



Spring 2025

President's Message

As we begin this issue, we take a moment to acknowledge that members of our community have been affected by the [fires in Southern California](#). In January, [Chancellor Lyons sent this message](#) with information about resources available for those who have been impacted, and ways of providing support. We hope that you and yours are well. There are ways to provide support for our southern California campus retirees and loved ones by clicking on the links above.

In addition, with a new federal administration, we've seen an increase in news and policy updates from Washington, D.C. Staying connected and focusing on what matters—our mission, our values, and the work we do together—is essential.

UC President Michael V. Drake, M.D., recently [recorded a message](#) for all of us—sharing his perspective, encouragement, and commitment to advocating for UC's future.

On March 6, 2025, our **UC Berkeley Retirement Advisory Committee** (UCBRC) had the privilege of meeting with Chancellor Lyons who provided us with his optimistic views of the future of UC Berkeley/Cal. In a message to the campus community, he reaffirmed his commitment to share his “resolve that UC Berkeley will stand firm in our mission to provide long-term societal benefit through excellent research, teaching and public service.”

The message can be viewed at this link:

[Chancellor Rich Lyon's Commitment to UC Berkeley's values and mission.](#)



So, what's new with UCRAB? Spring is in the air with trees blossoming, robins chirping, the weather warming up, and our board members have been busy brainstorming and researching events and social gatherings for our members, so stay tuned! In partnership with the EX-L's, we sponsored a happy hour at the Bears Lair on November 7, 2024. The pizza was a big hit for those who attended as well as mingling with their fellow retirees. We have refreshed our website, are soliciting nominations (self-nominations are greatly encouraged!) for new board members and hope many of you will be attending the [Volunteer Expo 2025](#) on April 15, 2025 at the David Brower Center in downtown Berkeley. In addition to the expo, other volunteer opportunities include the Contra Costa food bank, the Student Needs Center on UC Berkeley campus, Belmont Village to engage with other retirees, and a fun social event for a retiree ballgame with the Cal baseball team on May 10, 2025.

Ben Lewis, founder of **Engage As You Age**, reached out to me and I'm sharing with members an opportunity for very part-time work. Engage As You Age (www.engageasyouage.com) provides homebound and isolated seniors with social interaction, conversation and education to slow the progression of dementia and improve quality of life. They're looking to hire smart and compassionate individuals to work with several new clients in the East Bay and across the Bay Area. Visits are typically in-person and occur 1-2 times per week for 2-3 hours at a time. If interested, please contact Ben at blewis@engageasyouage.com, or apply online at www.engageasyouage.com/work-for-us.

I'm really looking forward to connecting with many of you this year at one or more of our upcoming community building events! Feel free to email me with any suggestions or questions you may have, ewoods@berkeley.edu. *Elise Woods*

Connecting for Good: An Expo for New and Experienced Volunteers

Join fellow retirees to learn about the benefits of volunteering, how to find a good volunteer match and network with local community-based organizations at the event.

Tuesday, April 15, 9am to 2pm at the David Brower Center in Berkeley.

Tickets: \$30 Regular, \$20 Virtual Attendance. Lunch is included.

Space is limited. No tickets will be available at the door.

For more information, go to [Volunteer Expo](#).



Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education

UCRAB is a member of **AROHE** (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education). UCRAB members are encouraged to sign up for the AROHE Matters e-newsletter which is a wealth of valuable information for retirees. [Free Subscription](#)



Many of you are going through uncertain times as government cuts are occurring. AROHE will try to provide workshops, programs, and webinars to help you navigate these challenges and continue to support our members as you transition to this new stage of life.

Latest Academic Retiree News is here: [March 2025 E-newsletter](#)

The *AROHE Matters* e-newsletter highlights transformative practices that support all stages of faculty and staff retirement as well as retirees' continuing engagement with, and contributions to, their academic institutions.

