Regents approve changes to UCRP, health programs

Changes to the UC pension and retiree health programs, required by the need to address UC’s $21 billion underfunded liability for its retiree health and pension programs, were approved by the regents at a special meeting December 13. Most of the changes affect current employees and those who join UC on or after July 1, 2013. Pension benefits for current employees and retirees will not be affected by the changes, as earned pension benefits are protected by law and cannot be revoked or reduced. Current faculty and staff, as well as UC, will contribute more to the pension program, and roughly half of current faculty and staff will come under new eligibility rules for retiree health care.

The Post-Employment Benefits Task Force submitted its recommendations to UC President Yudof at the end of August. Over the following two months, the president and senior UC leaders consulted extensively about the recommendations with Academic Senate leadership, faculty, staff, and campus administrators. According to UC Davis’ Professor Emeritus Charles Hess, who was a member of the task force steering committee and the team leader for retiree health programs, considerable discussion focused on the recommendations regarding UCRP for employees hired after 2013.

“Some believed the task force recommendation would place UC at a competitive disadvantage compared with other universities and employers,” said Hess, “while [recommendation] supporters believed not enough value was being placed upon the fact that the University of California has a defined benefit instead of a defined contribution retirement program.” A defined benefit program, explained Hess, guarantees retirees’ payments, and the university assumes the risks (or benefits) resulting from stock market fluctuations. A defined contribution program, on the other hand, is similar to a 403(b) plan, in which employer and employee make contributions, but the employee assumes any risk caused by fluctuations in the stock market. Many people with 403(b) plans experienced significant losses in their plans with the stock market decline in 2008. Another concern, raised by campus administrators, was that the increasing costs of the retirement plan would be passed on to the campuses, resulting in further cuts to the operating budget.

The consultation process led to a new retirement plan design that modified some Task Force recommendations, and it was this plan that the regents approved in December. Taken together, the changes approved by the regents put UC’s retiree health and pension benefits on a path toward affordability while slowly reducing the unfunded liability.

President’s Message

Getting old is not for sissies! Getting old sucks, if you let it …

These are not my quotes, but their message is so true. We have all worked through the best physical years of our lives. Now that we have retired, it is a little more difficult to get out of bed, stretch, and feel like getting something accomplished during the day.

One of the reasons I agreed to serve on the UC Davis Retirees’ Association Board is to reconnect with former staff that I knew and had served with on past committees. We all look a little different now and may not move quite as fast, but we recognize and appreciate each others’ collective knowledge and life experiences. In a group like this, there is a wealth of information to be shared. Most of us started our UC Davis careers in entry-level positions and worked our way up. Now, we can call upon our past experiences to serve and help others. I would like to extend an invitation to you to consider volunteering to serve on one of our committees.

I hope that you have received, filled out, and returned your UCDRA survey. Yvonne Marsh and her committee have put in a lot of effort to make this survey meaningful. We hope to accumulate data that can be used to benefit all retirees. Look for a summary of the survey results on page 5 of this issue.

I would like to thank the UCDRA board members, committee chairs, and Retiree Center staff Sue Barnes and Marjorie Ahl for their support of our association.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next joint general membership meeting on February 28, to be held at the UC Davis Health System in Sacramento. I wish you health and well being until our next gathering.

Ted Hillyer, President, UCDRA

Quick takes

Ted Hillyer, UCDRA president, answers a few quick questions …

Q: When did you retire? A: June 30, 2005
Q: How long did you work at UC Davis? A: 31 years full time
Q: What department(s) did you work in? A: Engineering; Applied Science
Q: Favorite spot(s) on campus? A: Gazebo and west end of Arboretum
Q: Thing you miss most about work and/or campus? A: My interaction with the students
Q: And miss the least? A: Campus politics
Q: What’s surprised you the most about retirement? A: Wondering how I ever got anything done at home while working full time. My days fly by …
Q: What other volunteering do you do, on campus or elsewhere? A: I’m involved in several services within my church and the American Legion.
Q: Why are you a UCDRA board member? A: I feel that I can represent all retired staff to our administration and work to keep them informed on matters that affect them through Campus Connections. Please contact me with any questions or concerns and I’ll do my best to get you an answer; trhillyer@ucdavis.edu.
From the President

It has been a very busy fall. The UCDEA Awards Committee, co-chaired by Al Harrison and Ed Rhode, had their hands full reviewing nominees for two awards offered by the Emeriti Association and the UC system. The effort was particularly gratifying this year due to the large number of nominations received for both awards. I am pleased to announce that the UCDEA has awarded the UC Davis Distinguished Emeritus/a Award to Professor Emeritus Charles E. Hess. This is a very well-deserved honor for a person who has served the Davis campus and has advocated for retirees on a statewide level with energy and success. Congratulations, Charley! The UC systemwide Panunzio Award call produced a number of strong nominees from our campus and the UCDEA Awards Committee has forwarded its recommendation to the statewide Committee.

