A New Retiree/Emeriti Center at UC Santa Cruz
In January, we got the official word that our proposal for a Retiree/Emeriti Center had been funded on a trial basis for two years. The proposal was a result of attending the workshop at the CUCRA/CUCEA meeting at UC Riverside last spring. The Retirees and Emeriti Associations are in the process of hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant III, who will work 10 hours/week in the new Center. The Center is a very small space, shared with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, but it’s a start! This process has already gotten the retirees and emeriti working more closely together and we look forward to more of this when the Center is up and running.

Increasing Number of Events
Upon the sell-out success of a special tour last October of The Farm on the UCSC campus, four members of the Retirees Board formed a task force to broaden the appeal of the Retirees Association by increasing the number and varying the types of events it offers. They set one event per month as their goal, which they thought was feasible if they planned simple, local, no-cost types of activities.

The task force’s first two events have been well attended: a “Behind-the-Scenes” tour of the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, and a special tour of the UCSC Arboretum. Plans are in the works for a “Welcome to Retirement” reception honoring this academic year’s batch of new retirees; group participation in the Save Our Shores’ post-July 4 “Star Spangled Beach Cleanup”; and a whale watching trip in our Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary.

10 Scholarships Awarded to UCSC Military Veteran Students
UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial scholarships were presented to ten UCSC military veteran students at the Retirees annual potluck Soup Luncheon. Colleagues of a recently deceased retiree, who was a regular contributor to the scholarship fund, were inspired to donate to the fund in her memory so that one of the scholarships could be given in her honor. Their action inspired donations in memory of others, resulting in four named scholarships altogether. The UCSC Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund is just a few hundred dollars away from reaching the $50,000 minimum required for it to become fully endowed. We expect to be able to begin drawing upon its earnings to help fund scholarships for the awards given during the 2015-16 academic year.

UCSC 50TH Anniversary Planning
Two members of the Board are working with the Staff Advisory Board (SAB) to plan a staff reunion event in conjunction with the campus’s 50th Anniversary Celebration. Besides a series of reunions and special events, the celebration includes a 3-layered online, multi-media “living” timeline. The 3 layers are: official campus milestones and events; world events that contributed to the shaping of the campus; and user-generated memories and pictures submitted by members of the campus community, including retirees.

Transferring Membership Database and Renewal Process to University Relations System
The Board hopes the 2014-15 annual membership renewal campaign will be the last time it’s necessary to mail paper copies of the Spring 2014 newsletter to all members with a pre-addressed envelope enclosed. Association membership data maintenance, reports, and renewal processes are being transferred from a homegrown FileMaker system to the database systems of University Relations.

The conversion eliminates hours of duplicative work as membership donations are processed and recorded in the University Relations system as donations to the UCSC Foundation already. This enhances the accuracy and currency of the data, and provides opportunities to develop new membership services, such as online renewals and reminders. In conjunction with the conversion, the Association is switching from an annual, July 1-to-June 30 membership year, to a “rolling” membership term.

Mary Wells
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