

Dear fellow retirees,

I'm honored to serve as president of your UC Davis Retirees' Association. First as an undergraduate and many years later as a vice chancellor, I developed a great fondness for the UC Davis community. As a relatively newly-minted retiree (class of 2014), I enjoy maintaining my connection with those parts of the campus I so enjoy, including the Arboretum, the Mondavi Center, morning workouts at the ARC and women's basketball season. I also appreciate shedding those aspects of campus life that were less enjoyable: meetings, meetings, and, did I mention endless meetings?

A principal purpose of the Association is to develop many paths for individuals to maintain their positive connections with the campus. In partnership with the Emeriti Association and the Retiree Center, a variety of programs and activities are presented each year and we hope you will join those that interest you. Many of this year's programs are centered around themes to help illustrate the wide variety of resources and offerings available to you on campus.

The association also advocates on your behalf on matters of interest to retirees. Issues this upcoming year will likely include maintenance of retiree parking privileges and monitoring of health coverage benefits. Also of great interest is a new satellite Retiree Center on the Sacramento campus. This center should better and more conveniently serve not only those who have retired from the Medical Center, but those who live in the Sacramento area.

I will admit that I do not like the term retired. A term that includes "tired" does not reflect the lifestyle of most who served UC Davis. Results of a soon-to-be-released UC system-wide survey will report the extraordinary contributions retirees continue to make within their communities. As explained to graduating UC Davis students each spring, their graduation is known as commencement. I believe retirement is also a most notable commencement—the beginning of a new phase where you can better control your own time, pursue your interests and continue to contribute and help serve others.

Many of those who retired this year reflect the peak of the Baby Boom. These 700+ newly-minted retirees join the many others who have helped to build this extraordinary campus community. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the upcoming year. Please turn your tassel to the opposite side of your cap and commence.

John Meyer

UCDRA President, 2017-2019



UCDRA Scholarship Winner

Jenna Wilkerson is this year's recipient of the annual UC Davis Retirees' Association Scholarship. Like many working professionals, Jenna has a busy life balancing a family and a full time job while also seeking a B.S. in Applied Management at Grand Canyon University. As a full time Pharmacy Technician at UC Davis Medical Center for the last five years, Jenna supervises and mentors colleagues while balancing the demands of the daily rigors of the pharmacy. She hopes that a degree in management (she plans to complete her degree next year) will help her to further refine her coaching and leadership skills.

Leadership has always been an important staple of Jenna's life. She served as the captain of her high school softball team, as well as a platoon squad leader in the Army (2002–2003). Currently

she participates on the advisory board of Carrington College's Sacramento campus, along with other elite pharmaceutical pros, helping to shape the future of Carrington's Pharmacy Technology Program. Jenna and her husband Matthew, who also works and recently graduated from UC Davis' Wildlife and Fish Conservation program, are home-schooling two of their four children.

The UC Davis Retirees' Association launched a campaign in the fall of 2014 to endow a scholarship fund for a UC Davis staff person pursuing his/her education while working. While the endowment has made great advances, the association has still to meet the final endowment goal of \$25,000. You can help fund the education of a future colleague by donating to the fund at <http://ucdra.ucdavis.edu/scholarship.html>.

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