



The Silver Slug

Official Newsletter of the UCSC Retirees Association
Volume 32, Issue #1, September 2021



Wednesday, September 15, 2021 12:30 – 2:00

Virtual Annual Fall Picnic

Join us on ZOOM

It's still not safe to get together in person, but we hope you will join us from wherever you are and stay connected virtually. Bring your lunch and there will be break out rooms on different topics such as Travel, Gardening, Cooking, etc. Registration is required, please sign up at the link below by September 10th. Hope to see you there!

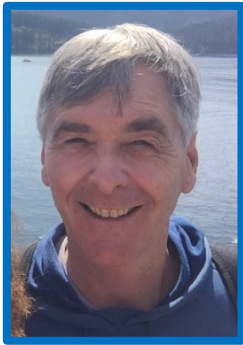
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New Members

Teri Gardner - Accounts Payable
Susan Girard - Financial Aid
Judith Habicht Mauche - Anthropology
David Kamimoto - Admissions
Diane Lamotte - Ancillary Services
Deb Newman - Procurement

Jude Pipes – Art Department
Kate Rosenbloom Pohl - Bioinformatics
Jean Marie Scott - Risk and Safety Services
Irene Reti – McHenry Library
Vlasta Sekyra – Housing Services
Barbara Silverthorne - Career Center



President's Message September 2021

Dear Retirees,

Each summer dozens of UCSC staff and faculty join the ranks of the retired. This year a total of 56 joined the Retirees Association (RA), including 11 who attended the Welcome to Retirement Zoom event. We want to take this opportunity to welcome our new members and to use a bit of this newsletter to orient the newbies to our organization. The best tool to learn more about the Retirees Association is “of course” our website. Please visit <https://retirees.ucsc.edu>

Who We Are

The Retirees Association is a group of retired UCSC staff (as well as our partners and some retired faculty) who want to stay in touch, have fun, do some good and look out for our common welfare. We have over 300 members. We also have a Board of Directors that meets every couple of months to plan and manage the activities described below. We have a few positions open on the board. Please let me know (wcparro@ucsc.edu) if you are interested in board service, or if you would just like to pitch in on something that interests you.

What We Do

Retirees Association activities include:

- *Social activities
- *Advocacy for retiree benefits and health insurance
- *Scholarship programs for military veterans and for staff and their dependents
- *Volunteerism and continued association with UCSC

We normally host four anchor events each year along with many smaller activities:

Fall Picnic, Holiday Party, Speakers Luncheon, and Scholarship Luncheon

How We Advocate

In addition to social events, we do a lot of good. The RA is part of a UC wide consortium of Retirees Associations called CUCRA (Council of University of California Retiree Associations). Currently, Frank Trueba represents us at various systemwide meetings and committees to advocate for your benefits and health insurance. He has represented retirees during recent UCOP manager hirings to oversee the Retirement Administration Service Center. (RASC). Frank and other UCSC retirees and emeritus are active and effective systemwide. Frank, Lee Duffus, Roger Anderson and Todd Wipke have all worked to advocate for our benefits and to improve the services that we receive. In 2020, CUCRA conducted a survey of all UC Retirees in an effort to quantify post retirement engagement and just see what retirees are up to. You can find more information and a link to the Survey Report on page 7.

Finally, we also work very closely with our colleagues in the UCSC Benefits Office. On page 5 you will find McIvor's Corner, with information from Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator.

The Retiree and Emeriti Center

The services and information that retiree's need can become difficult to navigate, so in conjunction with our colleagues in the Emeriti Association and the Committee on Emeriti Relations, we partner to develop and support the UCSC Retiree and Emeriti Center. The REC is a campus office staffed by the amazing Christy Dawley who connects to all the information and services that support retirees. She coordinates many efforts and communicates essential information. If you have not done so already, visit rec.ucsc.edu. Christy

has been a lighthouse in the fog to many retirees and emeriti navigating confusing retirement issues. You will find Christy's Corner on page 4.

We Give Scholarships

We have continued to fund and award scholarships for military veterans at UCSC and staff, as well as staff dependents in UCSC degree programs. These are the Bruce Lane Memorial Award and the Silver Slug Award, respectively. This year, 10 scholarship awards were given to veterans studying at UCSC. A staff member enrolled at UCSC, a dependent of a staff member and a dependent of a retiree each received a Silver Slug Award to help with their educational expenses. See information about a fundraising event on page 6.

We Volunteer

One of the results of the 2020 CUCRA Survey was the high level of volunteerism among retirees. Our last newsletter profiled several members of the UCSC Retiree Association who volunteer with Divine Equine to provide equine assisted therapy to people. We are planning to start bringing together volunteers and opportunities in the coming year. This year, the Retirees Association is planning to help with the 2nd Harvest food drive. If you volunteer, or want to volunteer, and would be willing to talk with another interested retiree, please contact me (wcparro@ucsc.edu). Also let me know if you would like to help with the 2nd Harvest Food Bank drive this year.

