# Campus Connections

Joint Newsletter of the UC Davis Emeriti and Retirees' Associations

Vol 1, No.2 Winter 2010

## UCDRA/UCDEA Winter Meeting

Monday, February 8

M.I.N.D. Institute Auditorium, UC Davis Health System 2825 50th St., Sacramento

#### Social time/Refreshments

2 to 2:30 p.m.

Program

2:30 to 4 p.m.

#### Equality and Ethical Issues Related to Health Care Reform Legislation: a panel discussion

Unless you have just returned from a desert island, you know that health care reform is the issue being discussed by everyone. Here are some key things we know:

- We know that 47 million Americans do not have any health care coverage.
- We know that due to continued rising costs, individuals and employers often no longer can afford health care coverage.
- And we know that all of us will be affected in some way by whatever legislation eventually becomes law.

These issues are being discussed and debated all along the political spectrum. However, issues that concern people who are most severely affected by the lack of health care—those at the bottom of the economic ladder—and the ethical issues involved are not being discussed as broadly.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this informative and timely presentation.

Note: UCDRA/UCDEA will provide transportation from UC Davis to the M.I.N.D. Institute in Sacramento via a 41-passenger bus, departing from the front of the Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) promptly at 1:30 p.m. The bus can accommodate two wheelchairs. There is no charge, but reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis on the Retiree Center Web site, retireecenter.ucdavis.edu. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the Retiree Center at (530) 752-5182 to reserve your space.

#### Driving directions from Davis:

- Take Hwy 80 toward Lake Tahoe (merges into Hwy. 50)
- Exit on 58th Street
- Turn right on 58th Street
- Right on Broadway
- Right on 50th Street

The M.I.N.D. Institute is at the curve on the right. Free parking is available in the adjacent lot with an RT permit.

### Associations' fall meeting draws attentive crowd

A panel presentation featuring UC Davis members of the President's Task Force on Post-Employment Benefits drew roughly 180 retirees and emeriti to the associations' joint fall meeting on Oct. 19. Given concerns over the sustainability of the UC Retirement Plan and the increasing costs of health care, the regents authorized the establishment of the task force charged with developing a comprehensive approach to the university's obligations for post-employment benefits. Jim Chalfant, faculty member in the Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics and a member of the Finance Work Team, led the presentation. John Meyer, associate vice chancellor for administration and resource management and a member of the Pension Benefits Work Team, and Charles Hess, professor emeritus and chair of

See Fall meeting, p. 4



Fall meeting attendees filled the ARC ballroom to hear about the work of the Post-Employment Benefits Task Force. (Photo: Sue Barnes)

## Retirees' Association Executive Board Members 2009–2010

Yvonne Marsh, President
Ted Hillyer, 1st Vice President
Estell Jones, 2nd Vice President
Norma Rice, Secretary
Diane Mundy, Treasurer
Aggie Costantini, Membership
Beverly Brooks, Bylaws
Gary Schultz

Immediate Past President

Members-at-Large:

Lew Dudman

Micki Eagle

**Bob Eernisse** 

Ex-officio members

#### Barbara Nichols

CUCRA Representative, Retiree Center Advisory Committee Representative

Deanna Falge Pritchard
CUCRA Alternate Representative

Anne Gray
CUCRA Treasurer

#### Contact us

UC Davis Retirees' Association ucdra.ucdavis.edu

UC Davis Emeriti Association 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.

## **UCDAVIS**

## RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

## UCDRA president's message

In Jamaica, where I was born, when friends ask what you are going to do with your time when you retire, if you don't have any plans, you can say, "Walk and kick stone!" I haven't met any of you who haven't responded with interesting things you're planning to do. I, too, am amazed at all the things there are to do and how full a life one can have after leaving the university. After my very active career at UC Davis, where I spent many an evening and sometimes weekend hours "at work," my daughter was very concerned that I would be at loose ends once I retired. She need not have worried. Like many of you, I sometimes wonder where the time goes and why I don't have more time to do all the things I want to do. I have found a good balance between travel, community involvement, and helping with my two grandsons who live in Davis.

