



Retirement Center Mission Statement

The UC Berkeley Retirement Center is dedicated to developing programs and services that contribute to the well being and creativity of retired faculty, staff and their families and that support the UC community.

CONTACT US

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CENTER HOURS

Monday—Friday:
8:30am—4:30pm
Walk-in hours: 1—4pm
Closed: Noon—1pm



the CenterPiece

UC BERKELEY RETIREMENT CENTER NEWSLETTER

What's News

This new year brings much activity to the Retirement Center. Most of you already received our special mailing last month announcing our spring semester Learning in Retirement (LIR) courses. For those of you who have not yet registered, we've listed the course titles and dates as a reminder (p.5).

In addition to LIR, we are sponsoring a full schedule of programs including: a primer on the latest in digital gadgetry (p.5); an **expert panel addressing the current social security debate** co-sponsored with the Economics Department; a workshop on how Medicare works with your UC health plan; a free docent-led tour at the Berkeley Art Museum; and an educational **trip to Sonoma** co-sponsored with the UC Berkeley Retirees' Association (p.6).

Our *Cal Connections* section announces **three new offerings**. First, the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive is giving retirees a 10% discount at its Museum Store (p.2). Second, the Women's Faculty Club is extending reduced membership to new members. Third, we are adding two new options to our Cal Retirement Center Network (CRCN), including **free email forwarding** for those of you who want a "berkeley.edu" email address, but do not need to use the campus network to connect to the Internet (p.4).

In the *On Campus* section you will find invitations to participate in **Chancellor Birgeneau's inauguration** and a campus conference on diversity as well as a report on a recent international conference of university retirement organizations (p.7).

From time to time, there are announcements from the UC Office of the President that are of enough import that

they bear repeating. Two such messages appear in this edition of *the CenterPiece*, one is about updated Medicare benefits, the other is about domestic partner benefits (p.4)

Finally, we want to thank those of you who sent in a year-end contribution to our annual and endowment funds. Your generosity will help to support our Learning in Retirement program as well as allow us to develop new programming that would otherwise be impossible due to the substantial cuts to our permanent budget in the past year.

Work Opportunities for Retirees

Building on a pilot program conducted in 2002, the Center will soon reinstate its web site that connects retirees who are seeking part-time, temporary work opportunities with campus hiring managers who have short-term, project-based needs. Gloria Parra, a new member of the Retirement Center team, is coordinating this effort with the campus Employment Services Unit.

The web site allows retirees to post a personal profile/resume of their skills and interests, enables them to look at current job postings and contact hiring managers. Hiring managers, in turn, can browse retiree profiles/resumes, post their opportunities or contact retirees directly.

Though we will not be ready to launch the web site until March 2005, we encourage you to communicate your interest to the Retirement Center now so that we can contact you when the program is available.



UC Press Discount

University of California Press is pleased to offer you a 15% discount on all books. With more than 180 new books published each year in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, the Press offers something for everyone's reading list.

A code, which you can get from the Retirement Center, is required to receive the discount. The code can then be used for phone orders when you call the fulfillment service at (800)777-4726 or for Internet orders. (Type the code in "comments.")

ID Cards

To take advantage of the special Cal Connection offers, you must use a retiree ID card that identifies you as retired staff, retired faculty or their surviving spouse or partner. To obtain your card, come by the Center between 1pm and 4pm daily or call the Center to order by mail.

Library Cards

Obtain a free campus library card good for use at all UC Berkeley libraries. Call the Center for details.

UC Botanical Garden

With your retiree ID card, you are eligible for free admission to UC Botanical Gardens. You can also become a member for \$30 (regularly \$40). Established in 1890, the Garden's 34 acres contain over 12,000 different kinds of plants. The Garden is open 9am-5pm year round.

Cal Rentals

You can now use Cal's housing counseling and rental listing service. Some services have a small fee. For more information, call (510)642-3642 or visit <http://calrentals.berkeley.edu>

UPDATED!

Berkeley Art Museum

You can always enjoy free admission to the Berkeley Art Museum (BAM) by showing your retiree ID. However, this spring BAM is pleased to offer a 10%

discount at the Museum Store, where you'll find books on art, cinema, cultural criticism, photography, and architecture, as well as cards, jewelry, and unique gifts. This offer is valid through June 30, 2005. The museum and store is open 11am- 5pm, Wednesday - Sunday and 11am-7pm Thursdays. Use your retiree ID to get the discount.

A free docent-led tour and discussion of the exhibit *Blind at the Museum* (p.6) is available for retirees, their families and guests.

