Association Members

- Mary Alvarez & Mark Padan – Kresge College (Mary)
- Meg Wilson – Psychology
- Dennis Parks – Physical Plant
- Marilyn Chapin – Humanities Division
- Bill Parro – Staff HR
- Donna Karolchik & Ted Nichols – Genomics Institute (Donna)
- Steve & Kristen Paul – Physical Planning & Construction (Steve)
- The Rev. Joan Anderson – Academic Senate

## Webmaster's update

Over the past year, our website **retirees.ucsc.edu** has undergone a significant upgrade. The new website content management software provided by the University allows for better presentation of our association's announcements, events and activities. We also have a Facebook page now! The website home page has the Facebook logo and you can click on the logo or link and it will take you right to our page.



<https://www.facebook.com/retirees.ucsc.edu/>

## McIvor's Corner .....

This is a new feature for our Newsletter. Each issue will include news from the UCSC Benefits Office provided by Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator. Here is her contact info:

Voice: 831-459-3573, Fax: 831-459-3683; [memcivor@ucsc.edu](mailto:memcivor@ucsc.edu)

Office hours: 7:30 to 4:30 Mon-Friday (lunch Noon -1pm)

U.S. Mail address: UCSC Benefits Office, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Physical address: UCSC Staff Human Resources, 100 Enterprise Way, Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Open Enrollment (OE) is underway now through November 21, 2017 at 5 p.m. Now is the time of year when retirees may enroll self and eligible dependents in Medical, Dental or Legal plans; and/or enroll or de-enroll family members. Changes made during OE become effective 01/01/2018. While there are no “major” changes in medical plans, there are rate changes and everyone should review their medical plan options before deciding to do nothing. Rates for 2018 were mailed to your home address in the Open Enrollment booklet in late October. You may also go on-line to the Open Enrollment website (see below) to view the OE booklet for Retirees and plan summaries for 2018, or you may contact the UC Retirement Administration or UCSC Benefits Office for printed materials. If you have reviewed the rate changes and are happy with your current plans, no further action is needed on your part and your current enrollments will continue in 2018.

<http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/oe/>

Centers for Medicare Services (CMS) will begin issuing new Medicare ID numbers and cards beginning in April 2018. All Medicare members (current and deceased) will be assigned new ID's. Social Security Administration will mail out new cards to home address of record. **To ensure you receive your new cards, check your current address on file with Social Security by logging into <https://www.ssa.gov/> before March 2018.** Medicare members may continue to use current cards until their new card is replaced, and through April 1, 2019. The old and new cards are pictured below:



## Scholarship Committee Report

As of the last ledger received, \$101,020.78 was in the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Scholarship Endowment and \$3,880.75 was in the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Current Year Scholarship Fund. These are both for military veteran students. \$27, 411.58 was in the new Silver Slug Award Endowment. The UCSC Retirees Association Silver Slug Award provides financial support to UCSC staff and their eligible dependents studying at UC Santa Cruz. The first award will be given out in Spring 2018. The Association welcomes all current or retired UCSC career, non-academic staff and their dependents as defined by the Financial Aid Office who are enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program at UCSC to apply. The deadline is Mon. March 5, 2018. More information will be available on the Retirees Association website.

At the December potluck lunch, we will have succulents in attractive containers and crafts for sale for your holiday gifts. Please invite your retiree friends to come to the potluck and encourage them to do a bit of holiday shopping. Every cent of the money raised from this endeavor will be used for scholarships for our very deserving military veteran students. They volunteered for military duty to protect us and our country. In addition, there will also be aprons, zippered bags and other items for sale as a fundraiser for the Silver Slug Scholarship. These are all hand-made and donated by Board members Patt Takeuchi and Karalee Richter. Maxine Lane and Mary Wells (Retiree Association Board and Scholarship Committee members) are modeling the aprons below.



It was suggested by the UCSC Veteran's Coordinator that the Retirees Bruce Lane Scholarship Funds also be used for scholarships for the dependents of military veterans. The Scholarship Committee unanimously decided that although this would be an excellent idea if, for some reason in the future, we didn't have enough veteran's applying for scholarships. Then, and only then, would the veteran's dependents be next in line to receive the scholarship money.