Your UCDRA is committed to ensuring that the voice of retirees continues to be heard on campus. We also want to ensure that your interests are represented in any future changes that might affect your retirement benefits, particularly those related to health care. Health care is one of the most challenging issues facing our society. Recently, your Association and the Emeriti Association sponsored a well-attended program on President Yudof's Post-Employment Benefits Task Force and three sessions

of UCOP presentations on this topic. We understand that many of you were unable to attend. We know how important this issue is to you and can assure you that we will provide additional



sessions in the spring of 2010.

As retirees from UC Davis, we are fortunate to have continued access to this vibrant university community. I do hope that you will find ways to renew your connection to the campus, if not with previous colleagues and departments, then through the many programs and activities the campus offers. If you are too far away to attend events on campus, hopefully you keep in touch through our numerous publications and our Web site.

I want to wish you and your family a very happy new year. I know that 2009 was a very difficult year for many personally and certainly for our country. Hopefully, 2010 will see a stronger economic recovery. As I write this, I am getting ready to head off to Jamaica for a few weeks' vacation, where I think I will "walk and kick stone!"

—Yvonne Marsh UCDRA President

## Benefits issues highlight joint CUCEA/CUCRA fall meeting

Benefits issues dominated the agenda of the fall joint meeting of the Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) and the Council of UC Retirees' Associations (CUCRA) held Oct. 29 on the UC San Francisco campus. Of particular interest was the report of the Joint Benefits Committee. Their suggested recommendations to UCOP include:

 Future decisions about annuitants' individual health care benefit costs should take into account the cost for Medicare Part B coverage, the generally larger copayments for doctors' visits and prescriptions, and the inability to use beforetax dollars to pay for health care.
 See CUCEA/CUCRA highlights, p. 5

## **UCDAVIS**

## **EMERITI ASSOCIATION**

#### UCDEA president's message

Welcome to our second issue of *Campus Connections*. I hope you are enjoying our new joint venture with the UC Davis Retirees' Association. We felt we had so many issues in common with our retiree colleagues that putting our two newsletters together was a positive move, but that we would keep the possibility to address specific emeriti issues within the joint publication. Please let us know if you have alternative views.

It has been a busy and somewhat intense fall quarter. Given the state and global economic situation, there is real concern about the future of retiree/emeriti benefits. While we are constantly reassured that our pension benefits are secure and immutable, the same may not be true for other benefits such as healthcare, eve care and legal assistance, which are funded annually out of General Funds. A President's Task Force on Post-Employment Benefits, of which our colleague Charley Hess is a member, has been created to look into future benefits issues. The task force is scheduled to make recommendations in mid-2010. We will be following that process very closely and will keep you informed.

But there are many good things happening as well. The Retiree Center, under the able leadership of



Sue Barnes and Marjorie Ahl, is providing an increasingly rich menu of interesting opportunities for our continuing connection to the campus. This year, we don't have to fight to keep our parking privileges. Our Centennial Video Project is finished, and we have 23 DVDs of campus history captured and soon to be available. Thanks must go to Verne Mendel for his work on this project. Finally, we look forward to having lunch with our new chancellor, Linda Katehi, on Jan. 25.

If you have any issues you wish us to take up, please don't hesitate to be in touch

—Alex McCalla UCDEA President

## Emeriti Association Executive Committee 2009–2010

Alex McCalla

President, CUCEA Representative

Graham Gall, 1st Vice President

Peter Hays, Secretary

Shirley Goldman, Treasurer

Jo Anne Boorkman, Archivist

Jack Reitan, Chair of Academic Senate Emeriti/ae Committee

Charles Hess, Retiree Center Advisory Committee Representative

#### Dick Walters

Immediate Past President, Membership

#### Ed Costantini

Committee on Committees

Ed Rhode, Awards and Recognition

Barbara Webster, Emeriti Welfare

Nora McGuinness, Editorial

Anne Gray, Programs and Agenda

Tom Rost, Programs and Agenda

Charles Lacy, University and Public Relations

Bill Breidenbach, Video History
John Goss, Video History

## Data needed for advocacy: your Emeriti Bio-Bibliography

If you are one of those emeriti who only occasionally fills out the biennial Bio-Bibliography survey, or has never done so, this may well be the year to do it. With the scrutiny of post-employments benefits prompted by the drop in both state support and the value of invested funds, advocates for emeriti welfare will need all the ammunition they can get. Evidence of emeriti contributions to the work of the university, support of its missions, and maintenance of its prestige comes mainly from these surveys.