Pacific Film Archive

The Pacific Film Archive (PFA) offers retirees the UC faculty and staff admission rate of \$5.00 (with retiree ID card). Check bampfa.berkeley.edu for film information and schedules, or pick up a copy of *Film Notes* at the Berkeley Art Museum or PFA Theater for previews of coming attractions.

Night and Weekend Parking Coupons

Purchase a book of ten parking coupons for night and weekend parking for only \$40.00. Coupons are good in most campus lots.

To purchase by mail, please send a check for \$41.50 made payable to UC Regents, to the Retirement Center (the additional \$1.50 is for mailing costs). You may also buy them in person at the Center, Monday through Friday between 1pm and 4pm. Note: Coupons are not valid in UC public lots for sporting or special events.

UPDATED!

Discounted Parking for Center Programs

When attending a Center-sponsored event, you are eligible for parking at \$4.00 in any non-reserved parking space on campus. You must prepay by sending a check or money order at least two days prior to the day of the event to reserve your parking pass. Because Parking and Transportation charges the Retirement Center whether or not you use the parking permit, **we cannot offer refunds.**

Cal Rec Club

Join the Cal Rec Club at a significant savings. Membership includes free morning aerobics and discounts on other programs. Call the Center for a brochure.



Cal Performances

Enjoy select Cal Performances events at 15% off regular ticket prices (limit two). To order tickets, call the Cal Performances ticket office at (510)642-9988. For more information visit www.calperfs.berkeley.edu. The Retirement Center discount cannot be combined with other discounts. All sales are final. *Note: discount is not available for on-line purchases or for performances not listed below.*

Enjoy the following events at a 15% discount off the prices listed below. All events are at Zellerbach Hall. Retiree ID card required at the door.

Trisha Brown Dance Company \$26, \$36, \$48
Friday and Saturday February 25 & 26 8pm

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin \$32, \$42, \$56
Friday March 4 8pm

Christian McBride Band \$18, \$24, \$32
Friday March 25 8pm

Çudamani: Music & Dance from Bali \$24, \$34, \$46
Friday April 1 8pm

**Seasons of Migration:
Dance & Music from Cambodia** \$24, \$36, \$48
Friday April 29 8pm

Peter Cincotti \$22, \$32, \$42
Saturday April 30 8pm

Kurt Elling \$18, \$24, \$32
Saturday May 28 8pm

20/20 Vision Plan at University Eye Center

You and your designated beneficiary are eligible for this plan. Benefits include a comprehensive examination for a maximum out-of-pocket cost of \$49.00*, a discount on other vision services, a discount on ophthalmic materials (such as spectacles, contact lenses, or low vision devices), a complimentary "Cal" glasses case when spectacles are dispensed, free parking, and a free shuttle ride to the Eye Center. For information or to make an appointment, call the UCB Eye Center at (510)642-2020. Be sure to identify yourself as a 20/20 Vision Plan member.

**Where applicable, insurance will be billed first.*

Affordable Computer Equipment at The Scholar's Workstation (TSW)



Purchase hardware and software at low educational prices at the campus computer retail outlet. You can also place credit card orders online, where you have the option to pickup your order at TSW or have it delivered to your home using your CalNet ID and passphrase. CRCN members (see page 4) and emeriti can call the Center for their CalNet ID. All other retirees can select the "Ship Order Using Fax Authorization" option during the online checkout process.

The Scholar's Workstation is located on the ground floor of University Hall in Room 41. It is open Monday- Thursday 9am-4pm, and 9am-noon on Fridays. Visit their web site by going to www.tsw.berkeley.edu.

Health Care Facilitator

Receive confidential one-on-one assistance regarding problems with or questions about your health plan. This service is provided by a location-specific Health Care Facilitator (HCF). Call the Center to get the phone number of your HCF.

Wellness Bargains

The UC Berkeley Wellness Letter offers new subscribers a discounted rate of \$15.00 (regularly \$28.00) on the first year of a subscription. For a free pamphlet entitled "Wellness Made Easy: 365 Tips for Better Health," a free sample copy of the Wellness Letter, or to subscribe, contact the Center.

Long-Term Care Insurance Counseling

Before purchasing a long-term care insurance policy, it is important to know all the issues you must consider. The Center has arranged for free, one-on-one sessions with a community expert from the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). This is a state-funded program that provides unbiased professional assistance to insurance consumers. To make a confidential appointment, call the Center.

