



# The Silver Slug

The Official Newsletter of the UCSC Retirees Association

Volume 30, Issue #1, August 2019



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**SANTA CRUZ**

**Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 11:30am – 2:00pm**

## **Annual Fall Picnic**

**Oak Picnic Area, Harvey West Park in Santa Cruz**



Join us as we gather once again at Harvey West Park for our annual Fall Picnic. A great time to see old friends and catch up! Watch for an e-mail to RSVP to this event, it helps with planning if we know how many people to expect. Please bring your favorite dish to share - appetizers, entrées, salads, side dishes or desserts - and consider bringing your own plate & utensils to reduce the amount of waste generated by this event. Thank you!

*Cold drinks and coffee will be provided courtesy of University Relations Office of Planned Giving.*



## President's Message August 2019

It's hard to believe that we are almost at Summer's end, though being retired it doesn't quite have the same feel as when I worked! A lot has happened since the last newsletter. We hosted the annual Scholarship luncheon in May where we awarded student scholarships to help defray the cost of getting an education. You can read more about the event and the scholarship recipients on Page 5 & 6. In June, at the annual "Welcome to Retirement" event, we said "goodbye" to Chancellor Blumenthal who has been a long-time supporter of the Retirees Association. We welcomed him as a new Emeriti and honorary Silver Slug. We wish Chancellor Blumenthal all the best as he moves on to other endeavors, and we welcome the opportunity to build a new relationship with recently appointed Chancellor Cynthia Larive. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Chancellor Larive and Associate Chancellor Anna Finn, along with Barry Bowman, Emeriti President, and Christy Dawley, Retiree and Emeriti Center (REC) Coordinator. We met at the Scotts Valley Center, where Chancellor Larive toured the REC, indicating a strong desire to meet the retiree community and will attend one of our events in the near future. We're certain she has a full calendar and many demands for her time and appreciate her willingness to join us. Look for an announcement very soon.

Another high point of the summer was a sailing excursion on the Santa Cruz Chardonnay in July that was a joint effort with the UCSC Emeriti and Retiree Associations. The sail took place from the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor on a Wednesday race regatta evening with clear skies, warm weather and an exciting time as we began the race with the other sail boats. Watching the race from that vantage point was thrilling. If you were not able to make it this year look for the announcement in 2020.



Additionally, you responded to our member survey (thanks to all) and we are in the midst of analyzing the results and comments. Much of the feedback was positive, but there were also suggestions for improvement. As noted at the start, it's been summer and we volunteers were focused on having fun.....so our post-response planning is just getting started. We'll report out to you in a future newsletter.

The Emeriti shared their most recent newsletter with us and you can view it at <https://emeriti.ucsc.edu> . Click on "Newsletters", then select "Issue 2-1". It has lots of information about what's happening on campus and a very informative article about UC health benefits by Roger Anderson (it's better than anything I could write).

Finally, we welcome new volunteer Board member Elizabet Hiatt as our Treasurer, and Jan Burroughs who has volunteered to serve on the Communications Committee and assist with maintaining our website. Thank you!

Hope to see everyone at the Fall Picnic on September 10<sup>th</sup>,

Ilse Lopes



## McIvor's Corner – News from the UCSC Benefits Office

Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator

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### UC to offer new Medicare Advantage PPO plan for 2020

After a thorough review of proposals, UC has entered into an agreement with UnitedHealthcare to offer UC retirees a new Medicare Advantage Preferred Provider Organization (MA PPO) plan beginning Jan. 1, 2020. The new plan will replace the Health Net Seniority Plus Medicare Advantage HMO beginning in the next plan year (2020). UC's other Medicare plans, including the UC Medicare PPO and UC High Option Supplement to Medicare plans administered by Anthem and Kaiser's Senior Advantage plan, will continue to be available in 2020. You do not need to take any action at this time. This decision was guided by the findings of an evaluation team that included representatives from the Academic Senate, the Council of UC Emeriti Associations, the Council of UC Retiree Associations, and others. That group's analysis determined that an MA PPO would offer a number of advantages for UC retirees, including comprehensive coverage at a lower premium than other plan options and the ability to see any provider that accepts Medicare (both in-network and out-of-network).

Systemwide Human Resources is working closely with UnitedHealthcare to finalize details of the plan offering so UC retirees are able to make informed decisions about their benefits for next year, and those enrolling in the new plan will be prepared for the transition. Additional information and opportunities to ask questions will be available in the coming months leading up to Open Enrollment (Oct. 31 – Nov. 26, 2019). Please keep an eye out for news in New Dimensions, UCnet and other benefits materials.