Please overcome your modesty and respond, noting honors and awards you have received, and annotating the ways in which you were active in teaching, research, and scholarship and professional, university, or community service during the 2007-09 period. Without data, advocates cannot be persuasive, and much is at stake.

Surveys were sent in mid-November. Completed surveys must be received at the Retiree Center by Jan. 25. If you did not receive your survey, contact the Center as soon as possible.

## **Publication information**

Campus Connections is the joint newsletter of the UC Davis Emeriti Association (UCDEA) and UC Davis Retirees' Association (UCDRA). It is published three times a year for the membership of both associations.

#### Editors:

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#### Retiree Center Events

## "Healthy 'til 100 and Beyond" Wellness Challenge

#### A New Year's resolution you can keep

New Year's Eve traditionally has been a time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the months ahead, and New Year's resolutions are a way to take action on the changes you want to make. The Retiree Center urges all retirees to resolve this year to participate in the "Healthy 'til 100 and Beyond" Wellness Challenge. The Challenge, outlined in detail in the recent *CenterNews* and highlighted in the winter issue of *New Dimensions*, encourages everyone to adopt at least one new healthy habit and keep it up for 100 days, with the hope that after 100 days you can keep it up for a lifetime.

The Challenge officially begins Jan. 22 and ends May 3. Anyone can participate, and current and retired faculty and staff who successfully complete the Challenge will be eligible to win prizes, including ARC quarter and class passes and fitness assessments provided by the UC Davis Sports Performance program.

Challenge details, including registration information, the list of 100 healthy habits, and tracking sheets for monitoring your progress, are available on the Retiree Center Web site, retireecenter.ucdavis.edu. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact the Retiree Center at (530) 752-5182 to receive a Challenge packet via U.S. mail.



Local-area vintners take center stage at the annual Retiree Wine Tasting, this year scheduled for Saturday, March 6. (Photo: Marjorie Ahl)

## Retiree Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 6, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Rec Pool Lodge

Want a low-carbon-footprint way to sample some of the wines of Yolo and Solano counties? Plan to attend the third annual Retiree Wine Tasting, which will feature two favorite vintages from each of three local wineries. The Retirees' and Emeriti Associations will provide appetizers to complement the wine.

The suggested donation is \$15 for association members and their guests, \$20 for non-members and their guests. The deadline to register is Feb. 24;

registration forms are available on the Retiree Center Website, retireecenter. ucdavis.edu. If you do not have access to the Internet, call the Retiree Center at (530) 752-5182.

The event committee (Bill Rains, Deanna Falge Pritchard, Diane Sires, Linda Kennedy, and Kathy LaGiusa) is busy finalizing arrangements with the wineries and making decisions on music, decorations, and other details. Please join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

### Fall meeting - continued from p. 1

the Health Benefits Work Team, made up the other members of the panel and joined Jim in fielding questions from the audience.

After giving the audience an overview of the structure and charge to the task force, Jim described the current scope of the financial issues associated with UC post-employment benefits and, given their magnitude, why there is a need for significant increased funding and potential changes in benefits. He emphasized that for current retirees, there will be no changes in their pension benefits, and retirees will not be asked to contribute to UCRP when active employees begin

contributions on April 15. Regarding health benefits, for 2010 there will be no change to basic or graduated eligibility, no change in the definition of eligible dependents, and retiree dental will continue to be fully paid. The average UC contribution for retirees, as a percent of total premiums (including Medicare Part B), will be more closely aligned with the percent contribution for active employees. The UC-contributed overall average will decrease from 92 percent to 89 percent.

The Task Force is now working to develop specific recommendations to the president on competitive pay and benefits programs that will continue to attract and retain excellent faculty and staff while ensuring sustainable post-employment benefits for current and future retirees. A second series of campus forums will be held in the spring to present options for the retirement program and for health benefits before the task force submits its recommendations to President Yudof.

Following a lively Q&A session, UC Davis health care facilitator Guerren Solbach described the changes in this year's health benefits in preparation for the November open enrollment period.

—Charley Hess

### **UC Davis Retiree Center Survey**

Please complete this survey to give us your feedback. If you prefer to complete the survey online, visit the Center website at retireecenter.ucdavis.edu, and click on the survey link. If you already completed the survey, do not complete another one.

