

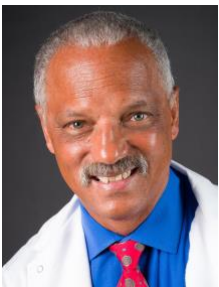


# UCRAB Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

## UCRAB's Summer Luncheon Has Been Changed to An On-Line Talk by Dr. Vernard Lewis on Friday, June 26 at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom\*

### Termites and Other Creepy Critters That Share Our Homes



We hope you will join us for an interesting presentation by Dr. Vernard Lewis, who has been described as the “iconic urban entomologist.”

However, Dr. Lewis's path to this recognition was not easy. He was the eldest of ten children and had responsibility for walking them to school and cooking dinner for them when both his parents were working. After graduating from high school in Minneapolis, Dr. Lewis was told by his guidance counselor that he wasn't smart enough to go to college. When he asked the counselor what the best university in the country was, the counselor responded “Berkeley”; this led Dr. Lewis to pack a box of clothes and buy a one-way ticket to the Bay Area, where he slept on his aunt's couch in West Oakland for two years while attending Laney College. Dr. Lewis transferred to Cal as a junior, earning a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences, followed by a master's and a Ph.D. in entomology in 1989.

In 1979, Dr. Lewis started his own pest management business, and in 1991 he was hired as a UC Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. In 1993, he built *villa termiti*, a 400-square-foot replica of a wooden house, where he conducted experiments to evaluate the effectiveness of non-chemical methods for killing drywood termites. During his 26 years at Cal, he published some 150 papers, gave hundreds of presentations, and volunteered with the Oakland public schools, teaching instructors and students about insects, life sciences, and biodiversity. Although he retired from the University in 2017, he has continued his research and his involvement in activities that promote the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minorities and women in science.

**Registration.** There is no cost for attending this virtual meeting. To register, please click on this [link](#) to complete and submit the registration form. The Retirement Center will e-mail you a confirmation with information about logging on to Zoom for the talk. If you wish “to bring” a guest to the talk, they will need to register separately.

**\*Zoom Tutorial.** The Retirement Center will host an introductory tutorial session for folks who are not familiar with Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23. Click on this [link](#) to register.



## With gratitude

At the conclusion of my service as UCRAB President, I want to thank my fellow Board members for their engagement and creativity during the past five years as we worked to provide educational and supportive programs for Cal's retirees. The Board's efforts included enlisting engaging luncheon speakers, hosting interesting trips, and drafting letters to the University President that made the case for retaining affordable health insurance for all retirees. The competence and camaraderie that characterized the Board's activities made our time

together truly enjoyable.

I also want to express my regard for my counterparts in the other emeriti and retiree associations throughout the University. One of the most satisfying experiences of my tenure was working with a group of these individuals in developing the first comprehensive survey about UC retirees' activities and accomplishments.

And, finally, I want to acknowledge Cary Sweeney and Kris Thornton of Berkeley's Retirement Center for their partnership and continuing support that contribute in so many ways to UCRAB's success.

I wish Patti and the Board the very best.

Lynn Bailiff

## UCRAB board elections

Election for the UCRAB Board takes place every June. Each year, 5 of the 10 board members are either up for re-election or have chosen to leave the board. This year two members, President Lynn Bailiff and At-large Director Ben Tucker will be stepping down; two members, Patti Owen and Nancy Johnsen Horton, are assuming new roles; and David Duer will continue as an At-large Director.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Patti Owen (chair), Elise Woods and Vida Prater, proposes the following slate:

### **For election to two-year terms from July 2020 through June 2022**

#### President: Patti Owen

Patti is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara and began work at Berkeley in 1975 in the Academic Personnel Office. She spent 10 years in the Engineering Dean's Office, almost 5 years at Office of the President, and over 15 years in Academic Personnel. She retired in 2009 as the Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Personnel. She has been a member of the UC Berkeley Retirement Center Board since 2011 and has served as its chair. She joined the UCRAB in 2015 and is currently its Vice President.

Vice-President: Nancy Johnsen Horton

Nancy began her Berkeley career in 1979 and served in a variety of fundraising roles in the Colleges of Engineering, Environmental Design, and Chemistry, along with a stint as the Manager of University House. She retired in 2016 and joined the UCRAB Board in 2018, serving as Membership Coordinator.

At-large Director: David Duer

Dave's 30-year career with the University was focused on development and fundraising programs with the Berkeley College of Engineering, the UC Davis Health System, and the Berkeley University Library. He is a member of Berkeley's Centennial Class of 1968. He has a graduate degree from the University of Southern California. He has served on the UCRAB board for two years and leads the fundraising effort.