UCRAB Board of Directors 2025 Election

The UCRAB Board of Directors is seeking nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 at-large board positions. Board Members serve two year terms effective **July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027**. In addition to providing advocacy for staff and non-senate academic appointees at the Office of the President and State of California legislature, UCRAB currently offers events to create community.

The Board's objectives are to:

- Provide information about benefits and other issues that are useful to retirees
- Promote opportunities for interaction and communication among retirees
- Assist retirees in continuing to be of service to the University

We are seeking individuals who will enrich the board's diversity with their experience and skills. Specifically, knowledge of communications, event planning, speaker engagement and fundraising are

desired. Individuals can nominate themselves or they can nominate others.

Nominations should include the following information: name, year retired, department/unit at time of retirement, functions of prior position/s, e.g. financial, operations, fundraising, management, etc.

Please submit nominations to:

UCRAB Vice President Marty Takimoto,
takimoto@berkeley.edu

no later than **April 30, 2025**. Questions about UCRAB and how it works can be sent to the above address.

UC Retiree Travel Update

Trip Preview Webinar

Learn About Our 2026 Adventures

Thursday, April 3, 2025, 1 p.m. Pacific, via Zoom



UC Retirees Travel offers worldwide group tours for retired UC staff and faculty as well as their friends and family. UC Retirees Travel volunteers will preview many of the group's 2026 trips, including adventures to the Galapagos, Patagonia, Japan/South Korea, Portugal/Spain, Sicily/Malta, Amalfi Coast/Tuscany, Namibia/South Africa, Ireland, Finland/Sweden/Norway, Java/Bali, Alaska, New Zealand, and a Seine River cruise. This webinar is hosted by the UC Irvine Center for Emeriti & Retirees, and everyone is welcome to register. See details about upcoming trips or join the UC Retirees Travel mailing list at <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>.

Register for the Trip Preview Webinar.

We also have some fabulous 2025 trips that still have availability, and we need more participants from our UC Retirees (at least 12 travelers). Please check them out on the travel website <https://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/2025-trips.html> and tell your friends and family about them:

Northern Italy, 4/28-5/13 - We had a cancellation, so there is one single room available

Ultimate Africa, 6/19-7/6 & 6/22-7/12 - We had some cancellations, so there are two double rooms available on 6/19 and one double available on 6/22

Canadian Maritimes, 7/27-8/6 - We only have six travelers

Scandinavia, 8/4-17 - We have ten travelers

Coasts & Countrysides of England, 9/17-30 - We only have five travelers and the trip is full. Join the waitlist if interested.

French Impressions, 9/19-10/5 - We only have eight travelers. Two singles with no single supplement are available.

N. Spain/Portugal, 9/22-10/8 - We have 11 travelers

Niagara Falls to NYC, 10/15-22 - We only have seven travelers

India, 11/3-19 - We have seven travelers

Vancouver/Victoria, 12/2-8 - we have ten travelers

If you sign up with our UC Retiree Travel group numbers, you receive priority registration and the best accommodations for all destinations compared to the other travelers on the same trips. By traveling on our escorted trips, you help to support CUCRA (Council of University of California Retirees Associations), a systemwide consortium of volunteer representatives from all the UC retiree associations. CUCRA represents retiree interests and advocates for retiree benefits in regular meetings with UC leadership.

For example, CUCRA has been instrumental in establishing the UC Healthcare Facilitator program, maintaining UC contributions to retiree healthcare premiums, advocating for the establishment of campus-funded retirement centers, and encouraging campuses to offer retiree perks such as free or reduced parking and continued use of UC email. The UC Retirees Travel program helps CUCRA continue to be the voice for UC retired faculty and staff. Revenue from UC Retirees Travel program provides grants to our local retiree associations to help us support our operations, programs and events for our retirees.



UCRAB/EX-Ls Cal Game May 10



Play Ball!

Come join us for a day at the ballpark! The UC Retirees' Association at Berkeley (UCRAB) and the Lawrence Berkeley Lab Retirees Association (EX-Ls) are co-hosting a day at Evans Diamond on the Berkeley campus to watch the Cal Golden Bears baseball team take on the Seminoles from Florida State on **Saturday, May 10, 2025**, first pitch at 2pm.

