

UCB Emeriti Association: Report to CUCEA, Fall 2024

Current activities

Lecture-luncheon Program

We have continued our Saturday lecture / luncheon program. Lecturers and their topics for the Fall are:

Prof. Michael Ranney (School of Education) – “Good Information Inhibits Climate Change: 12 Fast, Vetted, Ways to Refine Everyone’s Global-Warming Beliefs”. Professor Ranney described experiments showing that a dozen different brief “chunks” of scientific information increase acceptance that anthropogenic global warming is occurring and concerning.

Prof. Priya Moorjani (Department of Molecular and Cell Biology) – “Uncovering Our Past: Using Genetic Data from Present-day and Ancient Genomes to Understand Human Evolutionary History.” Prof Moorjani will describe and discuss one of the most striking findings from genomic studies in the past decade, the discovery of gene flow from Neanderthals into the ancestors of modern humans.

In the Spring we will hear from Prof Philip Stark (Department of Statistics), on the application of insights from statistics to societal problems, and from Prof. Dacher Keltner (Psychology), on the emotion of awe.

These events continue to be stimulating and enjoyable, with an active and lively discussion after each lecture. Participation remains somewhat limited; we are hoping that this will improve as other emeriti organizations become integrated into the Association (see below).

Grants and Awards

Our awards committee has administered a second round of research enabling grants. This year the committee awarded 28 grants of \$1,500 each. We made the call for grants early in the academic year, in order to avoid the problem with retroactive travel reimbursements that we encountered in the last cycle.

The awards committee selected two recipients for the Emeriti Association's "Emeriti of the Year" Award: Michael Buckland (School of Information) and Richard Scheffler (School of Public Health). Both have made significant contributions to their fields after retirement and continue to have a major influence on academic and policy discussions in their fields. An open-air reception honoring the two recipients took place in October.

Health Benefits and Retiree Services Working Group

The Health Benefits and Retiree Services Working Group has discussed many different issues, the most salient of which is the effect of Recall to Active Duty on health insurance coverage. The Affordable Care Act prohibits individuals on recall from having Medicare as

primary coverage, a regulation with which UC has not been compliant. At this point, UCOP has not yet developed a solution to address this ongoing compliance problem, and the Working Group supports the CUCRA / CUCEA Joint Benefits Committee's call for a joint administration - senate task force to tackle this issue.

Legacy Project

The UC Berkeley Emeriti Association's Legacy Project aims to preserve the recollections and reflections of retired faculty members. Videos are produced by the Association in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Retirement Center. There are currently fifteen videos on the Retirement Center website (<https://retirement.berkeley.edu/emeriti-legacy-project>): these are of interviews with Catherine Gallagher, Stephen Glickman, William Lester, Al Riley, Robert Alter, Eleanor Swift, David Wake, Gerald Westheimer, Marvin Cohen, Carol Clover, Gordon Rausser, Edwin Epstein, Robert Hass, Marvalee Wake and Judith Klinman. Videos of the interviews with Meg Conkey and Nancy Scheper-Hughes are forthcoming. Some departments have posted the videos on their own websites and have distributed them to alumni and others.

Future Plans

Integration with the Emeriti Academy and Departmental Representatives

The UCB Emeriti Association is currently one of three separate emeriti organizations on campus, the other two being the Emeriti Academy and the Departmental Emeriti Representatives. As outlined in my Spring report, it was proposed that all three groups be integrated by bringing the Emeriti Academy and the Departmental Emeriti Representatives under the umbrella of the Emeriti Association. The hope is that this integration would promote synergy between the different groups, increase emeriti opportunities and participation, and allow the development of a set of expectations and best practices at the departmental level.

Over the summer a working group with representatives of all three groups developed revisions to the Association's bylaws that would accomplish this integration. The revised bylaws were generated by consolidating the existing constitution and bylaws into a single document, and updating outdated provisions. In these revised bylaws, the Academy and the Departmental Representatives are each represented a standing committee. In addition the current Executive Committee was renamed the Board, and a new smaller Executive Committee established, comprising the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and the chairs of the Academy and Departmental Representatives committees. The revised bylaws have received the approval of the Association and Academy boards, and have been sent to current Academy members for their review. If no significant concerns are raised the bylaws will be sent to all Association members (that is, the entire emeriti community) for their review and approval.

Engaging with the Chancellor, Deans and Chairs

Unlike the situation at some other UC campuses, there is no tradition at Berkeley of Association engagement with the Chancellor. A member of our Board has now met with our new Chancellor, Rich Lyons, who expressed an interest in meeting with the Board to learn more about the Association and explore ways he could support our efforts.

There is considerable variation among colleges and departments in the level of support for emeriti and the extent to which they are included in college or departmental activities. The Rausser College of Natural Resources has an annual holiday party for emeriti at which I have been invited to say a few words about the Association. We are hoping to establish similar traditions in other colleges and departments.

G. Steven Martin
President, UCB Emeriti Association
October 28th, 2024