1. The Center and associations offer several services and programs. Please indicate the importance to you of the following:

	Very important	Somewhat	Not Very
Social programs			
Educational workshops			
Day trips			
Resource/referral/retiree issue information			
Information about campus and community events			
Newsletters			
Support groups or interest groups (caregivers, singles, book club, etc)			

2. Of the social events currently offered, please indicate the likelihood that you will attend in the next year:

	Very important	Somewhat	Not Very
Oktoberfest (fall quarter)			
Football Tailgate Party (fall quarter)			
Wine Tasting (winter quarter)			
Steak Bake (spring quarter)			

3. Please indicate the likelihood that you would register for a trip to the following destinations:

	Very likely	Somewhat	Unlikely
Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory			
Castello di Amoroso (winery/castle in Napa)			
Ferry to San Francisco/explore wharf			
Filoli Gardens (Woodside CA)			
Golden Gate Park (San Francisco)			
History/geology/geographic tours led by UC Davis experts			
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory			
Outdoor Adventure trips (hiking, kayaking, rafting, etc.)			
Palace of Fine Arts (Presidio in San Francisco)			
San Francisco City Hall/lunch at Culinary Academy			
San Francisco Rooftop Gardens Tour			
Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve (Winters)			
Tahoe Environmental Research Center (Incline Village)			
Train trip to Sierras			
UC Davis-tour of new buildings (food/wine institute, GSM etc.)			
Vic Fazio Wildlife Habitat (Davis)			

**5.** Please indicate the likelihood that you would attend workshops on the following subjects:

	Very likely	Somewhat	Unlikely
Medical developments			
Healthy aging			
Arts/culture			
Housing			
Travel			
Legal issues (wills, trusts, power-of-attorney, etc.)			
Driving refresher			
Grief/depression			
Chronic disease management			
Preventing falls and injuries			
Fraud, identity theft, etc.			
Politics			
Social Security, Medicare			
Planning for long-term care			
Campus updates and research			
Current events			
Financial matters			

No interest	Live too far away		
Other commitments	Other commitments		
Cost Transportation difficulties			
7. In the future, we may facilitate the formation of interest or	support groups. Please indicat	e vour interest in the	e following:
7. In the factor, we may identificate the formation of interest of	Very likely	Somewhat	Unlikely
Book club			
Movie club			
Current events			
Politics			
Cooking			
Gardening			
Arts/Crafts			
Performing arts			
Games (Scrabble, chess, etc.)			
Cards (bridge poker, etc.)			
Biking Walking/hiking			
Bird watching			<del>                                     </del>
Golf			
Tennis			+ +
Travel			
Computer			
Campus affiliation (e.g., Student Affairs, Facilities, etc.)			
Caregivers			
Alzheimers			
Breathers			
Transitions/grief			
Low vision			
Suddenly single			
Cancer survivors			
10. Please list other any other suggestions for programs, trips	, or groups, or add any additio	nal comments or sug	ggestions:
11. How would you describe your driving?	13. Please indicate the p	roximity of your hor	me to the
I drive when and where I wish	Davis Campus:	1011111110) 01 ) 0 41 1101	
I avoid driving in certain conditions	☐ I live in Davis		
I only drive when I have to	I live within 10 mi	les of Davis	
I do not drive at all	☐ I live 11-30 miles f		
	☐ Llive 31-50 miles from Davis		
12. What is your current age?	☐ I live 51-70 miles	from Davis	
Younger than 60	☐ I live 71-100 miles	from Davis	
☐ 60-65	☐ I live 101-200 mile		
66-70	☐ I live more than 20	00 miles from Davis	
☐ 71-75			
76-80			
81-85			
Older than 85			
14. Name, phone, e-mail (optional). Please complete if you are	e interested in being contacted	for volunteer opport	tunities or
future interest groups or support groups.	3	11	
Name:	Phone Number:		
E mail			

## Want to get away? The world awaits . . .

South Africa's culture and nature, Canada's Atlantic coast, the vistas of Italy, the charm of the South ... If any of these sounds like your dream vacation, you can turn that dream into reality by joining other UC retirees, their families and friends on a Collette Vacations 2010 tour.