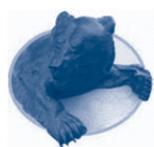


Women's Faculty Club (WFC)

You are now invited to join the WFC as an Associate Member. Initial memberships are offered at a reduced rate, which includes a complimentary six months with the purchase of a full-year membership, so that you can enjoy your first year of membership privileges for only \$66. (The \$25 initiation fee is also waived.) Call the WFC at (510)845-5084 or download an application form at www.womensfacultyclub.com.

The Women's Faculty Club (WFC), founded in 1923, is a non-profit social membership organization, providing fine meals, memorable settings for receptions, meeting and parties and hotel accommodations in a unique campus setting. Noted architect John Galen Howard designed the building and it is considered one of the most beautiful buildings on campus.

Center Expands Email Options through the Cal Retirement Center Network (CRCN)



CalMail

Free email forwarding and a CalMail account that can be used with a DSL or cable connection are the two newest additions to the Center's CRCN program.

CRCN Email Forwarding provides a service that automatically forwards messages addressed to your "berkeley.edu" email address to the in-box of any email address you choose. This service is for those who want a berkeley.edu email address, but want to use, or are already using, another email service such as Yahoo!, EarthLink or Comcast. For example, if you have an account with Yahoo!, your email addressed to "you@berkeley.edu" will arrive at you@yahoo.com. After a one-time set up fee of \$10, there is no cost for this service.

CRCN CalMail is for users of broadband (e.g., DSL, Cable) and other Internet connections who want to keep a full service email account through the campus. For an annual flat fee of \$60, you will get a CalMail account with a "berkeley.edu" email address, 100MB of email storage, vacation forwarding, campus software with updates, and technical support by email or phone.

The Center's ongoing email and Internet service, **CRCN SHIPS**, is also still available for just \$13 per month, with a one-time \$10 set-up fee, and includes unlimited Internet access through the campus Subscription Home IP Service (dial-up modem connection), a CalMail account with a "berkeley.edu" email address, software and consultation services.

This service is available now, while CRCN Email Forwarding and CRCN CalMail will be available April 1, 2005. Detailed information sheets and application packets are available from the Center.

SPECIAL BENEFITS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Medicare Preventive Services for 2005

Medicare now covers three new preventive services. If your Medicare Part B coverage began on or after January 1, 2005, Medicare will cover a one-time "welcome to Medicare" preventive physical exam within your first six months of coverage. This exam will include a thorough review of health, as well as counseling about preventive services (like certain screenings and shots), and referrals for other care if needed.

The other services are cardiovascular screenings that check cholesterol and other blood fat (lipid) levels and screening to check for diabetes (Fasting Plasma Glucose Test).

Retirees pay nothing for the cardiovascular and diabetes screenings. There is a co-payment for the one-time physical exam that differs with your coverage. Contact your health plan for further information.

Domestic Partner Benefits

The UC Retirement Plan was recently amended in response to the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003. The amendments permit an eligible domestic partner of a member who retired prior to July 1, 2002 to receive the postretirement survivor continuance benefit. (Those who retired after July 1, 2002 were already permitted to receive this benefit.)

If you believe this change applies to you and your domestic partner, and you have not already received a letter from UCOP, call the UC Customer Service Center at (800)888-8267. If you know someone for whom it might apply, but who is no longer in touch with UC, you might pass on this information.



Center Sponsored Programs and Events

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

The following are the Learning in Retirement courses previously announced in a January special mailing. Limited space remains available. Please call or email the Center if you want to register for a course.

How We Compare With Other Rich Democracies: Are Americans Better or Worse Off?

Organized and presented by Professor Emeritus Harold L. Wilensky, Department of Political Science.

Tuesdays February 8, 15, 22, March 1 2pm-4pm

Emotions: How They Work, Develop, and Improve Us

Organized by Adjunct Professor Emerita Ravenna Helson, Department of Psychology and the Institute for Personality and Social Research. Lectures presented by Professors Robert W. Levenson, Joseph J. Campos and Dacher Keltner.

Thursdays March 3, 10, 17 2pm-4pm

Understanding Presidential Elections

Organized by Professor Raymond Wolfinger, Department of Political Science. Lectures presented by Professors Raymond Wolfinger, Henry Brady, Jack Citrin and J. Merrill Shanks.

Mondays March 21, 28, April 4, 11 3pm-5pm

The Age of DNA Based Biology

Organized by Professor Emeritus Fred Wilt, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. Lectures presented by Professors Fred Wilt, Jasper D. Rine, Michael S. Levine and Ellen Robey.

Tuesdays April 12, 19, 26, May 3 1pm-3pm

Registration: Please call or email the Center to register for one or more courses. While all retirees and emeriti are welcome to register for individual lectures, seating can only be guaranteed for those who register for an entire course. Course locations will be provided in your registration confirmation. Note: Partners and spouses of emeriti and retirees are welcome.