## In Memoriam

- |                          |                  |         |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------|
| • Peggy A. Macy          | Blank Asst. 2    | 9/1/17  |
| • Kathleen M. McQuilling | Admin Specialist | 8/21/17 |
| • Denise Marie Polk      | SRA 2 NEX        | 8/17/17 |
| • Peggy B. Musgrave      | PROF-AY          | 8/18/17 |



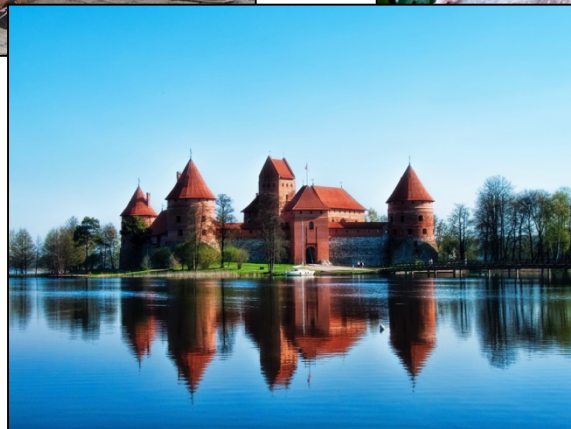
### Silver Slugs win Photo Prizes at 2017 Santa Cruz County Fair



Once again, UCSC Retirees Association members Jerry Walters and Dave Kirk have won ribbons for their photos at the Santa Cruz County Fair. Jerry won a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for his travel photo from Riga, Latvia in the architecture category and a 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for his charming photo of raccoons in the undomesticated animals category.



Dave won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for his travel photo from Muscat, Oman in the photojournalism category and 2 Honorable Mentions for his photos the respective categories of undomesticated animals and scenery. Congratulations to both!



## Retiree Emeriti Center Report

### **New location and new Coordinator!**

With the support of the Chancellor the Retiree Emeriti Center (REC) will now operate at half –time up from quarter time. We are currently in the process of hiring a new coordinator thanks to the quick work of Jean Fargo, who worked effectively and quickly to revise the job description and get it posted following the resignation of the former coordinator. The search has attracted a well-qualified group of applicants and interviews are planned for mid-November. It is hoped that a strong candidate can be identified and hired and a new Coordinator can be in place in early 2018.

Several of the other UC Retiree Emeriti Centers are linked to their universities through the campus University Relations (UR) office a seemingly prudent connection. Both the Retiree Association and Emeriti Association officers agreed that a move to the Enterprise Technology Center (ETC) in Scotts Valley (easy access and parking) and a linkage with University Relations makes good sense. Therefore, the Center will move both reporting relationship and location. The Center Coordinator reporting relationship will be to University Relations and supervised by Sarah Schuster-Kudela, Director of Donor Relations.

Look for an announcement about a chance to meet the new staff person and the new Center location adjacent to University Relations in Scotts Valley's ETC.

Dave Dodson, Chair REC Steering Committee

## **Council of University of California Retiree Associations**

An important benefit of membership in the Retirees Association is our participation with 12 sister associations throughout the UC system in the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA). One of the main purposes of the Council is advocacy on behalf of retirees with the Office of the President.

It's easy to keep abreast of what's happening within the UC retiree community by visiting the CUCRA website: <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/> There, under the "Meetings" tab, you will find reports of each of retiree association and presentations by staff at the Office of the President from the most recent October meeting in Oakland.



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UCSC Retirees Association  
University Relations  
1156 High Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

**UCSC Retirees Association** – *aging gracefully like fine wine!*

**DATES TO REMEMBER!**

Fri. Nov. 17, 2017 2:00 – 3:30pm  
Retirees/Emeriti Open Enrollment Presentation  
Scotts Valley Center, 100 Enterprise Way  
Rm. SCV – 1101 Training Room

Thurs. Dec. 7, 2017 11:30am – 2:00pm  
Annual Holiday Party  
Peace United Church of Christ  
900 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060