



The Silver Slug

Official Newsletter of the UCSC Retirees Association
Volume 33, Issue #4, April 2023

You are invited!

Annual Scholarship Event

Thursday, May 4 2:00 – 3:30pm

In person at the UCSC Arboretum

<https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/visit/directions/index.html>



Join us to honor the current UCSC students who are recipients of the 2023 Silver Slug Award for UCSC Staff and their dependents, and the 2023 UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship for military veterans. Social mixer starts at 2:00 with refreshments provided and live music with retirees Nick Royal and Mike Rotkin. Program begins at 2:30pm and includes comments from Chancellor Cynthia Larive, who will be there in person, an update on the UCSC Veteran's Resource Center from Jerry Cabilatazan, the Veteran's Program Coordinator, and selected student speakers. Thank you to all of you who have donated to make these scholarships possible. We look forward to the chance to say "Thank you" in person. Hope to see you there!

Please RSVP at the link below, so we have an idea of how many people will be attending.

<https://forms.gle/sZBosN3tkWPKmPMm9>

President's Message April 2023



Dear Silver Slugs,

It feels like it was a long time coming, but Spring seems to finally be here! This season represents new beginnings and as we steadily return to gatherings in person, things are really looking up. I hope that you can all take the opportunity to join with fellow retirees in the many activities available in the Santa Cruz area, such as an outing to Ano Nuevo (there is information on page 2) And don't forget our Annual Scholarship Event. The last time this event was held in person was May 2019, so we look forward to getting a chance to visit together and acknowledge the scholarship recipients.

Looking ahead to the future, we are looking for people who would like to get more involved in the Retirees Association. If you would be interested in joining the Board, or volunteering to coordinate an outing or activity, or if you have any other ideas of ways to participate, please contact me and let's talk!

I wish you a Happy Spring and hope to see you soon at one of our events.

Sincerely,
Bill Parro, President UCSC Retirees Association
wparro@ucsc.edu

Welcome New Members!

William Berry - Office of the Chancellor
Erica Perron (Ray) - Financial Affairs

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

If you were inspired by the Retirees Association Speakers Event featuring Burney Le Boeuf, Professor Emeritus of Biology discussing, “The Sleep Apnea Paradox: Problem for Humans; Benefit for Seals,” now is a great time to see these giants for yourself. Now through November, elephant seal viewing is self-guided at Año Nuevo State Park. No tours or reservations are needed.

Año Nuevo State Park is a gem on the California coastline, offering a remarkable experience for visitors. Every winter, over 5,000 of these creatures find their way to the park to give birth and mate along the shoreline, and return again later in the year when they come ashore during the spring and summer months to shed their outer layer of skin and fur during the “molting” process. Female and juvenile seals molt from May through June and older males from July through August.

During the “Molting Season,” the Wildlife Viewing Area within the Natural Preserve is open for self-guided hiking by Visitor Permit only. Self-guided walks to view elephant seals are available daily. Free permits are required to visit the preserve. Obtain your free Visitor Permit daily from the entrance station, between 8:30 am and 3:30 p.m. No reservations are required and no Guided Walks are offered. Visitors must exit the Natural Preserve by 5 p.m., which is earlier than the general park's closing hour of sunset. Please plan to arrive early enough to obtain a permit and make the 3-4 mile hike before 5:00 p.m. Most groups require about two and a half to three hours to make the round-trip hike. There is a day use/parking fee.

Visitors requiring mobility assistance are encouraged to make a reservation for an [Equal Access Tour](#), more information available at this link: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27614



McIvor's Corner – News from the UCSC Benefits Office

Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator (she/her)

Voice: (831)459-3573 memcivor@ucsc.edu

Greetings from the desk of Marianne McIvor. I've gathered some recent benefits & retirement news from UC which affects most retired members and I hope you find this news of interest. I invite folks to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Cost-of-living adjustment.

The UCRP cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for 2023 is 2.90%. COLA's are applied to pension income annually on July 1, meaning that your August 1 pension income check will reflect any COLA increase. COLA's will be automatically applied to pension income for UCRP members with a retirement date on or before July 1, 2022. Additional details are on UC Net at the following link: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2023/03/2023-cost-of-living-adjustments-announced.html>

New dedicated resource for UC Retirement Plan members & their survivors.

UC Retirement Administration has newly dedicated a team and a phone number to respond to the passing of a pension plan member and/or a family member covered by UC retiree health coverage. The phone number to call is 888-825-6833 and this team works only on assisting families with the necessary updates and paperwork when there is a death. Previously, folks were experiencing very long wait times for assistance when someone died. I am grateful for this dedicated team and I'm anticipating improved support during a difficult time. A handbook for families experiencing a death of UC retiree that may also be helpful for reference and is available at the following link on UC Net: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/forms/pdf/survivor-beneficiary-handbook-for-family-members-beneficiaries-of-uc-retirees--members-receiving-ucrp-disability-benefits.pdf>

(continued next page)

Review your beneficiary designations.

