Retirees’ Association Honors Three for Picnic Day

The Picnic Day carriage will be more crowded than usual this year; the UC Davis Retirees’ Association is honoring three people with many years of service to the campus and their colleagues. Norma Rice and Ed and Aggie Costantini will be the 2012 Picnic Day representatives, and they share a number of commonalities in their campus experience.

Norma, who was raised in Southern California, came to Davis in 1979 as a single parent who recognized the community as a good place for her children. She became a familiar face to many on campus as an administrative assistant in the Academic Senate Office, setting up and providing support for meetings of Senate committees and later, in a long post-retirement career, of the Academic Federation and Staff Assembly as well. In an instance of staff support providing continuity for committees with changing membership, Norma worked with the university-wide Senate Committee on Educational Policy for several years after the Davis representative had left the chair, at the request of his successors.

She retired with the 1992 VERIP but was recalled for part-time assignments with the Academic Senate and other organizations and with the Office of Student Affairs over the next dozen years, very nearly equaling her initial career. She fondly recalls the events planning aspects of her work and the contact with “great” students, staff, and faculty.

During her “second career” Norma was tapped to become secretary of the Retirees’ Association and now laughingly refers to herself as “Secretary for life.” She balances her continuing campus involvement with tennis four days a week and her “passion,” knitting. Her designs are in several local shops, and she also fills private commissions.

Ed Costantini, as many readers will know, is an emeritus professor of political science, but as he is also half of a phenomenon of campus service called “Ed-and-Aggie;” it is inconceivable not to recognize them together.

As Ed tells the story, the sign at the railroad underpass as he drove into town in 1964 said “Welcome, Aggie,” and he was truly impressed with the enthusiasm of those recruiting a fresh Ph.D. from Berkeley. Originally from New York but eager to stay in California, Ed joined the faculty of the College of Letters and Science that fall. Over the next three decades he taught about political parties, mass media and politics and other aspects of American government. His pre- and post-election talks at the Institute of Government Affairs attracted large audiences. He also served as chair of his department and the Academic Senate, as well as a member, and often chair, of many Senate committees.

He held a one-year special assignment at UC Office of the President, working with the Vice President for Academic Initiatives, to develop the plan for the
President’s Message

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a great holiday season. Your UC Davis Retirees’ Association had a busy start of the academic year. There are lots of activities planned for the rest of this year. The first program is the Mind Body Wellness Challenge starting on January 27th and ending on March 16th. Watch for additional details from the Retiree Center in the near future.

The next EA/RA joint general meeting will be held on Monday, February 27th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Mind Institute, Sacramento campus. The highlight of this meeting will be a presentation from our guest speakers, Chancellor Emeritus Larry Vanderhoef and his wife Rosalie. Their topic will be “Retirement???” I encourage you to attend what promises to be an interesting meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the UCDRA volunteers who serve on our board and plan and present individual events in support of our organization and the Retiree Center.

As I approach the end of my second term as president, I have one thought that I would like to pass on to you: the UCDRA membership has been increasing over the past few years, but there is still much room for growth. Membership dues cover the cost of events sponsored by the EA/RA. If our membership were to increase even further, we could potentially increase the number of events that we sponsor. We are here to serve you, but also ask that you consider asking your colleagues who are not members to join.

Ted Hillyer, President, UCDRA

Staff Scholarship Supports Advanced Practice Nursing Student

For many years, the UC Davis Retirees’ Association (UCDRA) has awarded scholarships to people who are regular employees at UC Davis and taking classes at the same time. The Staff Assembly has a similar program, and they have allowed UCDRA to “piggy-back” on their process to choose applicants to whom to award financial assistance. The tasks of verifying employment and enrollment are done by the Staff Assembly.

The UC Davis Retirees’ Association congratulates this year’s staff scholarship recipient, Joyce Maria Nochez. Joyce is a registered nurse at the UC Davis Medical Center. After working several years as a nurse, Joyce decided to go back to school to become a nurse practitioner. She was accepted to the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program at UC San Francisco, beginning in September 2011. She believes the program at UCSF will give her the tools to function as an independent clinician in an acute care setting. She is eager to learn advanced assessment skills.

UCDRA Treasurer’s Report

Bank of America checking account
Beg. balance 11/30/11 $18,541.11
Credits 200.00
Debits 453.63
End. balance 1/2/12 $18,287.48

Ted Hillyer, President, UCDRA

See “Staff scholarships,” page 4
President’s Message

The Fall of 2011 has been a busy time with the hosting of the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations and the California Council of Retirees Associations. The Retiree Center staff, Program Manager Sue Barnes and Program Assistant Marjorie Ahl, did an outstanding job organizing and hosting the meeting of associations from 10 UC campuses. We were very pleased with efforts of the retiree volunteers who greatly assisted in making this event meaningful, productive and enjoyable.

The meeting of the councils was highlighted by the attention focused on the economic situation of the state and how the budget deficit influences the University’s academic and financial activities. Of considerable concern was the potential effect of the budget situation on retiree benefits. Annuitants have been very well represented by Charley Hess from our campus and by other effective individuals from other UC campuses. Through the Joint Benefits Committee, a group of retired staff and faculty, these individuals continue to monitor information and to inform the UC Office of the President of our concerns. Emeriti and, indeed, all retirees are very fortunate to have such effective representation at that level.

