



UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retiree's Association Berkeley

Iconic Bird - Iconic Tower: Peregrine Falcons at UC Berkeley

June 29, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. via Zoom



We hope you will join UCRAB for a presentation by Sean Peterson and Lynn Schofield on Berkeley's own pair of Peregrine Falcons. Sean and Lynn manage the social media project of Cal Falcons, which provides information and updates on Annie and Grinnell, the Peregrine Falcon pair who have been nesting on top of the Campanile since 2016.

Sean Peterson is a PhD candidate in UC Berkeley's Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. He currently studies wetland birds in the Sierra Nevada foothills, focusing primarily on Black Rails. At the University of Minnesota, he received his Masters Degree studying Golden-winged Warblers. Sean has been studying birds since 2006 when he spent a summer bird banding in Costa Rica.

Lynn Schofield is a biologist with The Institute for Bird Populations who currently studies wildlife responses to fire and works on wetland conservation issues in the Sierra Nevada Region. She has also been involved with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory since 2008 as an intern and then later as a volunteer. Her research interests also include migratory behavior in neotropical birds and using novel tracking technologies to help understand bird behavior.

Presentation will follow a short UCRAB business meeting

You may register at:

<https://berkeley.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYvc-2prDIshdL5TODFrMTorRyY1QcIslSDZ>

RENEGADE RETIREES' PICNIC -- SAVE THE DATE

The annual picnic is a go thanks to vaccinations and masks!

Save the date of July 14. Because we are expecting more people due to the pent up need to socialize and the limitation on the number of attendees, we will be asking people to register in advance. Stay tuned for the announcement and registration information.

Summer 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to our summer newsletter. In this issue, we are announcing the slate of candidates for our Board election, our “luncheon” speakers, as well as, the resumption of the Renegade Retirees’ picnic.

Since I last wrote, there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel regarding the pandemic and commencement of activities. We are in the midst of scheduling a return to our quarterly UCRAB luncheons, including the holiday party. In addition, our activities coordinator is starting to think about day trips in the Bay Area. And, of course, there is the picnic where we can gather with old and new friends and colleagues.

UCRAB, along with the other retiree associations, continue to be strong advocates for your health benefits. We have learned that there will be no changes to in state health plans for 2022. However, there is no indication yet how premiums might change. The UCRAB Board election means we will be saying goodbye to two of our Board members—Toni Sweet and Bill Roberts. Toni has been on our board since the mid-nineties and has served in a number of roles, most recently as our luncheon coordinator, the UCRAB representative to the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA), as well as our conduit for UCRS news. In addition, she has provided a meeting place for the board, which has allowed us to avoid campus parking woes! Bill has served on the board for six years. He took on responsibility for the UCRAB newsletter, first working with the printing department at UCSF and now formatting the newsletter. We wish to thank both Toni and Bill for their dedicated service and wish them well in the future. I hope you have a great summer. Stay healthy and safe.

PROPOSED UCRAB BY LAWS CHANGES

As we announced in the Spring Newsletter, the By Laws of UCRAB are being revised to address a couple of major issues. These issues are:

- Transition to a non-dues paying organization. Several sections have been revised or eliminated to reflect this change.
- The need be able to hold elections in a format other than in person meetings.

You can find the By Laws with the proposed changes on the Retirement Center website [here](#). Click on the gold box at the bottom of the page. These proposed revisions will be voted on prior to the UCRAB General Meeting on June 29, along with the slate for Board members.

Questions can be sent to UCRAB@berkeley.edu.

UCRAB BOARD HOLDS ELECTION

Annually in the month of June, UCRAB holds its election for Board of Directors to replace or reinstate five board positions. This year, two at-large members, **Bill Roberts** and **Toni Sweet**, will not seek additional terms and will step down. The UCRAB Board and UC Retirement Center gratefully thank Bill and Toni for their service.

