

UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

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UCRAB Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

11am–2pm at Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto

Ira Michael Heyman

Chancellor and Professor Emeritus

"Planning a National Park in a City"

The popular cliché, "Been there, done that," very aptly summarizes the remarkable professional record of the guest at our Tuesday, June 8th Luncheon – Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman (known as "Mike" to friends and colleagues). Listing his many and diverse accomplishments would run into several pages, so we offer an abbreviated version.

Chancellor Heyman has a long history in law, regional/environmental planning, and policy planning. He holds an A.B. in government from Dartmouth College and a J.D. from Yale Law School. Joining the law faculty at UC in 1959, he became Vice-Chancellor in 1974 and was named Berkeley's sixth Chancellor in 1980. He served as Counselor to the Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Interior (1993-1994) and Interim Director of the Center for Studies in Higher Education at UC Berkeley (2000-2002). He holds a joint teaching appointment with the Boalt Hall School of Law and the Department of City and Regional Planning.

Without question, one of the Chancellor's most impressive positions was as the Tenth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. On September 19, 1994, at his installation, which was presided over by Supreme Court Justice Rehnquist, he was presented with the five-inch brass key that has become the traditional symbol of installation in that position. He served at the "Castle" until 1999 with his usual vigor and enthusiasm.

Currently, in addition to teaching Property Law to first-year students, he has active roles on a number of advisory groups, including the Citizens' Stamp

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This organization would not exist without dedicated volunteers.

The UC Berkeley Retirees' Association invites its members to attend the Executive Board meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in Room 256, University Hall.

The Coming Schedule:

June 16
July 21
September 15
October 20
November 17

Please note that no meetings are held in August or December.

The UC Berkeley Retirees' Association Office is located in the UC Berkeley Retirement Center 2 Boalt Hall, # 7200 Berkeley, CA 94720-7200

Hours: 8:30am—4:30pm
Closed Noon—1:00pm

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André S. Porter

President's Message

In late March, Vice President Iola James, Center Director Shelley Glazer, and I attended the semi-annual meeting of the Council of University of California Retiree Associations (CUCRA) at UCLA. In 2003, I was elected Vice Chair of CUCRA, so I'm more interested than ever in our "parent" organization.

One of the agenda items at this meeting was a discussion of the purposes and objectives of CUCRA, along with consideration of how best to focus our energies and resources. CUCRA was established by organizations such as UCRA B "to obtain, enhance, and disseminate appropriate and meaningful information among its constituents; to encourage each campus to organize and maintain active retirees organizations; to be an advocate for all retirees of the University; to foster further study of benefits and privileges of staff retirement; and to maintain mutually supportive relations between the University and retirees."

Fancy words. So what do we do? As usual, much of the meeting was taken up with reports from UCOP staff, reporting on items such as new investment options for present staff for their retirement funds, an overview of changes in Medicare and how those affect our medical plans and costs, and what may happen to staff and retirees at the Labs should UC not be selected to manage them in the future.

CUCRA, its sister organization CUCEA (for emeriti faculty), and their Joint Benefits Committee, frequently take the initiative in raising issues regarding retirees' health and other benefits. For example, we are concerned about those who have been retired for 25 years or more – their benefit checks, based on much lower salary levels than are now in place, in many cases cannot keep up with the cost of living despite COLAs, and there are gross differentials between the benefits received by people retiring from the same positions but many years apart. The associations have asked UCOP to see if any adjustments can be made to help those long-time retirees. This is just one example of the way your association, along with those on other campuses, works to ensure your continued well-being as UC retirees.

We were alerted to let all our members know they should check their beneficiary forms, now on-line at: <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu>. Be sure yours are up-to-date.

CUCRA will meet next in October at Davis, as will the international retirees' organization for universities, AROHE, in Nashville. We'll see that you get reports on them both!

I look forward to seeing you at our June luncheon – remember that this is our official annual membership meeting and there will be a brief business session as part of the program.

