

President's Message, continued...

retirees, which lowers the cost somewhat for this cohort of retirees.

- Continue UC's current eligibility and contribution policies for those receiving UCRP disability income.

Unsurprisingly, the task force found it difficult to reach consensus on some issues. Several staff and faculty members of the task force's three work groups (pensions, health benefits, finance) submitted a dissenting statement. Most of the differences of opinion centered on the specific pension alternatives offered in the report. The dissenting statement's broadest criticism, however, was its view that the task force had focused more on making cuts than on ensuring the competitiveness of UC benefits. While the statement supports the gradual reduction in UC's contribution to retiree health premiums, it also notes that the recommendations in this area "represent deep cuts that will be painful for current retirees and future retirees" and urges the University to proceed carefully and incrementally. President Yudof has said that he encourages "vigorous debate and discussion" on the report's proposals before taking his own recommendations to the Regents.

You can make up your own mind about the task force report by checking out the special issue of the *Our University* newsletter available at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/ouruniversity/0810/>. You'll find links to the report (a chart with all the recommendations appears on page 16 of the executive summary), background on what the next steps will be, and information about how to submit comments. The PARRA Executive Committee plans to write the president about our position on those recommendations that affect UC retirees; if you have comments or reactions to share, please let me know.

I hope you plan to attend our fall luncheon on October 14, when we'll hear from the new director of Cal Performances, Matías Tarnopolsky. I look forward to seeing you then.

Pat Pelfrey
President

ppelfrey@berkeley.edu
510-528-4490

News from the Retirement Center

Let us know! By the time you read this, you should have received the Retirement Center's fall newsletter. The issue highlights the many interesting and informative events happening this fall on and off campus, including the last two sessions of the *Golden Age of Astronomy* series and the Sep. 29th Office of the President webinar on the Post-Employment Benefits Task Force. We value your feedback on the newsletter and Center services. Let us know what you like, dislike and want to see or read more about.

The Center has compiled a list of important phone numbers all retirees should have on hand. If there are others you want added to this list, let us know. Here is a selection of most commonly requested phone numbers:

At Your Service/UCOP

Phone: 1-800-888-8267

Web: <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu>

Medicare

Claims: 1-800-MEDICARE

Benefits Coordination:

<http://www.medicare.gov>

Social Security

Phone: 1-800-772-1213

<http://www.ssa.gov>

Fidelity Retirement Services

Phone: 1-866-682-7787

<http://netbenefits.com/>

Lastly, in anticipation of changes in health benefits due to the health care reform bill and the upcoming Open Enrollment period, let us remind you of free health insurance counseling that the Center co-sponsors with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), part of the Alameda County Legal Assistance Program. HICAP offers free counseling sessions for older adults on health insurance and Medicare questions, including long term care insurance questions. A confidential meeting at the Center can be arranged by calling HICAP at 510-839-0393.

May this fall season be a time of reflection and renewal for you. Be well.

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President's and Regents' Retiree Association

Network News

Fall 2010

Published for Retirees of the Office of the President and Office of The Regents, University of California

Dear PARRA Members,

First, a word of thanks and a word of welcome. Our thanks go to Eunice Childs, who is stepping down after eighteen years as editor of the *Network News*—three-quarters of its twenty-four year history! During this time she has kept us up to date about retiree news, issues, luncheons, and each other. In the process, Eunice has given the newsletter a distinctive voice and an important role in PARRA's service to our members. We are all in her debt for her excellent contributions as editor, writer, and member of the Executive Committee.

Our new editor, Leigh Trivette, introduces herself in this issue. Leigh's long UC career, including her experience as Secretary of The Regents, means that she knows all about juggling competing demands and deadlines. I know she'll be an outstanding editor of the *Network News*. Get in touch with her if you have ideas or suggestions.

For UC retirees, the big news this fall is the report of the Post-Employment Benefits Task Force, the group appointed in March 2009 by President Yudof to balance UC's need for excellent faculty and staff with the imperative to reduce expenditures over the long term. Most of its recommendations have to do with changes to UC's defined-benefit plan—pensions, in other words—which will not affect anyone who has already retired.