Cost for all tours is per person, double occupancy, and includes round-trip airfare from LAX. For more information or to receive a brochure for any of these tours, please contact Michaela, Collette Vacations' group sales representative, at (877) 760-7653. Mention that you are a University of California retiree. Proceeds from group sales benefit CUCRA and its work on behalf of all UC retirees.

Remember, these tours are not just for UC retirees. Feel free to invite your family and friends to join you.

Already have your 2010 travel plans booked? Plan ahead—anticipated 2011 trips include Alaska, Australia/New Zealand, Costa Rica, and the waterways of Europe.

#### In Memoriam

Below are the names of association members who have died in recent months:

Emeriti Association members: Anthony Hance, Pharmocology

#### Retirees' Association members Joye White

Graduate School of Management **Lynne Green** 

College of Engineering

#### CUCEA/CUCRA highlights - continued from p. 2

• Concerns about the drug programs need to be addressed; it appears that the formulary is contracting rather than expanding since the beginning of Medicare Part D. Benefits for hearing aids and assistive devices should be provided for High Option program enrollees, and dental coverage should be modernized to include more of the cost of dental implants.

A lesser-known but significant problem that concerned the committee is the plight of some who retired many years ago. See the story, "Below-povery income affects some UC retirees," below.

The day's agenda also included updates on the President's Task Force on Post-Employment Benefits and the Office of the President's Retirement Services Center. Establishing a CUCRA Web site was approved by the board, and funds will be allocated to begin its development. The next CUCEA/CUCRA meeting will be held April 28-29 at UC Santa Barbara.

—Barbara Nichols UC Davis CUCRA representative

### Below-poverty income affecting some UC retirees

The report of the Joint Benefits Committee of the Council of UC Retirees Associations and Emeriti Associations (CUCRA and CUCEA) identified an important issue needing attention by each UC campus and location. According to data provided by Randy Scott and Eleanor Skarakin of the Office of the President, there are some, albeit a small number, of individuals retired from UC whose retirement income is below the poverty level. An article in an upcoming issue of *New Dimensions* will highlight an effort to reach out to UC retirees who retired after many years of service and now find themselves in this plight.

The UCLA Retirees' Association has launched a program to determine the number of UCLA retirees who are food insecure and then ascertain whether these individuals are unaware of available support, are unable to seek aid for various reasons, or are unwilling to come forward because of embarrassment and/or fear of humiliation, and then to create strategies to support this "at risk" group.

The UC Davis Retirees' Association also is concerned about the welfare of our UC Davis retirees and is looking into ways to address the situation.

—Deanna Falge Pritchard

### What's on your mind?

Have an opinion about something you read in *Campus Connections*? Want to alert your emeriti/retiree colleagues to an issue of mutual interest? Or maybe you'd just like to let us know whether we're meeting your expectations. We'd like to hear from you. Send your letters to Editors, *Campus Connections*, retiree-center@ucdavis.edu, or c/o UC Davis Retiree Center, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616. We will print letters as space permits.

#### **UCDEA Treasurers' Report**

Bank of America checking account
Balance forward \$22,930.93
Credits \$2,850.56
Debits \$3,007.87
Closing balance 8/19/09 \$22,773.62

## UC Davis Emeriti Association/Retirees' Association noon talks Winter 2010 schedule

Join us for these informational talks on the second Thursday of each month at the International House in Davis. Talks begin at noon; come at 11:30 to enjoy your brown-bag lunch and conversation. The associations will provide cookies and hot beverages. Use your retiree parking permit in the I-House parking lot. If the lot is full, street-parking permits will be provided.

Date	Speaker	Торіс
Thursday, January 14	Charan Ranganath, Center for Neuroscience	Neurobiology of Memory
Thursday, February 11	Bob Segar, Resource Management & Planning	Campus Planning Update
Thursday, March 11	Christian Sandrock Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	Infectious Diseases
Thursday, April 8	Heather Young and Debbie Ward Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing	An Introduction to the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

Note: Speakers and topics subject to change. Check retireecenter.ucdavis.edu for latest information.

Meeting Notice

Meeting Meeting

Of the

UC Davis Emeriti Association

UC Davis Emeriti Associat

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c/o UC Davis Retiree Center — RETC One Shields Avenue Davis, CA 95616