It is with sadness I inform the membership of the passing of Shirley Goldman. Shirley served as treasurer for the Emeriti Association for a number of years. She was a dedicated member of the Association and of the campus. She will be missed.

The social scene has been very active. The Retiree Center staff have organized and led a number of fully subscribed off-campus trips. Sue and Marjorie have accomplished these tasks while meeting the many administrative demands of the Retiree Center and the Retirees’ and Emeriti Associations.

The noon luncheons continue to be held monthly, on the second Thursday. I encourage all retirees to attend.

I want to wish all of us a happy and successful New Year.

Bill Rains, president, UCDEA

Dickson professors emeriti named for 2010/2011

Edward A. Dickson served as a regent of the University of California from 1913 to 1946, the longest tenure of any regent. In 1955, Mr. Dickson established an endowment to support and maintain special annual professorships to be awarded to retired Academic Senate faculty members on each campus. The award grants the holder the title “Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor” for one year and financial support for that period. This year there was a large pool of highly qualified candidates. In early October, four of our emeriti were named Edward A. Dickson Professor Emeritus for 2010/2011. The recipients and their project titles are as follows:

- Robert M. Derlet, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Emergency Medicine, and Charles Goldman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science: “Analysis of Microbial and Planktonic Communities in Small Sierra Nevada Lakes and Streams.”
- Karen M. Reiser, M.D., Professor Emerita of Neurological Surgery, School of Medicine: “Diagnosis of Skin Cancer Using Second Harmonic Generation Imaging: Ancillary Data.”
- Robin W. Thorp, Professor Emeritus of Entomology: “Franklin's Bumble Bee, Bombus franklini (Frison): Research Needed on This Species of Special Concern.”

UCDEA Treasurer’s Report

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Emeriti Association

Executive Board Members 2010–11

Officers
- Bill Rains
  President, CUCEA Representative
- John Vohs, Vice President
- Peter Hayns, Secretary
- Tom Sallee, Treasurer
- Jo Anne Boorkman, Archivist
- Alex McCalla
  Immediate Past President

Members-at-Large
- Tom Sallee (2009-11)
- Merna Villarejo (2010-12)

Committee chairs
- Alan Jackman/Bob Smiley
  Committee on Committees
- Al Harrison/Ed Rhode
  Awards and Recognition
- Charley Hess, Emeriti Welfare,
  Retiree Center Advisory
  Committee Representative
  (2009-12)
- Nora McGuinness, Editorial
- Tom Rost, Program and Agenda
- Dick Walters, Membership
- Charles Lacy, University and
  Public Relations
- Bill Breidenbach/Alex McCalla
  Video Records
- Jack Reitan, Liaison, Academic
  Senate Emeriti Committee

emeriassociation.ucdavis.edu
Influenza’s impact topic of noon talk

The November 9 joint association noon talk, given by PhD candidate Jessica Schwind, MPH, CPH, was a fascinating introduction to the epidemiology and history of influenza worldwide and how researchers are pursuing its prevention. Some highlights of her presentation:

Influenza is an infectious disease that affects birds and mammals. The ability of influenza viruses to continually mutate necessitates continual updating of vaccines. Entirely new subtypes can be created when two types infect a host simultaneously or when there is direct transmission from birds or other animals to humans.

Seasonal influenza tends to occur cyclically and annually. Pandemic influenza, resulting in many deaths, occurs when a strain is introduced, novel to an exposed population, and has occurred at least six times in the past 120 years.

Presently, influenza causes approximately 36,000 deaths a year; more than 90 percent of them are among those aged 65 and older. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends that everyone receive an annual influenza immunization. While immunizations may not completely protect from all strains of the flu, those who have been immunized usually experience milder symptoms if they become ill.

The challenge for researchers is to understand all aspects of the influenza virus, the hosts and their response, and the virus’s global impact, so that the world may be better prepared to face the inevitable next large influenza pandemic.