The noon talk schedule is fairly complete with an excellent lineup of interesting speakers for this academic year. I encourage all of you to take advantage of opportunities to keep up with research being done by our faculty colleagues by attending the noon talks.

Bill Rains, president, UCDEA

Professor Emeritus Alan Stambusky: A Video Records Project Pioneer

Newly retired dramatic arts professors Alan Stambusky and Everard d’Harnoncourt joined the relatively new UC Davis Emeriti Association early in the 1990’s. They suggested that the association form a history committee, and out of the committee’s discussions arose the idea for a “Video Records and History Project.” The Emeriti Association Board agreed with this idea in 1992. The first videos of oral histories of outstanding emeritus/a professors from UC Davis were made in 1993. Unfortunately, Professor d’Harnoncourt died in 1995, so Stambusky recruited others to help him continue the project. Professor Stambusky remained the leader and promoter of the project for several more years, until his failing health necessitated his leaving the committee. Because this project has proven such a valuable asset for the campus, it continues today with 350 plus videos having been completed and others being created throughout each academic year.

As technology has continued to improve over the project’s two decades, the standards for the recordings have continued to improve, to the point that the new videos are approaching professional quality. Professor Stambusky has left a wonderful legacy to the Davis campus.

By Verne Mendel

Emeriti Association
Executive Board Members 2011–2012

Officers
Bill Rains
President,
CUCEA Representative
John Vohs, Vice President
Peter Hays, Secretary
Tom Sallee, Treasurer
Jo-Anne Boorkman, Archivist
Alex McCalla
Immediate Past President
Charles Hess
Retiree Center Advisory Committee Representative (2009-12)

Members-at-Large
Richard Plant (2010-12)
Lyn Lofland (2011-13)

Committee chairs
Alan Jackman/Bob Smiley
Committee on Committees
Al Harrison
Awards and Recognition
Charley Hess, Emeriti Welfare
Nora McGuinness, Editorial
Winfried Schleiner
Program and Agenda
Dick Walters, Membership
Charles Lacy, University and Public Relations
Bill Breidenbach/Alex McCalla
Video Records

UCDEA Treasurer’s Report
Bank of America checking account
Beg. balance 10/20/11 $19,697.90
Credits 445.16
Debits 0
End. balance 11/17/11 $20,143.06

emeritiassociation.ucdavis.edu
Picnic Day, continued from page 1

university's Sacramento center, where he subsequently taught California politics to UC students from throughout the state.

Ed retired under the 1994 VERIP but was recalled to teach both in Davis and at the Sacramento Center. He has been active in the UC Davis Emeriti Association, both on committees and as president, and was a strong early and continuing supporter of the Retiree Center.

And Aggie? During a telephone interview she characterized her life and her career as devoted to helping people—and then she proved it by sending a concise biographical summary, which is excerpted here: Agnes Costantini—known as Aggie even before she came to Davis—was born and raised in New York City. She received her B.A. degree from the University of Connecticut. In addition to New York, Connecticut, and Davis, she has lived in London, Washington D.C., and the San Francisco Bay Area. She came to California in 1956 immediately following her marriage to Edmond, who came to pursue graduate work at UC Berkeley. She moved to Davis in 1964, when Ed joined the UC Davis faculty.

Aggie's working career (and much of her personal life) has been service-oriented, in keeping with her social work interests. She was first employed by the University of California when serving as secretary and senior clerk typist in the Dean of Students Office at Berkeley. After moving to Davis and a few years as a stay-at-home mother, she accepted a position as Assistant Dean of Students and Acting International Student Adviser on the campus. She subsequently served as temporary project-focused assistant dean in the Financial Aid Office. In 1979 she became administrative assistant in the office of Graduate Studies and Research and International Programs and was later appointed as executive administrative assistant to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Her immediate supervisors over the years have included some UC Davis administrative luminaries, including Tom Dutton, Maynard Skinner, Yvonne Marsh, Allen G. (Jerry) Marr, and MRC Greenwood.

Aggie has always been actively involved in politics, and has served on various campaign committees, in political party positions, and as a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention.

Aggie retired with the 1993 VERIP. Since retiring, she has been active in the UC Davis Retirees’ Association, serving as Membership Committee chair and Board member.

In discussing her Retirees’ Association work, Aggie noted with pleasure that membership is actively building as a result of many people's efforts. It is important to support the campus, she said, a thought with which her fellow honorees undoubtedly concur.

In Memoriam

We remember these members who have died in recent months.

Retirees’ Association

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Caesar Dias</td>
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<td>E. Morton Bradbury</td>
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<td>Edward Jestes</td>
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Staff scholarships, continued from page 2

and diagnosis and implementation of care across the continuum of healthcare, managing the patient from admission to discharge. She chose the nurse practitioner program for its direct contact with patients and takes pride in advocating for them as well as educating and caring for them.

As an Action/Rapid Response nurse at the health system, Joyce works throughout the hospital assisting nurses and doctors with critically ill patients, as well as precepting newer nurses. She is on the electronic medical record super user committee that teaches staff about the new changes in electronic charting, and the CAAD pump super user committee teaching staff about new epidural and PCA pumps. She recently joined the SEPSIS committee that has implemented a hospital-wide protocol to treat and prevent severe sepsis.

In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, Joyce was sent to Houston by the California Nurses Association to provide relief medical care to the flood victims.

UCDRA is very pleased to provide a $1,000 scholarship to support Joyce’s goal of further education. Congratulations and best wishes for the future, Joyce.