Evans Diamond is a beautiful setting for baseball where all the seats are close to the field, and we'll have an area set aside for retirees to sit together and cheer on the Golden Bears. No-host baseball snacks and beverages (hotdogs, nachos, beer, soft drinks, etc.) will be available at the concession stand.



Special group rate general admission tickets are available, \$12 each.

[CalBears Baseball Game tickets](#)

Questions? Contact **Marty Takimoto**, UCRAB Board, at [<takimoto@berkeley.edu>](mailto:takimoto@berkeley.edu)

CUCRA/CUCEA October 29-20, 2024

The Council of UC Retiree Associations and the Council of UC Emeriti Associations met October 29-30, 2024 on the Santa Cruz campus. The first day is a joint meeting so that areas of common interest can be discussed. We had the pleasure of welcoming **Cheryl Lloyd, the VP of Human Resources at Office of the President** and several of her staff. They updated us on the health insurance rates for 2025, the performance of the Retirement Administration Service Center, and current projects. There was also a brief report on the health of the UC Retirement System—it's in good shape. The Joint Benefits Committee report included items covering RASC, the cost of UC health insurance, and the proposed policy on Return to Active Duty. The latter is the result of UC being out of compliance with the Affordable Care Act.

The policy will primarily affect faculty, but it will also affect staff. In short, people can't return to work following retirement for at least 6 months without some penalties. During the CUCRA portion of the meeting the next day, the participants discussed many of the issues raised in the joint meeting. In addition, the different associations shared issues they have encountered—the most common being the difficulty in recruiting board members. (See article on the Nominations Committee!)

In Memoriam

Following are those staff and non-Senate academic employees of the Berkeley campus who have passed away since our last newsletter.



Betty Abramson	___ Assistant III
Ayla Algar	Lecturer
George Anderson	Prin Administrative Analyst I
Maria Avalos	Laboratory Assistant I
Rachel Bates	Sr Administrative Analyst
Lesley Benn	Records Analyst 2
Mary Calica	Edition Bookbinder
Emily Alice Clark	___ Assistant II

Ferdinand Dagenais	Prin Administrative Analyst
William Decker	Painter Leadworker
John Dresden	Student Services Advisor 1
Mary Fenneman	*
Kenna Fisher	Library Assistant IV
John Gaustad	*
Patricia Giddings	Student Services Advisor
Christal Grisham	Prin Development Engineer
Jowdy Johnson	Principal Auditor
Harvey Knight	Storekeeper
Su Ping Ma	Cook
Kathryn Macfarland	Sr Administrative Analyst
Gertrude Malicdem	____Assistant I
David Martinez	*
Ruth Marti	____Assistant II
M. Christina Nevin	Prin Administrative Analyst I
Charlotte Nolan	Academic Administrator IV
James Peterson	Programmer/Analyst II
Marietta Pickell	Administrative Officer 2
Constance Richardson	Sr Auto Equipment Operator
Denise Rush	*
Jerome Robert	Cooperative Extension Spec
Donald Shubert	Glazier
Soila Thompson	Laboratory Assistant III
Ivo Van Asten	Prin Laboratory Mechanician
Gail Vawter	Student Services Advisor 3
Jessica Weld	Employee Relations Spec 4
Terry Wooden	Security Guard
Larzer Ziff	*

*Title unavailable

Keep in Touch!

UCRAB

Email UCRAB@berkeley.edu
[www retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab](http://www.retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab)
 Facebook [UCRAB - University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley](#)

UC Berkeley Retirement Center

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 Berkeley, CA 94704
 510-642-5461
 Email ucbrc@berkeley.edu
 www: retirement.berkeley.edu

Click here to make a [voluntary contribution](#). Your donation helps to support UCRAB learning and social events for retirees. Thank you for your ongoing support!