The proposals related to health benefits, however, have direct and important implications for retirees. The major recommendations in this area:

- Gradually reduce UC's maximum contribution to retiree health plan premiums (currently at 89 percent) to 70 percent by 2018. This would involve a decrease in UC's contribution of about 3 percent a year until the 70 percent floor is reached.
- Make one exception to this reduction proposal: exempt the small number of retirees over 65 who are not eligible for Medicare because they are not coordinated with Social Security. Instead, this group would pay the same premiums as active employees. The rationale for this exemption: 1) UC did not have to match Social Security taxes for these retirees during their careers; 2) reducing UC's current contribution to their premiums would create a disproportionate burden for them while 3) yielding little in savings to the University. UC would also continue the current policy of blending the premium rates of active employees and non-coordinated

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PARRA Fall Luncheon on Thursday, October 14

Please join us at the Fall Luncheon on October 14 at Hs. Lordships Restaurant in Berkeley. Our speaker will be Matías Tarnopolsky, the new director of Cal Performances.

"For his first season as director of Cal Performances, Matías Tarnopolsky has executed a small programming coup. The 2010-11 season ... will include a three-concert residency by the Vienna Philharmonic - the first Bay Area appearances by the venerable orchestra since a 1987 concert in Davies Symphony Hall under Leonard Bernstein." (SF Chronicle, May 5, 2010)

Matías Tarnopolsky was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Raised in London, he earned degrees in music from the King's College London and later became a producer for the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Singers. After moving to the United States in 1999, he became senior director of artistic planning at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, where he worked closely with Music Director Daniel Barenboim. Before becoming Director of Cal Performances in 2009, Tarnopolsky served as Vice-President, Artistic Planning, at the New York Philharmonic, where he was instrumental in creating the inaugural season of incoming Music Director Alan Gilbert. Tarnopolsky, a respected music administrator, has also written extensively for concert programs, magazines,

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Review: *The Fantasticks* by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt

SF Playhouse, 533 Sutter Street, San Francisco

June 15 - September 4, 2010

“*The Fantasticks*” opened in New York on May 3, 1960 and closed in 2002, after a record-setting 17,162 performances. SF Playhouse Artistic Director Bill English chose to revive and revise this musical comedy on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. For readers who are not familiar with SF Playhouse, it is a small, charming theater whose mission is “to create and sustain an intimate, professional theatrical community where we celebrate our shared human experience through compelling productions of premieres and re-invigorated classics that resonate for our times and inspire.”

The play, loosely based on Edmond Rostand’s “*Les Romanesques*,” tells the story of young Luisa (Sepideh Moafi) and Matt (Jeremy Kahn), who are keeping their love a secret, and their seemingly feuding parents, Luisa’s mother Bellomy (Joan Mankin) and Matt’s father, Hucklebee (Louis Parnell). Little do Matt and Luisa know that this is all an act on the parents’ part; they are actually close friends hoping to bring their offspring together.

Director English set the play in a post-apocalyptic world of his own imagining, with the actors sporting strange costumes and hairstyles. San Francisco Chronicle critic Robert Hurwitt questioned whether this approach added much to the production, but it certainly was off-beat.

The parents, both fathers in the original script, pretend to bicker, eventually building a wall between their two homes. When a traveling company of entertainers comes to town, the parents hire El Gallo (English) to stage a mock abduction of Luisa, with the help of his oddball sidekick Mortimer (Yusef Lambert), in order to prompt Matt to come to her rescue. However, while El Gallo’s plan succeeds, Matt reveals himself as disillusioned with love, while Luisa makes plans to run away with El Gallo and his roving side-show.

Although *The Fantasticks* is deservedly famous, and songs such as “Try to Remember” are known to generations of music lovers, I had never seen the play performed, so I came to the theater with an open mind. I thoroughly enjoyed this production, which seemed to rush by in its two-hour playing time. The musical numbers were charming, particularly as sung by the beautiful Luisa, and the actors really seemed to come together as an integrated cast. Based on this performance and others I have seen at SF Playhouse, including “*Animals Out of Paper*” and “*Dead Man’s Cell Phone*,” I encourage readers to give it a try. It is conveniently located a little over three blocks from the Powell Street BART station.

Erica Nietfeld

From the Editor

Greetings, Colleagues. My UC career began in the School of Public Health at the Berkeley Campus in 1980 where I expected to be a University employee for about 5 years. In 2006 I retired as Secretary of The Regents, a bit and then some over that 5-year target. During those years, it was a great pleasure to get to know many of you personally and learn about your interests, families, adventures, and concerns.

As PARRA newsletter editor I am soliciting your news items or opinion pieces, book or theater reviews (see “*The Fantasticks*” from Erica Nietfeld), travel plans or reports, and family news to the Editor: Leigh Trivette (parraleigh@comcast.net) or 1933 Hoover Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602. Please send any change of address to me as well. I look forward to hearing from you.