At-large Director: Valerie Ventre-Hutton

Valerie began her Berkeley career in 2002 after a career in the private sector. Her first position was in the Human Resources Office where she served as the Employee Relations Manager. In 2007, she transferred to the College of Engineering to become the HR Director. For the past 6 years, she has been an HR manager for Campus Shared Services. She is retiring in June 2020.

At-large Director: Kurt Libby

Kurt graduated from the University of Minnesota. He has a BA in English and an MS in Management. He spent 30 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Following the Navy, he spent 5 years as a consultant before coming to UC Berkeley in 1999 as Director of Material Management. He retired in 2013.

At-large Director: Marty Takimoto

Marty graduated from Cal in 1979. He enjoyed a 34-year career in student services and student affairs, serving in increasingly important roles ranging from a pre-admissions advisor to Director of Communications and Marketing, Residential and Student Service Programs. He retired in 2015.

**Continuing board members--not up for election in 2020**

Secretary: Marian Gade

Treasurer: Elise Woods

At-large Directors: Bill Roberts, Sue Gettinger, and Toni Sweet

**Normally elections are conducted at the June luncheon, but this year voting will be conducted electronically prior to June 26.**

## CUCRA/CUCEA report

The Retirement Administration Service Center continues to be the best resource for any information you may need or the answers to any questions you may have. In the future Joe Lewis will be the unofficial liaison between CUCRA and RASC. Gary Schlimgen is retiring as Director of Retirement in June. Dwaine Duckett, who is the Vice President for Human Resources at UCOP, is also leaving. John Dahl will continue as the CUCRA Treasurer. Everything is going very smoothly with our website as well as our information services since Bob Daley has taken over as our Information Officer.

The news from the medical plan survey was presented in a series of slides accessible at <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news>. Slides that were presented by UCOP at the meeting regarding the survey by adding this link to your ucnets link CUCEA-CUCRA UC Medicare Choice 4.30.20\_Final 2.pdf

The pandemic will influence enrollment for the fall, which will cause budget shortfalls on the various campuses. However, our retirement payments will not be affected by the UC budget situation. As one representative remarked, "they will sell a campus before cutting back for the retirees." On the travel front many people have cancelled travel plans. This will affect the money that the travel program passes on to CUCRA.

John Dahl met with the lawyer that CUCRA hired to look into the Articles of Incorporation. A motion was tabled for a vote on the recommendations that will be discussed at the October meeting.

The next CUCRA/CUCEA meeting will be held in October 2020 and will be conducted on Zoom.

Toni Sweet

## UCRAYS

You can reach the UC Retirement At Your Service easily online; if you wish to speak to a representative, call (800) 888-8267. The service has been coping with its transition efforts, so be patient and leave your name and telephone number.

## Renegade Retiree's Picnic Cancelled

The annual Renegade Retirees' picnic scheduled for July 9 in Tilden Park has been cancelled. It was unclear if large group gatherings would be allowed by that date. In addition, we were concerned about the health of the attendees, given our demographic.

Mark your calendars for July 2021!

## Trips and travel

As all our day trip and overnight plans are currently on hold, here is something else to try – VIRTUAL TOURS! Visit museums and cities around the world, national parks here in the US, and many local places of interest right from the comfort of your own computer.

Start right here with our own UC Berkeley Retirement Center's list:

[UC Retirement.berkeley.edu virtual tours](http://UCRetirement.berkeley.edu/virtual-tours)

Revisit our trip of last March with tours of the Filoli House and Gardens:

<https://filoli.org/virtual-visit/>

National Parks:

Yellowstone: <https://www.nps.gov/yellowstone>

Yosemite: <https://www.virtualyosemite.org/>

Our own Golden Gate National Recreation Area using Google Street View:

<https://www.parksconservancy.org/virtual>

Let us know your favorites. Drop us an email or stop by our Facebook page and share your finds!

[UCRAB on Facebook](#)

Sue Gettinger

## Facebook page

UCRAB keeps you up to date on events and activities through social media. Look for us on Facebook: [facebook.com/UCRAB-University-of-California-Retirees-Association-at-Berkeley](https://facebook.com/UCRAB-University-of-California-Retirees-Association-at-Berkeley)

## Did you notice this in our masthead?



This spring, UCRAB redesigned its logo. The refreshed image is the result of a collaborative effort by UCRAB Board members.

## UCRAB Board of Directors

### Officers

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