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## Christy's Corner - News from the Retiree and Emeriti Center

Christy Dawley Coordinator, UC Santa Cruz Retiree and Emeriti Center

(831)502-8202 rec@ucsc.edu

Office Hours Monday - Friday, 10:00am to 2:00pm\*

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*\*Office hours may vary based on meetings & events. If you would like to make sure Christy is available, it is recommended to make an appointment ahead of time.*



Members from across the UC Santa Cruz community came out to honor this year's retiring faculty and staff at the Welcome to Retirement event in June. The weather was mild and ideal for an afternoon outdoors on the patio of the Coastal Biology Building as we celebrated our new retirees. Chancellor George Blumenthal was in attendance to honor retiring staff and faculty for their years of service, and as one of this year's honorees as well. During his

speech, the Chancellor mentioned, "What strikes me as so exciting about this next chapter in all of our lives is that the possibilities truly are endless." In appreciation for their contributions to the university, honorees received a special gift donated by the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, Osher Lifelong Learners, the Affiliates, UC Santa Cruz Retirees Association, and more. The Retirees Association president, Ilse Lopes, brought her unique wit to the role of MC at the event, Vice President, Barry Bowman spoke on behalf of the Emeriti Association, and Associate Vice Chancellor Ashish Sahni joined Chancellor George Blumenthal in congratulating honorees during the ceremony. On a related note, we would like to extend our utmost appreciation to Ashish Sahni, Associate Chancellor, and the Chancellor's Office for supporting this year's event, and for the additional commitment recently made to the Retiree and Emeriti Center (REC) for additional funding to bring the half-time position of coordinator to full time status through the end of the calendar year. For more information about the Retiree & Emeriti Center please visit our website at <https://rec.ucsc.edu/>

## Membership News

### Welcome to New Members!

**David Bezanson** – General Internal Medicine, UCSF  
**Sandra Chung** - Linguistics  
**Kim Manss** – Student Business Services  
**Kathy Harley** – Environmental Studies  
**Martha Brown** – Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems  
**Mary Eriksen** – ITS Academic Divisional Computing  
**Rena Cochlin** – Office of Physical Education, Recreation & Sports (OPERS)  
**Michelle Dohl** – Mathematics Department  
**Michelle Michaels** – Student Health Center  
**Mary and Mark Ripma** – Library  
**Andrew Szasz** – Environmental Studies  
**Mark Boolootian** – ITS Core Technologies  
**Adrienne Waite** – Colleges Housing & Educational Services (CHES)

### NEW! Silver Slugs Interest Groups

Introducing a new way to enjoy activities that you love with fellow UCSC retirees - Start a Silver Slug Interest Group. It is easy! Contact us with an idea and we will help you get started. Suggestions for Interest Groups include:



- Bird Watching
- Reading Group
- Wine Tasting
- Movie Group
- Walking on Westcliff
- Hiking
- Knitting or Sewing
- Cooking
- Dog Play Dates



You name it! We will help you set up your group and get the word out. This is a great way to share fun activities with new friends and old colleagues. If you are interested in more information, please contact Bill Parro at [wcparro@ucsc.edu](mailto:wcparro@ucsc.edu)

## Recognition for Barbara Dileanis

At the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to recognize Barbara Dileanis as an Honorary Lifetime Member of the UCSC Retirees Association. Barbara has served as a member of the UCSC Retirees Association Board of Directors for 28 years, from 1991 to 2019, with grace, good cheer and dedication in a wide variety of roles.

Barbara initiated the original Association Book Award fund in 1992 and served as our representative to CUCRA during the 1990's. She was Membership Chair and an active member of the Scholarship committee. In addition, she compiled and maintained the Association scrapbooks and in recent years has been co-Historian maintaining and documenting important historical events and materials. Each time UCSC hosted the CUCRA/CUCEA fall meetings that occurred every four years, Barbara was actively involved in the events and served as a member of several planning committees.

At our social activities, Barbara and her husband Dimitri provided music and entertainment and she actively assisted with planning, set-up, and clean-up. She was always the gracious presence who greeted and welcomed fellow Retirees with her beautiful smile and caring demeanor as they walked in the door.

Barbara exemplifies dedication and service to the University and our students and has applied her years of experience and good heart to fulfill the mission of our Association.



### 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/>

## Scholarship Committee Report

Thanks to the members of my scholarship committee who spent much time in carefully reviewing the scholarship applications this year. They are Barbara Collins, Barbara Dileanis, Sharon Dirnberger, Sally Lester, Corinne Miller, Nancy Pascal, and Mary Wells. I also want to thank Sally Lester for her work with the Silver Slug Award applicants, and Odessa Burkett, the VETS Program Coordinator in the UCSC STARS Office (Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students). Many, many thanks to Paul Dileanis, a professional photographer (and Barbara Dileanis' brother), who took the pictures at our May scholarship luncheon. Also, thanks to the people who donated cups, mugs, sugar bowls, creamers, teapots, and other ceramic containers for my use in planting succulents for military veteran student scholarships. The sale of these plants brought in enough for a \$1,000 scholarship in each year of 2017, 2018, and 2019. I am now collecting containers and propagating succulents for 2020 scholarships. If you have any such items, please bring them to me at our social events or call me at (831)426-8353.

