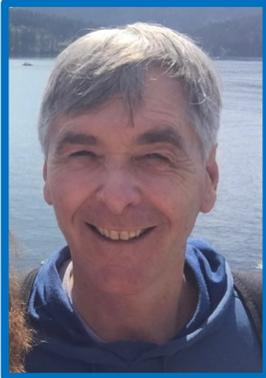




The Silver Slug

Official Newsletter of the UCSC Retirees Association
Volume 31, Issue #2, February 2021



President's Message February 2021

Dear Retirees,

In this first Retirees Association (RA) Newsletter of 2021, I write with the hope that the COVID vaccines are becoming available to our retirees and that vaccination programs will help stem the tide of this pandemic across our nation and the world. The UCSC Retiree & Emeriti Center (REC) website has a link to local Vaccine Resources under the News & Information tab. Please get the shots when you can and continue to practice social distancing and wear those masks.

Someday soon we will meet again in person, but until then we will continue to offer virtual events. Although you may be tired of Zoom, it has been a good way for us to stay in touch with each other and with our loved ones. This year, our annual Holiday Gathering in December was replaced by a virtual Happy Hour held in the late afternoon. Organized by Board member Karalee Richter, it was well-attended and received great reviews (more on page 3). Zoom events do have the added bonus of allowing retirees who have moved away to join us. It was great to see several members that no longer live in the local community. Our Board and our members at large have many great ideas for small gatherings, both virtual for now and in person for the future. Let us know if you are interested in helping plan events. Since we are still not spending dues for gatherings etc., we are planning on extending the pause in dues payments. We will keep you posted.

We have an upcoming Bridge to Retirement Zoom Panel on March 16. Please encourage your friends who are thinking about retirement to attend and talk with retirees about the path to retirement, and what to expect on the other side. We are working on hosting a Speaker event this spring and our in-person Scholarship Luncheon scheduled for May 11 will become virtual.

On a personal note, it has been a great comfort to have fellow retirees to talk with and try to make sense of the trying times that we have experienced this last year. Between the toll of the pandemic and related isolation and economic hardships, the impact of racial injustice, the devastation of local fires, and the national political turmoil, it has been what seems like a very long year! Thanks for being there for me and for each other. Here is to hope for brighter days ahead.

Sincerely,
Bill Parro
wcparro@ucsc.edu





New Members – November 2020 to January 2021

Rosemary Anderson– Office of Risk & Safety Services, UCSC & County of Santa Cruz

Kathy Rouhier - University Relations

Tamara Santos - ITS

Deanne (CruzPay) & **Michael** (Enterprise Financial Systems) **Steele**



UC Retirees Travel is looking forward to exploring the world again when it is safe to do so. Explore the Canadian Rockies by train, or travel to Chile and Argentina for a journey from the Andes to Patagonia. On our web page you can find more information on trips planned for late 2021 and in 2022.

<http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>

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.

October 2020 to December 2020

Robert White
Beverly Dutton
Peggy Jones
Harold Hyde
Valetta Mann
Buchanan Sharp



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

Is your new year starting with a new medical plan? Here are a few things to think about for a smooth transition:

- If you receive a new card, replace your old plan's ID card with your new plan's ID card right away. This ensures the next time you go to see your doctor or you need to fill a prescription, you will have the right card with you. Speaking of having a new card, do not forget to tell your doctor or pharmacist that you have new coverage, so they don't try to use old plan information they may have in their files.
- Register on your new plan's website. All plans have comprehensive website portals that, once registered, gives you access to member specific information that can come in handy. For example, if you misplace your ID card, you can print out a new one for yourself. This can be especially helpful for dental and optical coverage, as these plans do not proactively send ID cards.
- For smooth internet connections, make sure you are using the latest version of your browser and use the link to your plan's website from the "Plan Contacts" page on UC Net located here:

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/contacts/plan-contacts.html>

What if my ID card has not arrived yet?

If your new ID card has not arrived, you should call your plan's customer service number to inquire about your ID card, which comes directly from the plan, not from the University. A list with contact information for each plan can be found at <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/contacts/plan-contacts.html>. Please remember, since you do not have your ID card, they may ask for your Social Security number to verify your identity. If you are in their system, they should be able to verify that your ID card has been sent. If they tell you that your ID card has been sent, verify what address they have for you. If the address is incorrect, you will also need to update your address with the University through the UCRAYS portal or by calling RASC. Please note that a representative from the plan may take your correct address, but if not updated with the University, the incorrect address will be sent over again. If the card has not been sent, you should inquire as to why and when it will be sent. In either case, the plan representative can give you your ID number and then you can go to the plan's portal, register, and print an ID card.

For more information, go to this page on the UCSC Retiree and Emeriti Center website:

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



On Wed. Dec. 2, 2020, we held a virtual Holiday Gathering via ZOOM. There were 44 participants, including folks from Atascadero, Fremont, Stockton, San Diego, Volcano, CA and Hilo, HI.



McIvor's Corner – News from the UCSC Benefits Office

Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator

Greetings for the new year from my home, as I continue to be working remotely per the on-going pandemic restrictions. Accordingly, the best way to reach me is by e-mail memcivor@ucsc.edu.