Three members, Marian Gade, Elise Woods and Sue Gettinger, seek a new term. This year's nominating committee consisted of current board members Patti Owen, Nancy Horton and Valerie Ventre-Hutton and non-member Kathleen Valerio. The committee nominated Barinder Dhillon-Flanagan and Alma Valencia Gross for at-large board positions that will replace those of Bill Roberts and Toni Sweet.

Board members in current terms are Patti Owen, Nancy Horton, David Duer, Kurt Libby, Marty Takimoto and Valerie Ventre-Hutton.

The nomination committee proposes the following slate of candidates for election to two-year terms from July 2021 through June 2023:

Secretary: Marian Gade

Marian is a Cal Alum and worked at Berkeley and UCOP over a period of 35 years as a research associate to both Clark Kerr and David Gardner. Although she retired in 1993, she continued to work until 2004. She has been a UCRAB member for over 15 years and currently serves as Secretary. In addition to her UCRAB service, Marian served as Chair of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) for 5 years.

Treasurer: Elise Woods

Elise is a grad of UC Davis. She worked for UC for a total of 36 years in finance and business operations, beginning at UC Santa Barbara, moving to the Bay Area and a job at Continuing Education of the Bar (UCOP), and ending at UC Berkeley. At the time of her retirement in 2018, she was the Chief Administrative Officer of the UCB Libraries. She joined UCRAB in 2018.

At-large Director: Sue Gettinger:

Sue worked at Berkeley for 11 years in the College of Chemistry after spending 32 years in the laboratory glassware field, and retired in 2014. After retiring, she joined UCRAB and in 2019 assumed the task of organizing and coordinating the UCRAB luncheons, trips and special events. She would love to hear from our members for even more day trip ideas and destinations!

At-large Director: Barinder Dhillon-Flanagan:

Barinder Dhillon Flanagan began her Berkeley career as a Senior Clerk in 1988 in Information Systems and Technology. She then held leadership positions in Housing and Dining, Student Affairs, Campus Shared Services (IT and HR) and Haas School of Business. Barinder was keynote speaker at UC Berkeley's Professional Development

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Conference. Following retirement, she came back to manage Facilities in the Haas School of Business; joined the School of Optometry to serve as interim Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and led recruitment efforts for IT and Facilities.

At-large Director: Alma Valencia Gross:

Alma is a Cal Alum. After starting in the private sector, she returned to UC Berkeley and a 42-year career at the campus. She retired in 2017 as the Senior Associate Director for Environment, Health & Safety and also joined UCRA. Prior to EH&S, she held various analyst roles at Campus HR (14 yrs) and was a project director (3 yrs) for the Chancellor's Office on a major campus biosciences reorganization project.

Nominations from the floor are welcomed. If you wish to nominate an individual or self-nominate, please provide the following information to Nancy Horton njhorton0120@gmail.com before June 15:

- Name
- Year Retired
- Department/Unit at time of retirement
- Functions of prior position/s, e.g. financial, fundraising, management, etc.

CUCRA/CUCEA MEETING

The Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) and the Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) held their bi-annual meeting April 28 and 29 via Zoom. It was hosted by UCLA.

The two associations met jointly where we had the pleasure of hearing from President Michael Drake, himself a UC retiree. He was quite candid about issues facing the University, most notably effects of the pandemic on the hospitals and students, faculty, and staff. We also were briefed on the data breach which happened in March and steps that UC is taking. The continuing problems with the Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC) were discussed and what is being done about them. To avoid the debacle of last year's retirement where retirees waited months to get their first pension check, those retiring effective July 1 were provided a "No Lapse in Pay" option, which guaranteed a check on August 1. This also guaranteed a continuation of health benefit. RASC is also changing their management and operating structures to better meet demands.

When CUCRA met separately, the members received an update of the Travel Program. It is being heavily advertised now that travel is opening up. CUCRA receives funds back from the travel agencies for trips booked through the program. There was a discussion of the CUCRA Survey which was distributed last fall. The results are on the CUCRA website. This year, the report was structured to present a more humanized story with data, words, and images. There was further discussion about the RASC presentation, as well as, the future of retiree healthcare.