Marian Gade
UCRAB President

Remembering Clark Kerr

Remarks of Marian Gade at the Memorial for UC President Emeritus Clark Kerr. Zellerbach Auditorium, UC Berkeley, February 20, 2004. A video of the memorial can be viewed online at http://webcast.berkeley.edu/events/replay.html?event_id=127.

While Clark Kerr's values were largely formed by his home and family, his intellectual bent, I believe, came into its own while he was a student at Swarthmore College. It's entirely possible that this period, too, marked the beginnings of his administrative practice, as he was president of the Swarthmore student body. And it was at Swarthmore that he became a Quaker, spending his summers as a Peace Caravaner in different parts of the country.

But Swarthmore most put its stamp on him in terms of his intellectual curiosity, his utter devotion to truth and academic freedom – following ideas wherever they might lead – and, from my own point of view, I think he mainly hired me over 35 years ago to assist him in his research because I was a product of the Swarthmore Honors Program, as was he, and in his mind that was the best reference I could have.

Kerr's bibliography might be measured in pounds, not pages: 24 books and monographs translated into 10 languages; over 250 chapters and articles; some 40 reports he wrote for the Carnegie Commission and Council and the many other commissions of which he was a member or chair!

How did he accomplish so much, particularly considering that he was, for most of his life, an active administrator as well as teacher and author?

First, he was tidy, both in his mind and in his workspace. Everyone around him had desks and floors piled high with books and papers, partly because he handed all of his stuff to us. His desk was clear except for the particular piece he was working on. His memory was prodigious so that he didn't need to keep all his notes and books at hand – so much of what he needed was already in his head, and he prided himself on his almost photographic memory.

When he began a piece of writing, he knew where he wanted to end up, whether it was a short letter, a report, or a complete book. He would rewrite through multiple drafts, reorganize ideas and chapters, but from the beginning he had his argument laid out in his mind.

He would begin a major project with what he called a "clothesline draft," perhaps 35 pages that would eventuate in a 350-page book. Then he would outline for me what information he needed to hang on that clothesline: Minutes of particular meetings of The Board of Regents, quotes from the classics or from books he'd read, sometimes many years before, social science or economic data. And when he asked for a specific quote, he'd often smile a little knowing smile and say, "It's about two-thirds of the way through the book, halfway down the left-hand page." And sometimes it actually was!

One characteristic that I think has not been sufficiently appreciated was his ability to take information that was widely available and to make something new of it, something that caught the attention of the scholarly world or of the public. The "multiversity" was one of those ideas: he didn't coin the word, but he applied it to the phenomenon of the modern research university in a way that was timely, and that has stuck and, indeed, become associated with his name.

"Tidal Wave II" is another of his coinages that has become common parlance; there are others. The point I want to make, though, is the fresh way in which he viewed the world and everything he encountered in it. He was always looking for the new insight, the new idea, or one he could adapt from one discipline to another. A number of times I heard him deliver a speech where I had supplied many of the basic facts; I thought I knew everything he did about the topic. And then, listening to him, I found myself saying, "How interesting! I hadn't thought of that!" and realized that he had reworked the material, had put his own stamp on it, and had given us a new way of seeing the world we thought we knew.

I greatly appreciated his respect for those of us who worked closely with him. He was demanding, but never more of others than of himself, and he never criticized; he simply ignored advice he didn't want to take or ideas he thought were unproductive.

His was a remarkable mind and a remarkable life. I admired him greatly and miss him very much.

Our Day at the Races

Mother Nature generously provided blue skies and warm sunshine the morning of March 5, when 18 eager UC Retirees convened at Golden Gate Fields for an event listed in the Official Program as the "UC Berkeley Retirees' Association Day." What a day it was! Sitting in the elegant Turf Club tables looking out on the race track, we threw ourselves into the excitement of horse racing, placing two-dollar bets with reckless abandon. In between betting, we made frequent trips to the fabulous Buffet, located dangerously close to our seats. Not wanting to hurt the Chef's feelings we forced ourselves to have several desserts.