Leigh Trivette Malaspina

Lab Retirees Petition Court, Demand UC Benefits

Excerpted from *The Independent*, August 19

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Retirees Group has filed a formal petition in Superior Court, seeking to force the University of California to restore to the UC health system "... all UC retirees who retired from LLNL while UC was managing the laboratory," according to Joe Requa, head of the Retirees Group. It also asks for damages, meaning reimbursement for excess costs and interest incurred by retirees because they were moved out of UC health programs. The University of California declined to comment because it had not seen the court papers yet. Plaintiffs listed in the petition are Requa, Jay Davis, Donna Ventura and Wendell Moen.

In 2008, when a new contractor took over Laboratory management from University of California, the new contract promised continued benefits that were "substantially equivalent" to UC's group plans. However, the contract wording was changed a year later.

For the entire story, http://www.independentnews.com/fullstory1.php?arch_id=935

David Wilson's *Final Exam*

Many of you will remember David in his capacity as Executive Assistant to UC President David S. Saxon in the late 1970s and early 1980s. But you may not know that Wilson has also had a long career as a Southeast Asia expert and UCLA political science professor. You can learn many interesting things about both dimensions in *Final Exam: A Memoir*, an informal and highly readable account of his experiences as a UC faculty member, a policy consultant to government agencies, an early supporter of the Vietnam war (he later became disillusioned with US policy), and an outspoken UCLA critic of the excesses of the 1960s student revolt. Yes, he discusses his time at the Office of the President, but it is far less absorbing than the chapters devoted to his personal and professional life in Thailand, Japan, and UCLA.

At the outset of *Final Exam: A Memoir*, Wilson describes himself as "a person of energy, a sharp eye, and luck." He could have added that he is also a person of unusual honesty and wry wit, both of which make this book much more engaging than many similar efforts. *Final Exam* is available at Amazon.com and other online booksellers.

PARRA Luncheon, continued
and other publications.

Tarnopolsky replaced Robert Cole who spent 23 seasons building Cal Performances into what The Wall Street Journal described as "the most adventurous high-quality performing arts organization in the country."

See the full program online at: <http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu/performances/> or request a brochure from the box office (510.642.9988) which is open afternoons, Tuesday through Sunday.

Use the form in this newsletter to make your luncheon reservation.

PARRA Donors

Apologies for misspelling the following names listed in the Spring 2010 newsletter:

Ramona Davis
Marlynn Dykstra
Ann Murakami
Elda Sayles

Omitted from Spring 2010 newsletter:

Emile Kirsch
Suzanne Klausner

February 2010 through August 2010:

Martha Chase
Afton Crooks
Sandra Douglas
Sharon Eklund
Karl Droese
Alan Fishleder
Les Gallagher
Geoffrey Heller
Larry Hershman
Kirk Rowlands
Beverly Russell
Yasuko Umemoto