Researchers around the world learned several lessons from the 2009 pandemic:

• Pandemic influenza immunization rates were low across all nations, even among healthcare workers.
• Distinct national and cultural differences were apparent in attitudes toward the pandemic.

Joyful, gala, and delicious holiday luncheon

Bright poinsettias, small golden trees, candy canes, balloons, the scent of hot apple cider, all well-seasoned with conversation and laughter, set the stage for a filled-to-the-brim holiday luncheon held December 8 in the Walter A. Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center’s AGR room. Ninety retirees enjoyed a festive lunch of scrumptious sandwiches and salads from Pluto’s, which disappeared quickly. The carrot and chocolate cakes were delish!

Then, the music! Sung by an octet from the award-winning Davis Senior High School Madrigal Choir, it was a glorious conclusion to an enjoyable occasion. The singers invited the audience to join them in a few songs, and we did—full voice. The number of those who lingered to talk after the program’s conclusion was evidence of what a warm, festive event it was. Turn your 2011 calendar to December and make a note not to miss the next one!

Program Chairs Sandy Filby and Tom Rost wish to extend thanks to volunteers Ada Coe, Aggie Costantini, Phyllis McCalla, and Norma Rice for helping set the festive mode.

In Memoriam

These members have died in recent months.

Retirees’ Association
Norman B. Akesson
Georgina Kratzer
Emeriti Association
Norman B. Akesson
Harry W. Colvin
Shirley Goldman
Georgina Kratzer
Georgina McKercher
Retirees’ Association awards scholarships

The Retirees’ Association awarded three scholarships in 2010 to UC Davis staff members who are pursuing their educations while employed. Each winner received $333. Pictured center, left to right, are Wendy Stoltz, UC Davis Extension; George Robertson, Graduate School of Management; and Donna Van Dolah, Seed Biotechnology Center. Also pictured are Yvonne Marsh and Ted Hillyer, immediate past president and current president of UCDRA.

UCDRA survey committee says …

“Thank you!” to all who completed the UCDRA’s recent survey of retirees’ volunteer and work activities and their hobbies and interests. Everyone who completed the survey and provided their contact information was entered into a drawing to win one of two $50 American Express gift cards. The lucky winners were Kathy Bennett from Sacramento and John Neves of Davis.

The survey was sent to all UCDRA members, as well as to an additional 400 non-member retirees for whom the Retiree Center has e-mail addresses. The survey did not include emeriti, as the UCDEA already conducts a biennial survey of emeriti. The association conducted the survey in hopes that the resulting information will help it to better advocate on behalf of UC Davis retirees and to plan programs of interest to retirees. Survey committee members Yvonne Marsh, Sandy Westfall, Bob Halferty, Bill Wagman, and Ed Costantini will follow up on the survey by preparing a report of findings for the UCDRA executive board. The board will review the results to determine the most effective use of the data to enhance services to retirees.

A total of 373 retirees completed the survey, for a 29.5 percent return rate. The majority of them (74 percent) retired from the Davis campus, with 22 percent retiring from the Sacramento campus and 4 percent retiring from other campuses.

Some results of interest

Many respondents reported visiting the campus regularly, with 44 percent going to the Davis campus at least once a week and 20 percent visiting the Davis campus six or more times a week. Another 20 percent go to the Sacramento campus at least once a week. Twenty-one percent volunteer on either the Davis or Sacramento campus. The majority of volunteers work for the department from which they retired. Retirees also report volunteering with fund-raising activities, serving on a committee or board, and ushering at events, among other activities.

Respondents are also very active with other volunteer endeavors, with 52 percent reporting that they volunteer within their communities, the majority for community or service organizations and religious organizations. Caring for family is another significant retiree responsibility, with 38 percent of respondents reporting that they provide care for family and/or friends, the majority for parents and grandchildren.

Some retirees continue to participate in the workforce, with 22 percent of respondents reporting that they currently work in a paid position, with the majority working 20 hours or less per week.

In terms of personal interests and hobbies, the most popular activity among respondents is spending time with family and friends (81 percent), followed by travel (77 percent), reading (75 percent), dining out (60 percent), watching television and movies (60 percent), computer activities (60 percent), attending theater/performing arts (56 percent), and gardening (55 percent).

While the majority of respondents (61 percent) reported that they are members of the association, many of those who are not members stated that they would like to learn more about the association. Many retirees expressed thanks for the work of the UCDRA, especially for its advocacy regarding complimentary retiree parking permits. Several suggestions were made for future UCDRA programs and activities.

