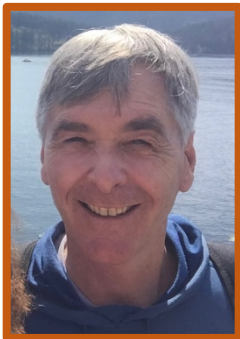




# The Silver Slug

Official Newsletter of the UCSC Retirees Association  
Volume 31, Issue #1, November 2020



## President's Message November 2020

I am feeling the season change, we had frost this week. As much as I don't like the cold, I am hopeful that with the seasons, positive changes will come and bring renewal. I look forward to future newsletters that report all of the fun and fulfilling Retiree Association gatherings that we share. For now, as Thanksgiving is coming right up, I will focus my message on giving thanks to some of those that continue to make a difference in the Retirees Association.

First of all, I am thankful for our collective perseverance through the pandemic, economic, racial, climatic, and political turmoil and challenges that we have faced.

In this time while we are not holding Retirees Association events as usual, we continue to work behind the scenes. We support the benefits and service to our retired staff and faculty. We support student veterans and staff and their dependents with scholarships, and keep our Retirees Association going until we can meet again in person.

I want to thank Frank Trueba, Lee Duffus, Roger Anderson and Christy Dawley for their work with the system-wide Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) and other committees. They work with colleagues across the system and UCOP to support the interests of retirees. Thanks to Ilse Lopes and Lee Duffus for championing the CUCRA survey to our campus. We also owe thanks to our colleagues in the Emeriti Association and the Committee on Emeriti Relations. Barry Bowman, Roger Anderson, Judith Aissen, and Todd Wipke have done tremendous work to monitor and improve the services of administering benefits to our retired faculty and staff. Barry and Judith also serve on the steering committee to support the Retiree and Emeriti Center run by Christy Dawley. We look forward to increased collaboration with the Emeriti Association. We owe thanks to Christy and recognize the value of our Center as the nexus for information and services to retirees. We, of course, always owe thanks to Marianne McIvor, Tess Waldo and the entire UCSC Benefits team.

I am writing this on Veterans day. I want to thank our veterans who served our country with dedication and bravery that I can only imagine. We try to honor them by supporting our student veterans with The Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship. Thanks to all of you who contribute to these scholarships, as well as those who contribute to the Silver Slug Award Scholarship for staff and staff dependents pursuing a degree at UC Santa Cruz. Thanks to Maxine Lane, the Scholarship Committee and others for raising scholarship funds and awarding the scholarships.

Thanks to the Retiree Association Board that placed your faith in me to serve as the President of the Board. I will need all of your continued efforts and insights to carry out our vision for a robust Retiree Association. Thanks to all of you who have reached out to welcome me as the Association President. We are, by the way, looking for a couple of new board members. If you are interested, or know someone we should recruit, please let me know!

Lastly, thanks to all of you that help each other get through the multitude of challenges that we face. Please stay in touch with each other and continue to share ideas with us on how we can stay connected until we can meet again.

Sincerely,  
Bill Parro  
wcparro@ucsc.edu



## Membership News

As we've previously communicated, due to the pandemic, we are offering a brief suspension of Retiree Association Membership Dues. We have not been using Retiree Association funds for normal expenses such as facility rentals for our potluck social events and CUCRA representative travel to system-wide meetings. Since we have built up a surplus, the board voted to suspend Membership Dues through February 2021.