Directions to H^s Lordships

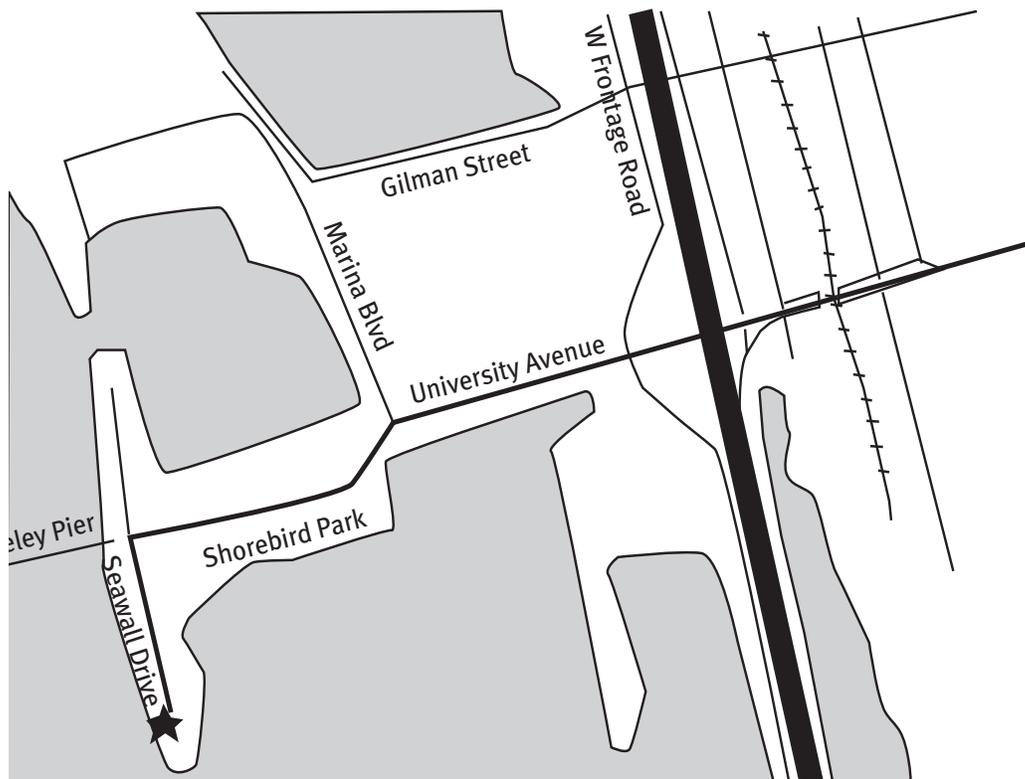
From the East Bay Oakland, Hayward using 580 West towards San Francisco. Proceed to I-80 East towards Sacramento. Take the Emeryville Powell St. exit. Turn left and go under the freeway overpass. Make an immediate right onto Frontage Rd., following the road until you get to University Ave., and turn left onto University. Stay in the left lane. At Marina Blvd. stop sign, stay left and go to the end. (Berkeley Pier will be in front of you.) Turn left on Seawall Dr. and go to the end of the road.

From the East Bay Oakland Using Highway 880 North take Highway 880 North to I-80 towards Sacramento. Exit at University Ave. and proceed on University. At the third light, make a U turn and head back toward the water. Stay on your left until you get to Marina Blvd. and go to the end (Berkeley Pier will be in front of you). Turn left on Seawall Dr. and go to the end of the road.

From the North Bay (Richmond, Hercules, Vallejo) Take I-80 West to Berkeley. Exit at University Ave. Follow Loop West to University Ave. Turn left onto University Ave. Stay in left lane. At Marina Blvd. stop sign, stay left and go to the end. (Berkeley Pier will be in front of you.) Turn left on Seawall Dr. and go to the end of the road.

From San Francisco Take Highway 101 North to I-80 across the Bay Bridge. Take the Emeryville Powell St. exit. Turn left and go under the freeway overpass. Make an immediate right onto Frontage Rd. Proceed on Frontage Rd. until you get to University Ave. and turn left onto University. Stay in left lane. At Marina Blvd. stop sign, stay left and go to the end. (Berkeley Pier will be in front of you.) Turn left on Seawall Dr. and go to the end of the road.

Free and Ample Parking H^s Lordships Restaurant, 199 Seawall Drive, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-843-2733.



President's and Regents' Retiree Association

PARRA Fall Luncheon

Thursday, October 14, 2010

H^s Lordships, Berkeley

Plenty of free parking. A map and directions are enclosed, but you probably won't need them. Just go to the end of University Avenue and at the Bay, turn left and proceed to the end (199 Seawall Drive).

Matías Tarnopolsky

A Visit with the New Director of Cal Performances



The origins of Cal Performances date from 1906, when stage actress Sarah Bernhardt appeared at the William Randolph Hearst Greek Theater in a benefit performance after the devastating San Francisco earthquake and fire in April of that year. Over the subsequent century, Cal Performances grew to become the largest, multi-discipline performing arts presenter in Northern California, and one of the most influential arts presenters in the United States. Come hear Director Tarnopolsky's plans for his first season at Cal Performances. Read more about Tarnopolsky in this newsletter.

* * *

A no-host social hour will start at 11:30 a.m; lunch will be served at 12:00. The cost is \$25 per person. Please make your check out to PARRA and return in the enclosed envelope with your name and the names of any guests. This luncheon will be a buffet with a variety of choices, so no prior designation of what you want to eat is necessary. Please return this form by Monday, October 4.

If you have any questions, please call Nancy Nakayama at 510-524-2358 or Pat Pelfrey at 510-528-4490.



Yes, I will be attending. Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____ (\$25 per person) made payable to PARRA

Name _____

Name of Guest(s) _____

Email Address _____

Return this form to:

PARRA c/o Nancy Nakayama, 8724 Don Carol Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530-2735