COMPUTER CLASSES

Classes are tailored for you. A \$10.00 per session fee includes instruction and materials.

Parking can be arranged for \$4.00 per day. Call the Center for reservations or if you have any questions.

Class space is limited to 18 participants.

Advanced Basics (This is a two-session class.)

Tuesday March 14 9am-Noon
Wednesday March 15 9am-Noon

Have you ever saved a file only to realize you could not find it later? Ever wanted to go beyond basic letter writing? This class offers instruction on how to navigate your computer and how to use programs such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. (Includes use of My Computer, Windows Explorer, menus and icons.)

Prerequisite: Completion of Computer Basics or equivalent experience.

World Wide Web: The Internet Starter Course

Monday March 21 9am-Noon

Finding long-lost friends, researching the best price on airline tickets, purchasing books, and even academic research can now be done from the comfort of your home, or anywhere there is an Internet connection. This class covers Internet basics, including how to use browsers and search engines.

World Wide Web II: The Next Steps

Tuesday March 22 9am-Noon

This new class is designed to help you take the next steps in using the Internet. Topics covered include researching, shopping, downloading and more. It also provides in-depth coverage of viruses and security issues.

Prerequisite: Completion of The Internet Starter Course.

Crossing the Digital Divide

Monday March 28 10am-11:30am

Confused by all the different options available in today's digital gadget market? This interactive session conducted by the UC Berkeley Scholar's Workstation will introduce you to the major issues involved in buying computers and other digital gear, including: personal computer (PC) versus Macintosh (Mac), digital cameras, printers, scanners, storage devices and more. *(There is no fee for this class.)*



Center Sponsored Programs and Events

WORKSHOPS, TOURS AND CONFERENCES

UCBRC/UCRAB Tour of Sonoma

Thursday April 14 8:30am-5:30pm
 The Center and the Retirees' Association have teamed up to offer an educational tour of the historical town of Sonoma. Sonoma is known as the birthplace of California, for it was in the town square of Sonoma where the Bear Flag was first raised June 14, 1846. The town once served as the capital of the short lived California Republic. Sonoma is also the location of Mission San Francisco Solano, the last and northernmost of the 21 California missions. Our tour includes: The Plaza, a National Historic Landmark; La Casa Grande; and the historical home of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. The tour will also cover viticulture with a guided tour of the Sebastiani Winery and a visit to the small Viansa Winery and Italian Market Place. To request more information or a registration packet, contact the Center by March 14.

Medicare and Your UC Health Benefits

Tuesday March 8 10am-11:30am
 Especially targeted to those who will soon become eligible for Medicare benefits (usually at age 65). The session will provide an overview of the Medicare program, explain how UC health benefits coordinate with Medicare and identify issues to consider when selecting a plan. It will also detail what steps you will need to take with UC, Medicare and your health plan to complete your enrollment successfully.

Berkeley Art Museum Tour *Blind at the Museum*

Thursday March 31 12:15pm
 An art museum would seem to be no place for the blind. Yet art objects can address all of the senses—sight, touch, hearing, scent, taste—and thus offer an opportunity to reconsider the process of “viewing” or responding to art. *Blind at the Museum* investigates the nature of blindness and the “visual arts” through the work of many artists, among them Sophie Calle, the French conceptual artist well known for her series on blindness; the sculptor Robert Morris; multimedia artists Theresa Hak Kyung Cha and Joseph Grigely, and photographers John Dugdale and Alice Wingwall. Rather than thinking about blindness and sight as polar opposites, these artists encourage us to explore the wide range of optical experiences—peripheral vision, distortion, floaters—along a continuum. Join us for this free docent-led tour.

Prescriptions for Social Security Reform

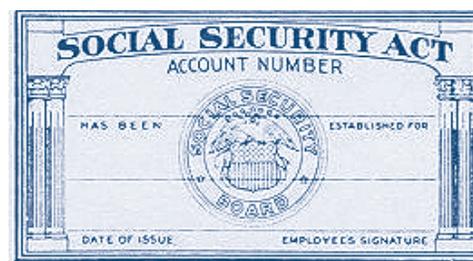
Co-Sponsored with the Department of Economics

Friday March 11 3:00-5:00pm
 Hosted Reception 5:00-6:00pm

Rx The nation's Social Security program is at the center of a national debate, thrust into the spotlight by President Bush's announcement that reforming the system is a primary goal for his second term. Several UC Berkeley professors are experts on various aspects of this sweeping debate. We highlight three of these from the Department of Economics in our special panel presentation moderated by Professor Richard Gilbert, Chair of the Economics Department.