At our May scholarship luncheon, eight UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane scholarships were given to the following military veteran students: Jared Donaldson, Chris Fabbri, Oleksandra Keehl, George Leece, Nicholas Mason, Francisco Munoz, Austin Ringelstein, and Christopher Weakley. Three Silver Slug scholarships were given to two staff members and one staff dependent: Elizabeth Anne Howard, Koa Kiefer, and Katharine Pierini.

The last ledgers received were for the month of June. The Silver Slug Award Scholarship contributions total \$48,448.08, the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment contributions total \$190,940.78, and the Current Year fund totals \$885.33 after funds for the May scholarships were deducted. This account will be reimbursed when some of the scholarship money is paid from the Retirees Lane endowment.

Maxine Lane  
Scholarship Committee Chair

*Following are brief excerpts from letters written by the military veteran students who received scholarships at the May scholarship luncheon. I wish I could have included their entire very impressive letters. Most of the "thank you" language has been omitted so you could learn more about the students themselves.*

As a husband and father of two, this scholarship will greatly help me focus more on school. Because of opportunities like this, I am able to support my family while earning my degree. Thank you for being a part of my UCSC experience and allowing me to accomplish my goals. I hope to be able to donate to such scholarships in the future to help another student like me.

JARED DONALDSON

This scholarship eases financial challenges and allows for more focus on scholastic achievement and family. This comes at a fairly critical time with respect to VA housing and stipend payments due to the timing between winter and spring terms. Thank you for selecting me. My family and I appreciate it greatly.

CHRIS WEAKLEY

This award means A LOT to me! I'm in the process of earning my master's degree in Earth Science but funding seems to be getting scarce. The result of my military service and deployments has been a pursuit of higher education. Every day I wake up grateful for my life circumstances. Thank you for helping me reach the biggest goal of my life!

NICK MASON

I'm once again honored and humbled to receive the Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship. Thank you so much for supporting me in pursuit of my dream of obtaining a graduate degree.

OLEKSANDRA KEEHL

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to complete my master's degree in education at UCSC through the help of the scholarship. I plan to go on to be an educator in the field of history/anthropology/archaeology. Your support will have positive contributions down the road.

AUSTIN RINGELSTEIN, LT. USN (Retired)

I am honored and grateful to be a selected recipient of the Bruce Lane Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship will help further my education by providing opportunities to continue my education with funding for school supplies and helping pay for child care services for my daughter. This scholarship will relieve a great deal of stress and anxiety over financial stability.

GEORGE LEECE

By awarding me a UCSC Retirees Association 2019 Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship, you have not only lightened my financial burden but have boosted my morale in knowing I can accomplish great measures in college like I did in the military. Thanks to the support of this scholarship, I feel more equipped to continue to challenge myself in academic spaces.

FRANCISCO MUNOZ

Each of you who took the time to learn about my financial need for the pursuit of a higher education saw a military veteran with ambitions and dreams worth fighting for. My journey has been dynamic and challenging. But it is because of committees like this that I have been able to keep fighting for my dream. Thank you again for believing in me and one day I hope to be able to return this priceless gesture.

CHRISTOPHER FABBRI

## Spotlight on the Silver Slug Award

*This is a portion of a University Relations article written by J.D. Hillard that will be published in Tuesday Newsday in the Fall.*

In its second year offering the scholarship, the UC Santa Cruz Retirees Association gave three Silver Slug Awards, two to students who are also staff members and one to a child of a staff member. The Silver Slug Award was established in 2018 to help staff with education expenses either for themselves or family members. Awardees must be staff of UC Santa Cruz or dependents of staff.



### Love of language

Katharina Pierini is nearing completion of a BA in Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism. She grew up in Europe, speaking multiple languages and had always loved linguistics. Pierini (Kresge '21, applied linguistics) enrolled at UC Santa Cruz in 1994 but her education was interrupted and she went on to earn an associate degree in horticulture from Cabrillo College. Eventually she returned to Kresge as a groundskeeper. And this year she resumed her studies, 25 years after she first affiliated with Kresge. The scholarship is very helpful, she said. "I feel like I got a huge raise," Pierini said. "I'm very excited and feel really fortunate."

### Doctor of outdoors

Elizabeth Howard, director of the Younger Lagoon Reserve, is working toward a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology. A Kresge alumna, Howard (Ph.D. '22, ecology and evolutionary biology) earned her BA in 2001 in environmental studies and biology. Her doctoral work arose from a habitat restoration project she has

been supervising at the reserve. To compare outcomes, she is working in collaboration with the Coastal Commission to examine records of restoration projects statewide. Her analysis will help commission staff evaluate whether future projects are likely to meet expectations. Howard hopes her degree will help her build her career options. She eventually wants to pursue roles with more decision-making authority.