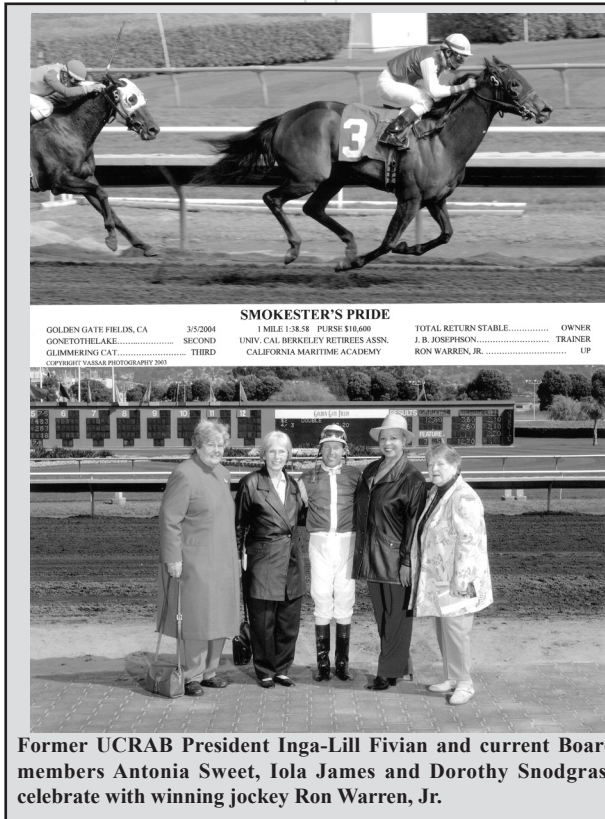
From our ring side seats, in addition to watching the

races below us on the field, we were also able to check out the action at Santa Anita and other race tracks on the small TV monitor at our table. Screaming at the top of our lungs for our favorite horses didn't result in big winnings, but not to worry – it was jolly good fun as the British say. And we can thank Iola James, who arranges all of these intellectually stimulating events for the cultural enrichment of UC retirees.

The only negative aspect of our glorious day at the races was the rude shock four of us received when we saw a picture taken with the diminutive jockey down on the track (see picture at left). The poor little chap was dwarfed in the presence of, shall we say, rather generously proportioned ladies? (We've since gone on stringent diets!)

I hope this account of our thrilling day at Golden Gate

Fields will induce a great many retirees to sign up next year. One such adventure will not turn you into a race track addict!



Former UCRAB President Inga-Lill Fivian and current Board members Antonia Sweet, Iola James and Dorothy Snodgrass celebrate with winning jockey Ron Warren, Jr.

Rehired Retirees Take Note

The following is important information for rehired retirees: especially if you or your family members are eligible for Medicare!

There is a new factsheet and waiver form for Rehired Retirees!

The "Returning to UC Employment After Retirement Factsheet and Waiver" (UBEN 1039) is now available on the "Forms and Publications" section of the At Your Service website. The new factsheet contains guidelines for reemployment after retirement, the revised UCRP Waiver and Release, and updated information for Medicare-eligible rehired retirees. Rehired retirees should work with their hiring department to complete the waiver form.

*Deborah Lloyd
Health Care Facilitator
UC Berkeley*

Dues Increase Notice

On July 1, 2004 UCRAB dues will increase to \$15 per year or \$40 for three years. The increase will only affect renewing members. Previously paid rates of \$12 per year, or \$30 for three years remain in effect until your current membership expires. Check for the number above your name on the mailing label for your expiration date (Example: 03-04 expires on June 30, 2004).

Ask Adrian

In a previous UCRAB Newsletter we told you about the Q & A column Adrian Harris, UCLA Vice Chancellor-Planning Emeritus, writes for the UCLA emeriti and retiree newsletters. We are printing this column, which may be of interest to many of you.

My question relates to a certificate-of-deposit that reaches its maturity date soon. In this time of low interest, should one search to try to obtain a better rate? Is there a cost for transferring the certificate? Would the cost to switch the certificate to another financial institution negate the difference in the interest rate? Additionally, should one renew the certificate for a short period of time in hopes that the interest rates will increase and one would have access to these funds sooner rather than later?