### New Members – June to October 2020



**Pamela D'Arcey** – ACCESS Program  
**Cathy Crowe** - TAPS  
**Ron Dillehay** – Physical Planning Develop & Operations  
**Michael Dine** - Physics  
**M. Monika Dorough** – University Relations  
**Zaunna Fingal** - Physical Planning Develop & Operations  
**Kathy Foley** – Theater Arts  
**Allison Galloway** – Chancellor's Office  
**Howard Haber** - Physics  
**Robert Kemp** – Copy, Mail & Receiving Services  
**Mary Knudtson** – Student Health & Wellness  
**Ronnie Lipschutz** – Politics

**Jennifer McNulty** – Public Information/Strategic Communications  
**Leticia Medina-Kohrs** – Academic Personnel  
**Diane Nichols** – CASFS  
**Francie Pena** – Financial Aid  
**Katie Savacool** – OPERS  
**Paula Schneider** – Physical & Biological Sciences  
**Lynne Sheehan** – School of Engineering  
**Lynne Stoops** – University Relations  
**Jim Velzy** – Physical & Biological Sciences  
**Carl Walsh** – Economics  
**Jo Westbrook** – University Relations  
**Linda “Lin” Weyers** – Environmental Studies

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## 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.

September 2019 to September 2020

Hermia Kaplan  
James Lunny  
Carolyn Dunnett  
Diane Rutledge  
Paula Andreini  
Margot Leigh  
Katherine Ann Baker  
Joseph Calmes  
Geraldine Sweet

William Stevens  
Rosemary Bryan  
Lester Edwin Coate  
James Moore  
Doris Johnson  
Donna Walsh  
Ingeborg Gerdes  
Donaciano Fernandez  
C. Gordon Wells



## 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](mailto:rec@ucsc.edu)

RASC has announced two important changes to improve service to members: expanded phone support hours during Open Enrollment and a new call-back feature.

### Expanded phone hours for Open Enrollment

From Oct. 29 through Nov. 24, 2020, you can call RASC at 800-888-8267 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (PT) to speak to a member services representative. Normal phone hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) will resume on Wednesday, Nov. 25. RASC is offering extended hours to better serve members during the busy Open Enrollment period. Unfortunately, callers may still experience long wait times, particularly in the final week of Open Enrollment. For faster service — and to make sure you get the help you need in time — try to avoid waiting until the last minute to call.

### New call-back feature

If you do call at a busy time, you'll now have the option to request a call back. While you go about your day, the

automated call-back feature holds your place in line. As soon as a RASC representative is available, you'll receive a call at the number you indicate — even if you're calling from outside the United States. Please note that the call-back option may not be available later in the day if it's not possible for representatives to return all calls on the same business day.

In June, the Welcome to Retirement celebration was held virtually via Zoom. 34 new UCSC retirees were in attendance: 6 retiring faculty and 28 retiring staff. New Retirees Association President Bill Parro served as MC and Past President Ilse Lopes spoke on behalf of the RA, while Barry Bowman represented the Emeriti Association. Chancellor Larive was the keynote speaker. On the UCSC Retiree and Emeriti Center website, you can find the "Retiring Class of 2020" webpage, which was created to honor this year's retirees: <https://rec.ucsc.edu/events/retiring-class-2020.html>

## Report on CUCRA/CUCEA Meeting

On Oct. 28 & 29, we hosted the Fall 2020 meeting of CUCRA and CUCEA remotely via ZOOM. Prior to the COVID pandemic, planning efforts were taking place to host in person in Santa Cruz. Thank you to Christy Dawley, our REC Coordinator, who did an incredible job in facilitating the transition to online. Her efforts helped to make this a successful event in challenging times. Some key points discussed were:

### Travel Program (Sue Barnes)

- All 2020 trips have been canceled, except for one being moved to March 2022
- No Travel Program revenue to speak of
- UCLA group is trying to start up a "local" trips program

### Survivor Collaborative Team Update (Todd Wipke)

- Spoke about the work with RASC on Survivor notification and processing

### CUCRA survey (Jon Good)

- Thanks to all who participated by completing and submitting the survey. The data collection has been completed and the next phase is for the analysis to begin. Looking forward to a Report of results early next year.