Receiving a scholarship from the Retirees Association was especially meaningful, she said, because of the help she has received from UC Santa Cruz staff throughout her career. "I'm extremely grateful, especially because this scholarship is given by retired staff," she said. "Staff helped me get into school and to navigate once I was enrolled."

### Future psychology researcher

Koa Kiefer (Crown '20, psychology) transferred to UC Santa Cruz from Cabrillo College with a major in psychology. Kiefer's mother, Melody Litt-Louris, director of business and resource management for the Department of Student Achievement and Equity Innovation has worked for the university for 15 years. "I was so excited and proud of Koa when I learned he was chosen to receive the Silver Slug scholarship," she said. "I was happy to hear Koa wanted to attend UCSC. He basically grew up living close and coming up to campus frequently." Kiefer has worked continuously to support his education. He is the first in his family to attend college. He plans to pursue a career researching cognitive neuropsychology or human-robotic interaction.

### In Memoriam

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

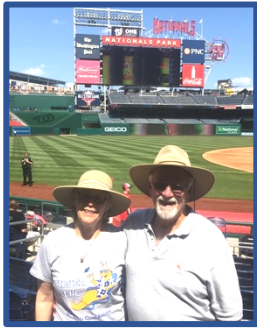
**Joyce Brodsky** *May 11, 2019*

**Marcia Levitsky** *March 21, 2019*

**Pavel Machotka** *March 18, 2019*



## Slugs on the Go!



*UCSC Retiree Marilyn Chapin  
at a Washington Nationals  
Baseball Game*

## Past Events

### TOUR & CHOCOLATE TASTING AT MUTARI



Owned by Stephen Beaumier and Katy Oursler, Mutari is one of about 300 craft chocolate makers world-wide. Their chocolates are made from single-origin cacao beans (the beans for each

type of chocolate are sourced from a single location). Their chocolate bars are made without fillers, usually consisting only of cacao, organic sugar and organic cocoa butter and allows the particular cacao bean's flavor to shine through. Mutari considers itself a producer of Craft Drinking Chocolate but they also produce sumptuous chocolate bars made from up to 100% cacao. Keep in mind that Mutari is a chocolate maker, not a chocolatier. Chocolate makers make chocolate that chocolatiers use to make confectionery delights. The tour, at their compact and efficient operation at 504A Front Street in Downtown Santa Cruz, started out with a tasting of their 54% Ugandan sipping hot chocolate (also available in bar form). We then saw (and smelled) the aromatic cacao beans, in their raw form and as crushed nibs. Next, we were shown the grinder/melanger and were rewarded with a taste of the

melted chocolate (yum)! After a discussion on tempering and storage, we proceeded to the tastings. We started with the highest percentage chocolate made from 100% cacao and moved down from there, tasting chocolate made from Brazilian, Guatemalan, Vietnamese, Ugandan, Ecuadoran, and Tanzanian beans. Katy explained where each of the beans came from, shared "tasting" notes (similar to wine-tasting) and other interesting tidbits. She is extremely knowledgeable and personable. Who knew that chocolate could taste so rich, complex and delicious! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the outing!

### A VISIT TO FILOLI ESTATE & GARDENS



On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, 21 members of the Retirees Association enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day to explore the colorful delights of the Filoli Estate and Gardens in Woodside. The spring flowers were in full bloom with an extravaganza of tulip varieties, blue and white wisteria, azaleas and flowering trees – a photographer's dream!

### PELICAN RANCH WINERY WINE-TASTING



Twenty wine-loving Silver Slugs gathered on June 25<sup>th</sup> in Capitola wine country for a private tasting at Pelican Ranch Winery. The winery owner and winemaker Phil Crews (UCSC's own Distinguished Research Professor of Chemistry) shared five of his wines with us while giving a running commentary about wine regions, wine making, and especially wine chemistry. Previously a home winemaker, Phil along with his wife Peggy established Pelican Ranch in 1997. They specialize in Burgundian and Rhone style wines and produce about 1,000 cases a year. We all learned a lot and enjoyed our samples of Chardonnay, Rose', Pinot Noir, Pinotage, and Late Harvest Zinfandel. Special thanks to Retirees Association member, Sharon Dirnberger, for organizing the event!

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



## **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

Tue. Sept. 10th, 2019 11:30am – 2:00pm

### **Annual Fall Picnic**

at Harvey West Park in Santa Cruz

Tue. December 3rd, 2019 11:30am – 2:00pm

### **Holiday Gathering**

at Peace United Church

For more information on events, go to our website <https://retirees.ucsc.edu/calendar-events/index.html>