Whenever a certificate-of-deposit (CD) matures, it pays to search for the highest rates available in the country; why accept a lower yield when you can maximize your return with absolute safety. There are no costs involved in transferring funds from one institution to another; they are all delighted to have your business. The easiest and best source of information is online at www.bankrate.com

Although the website changes from time to time, currently you go through the following steps to get to the highest available national CD rates: go to the section "Start here! Please select a product." Highlight "CDs/Savings" and click on "Go." Then go to "Check latest rates," click on "Select best rate (100 Highest Yields)" and "Go."

All listed institutions are federally insured by FDIC, and there are toll-free numbers for most such institutions. You can establish CD accounts by telephone - with paperwork, including the transmittal of funds, handled by mail, or electronic transfer, if practical and possible. Rates are locked-in at the time of the first telephone contact, and if rates go up while the paperwork is in the works, the higher rate would in most cases be made available.

Individuals who have CDs in their portfolio could be advantaged by setting up a ladder of CDs. For example, a five-year ladder would include one-fifth of the total CD investment in each of the following maturities: one-year, two-year, three-year, four-year and five-year.

Thereafter, a fifth of the portfolio would mature each year, and would be reinvested for a five-year period at the then highest paying institution. Five-year rates are always higher than rates available for shorter periods of time. Establishing the ladder in the first place is best accomplished when the spread of interest rates between the one-year and five-year CDs is relatively small, as is the case today. In the long-run, the ladder provides a good return, with complete safety. If interest rates are rising, each year you have one-fifth of the portfolio to reinvest at the new higher rates. If interest rates are falling, you have four-fifths of your portfolio locked in at higher rates. It is similar to dollar-cost-averaging in the purchase of stocks. Under no circumstances should you exceed the \$100,000 FDIC insurance limit per institution, which would include the interest earned on the investment.

Adrian Harris

Ira Michael Heyman, Continued

Advisory Committee. Also, he is currently involved in the creation of a San Francisco History Museum in the old U.S. Mint Building.

As a former member of the Presidio Board of Directors, Chancellor Heyman has played an active role in the preservation of landscapes, architecture and archaeology throughout the Presidio and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. This noteworthy project is the subject of his talk, "Planning a National Park in a City," a matter of great interest to all of us who share his dedication in preserving the pristine beauty and historical tradition of the Presidio.

Please join us on June 8th for the Annual Meeting (a mercifully short affair) and the Luncheon. As usual, there's a social hour at 11:00am, followed by lunch and the always stimulating question and answer period.

Dorothy Snodgrass

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Upcoming UCRAB Trips and Events

We hope you will join us for one or more of these exciting trips. If you would like to go suggest other ideas for trips and events contact Iola James at 510/632-7264.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

We are currently taking reservations for the June 4 day trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, including their exciting new shark exhibit. You still have a week to register. Call the Center for a registration packet.

Hearst Castle

Care to join us for an overnight trip to Hearst Castle, by Amtrak train? Leave either the Emeryville or Oakland station for the trip to beautiful San Simeon. It is one of the largest of approximately 5,000 historic house museums in the U.S., and boasts one of the most sophisticated guided tour programs in the country. If you're intersted, contact the Center for more information.

Yosemite National Park

We are in the early stages of planning an overnight trip to Yosemite in March. We'll go by Amtrak's San Joaquin train to the wonders of Yosemite Valley. On the way, we'll see the gold country hills, with narrated sight seeing. Our overnight stay will be in Yosemite Lodge near Yosemite Falls. The next day we'll have an open air (or enclosed tram) guided tour of the valley floor. Look for more information in future newsletters.

From the Outback to the Glaciers

Rosemary Norling, Chair, Travel Interest Group, UCSD Retirees Association invites all UC Retirees' Association members for a tour of Australia and the New Zealand islands, with optional extensions to Rotoura and Fiji. The planned departure date is October 21, 2004. For more information and reservations - call 877/584-7302 (Attn: Special Accounts Desk).