### Health Benefits Advisory Committee (John Meyer, Frank Trueba)

- An opportunity to discuss the Health Benefits Advisory Committee report recently submitted to the UC Executive Steering Committee

### RASC and UCOP-HR Updates

- RASC is prepared for Open Enrollment including an updated Phone Response program (Michael Waldman)
- RASC has hired 8 new Customer Service reps, who started on Nov. 9 to increase timely responses
- There is a "password queue" for password resets only in order to increase response time.
- RASC phones will be open 2 extra hrs, from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm (an hour extra on each side) however, the decision was made too late to include the information in New Dimensions



## Scholarship Committee Report

Several people have asked about Barbara Dileanis who was a member of the Retirees Association since 1991 and was a board member for many years. She retired from the board last year and moved to Sequim, Washington with her daughter and son-in-law. Their home is on an acre of ground with a lot of fruit trees and she has a beautiful view of the mountains. Barbara misses being on the board and being with her university friends at the social gatherings. Through being on the board, she and I became close as sisters.

We hope that there is a vaccine for the virus soon and that by next year, we can once again have our regular scholarship luncheon. A tentative date of Tuesday, May 11, 2021 has been set, but of course, could possibly be changed. We are not sure yet of the place. Everything is so uncertain these days. Chancellor Larive has said she would come to speak at the luncheon. She received a scholarship herself as an undergraduate student, so she knows their value.

For our scholarship funds, contributions declined considerably from April through August for both the Bruce Lane scholarship for military veteran students and the Silver Slug Award for UCSC staff and their dependents. Only too well are we aware of the virus and the effect it may have financially on some of our Retirees association members. No contributions were received during this time, except \$200 in July for the military veteran students.

As of the end of August, the Silver Slug Award Endowment totaled \$53,573.08, the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment totaled \$198,684.59, and the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Current Year Fund totaled \$3,266.19. The September ledgers have not yet been received and this would include any donations received on Giving Day which was on September 30.



Please call me, Maxine Lane at (831)426-8353, if you would like to get some lovely succulents in decorative pots, cups, mugs, sugar bowls, creamers, etc. for a Thanksgiving or Christmas gift. All the money will be used for military veteran student scholarships at UCSC next May. Also, if you have any such containers that you would like to donate, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Many, many thanks to the following people who are with me on the scholarship committee for all their outstanding work and much time spent in reviewing the applications for scholarships, as well as for their other good work on the committee: Barbara Collins, Sharon Dirnburger, Sally Lester, Corinne Miller, Nancy Pascal, Mary Wells, and Daniel Young. A big thank you also goes to the military veteran student scholarship coordinator, Julie Howell, who gives a lot of her time to working with me and obtaining the scholarship applications from the military veterans, making up the scholarship certificates for the veterans, etc. etc. Also, a big thanks to Sally Lester who obtains the scholarship applications from the staff members and/or their dependents for the Silver Slug Scholarships. All of the people receiving scholarships from the Retirees Association are in financial need, so your contributions are very greatly appreciated.

Please be careful and safe until the virus is under control.

Maxine Lane  
Scholarship Committee Chair



## Open Enrollment

October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 24, 2020 Closing at 5:00pm PST

### Retiree Open Enrollment Presentation Tuesday, November 17, 1:00 – 2:30pm

This Retiree Open Enrollment presentation will be an overview of changes for UC retiree medical & dental plans for the 2021 plan year and is an excellent place to ask questions. Current retirees and employees considering retirement in the coming year are encouraged to attend. Registration is required and you can find more information on the REC website, here is the link:

<https://rec.ucsc.edu/news-and-information/open-enrollment.html#OE2>

After you have registered, you will receive an emailed invitation with login information to join the session via Zoom. To download the latest version of Zoom, visit <https://zoom.us/>

Presenter: Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator, UC Santa Cruz Benefits Office.



Do you have questions? Take a look at the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page on the REC website:

<https://rec.ucsc.edu/news-and-information/faq.html>

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### Slugs on the Go!



We don't have any organized activities to report on, but we know that the Silver Slugs are an active, dynamic and resilient group. Let us know what you have been up to!

We welcome photos, stories, and profiles of yourself or other retirees you may know who are volunteering or completing projects at home.

Please send to [ucscsilverslug@gmail.com](mailto:ucscsilverslug@gmail.com)