Communications

We send regular newsletters, like this one. Christy sends regular REC newsletters and other information updates. We also send periodic reminders and updates. Currently, you can contact us at ucscsilverslug@gmail.com. We will be updating our contact information soon.

We do all of these things listed above for the ridiculously low membership cost of \$15 per year, or \$150 for a lifetime membership. And, if you attended the Welcome to Retirement Event, we gave you the first year for free! We will be reinstating membership dues this year, after waiving them due to the pandemic, we hope you will want to stay connected and active with the Retirees Association.

Recent Events and Current Plans

Since the COVID isolation, like everyone else we have resorted to virtual activities. We have nonetheless had a lot of fun. In addition to our regular Board Meetings, we held the Scholarship Event, Welcome to Retirement and a virtual Happy Hour via Zoom, Chancellor Larive joined us at the Scholarship Event and the Welcome to Retirement Event.

Although we have all missed the in-person contact, Zoom has had its advantages. It is pretty easy to join-in virtually and we found that a few of our out-of-state and even out-of-country retirees took advantage and hopped onto our virtual events. This led us to the idea of another virtual Happy Hour intending to include our relocated colleagues whom we miss. As mentioned above, we will be starting an effort to connect volunteers with opportunities.

Welcome once again to our new members and thanks to all of our members for your continuing support and friendship.

Sincerely,
Bill Parro
wcparro@ucsc.edu



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

Christy Dawley, Coordinator, UC Santa Cruz Retiree & Emeriti Center
(831)502-8202 rec@ucsc.edu

As we enter another wildfire season, UC's benefits partners are committed to meeting the needs of those affected. To learn more about the resources available through the UC's Benefit Plans please visit here:
<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/emergency-resources.html>

Preparing for an emergency

September is **National Preparedness Month** and a great time to take steps to prepare for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. Below are actions you can take now to help prepare.



Make a Plan

Your family may not be together if an emergency strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find. For more information visit: <https://www.ready.gov/plan>

Prepare for Disasters

Know what disasters and hazards could affect your area. The Ready.gov website has ideas to help you prepare for several scenarios including earthquakes, wildfires, extreme heat and more.

For more information visit: <https://www.ready.gov/be-informed>

Build a Kit

After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for multiple days. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Once you take a look at the basic items consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets or seniors. If you created a kit in the past, now might be a great time to refresh supplies. For more information visit: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>

Emergency Alerts

When emergencies strike, public safety officials use timely and reliable systems to alert the community. For those living outside of Santa Cruz County, please check with local authorities to find out what notification system is recommended for that area, or visit here: <https://www.ready.gov/alerts>

Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 uses the CodeRED community notification system to send important messages to residents, businesses, and visitors within Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. CodeRED is capable of sending thousands of messages in a very short time based on geographic location of an incident to landlines, cell phones, emails, and via a mobile app. For more information or to sign up at:

<https://www.scr911.org/general/page/sign-reverse-9-1-1-notifications-codered>



McIvor's Corner – News from the UCSC Benefits Office

Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator (she/her)

memcivor@ucsc.edu

Greetings from the UCSC Benefits Office. UCSC Staff Human Resources is phasing in return to campus offices and I am now working three days per week in the UCSC Scotts Valley Center location at 100 Enterprise Dr., with appropriate masking and social distancing requirements. As conditions change, UCSC will continue to follow guidance provided by the county health officer. I expect that group meetings, such as Retiree Open Enrollment events, will continue to be virtual through the end of 2021. Speaking of Open Enrollment....

Open Enrollment (OE) for the 2022 plan year

Begins Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 8:00am

Ends Friday, November 19, 2021 at 5:00pm

As mentioned above, Open Enrollment events for retirees will be held virtually in October and November 2021. Please note that Open Enrollment is ending early this year. For the past several years, OE ended on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. OE for the 2022 plan year is ending on the Friday before Thanksgiving, to allow more time for processing OE elections. Open Enrollment details will be posted on UC Net (<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/>) in mid-October.

Anthem and Dignity Health Reached Contract Agreement – If you are enrolled in a UC PPO plan carried by [Anthem Blue Cross](#), you were notified that Anthem and Dignity Health failed to reach agreement on a contract before the contract period ended on 07/15/2021. Affected plans include [CORE](#), [UC Care](#) and [UC Health Savings Plan](#), as well as Anthem Medicare plans, [UC Medicare PPO w/ and without Rx and UC High-Option Supplement to Medicare](#). **Anthem Blue Cross and Dignity Health announced on August 14, 2021 that they reached agreement on a continuing contract, and the terms of the agreement are retroactive to July 15, 2021.** This agreement returns Dignity Health facilities to Anthem health plans, while protecting affordability for members. This agreement is **retroactive to July 15, 2021**, which means any care provided to Anthem members over the last month will be considered In-Network, there will be no disruption of care.

