

UC Santa Barbara Emeriti Association Report to CUCEA Spring 2023

Our Emeriti Association has had a busy year to date. The EA Board has met four times since September (October via Zoom, November in person, February via Zoom, and April via Zoom, with Spring meeting dates and formats to be determined). On October 11 the Association held its Fall semi-annual General Meeting for the entire association membership where Chancellor Yang presented a “state of the campus” report, and on October 18, the Emeriti Association resumed hosting the annual Chancellor's Reception for New Retirees at the Mosher Alumni House as an in-person event; this was first such one since Spring, 2019. In December the Emeriti Association Board began planning to host the Spring CUCRA/CUCEA meetings. The association presently has 123 active members out of approximately 450 living emeriti.

The Emeriti Association Board continued its progress with ongoing initiatives to enhance the vitality of our organization and further its contribution to the academic mission and educational goals of the campus. This year's initiatives have been the following:

- Our Association's president, Bill Ashby, agreed to serve as chair the Chancellor's Task Force on Emeriti and Retirees, which was formed in response to a request submitted jointly by the UCSB Academic Senate Council on Faculty Welfare and the UCSB Emeriti Association in 2021 to resolve the significant problems experienced by UCSB's emeriti and retirees because of the campus's abandonment of retirement advising, staffing, and infrastructure since the formation of RASC and its subsequent dysfunction. A cordial first meeting with the Chancellor in January, 2023 identified the staffing necessary for the Emeriti and Retirees Center and for on-campus retirement advising and planning, and a second meeting with the Chancellor has been scheduled for April to discuss space needs for the Emeriti Association and its activities, the organizational location and reporting authority for the Emeriti and Retirees Center, and how best to maintain continuing cooperation between the Council on Faculty Welfare's Committee on Emeriti/ae and Retirement and the Emeriti Association.
- The UCSB Emeriti Association Scholarship Fund continues to grow, thanks to the generosity of our emeriti and friends, and we were able to offer three scholarships to students enrolled at UCSB in the fall: four-year funding to Kimberlly Baldwin (Theater and Communication), the second year of a four-year award to Maxwell Barrueta (Physics), and two-year funding to transfer student Alivia Morales (Communication). Recipients are selected from Promise Scholars, who are high achieving, first generation students with diverse academic goals and high financial need, come from under-resourced high schools in California, and are admitted to UCSB on their own merits through the usual application process. A luncheon to recognize this year's recipients was held on March 9 at the UCSB Club & Guest House.
- The Emeriti Association is in the process of creating a new website that is being developed through the dedicated effort of the association's treasurer Bill Prothero (<https://ucsbemeriti.org/>). The website highlights the scope of our association and provides

the calendar of our program events, among other notable features, and it includes a “Faculty Focus” page that highlights the ongoing scholarship of our emeriti.

- The Oral History Task Force, a project to collect biographies and memoirs of notable contributors to the history of UCSB, continues its work on identifying potential interviewees and sources of campus support and funding.
- Our very active Program Committee has organized a robust and varied program of appealing in-person events and webinars for the academic year:

For Fall Quarter 2022: a Guided Visit of the UCSB Art, Design, and Architecture Museum; a Bird Watching Walk with the Santa Barbara Audubon Society at the UCSB Lagoon; an After Performance talk with the director of the Ensemble Theater Company’s performance of “Carmen Jones” at the New Vic Theater in Santa Barbara; a poetry reading and open mic on “Writers and Wordsmiths of Santa Barbara” by Shirley Geok-Lin Lim, Professor Emerita of English, at UCSB’s Davidson Library; a Walking Tour of the UCSB North Campus Open Space led by the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration; a Zoom Webinar, “Ukraine and Russia: Implications for the World Economy” by Benjamin Cohen, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Louis G. Lancaster Professor of International Political Economy; a Bike Ride and Brunch from Goleta Beach to Hendry’s Beach; and a Zoom Webinar, “UCEAP: Sixty Years of Study Abroad” by Professor Vivian-Lee Nyitray, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director, UC Education Abroad Program.

The Fall Quarter also included a series of seminars held via Zoom, each Tuesday evening from September through November as virtual tours of UCSB’s seven Nature Reserve System sites. UCSB’s Reserves are part of the 41-site University of California Natural Reserve System.

For Winter Quarter 2023: the event “Legacy Makers: A Celebration of Faculty Emeriti and Their Contributions to the UC Santa Barbara Library” held at Davidson Library; a Zoom Webinar, “How a Comet Impact 12,800 Years Ago Changed Natural and Human History Forever” by James Kennett, Professor Emeritus, Earth Science and Marine Science Institute; a Bike Ride and Brunch from Goleta Beach to Hendry’s Beach; a Guided Visit of the UCSB Art, Design, and Architecture Museum, with optional lunch; a Bike Ride and Brunch from Shoreline Park to the Biltmore Hotel to the Santa Barbara Harbor.

For Spring Quarter 2023: a Zoom Webinar, “Higher Education in 2050: A Tale of Four Futures?” by Christopher Newfield, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English and current Director of Research at the Independent Social Research Foundation, London, England; a trip to the Lobero Theater in Santa Barbara for the performance of “Die Walkure” by Opera Santa Barbara; a Tour of Sedgwick Reserve, Santa Ynez, one of the seven nature reserves managed by the University of California Santa Barbara Natural Reserve System, followed by a lunch; a private tour of the Margerum Winery by the well-known winemaker and UCSB alumnus Doug Margerum; a Zoom webinar by Kelly Ann Gordon, Chief of Police for the City of Santa Barbara Police Department.

The webinars are open to the entire campus community and are included on the UCSB events calendar. Videos are available at the Emeriti Association website.

Finally, Bill Ashby, our President, will be stepping down this summer. His calm, steady, and wise leadership over the last four years has made the UCSB Emeriti Association an important landing for all of us as we make the transition into retirement while maintaining our participation in the future of the University of California. We wish Bill all the very best as he continues to chart his journey ahead.

Submitted by,

Denise Bielby
CUCEA Representative