Ron Lee, Professor of Demography, Edward G. and Nancy S. Jordan Professor of Economics, and Director of the Center for the Economics and Demography of Aging, challenges critics who say the size of the looming Social Security deficit is being exaggerated, and compares the dimensions of the Social Security problem to other challenges facing the country and to similar retirement programs in other industrialized nations. Alan Auerbach, Robert D. Burch Professor of Economics and Law and director of UC Berkeley's Burch Center on Tax Policy and Public Finance, will assess the health of the Social Security system, the risks, benefits and motivations behind privatization, and the likely winners and losers in a privatized system. Daniel McFadden, 2000 Nobel Laureate in Economics and E. Morris Cox Professor of Economics, will discuss the pluses and minuses of private accounts, the likely impact on elderly Americans, and the politics behind the debate.

After opening remarks, panelists will answer and discuss questions from the audience.





the CenterPiece

The CenterPiece is published by the UC Berkeley Retirement Center, which reports to the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Faculty Welfare. *The CenterPiece* is distributed to annuitants of UC Berkeley, the UC Office of the President, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

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On Campus

Diversity in Action: Leading the Nation Through Research and Practice

Thursday

March 3

10:00am-5:00pm

Retirees are invited to participate in a campuswide forum on diversity. Participants will engage with guest speakers and each other to move Cal towards developing and prioritizing a research agenda on diversity for the campus. A keynote address by Law School Dean Christopher Edley will follow panel discussions and audience participation with representatives from the Stanford Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity; the UCLA Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access; and the Harvard Civil Rights Project. Call the Center for more information.

Chancellor's Inauguration and 137th Charter Day Anniversary

Friday

April 15

2:00pm

Join the celebration of the 137th Charter Anniversary of the University of California and the inauguration of Robert J. Birgeneau as Berkeley's ninth Chancellor. Retired faculty and staff are invited to participate in an inaugural procession. (Contact Anastasia Stamos at (510)643-7799 if you are interested.)

Information about additional events and activities related to the inauguration can be found at <http://inauguration.berkeley.edu>. Tickets are available after March 15, through the Zellerbach box office and online.

NATIONAL NEWS

A Report from the International Retirement Organization Conference

Marian Gade, President, UC Retirees' Association at Berkeley

In early October, Vice President Iola James and I attended the 2nd Annual meeting of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE).

AROHE is a relatively new organization whose purposes are "to strengthen faculty and staff retirement organizations in institutions of higher education, promote the cross-fertilization of ideas between retiree organizations on different campuses, and provide development models for fledgling organizations..." as well as assist the organizations in serving their own campuses. And at the Nashville meeting, all these were addressed through an excellent program (put together by a committee whose chair was our own Retirement Center Director Shelley Glazer).

Several of the sessions were devoted—as one might expect—to questions of retiree benefits: new ways of ensuring ongoing health benefits in the face of rising costs and increasing reluctance on the part of colleges and universities to carry the added burden of such benefits as prescription drugs for retirees; university-retirement housing partnerships; financial planning ("You are your own defined benefits plan," said one speaker); phased retirement; recall or work opportunities on campuses; and the availability of library and other campus privileges. Other sessions explored the myriad ways in which retiree and emeriti organizations relate organizationally to, and are supported by, their institutions. It was with pride that we saw that our Retirement Center, funded by the campus and serving the Retirees' and Emeriti Associations as well as the entire UC Berkeley, LBNL and UCOP retiree communities, is at the forefront of this growing movement.

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

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*The
Connecting
Link*

the CenterPiece

SPRING 2005

How to reach the Retirement Center:

The Retirement Center is located in 2 Boalt Hall. Boalt Hall is located on Bancroft Way, between Piedmont and College Avenues. Room 2 is on the ground floor, just off the Kroeber Plaza fountain area.

By BART:

Take BART to the Berkeley Station. After exiting the station, proceed to the bus stop in front of Scandinavian Designs. Catch a UCB Perimeter Shuttle to the intersection of Bancroft Way and College Ave. The shuttle costs 50 cents.

By AC Transit:

AC Transit bus lines 51, 52L, 604, and 605 stop at Bancroft Way and College Ave. Line 7 stops at Bancroft Way and Piedmont Ave. Bus lines 40, 40L, and 64 stop 3 blocks away at Telegraph Ave. and Bancroft Way. (Check with AC Transit for changes.)

By car:

Please call the Center for directions.