The survey results will be very useful for the association as it continues to advocate on behalf of all UC Davis retirees.
Help us to be green—If you receive a printed copy of the newsletter, we encourage you to switch to e-mail distribution. Please let us know your preferences for association communications:
- Newsletters by e-mail + additional e-mail updates (recommended)
- Newsletters by e-mail/ no additional e-mail updates
- Newsletters by surface mail/ no additional e-mail updates

Contact us
UC Davis Retirees’ Association
http://ucdra.ucdavis.edu
UC Davis Emeriti Association
http://emeritiassociation.ucdavis.edu
Contact either association c/o
UC Davis Retiree Center
University of California, Davis
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616
E-mail: retireecenter@ucdavis.edu
Tel: 530-752-5182
Fax: 530-754-7487
168 Everson Hall
9 a.m.–noon and 1 p.m.–4 p.m.
We are a two-person office; please call ahead before visiting to ensure someone is available.

Want a new retiree AggieCard? Here’s where to get one

New UC Davis ID cards, called AggieCards, are now being issued to retirees, employees, and students. Retiree ID cards may be used for a variety of on-campus privileges, including retiree parking permits, library access, and discounts at several campus units. Additionally and optionally, those with a U.S. Bank account may use the new AggieCard as an ATM/debit card. The cards aren’t required for retirees, so unless you plan to use it for the privileges mentioned here, you don’t need to get one.

If you want the new AggieCard, you can get it Monday, February 28, from noon to 2 p.m., at the MIND Institute Auditorium on the Sacramento campus, before the Retirees’ Association and Emeriti Association winter general meeting, which begins at 2 p.m. in the same location.

Hess named 2010-11 Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Charles E. Hess, professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental Horticulture, has been named the 2010-2011 UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Since his retirement in 1994, Dr. Hess has remained an active member of the UC Davis community and has made valuable contributions to his college and the campus, to his profession, and to the community at large. He facilitated the USDA Western Human Nutrition Center’s move from San Francisco to UC Davis, was appointed Special Assistant to the Chancellor for 2003-2004, and chaired the Department of Nutrition while it was in transition from 2007-2009. From September 16 to November 10, 2010, he served as UC Davis’ interim vice chancellor for research.

Dr. Hess has a long history of promoting the welfare of retired faculty members through his service as the first chair of the Retiree Center Advisory Committee and as a president of the UC Davis Emeriti Association. He was a member of the UC President’s Task Force on Post-Employment Benefits and a team leader on the Retiree Health Work Group.

Throughout his retirement Dr. Hess has worked ceaselessly for the development of international collaborations and programs. Since 2006 he has served as chair of the USAID/National Academies Review Panel for the Pakistan–US Science and Technology Cooperative Program.

Dr. Hess’s post-retirement contributions were recognized at the Chancellor’s Emeriti luncheon held in January.
On your mark (your calendar), get set (for winter programs), and go!

Think winter time is hibernation time? Think again! It may be chilly and damp, but we’re not snowed in, so get out that new 2011 calendar and fill in those empty squares with these Retiree Center activities. Lots to choose from; read on …

Mind Body Wellness Challenge

Adopt a new healthy habit and keep it up for seven weeks.

• Dates: Friday, January 21, to Friday, March 11
• Deadline to Register: Thursday, January 20

A significant number of this nation’s adults suffer from at least one chronic condition that affects their ability to lead an active life. Three behaviors—poor diet, lack of exercise, and smoking—are the primary causes of the leading chronic diseases: heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and stroke. Changing any of these behaviors greatly reduces your risk of developing or worsening a chronic disease. After eliminating the “big three,” it is important to adopt healthy habits in all aspects of your life.

The Retiree Center’s Mind Body Wellness Challenge encourages you to adopt at least one new healthy habit and keep it up for seven weeks. The Challenge can be just the start of a commitment to improving your health in the seven dimensions of wellness—physical, emotional, intellectual, environmental, social, occupational, and spiritual wellness.

The Challenge emphasizes the importance of paying attention to all of these dimensions to achieve optimal health. The Retiree Center has developed a flyer that describes the dimensions, lists healthy habit suggestions within each dimension, and outlines steps for joining the Challenge. For additional details about joining the Challenge or to download the flyer, visit the Challenge website at http://wellnesschallenge.ucdavis.edu. If you do not have access to the Internet, call the Center to request a flyer.

