Fall2013 Report to CUCRA

It’s a Silver Year for the Silver Slugs
2013-14 marks the 25th year of our association. And, with an office on campus and a new cooperative working agreement with the Emeriti Association, a new and improved website, the largest turnout in four years for our Fall Picnic, and a growing scholarship endowment, we expect it to be a sterling year!

A New Office and a New Agreement with the Emeriti Association.
By the time of the November CUCRA meeting we should be settled into our first-ever office, which we are sharing with the Emeriti Association and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

In conjunction with planning for the joint office, we collaborated with the Emeriti in writing a joint proposal to the UCSC Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor describing a new cooperative working agreement and requesting support for efforts the two organizations intend to make in providing mentoring to students and guidance to new faculty and staff.

Located at Kresge College, the office is adjacent to the units that provide services to students most likely in need of mentoring services: re-entry, transfer, military veteran, former foster children, and undocumented students.

New Website
We successfully launched our new website - retirees.ucsc.edu - to the public in July. In addition to being more attractive and comprehensive, it enables designated board members to easily maintain the content and upload new materials. Photos taken at the September Picnic, for example, appeared on the website within a day. An internal site that serves as an electronic repository for Board documents was launched simultaneously.

The Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment Goal Is In Sight
As of the end of September, our Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment fund totaled $43,449. When a matching gift pledge that is expected by August of 2014 is received, the endowment will have exceeded the $50,000 minimum required to establish a scholarship endowment. Once the minimum is reached, income generated from the endowment can begin to help fund the annual scholarships, which are awarded to military veteran students.

Recent Retiree Survey
A survey was sent to 470 retired UCSC staff and non-Senate faculty to assess the extent of retiree involvement in University and community activities, and to discover how the Association might better serve their interests and needs. 155 responses were received and tabulated. The findings indicate that:

• The majority of retirees are satisfied with their retirement benefits, as well as with the work of the Retirees Association
• Additional outreach regarding the benefits of membership may be useful as 12% weren’t sure if they were members, and almost half of the non-members indicated that either they didn’t know what the Association does or didn’t know it existed.
• A great number are involved in volunteer activities but are more often volunteering in their community than at UCSC. Our new office and collaborative venture with Emeriti should increase the number of retirees engaged in campus volunteer activities.

Contact Mary Wells if you wish to receive an electronic copy of the complete survey results report: maryrwells@me.com

Mary Wells
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