UC is pleased to inform UC PPO members of this agreement. With the successful conclusion of contract negotiations between Anthem and Dignity Health, UC PPO plan members have continuing access to In-Network coverage for care received at Dignity Health facilities across California. **UC PPO plan members do not need to take action at this time.** All claims incurred since July 15th by UC PPO plan members were held by Anthem, as contract negotiations continued in good faith. Now that an agreement is reached, members' claims will be processed and covered by Anthem at the In-Network coverage level. UC PPO members shall be responsible for the In-Network member expense cost-sharing for services.

Pension Income Statements – If you receive monthly income from the UC Retirement Plan, you are likely enrolled in Direct Deposit and review your pension income statements on-line at UC RAYS. Pension income statements designate Employer Contributions (payments made by UC) towards the cost of monthly medical and dental premiums as “ER”. “ER” is an abbreviation for “Employer” and indicates an expense incurred by UC. I have received calls from retirees concerned that amounts listed on pension income statements as “ER” were deductions from monthly pension income. This is to confirm that dollar amounts listed as “ER” are paid by the University, and are not deductions from monthly pension income. To review your monthly earning statements, please login to your UC RAYS account.

For help with UC RAYS, please visit:

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/retirees/ucrays-how-to-guide.html>

Retirees Association Scholarship Committee Report

Welcome to a new academic year for the Retirees Association. We were hoping to return to in-person events with our Fall picnic, but will continue with virtual events to ensure the safety of all. After many months of sheltering, as I know all of you have been doing too, I was very happy to get to spend time with family in July, as I celebrated my 95th birthday. I wish all of you well, and look forward to seeing you in person when we can.

As of July 2021, the Silver Slug Award Endowment totaled \$57,173.08, the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment totaled \$204,315.59 and the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Current Year Fund totaled \$ 2,488.52.

Our two scholarship endowment funds are growing steadily with the UC General Endowment Pool investments. These endowments are the source of the money for scholarships used to help our deserving military veteran students and Silver Slug students receive the education they strive for. Thank you so very much for contributing to these two very worthwhile funds.

Thank you also for contributing to the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Current Year fund which provides funds for scholarships given in the current year.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon,
Maxine Lane
Scholarship Chairperson

Virtual Pop-Up Craft Sale A Fundraiser for the Silver Slug Award Scholarship Fund Fri., Sat., & Sun. October 15, 16, & 17

Karalee Richter and Patt Takeuchi have been making good use of their time sheltering at home by sewing and creating items to sell. The Pop-Up Craft Sale in October was originally planned to be in person, but due to the latest COVID surge, it has been reinvented as a virtual event. Keep your eye

out for an e-mail with instructions on how to view photos of the items, make your selection, and then make arrangements for curbside pick-up. All proceeds benefit the Silver Slug Award Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for UCSC Staff, Retirees and their dependents who are current UCSC students. Thank you for your support.



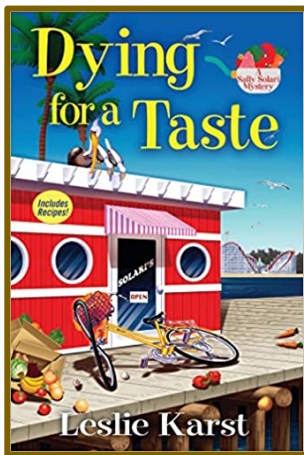


Slugs on the Go!

UCSC retirees find ways to be of service, stay active, and learn new things.

If you have photos or stories to share, please submit to ucscsilverslug@gmail.com

**Leslie Karst book author
Fri. Oct. 1st at 1:00pm on ZOOM**



We had hoped to be “live” by this time, but that darn Delta variant has gotten in the way and we have to wait before we can safely gather in person. However, since we have been successful hosting Zoom events in the past, we’re planning some more virtual

activities that we hope will keep you connected!

pm. She will be discussing her pathway from (in her words) "drafting dry legal memos and appellate briefs to penning culinary mystery novels." In addition, she will share what she went through to write and publish her Sally Solari mystery series, set in Santa Cruz.

More details including registration information will be sent to you in September. In the meantime, if you are interested in starting book 1 of her 4-part series, *Dying for a Taste*. It can be purchased online from Bookshop Santa Cruz or Amazon. Other purchase sites are listed on her website.

One of those events will be a talk by local mystery author, Leslie Karst, on Friday October 1, at 1:00

Learn more about Leslie and her books at <https://www.lesliekarstauthor.com>.

Results of 2020 CUCRA Survey of UC Retirees



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). In 2020, CUCRA conducted a survey to quantify the post-retirement engagement of retirees throughout the UC system. The survey highlights the sheer breadth of contributions and accomplishments of UC staff retirees. The survey notes that UC Retirees lead engaged lifestyles by participating in volunteer work, providing professional services, and even publishing new works of their own. The complete survey can be viewed at <https://cucra.ucsd.edu/survey/index.html>

