



UCRAB
 University of California
 Retirees' Association at
 Berkeley 

Fall, 2021

President's Message



Welcome to our Fall newsletter. In this issue, we are announcing the speaker for our Fall “Luncheon,” a report on the Renegade Retirees’ Picnic, a new feature, “In Memorium,” an announcement about a change in our Membership

policy and an update on the Holiday Party.

In the last newsletter, I was hopeful that we were seeing the light at the end of the tunnel vis a vis Covid. Alas, the Delta variant took hold and restrictions have continued. For those living in the Bay Area, we are fortunate that so many of us have been vaccinated and that masking has become a way of life. We are closer to the end of that tunnel, but who knows when we will get there?

Things quieted down over the summer months for UCRAB, but there has been a lot of background activity going on. At the Office of the President there is a new Vice President of Systemwide Human Resources, Cheryl Lloyd, who has had the opportunity to select, in large part, a new management team. She is giving a high priority to the Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC), which has been problematic for many retirees and survivors.

The Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) has also been active, ensuring that the interests of retirees are being protected. In addition to advocating necessary changes to RASC, it has been

following the issues related to ViaBenefits and the CalPers Long Term Care settlement. CUCRA representatives have also been working with UCOP staff on the Open Enrollment booklet to make it more informative and easier to read.

Take care and stay safe, *Patti Owen*

Cockroaches, Geckos and Squirrels, Oh My!



What can we learn from this disparate list of organisms? Professor Robert Full of the Department of Integrative Biology is prepared to answer this question.

Join UCRAB for his talk, “BioInspired Design: Compressed Cockroaches, Gliding Geckos, and Smart Squirrels” on **October 20, 2021, 1:00-2:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

Professor Full is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor of Integrative Biology at the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Full received his undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degrees at SUNY Buffalo and then held a postdoctoral position at The University of Chicago. He holds a joint appointment in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and is a member of the Graduate Groups in Biophysics and Science and Mathematics Education in the Graduate School of Education. He is the founder and director of the Center of Interdisciplinary Bio-inspiration in Education and Research (CiBER).

Register in advance for the webinar:
https://berkeley.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d-3CXw9XTB2HSVVInJ0f2A

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Universal Membership

Staff retirees made the conscious decision to join UCRAB for a variety of reasons – to take advantage of our informational talks, to attend social events, to reconnect with former coworkers or to meet new friends.

Last year, the UCRAB board of directors met to discuss a couple of challenges: to expand access to our programs and to better reflect our population.

When we talked to the other retiree associations – UC Berkeley Emeriti Association (UCBEA); Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (EX-Ls) and President’s and Regent’s Retiree Association Advocacy (PARRA) – we found that they no longer collect dues. All individuals who fall into each group’s purview are considered members.

UCRAB’s board decided to follow this model and, effective June 30, 2021 are no longer collecting membership fees. This enables us to better align with the other Retirement Center associations and also lifts the definition of “member” to include *all* retired Berkeley staff and non-Senate academic appointees.

As the other organizations do, UCRAB will seek voluntary donations to support our ongoing programs, keep our delegation engaged in the Council of UC Retiree Associations and facilitate our ongoing relationship with the Retirement Center.

We’re grateful for your past dues payments, and we hope you feel positively about this news. When UCRAB reaches out for financial support, we ask that you respond generously, with the knowledge that your support will be deeply appreciated.

Holiday Festivities Face to Face?



When we reach the first week of December this year, it will have been two whole years since we were all able to meet together as a group! We had no idea on that December day what was lurking in our futures.

UCRAB’s Luncheon Coordinator, Sue Gettinger, says “Our goal right now is to hold our annual UCRAB Holiday party in person this year. We are, as this newsletter goes to print, still in a holding pattern with both the meeting regulations within the City of Berkeley and the availability of our meeting room at the First Presbyterian Church. We will let you know just as soon as we know!”

Those Picnicking Renegades



The July Renegade Retiree Picnic, which gathers together UCRAB, PARRA, UCBEA and ExLs, was a resounding success. It was

clear that people wanted to get outside, meet with their friends, and feel “normal.” Last spring it was unclear if there even would be a picnic since the East Bay Regional Parks was not taking reservations. However, when reservations did open up, we were able to secure the same site in Tilden Park where all other picnics had been held. Little did we know that there would be such demand! Within the first 24 hours of the announcement, we had more RSVPs than the site allowed. Fortunately, we were able to secure a larger site.

Thanks to UCRAB Board members Nancy Horton and Sue Gettinger for jumping in and helping with set up and registration. Also thanks to Patrick Cullinane, the former Director of the Retirement Center, and Jim Dolgonas, the President of the Office of the President and Regents’ Retiree Association, for manning the grills.

We look forward to next year when we, hopefully, can get back together!

Fall, 2021

In Memoriam

Starting with this issue of the newsletter, we will list those staff and non-Senate academics of the Berkeley campus who have recently passed away.

Drumon Benson, Senior Security Guard

Margaret Benton, Custodian

Milton Elbogen, ___Asst II

Clavel Fender*

Margarita Genera*

Gladys Henderson, Work Processing Specialist

Donna Mee, Hospital ___ Asst II

Barbara Nance, Library Assistant III

Dorothy Snodgrass, ___ Asst II

Christine Warren*

Ronald Wright, Vice Chancellor

**Title at time of retirement is not available*

Meet the UCRAB Board



President, Patti Owen



Vice President, Nancy Horton



Secretary, Marian Gade

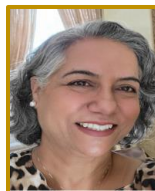


Treasurer, Elise Woods

Directors at Large



David Duer



Barinder Dhillon Flanagan



Sue Gettinger, Events Coordinator



Kurt Libby



Alma Valencia Gross



Marty Takimoto



Valerie Ventre-Hutton