COVID-19 Vaccine information:

The state of California must allocate the limited COVID-19 vaccine supply it receives from the federal government to 58 California counties and 9 multi-county entities. As the COVID-19 vaccine effort continues to roll out and eligibility for the vaccine is determined by state and federal criteria, I encourage retired UC members to keep informed of availability by checking with their county resources and primary care providers for information. The UCSC Retiree & Emeriti Center website is a great resource for helpful websites: <https://rec.ucsc.edu/news-and-information/covid-vaccine-resources.html>. Additionally, the state has been piloting the My Turn system, <https://myturn.ca.gov/> whereby individuals can sign up for a notification when they are eligible to make an appointment to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. The pilot has taken place in Los Angeles and San Diego and the state expects to roll it out to other counties in February.

Virtual Health Care is here to stay:

If you've been delaying care you need because of concerns about COVID-19, get information on your options today. You have many ways to safely get quality care. Until our nation's collective immunity to COVID-19 reaches higher levels, I am highlighting the remote medical care options, also called Telehealth Services, collected on the UC's benefits website: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/health-plans/medical/telemedicine.html>

2020 Tax Forms:

While not strictly health plan related, I nevertheless receive frequent inquiries about tax forms. Please refer to the following articles regarding retiree pension income statements (1099R form) and medical coverage information statements (1095 form), respectively.

- <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2021/01/2020-tax-statements-available-now.html>
- <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2021/02/availability-of-irs-form-1095-for-your-2020-taxes.html>

Please note, the IRS has established different deadlines for 1099 and 1095 forms and different methods of delivery for each of these tax forms.

Scholarship Committee Report

As of the end of December, the Silver Slug Award Endowment had \$56,643.08, the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment had \$203,905.59 and the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Current Year Fund totaled \$3,148.69. Please mark your calendars for May 11 when we will have a virtual Scholarship Award Event on ZOOM. We will honor our students who will be receiving the Silver Slug Award scholarships for UCSC current staff and retirees and their dependents, and the Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship for UCSC military veteran students.

It is difficult to believe that I will have been retired from UCSC for 30 years at the end of March. My husband, Bruce Lane, and I retired at the same time. He had started as an architect at UCSC in 1964 when there were only ranch buildings on the site, and I went to work at UCSC in 1969. As soon as we retired, Bruce and I both joined the UCSC Retirees Association. I have enjoyed so very much being able to get together with fellow retirees with which I have so much in common. I look forward to the time when we can get together in person again. Until then, please stay safe.

Maxine Lane, Scholarship Committee Chair



Slugs on the Go!

In challenging times, resourceful and creative UCSC retirees find ways to be of service, stay active, and learn new things.

*If you have any stories to share, we would love to hear them!
Please submit to ucscsilverslug@gmail.com*

Fay Levinson has taken up baking bread as a new hobby. She says: "It is fun and a productive way to spend time and energy. I have learned so much about the chemistry of baking and learned how to succeed as well as to 'fail'. If you decide to give it a try, I suggest going online and reading information on learning bread making techniques. Then, watch the helpful online videos, and enjoy!"



Winter storm at Lighthouse Point - December 2020

Photo by Cori Houston

Mary Wells

The Board of local Santa Cruz non-profit Second Harvest Food Bank has named Silver Slug Mary Wells as a “Hunger Fighter of the Year”. In lieu of its annual Awards Dinner, Second Harvest is hosting a virtual ceremony in March. A short video of an interview of Mary at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, where she has volunteered for the past 14 years, will be included. Mary has continued to volunteer throughout the current COVID crisis, helping to ensure the County’s most vulnerable are supported. We congratulate her on this well-deserved award. Once we have details of the virtual event, we will let you know if the public is invited to join. WAY TO GO MARY!



Mary handing out groceries at the food pantry.

Kathy Ferraro

Since retiring in 2013, Kathy Ferraro has forged a new career path as a site coordinator for touring film festivals at the Rio Theatre in Santa Cruz. It all started when she was asked to come back by the UCSC Recreation Dept. to coordinate the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival in 2014, a project she anticipated to be just a one-time thing. She ended up started a new collaboration with Laurence Bedford, the owner of the Rio Theatre, and started to bring other touring festivals to Santa Cruz. Kathy tailored her

selections to topics that she thought would resonate with the local community. She had great success with the Ocean Film Festival, Radical Reels, Women’s Adventure Films, MountainFilm, and a new venture called Top Dog. This is, as you can imagine, a series of short films that showcase the incredible bond between dogs and their people. It was slated for a Santa Cruz debut on March 13, 2020 and then on March 12, the COVID virus was declared a pandemic and California went into a shutdown. The sold-out show was cancelled, and Kathy and Laurence were forced to take a financial loss. They had to pivot quickly and started working with festival coordinators to get creative and keep the film festivals going virtually. At first, they thought it would only be for a couple of months, but as we have all experienced, it has been a roller coaster. Flexibility and resilience have been the key. Kathy says that local business and media sponsors have been incredibly receptive and continue to support the events. In addition, the tradition of partnering with local non-profits who receive a portion of the proceeds from shows has continued. The hard work of all those involved helps to keep the Rio Theatre alive, provide entertainment for the community during this pandemic, and make sure all parties involved are still around and in business when this is all over. The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival is currently available to watch online, if you are interested, go to this link on the Rio Theatre website:

<http://www.riotheatre.com/events-2/2020/11/26/banff-centre-mountain-film-festival-world-tour>



Kathy on a 2019 bike tour in Italy