UC Davis Wine/Food Institute tour

• Date/Time: Tuesday, March 29, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
• Location: Robert Mondavi Institute for Food and Wine Science
• Cost: $22 per person, UCDEA and UCDRA members and guests ($27 non-members and guests)
• Deadline to Register: Tuesday, March 15

The Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science (RMI) has opened a new era of opportunity for UC Davis’ widely acclaimed wine and food programs. The state-of-the-art facility features a sensory theater as well as a variety of classrooms, laboratories, offices, and meeting space. Most recently, the August A. Busch III Brewing and Food Science Laboratory & Teaching and Research Winery opened in August 2010, and includes a winery, brewery, milk processing lab, and the California Processing Tomato Industry Pilot Plant. Our special tour will introduce retirees and their guests to the facilities as well as to the programs housed within the Institute. Gourmet box lunches from Stones Catering will be served and an optional beer tasting is included in the cost. Early registration is advised, as only 40 people can be accommodated. For details or to download a registration form, please visit http://retireecenter.ucdavis.edu/activities. If you do not have access to the Internet, call the Center to request a form.

Visitors enjoy the teaching garden within the RMI which first opened in October 2009 with the brewery and winery completed in 2010.

The 4th Annual Retiree Center Wine Tasting on March 5 will be held in the AGR Room of the Walter A. Buehler Alumni Center.

4th Annual Retiree Wine Tasting

• Date/Time: Saturday, March 5, 5–7 p.m.
• Location: Walter A. Buehler Alumni Center, Davis campus
• Suggested Donation: $20 per person, UCDEA and UCDRA members and guests ($25 for non-members and guests)
• Deadline to Register: Wednesday, February 23

Retirees and their guests are invited to sample several local wineries’ favorite vintages and enjoy a variety of tasty appetizers at this special evening event. Participating wineries are Vino Noceto, in Plymouth; Turkovich Family Wines, in Winters; and Rominger West, in Davis. For more details or to download a registration form, visit http://retireecenter.ucdavis.edu/activities. If you do not have access to the Internet, call the Center to request a form.

A special feature at this year’s wine tasting will be an “Aroma Table” featuring an aroma wheel designed by Professor Emerita Anne Noble. The table will also have 6-8 individual aroma components from a white and a red wine. These can be sampled individually to assist in identifying the aroma components of wine varieties and in addition, a blend of aromas representing a particular varietal will be available to test your knowledge of wine aromas.
Upcoming Events of the Joint Program Committee

The UC Davis Emeriti Association and Retirees' Association work together each year on a slate of informational meetings and programs. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming programs.

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<td>Thursday, Feb. 10</td>
<td>11:30–1:00</td>
<td>Vice Chancellor Fred Wood: “Status of Student Affairs at UC Davis”</td>
<td>International House, Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Feb. 28</td>
<td>2:00–4:00</td>
<td>General Membership meeting, UCDRA and UCDEA Speaker: Dave Edwards, Yolo County District Attorney's Office, “Protect Yourself from Common Fraud and Scams”</td>
<td>MIND Institute, Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Mar. 10</td>
<td>11:30–1:00</td>
<td>Andrew Ward, historical novelist: book discussion on his latest book, The Slave War; the Civil War in the Words of Former Slaves.</td>
<td>International House, Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Apr. 14</td>
<td>11:30–1:00</td>
<td>Prof. Andrew Waterhouse: “Wine and Aging”</td>
<td>MIND Institute, Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 12</td>
<td>11:30–1:00</td>
<td>Prof. Liz Applegate: “Nutrition and Aging”</td>
<td>AGR, Alumni Center, Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 16</td>
<td>2:00–4:00</td>
<td>UCDRA Membership and Annual Business Meeting Speaker: Greg Voelm: “Hidden History of California”</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 19</td>
<td>2:00–4:00</td>
<td>UCDEA Membership and Annual Business Meeting Program: TBD</td>
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Note: Speakers and topics subject to change. Check http://retireecenter.ucdavis.edu for latest information.

Noon Talks (Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14, and May 12): Please bring your own lunch; the associations will provide coffee, tea, and cookies. Use your retiree parking permit.

Shuttles from Davis to the MIND Institute in Sacramento for the February 28 General Meeting and the April 14 Noon Talk will be arranged by the Retiree Center. Bus seating will be limited and registration will be required. Bus registration will be available approximately one month prior to each event.