In consideration of the new resource dedicated to helping families when there is a death, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to remind folks to review your beneficiary designations on record with UC. Unfortunately, I have helped families recently when no beneficiary designation was in place, and delays resulted. Beneficiary designations for the “death payment” from the UC Retirement Plan may be reviewed and updated anytime at UC RAYS <https://retirementatyourucop.edu/>. UC Retirees with funds on deposit with Fidelity Retirement Services must designate beneficiaries directly with Fidelity; UC beneficiary designations are not passed to Fidelity. Directions on how to designate and update beneficiaries for both UC Retirement and Fidelity Retirement Services are at the following: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/update-beneficiaries.html>

Finally, a note on your year-end tax statements. Spring means flowers and taxes. If you have not already gathered year-end tax statement(s) and are not sure how to do so, you may find the instructions for obtaining your 2022 1099-R tax statement, published at the following page :

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2023/01/your-tax-forms-for-2022.html>

Be well and happy springtime to all!

Retirees Association Scholarship Committee Report

The scholarship selection committee met at Maxine Lane’s home on March 21 to choose the 2023 scholarship recipients. Committee members are: Maxine Lane, Chair; Sharon Dirnberger, Sally Lester, Corinne Miller, Nancy Pascal, and Mary Wells. I thank Sally Lester for searching for Silver Slug recipients and Jerry Cabilatazan, the Program Coordinator for the UCSC Military Veteran’s Resource Center, for searching for military veteran students. Sally’s and Jerry’s work was very time consuming and is very much appreciated. We are pleased to announce that scholarships were awarded to the following UCSC students:

Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship

Daniel Acevedo
Mahyar Anjomani
Donovan Baker
Andrei Deo Lorenzo Basco Bato
Devin Burkland
Stefania Cotei
An Thien Do
Daniel Gallegos

Nicholas Kuipers
Nicholas Lee
Dan Palance
Siarai (Sammy) Tesfai

Silver Slug Award

DeShonne Keller
Jeffrey Weekley

They will be acknowledged at a gathering on May 4th, 2:00 – 3:30pm at the UCSC Arboretum. The Chancellor will speak at this event and refreshments will be served. I hope you will join us.

I am still looking for more succulent pots (cereal bowls, cups, mugs, sugar bowls, creamers, etc.). I would also welcome succulent plants. Please call me at (831)426-8353 if you have any of these items which we use in selling plants for the military veteran student scholarships at UCSC.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon,

Maxine Lane
Scholarship Committee Chair



TREASURES OF JAPAN

Another amazing and enjoyable trip was recently completed by UC Retiree Travel. Sixteen UC affiliated travelers returned from a 14-day trip through the Treasures of Japan (March 27-April 10) - another 5 continued on for an extension to Hiroshima. The trip was produced by Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) which specializes in small

and unique trips highlighted by encounters with ordinary folks of the countries being visited. During this Japan trip, OAT outdid themselves with a visit to Ashigara Village where we cooked our own traditional meal, under the guidance of the villagers. It was our good luck that one of the local volunteers turned out to be a professional singer and we coaxed her into singing for us. She performed the Japanese national anthem as we all stood at attention. Then the villagers asked us to sing the American anthem. Led by one of our UC travelers (who has a musical theater background), we gave them a hearty rendition. Everyone stood at attention, even a gardener, working a bit away from our group stopped and placed his cap over his heart. It was an unscripted turn that left everyone with huge smiles and warm hearts. And that was just one day of many wonderful encounters. Other marvelous moments included a heartfelt discussion with two geishas, an impromptu musical lesson (on a local instrument) with accompanying dance by the proprietress (and her staff) at a remote village restaurant, making ikebana arrangements and a trip to a baseball game.

Have I mentioned the cherry blossoms popping out everywhere? While peak cherry blossom season is usually in mid-April, we happen to arrive during the earliest ever cherry blossom season and they surrounded us where we went.

Our tour guide told us this is a popular trip and we see no reason to argue the point. Other highlights were making mochi (and then eating it), making sushi (and then eating it), and making postcards (and I mean the actual paper). We all had the opportunity to experience Japanese culture in a very special way.



If you are interested in this trip (in 2024) or might be interested in other travel adventures, in 2023 or 2024, in the company of other UC folk, check out the UC Retiree Travel site at: <https://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>.

If you have any questions about this trip or other trips, don't hesitate to contact me, Frank Trueba, at frank.trueba@yahoo.com



Slugs on the Go!

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

If you have an idea for an outing, please let us know! Send an e-mail to ucscsilverslug@gmail.com



Brews, Beverages, and Bites at Watsonville Hangar

A stalwart group of eighteen, both retirees and significant others, braved the weather in late March to gather in south county at Beer Mule, the watering hole located at Watsonville Hangar. Everyone enjoyed good food, good beverages and good conversation at this lunchtime get together. As the weather gets better, we may very well return here to take advantage of the outside games area. Meanwhile, stay tuned for a late spring event! And a special thanks to fellow retiree Esther Sylvan for organizing the event!

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.

November – December 2022

Jane King
Stanley Stevens

The names listed are from official reports sent from UCOP.

