



Briefing

February 2007

News for UC Faculty and Staff

UC and FITSCo Launch Retirement Readiness Program

How prepared do you feel for your retirement? Watch for a new planning tool, coming soon, that will help you see the big picture and make plans for a secure retirement.

In February, all active UCRP members will receive a personalized retirement update and readiness guide. The update will:

- Project your estimated income and expenses in retirement,
- Show your UCRP, CAP, DC Plan, 403(b) Plan, and 457(b) Plan estimates, all in one place
- Demonstrate the effect of increasing your contributions to 403(b)/457(b) Plans, and
- Compare your current investment mix to various sample investment allocations, ranging from conservative to aggressive growth.

Your *Personalized Retirement Update and Readiness Guide* is not a statement of your plan eligibility or account status; it is an educational tool intended to help you focus on your future and plan for your retirement security.



In addition to this mailing, UC and Fidelity Investments Tax-Exempt Services (FITSCo) will be partnering throughout 2007 to bring you more financial education, featuring free onsite workshops, targeted mailings and additional communications throughout the year.

See a more detailed version of this article online (atyourservice.ucop.edu/briefing) for five steps to help you prepare for retirement.

At Your Service Redesigned and Updated

At Your Service (atyourservice.ucop.edu) has a fresh look. The redesigned systemwide website for UC employee information about human resources and benefits launched in mid-January with improved navigation and several new features including:

- A Total Compensation section with news, features on how real UC employees deal with their salary, benefits and retirement plan, and a tool that enables individuals to calculate the value of their total UC compensation.
- A new "UC Living Well" website with information about wellness programs and services.
- Quick links to the most-requested tools, publications and other web pages.

The redesigned site continues to provide access to your personal UC account and benefits information. In addition, news is posted regularly so you won't miss important UC benefits updates.

“Personalized Retirement Update and Readiness Guide is an educational tool intended to help you focus on your future.”

Inside

UC People

Your Benefits Questions and Answers

And more....

UC People

Selected stories of UC faculty and staff accomplishments

Berkeley

A Gifted Wrapper

Veronica Rodriguez, an administrative assistant for the College of Engineering's operations and facility management unit, is a national champion. She won the Scotch Brand 2006 gift-wrapping contest, held in New York City in December, and the grand prize of \$10,000. Rodriguez, who has worked as a part-time gift wrapper at Macy's for five years, used inventive approaches to cover a variety of odd-shaped gifts, including a life-sized toy pony, on her way to the first place finish. She won't, however, make a career of her talents with paper, ribbon and scissors. Rodriguez will be taking the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) this month and hopes to one day become an immigration lawyer.



To read the full stories of UC People, see atyourservice.ucop.edu/briefing

Santa Barbara

Myths of Singlehood

A new book by social psychologist Bella DePaulo debunks the myth that married people live longer and lead happier lives than their single counterparts. In "Singled Out: How Singles Are Stereotyped, Stigmatized, and Ignored, and Still Live Happily Ever After," she exposes what she considers a widespread bias against unmarried adults, as seen in everything from missed perks to deeper social and financial prejudices. Inspiration for the book came from her own life experience as a single person, as well as her research.



Riverside

'Monk' Business

Charles Evered, assistant professor of playwriting and screenwriting, wrote an episode of the popular USA television series "Monk" that aired in December. The episode had the quirky detective played by Emmy Award-winning actor Tony Shalhoub meeting a leper, a situation that seriously challenges the comically phobic and obsessive-compulsive investigator. Evered wrote the script at the request of series creator Andy Breckman, who saw Evered's play "The Shoreham," starring Eric Stoltz, in 2001.



Merced

Ecosystems, Carbon, Climate Interactions

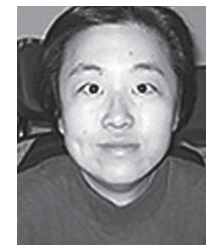
Lara Kueppers, a professor in the School of Natural Sciences, brings to Merced expertise on the link between global climate change and ecosystems through carbon cycling. She has established fieldwork in the Colorado Rockies and is now working with landowners in the Valley so she can study how land-use changes like agriculture and irrigation affect the regional climate.



San Francisco

Diversity Honors

Alice Wong, a staff member at the Institute for Health & Aging and the Center for Personal Assistance Services, and Rene Salazar, MD, an assistant clinical professor in general internal medicine, received in January the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards. Wong was honored for several major accomplishments serving the disabled community at UCSF. Salazar was commended as a role model for advancing diversity at the campus.





Q My regular paid time has decreased. How does this affect my benefits?

A You must maintain an average regular paid time of at least 17.5 hours per week to remain eligible for your current benefit level. If your regular paid time falls below 17.5 hours per week, you become ineligible for medical (including Core), dental, vision, Basic Life, Short-term Disability and Supplemental Disability coverage. Please note that if you are on an approved Family and Medical Leave, you may continue your medical, dental and vision coverage for up to 12 work weeks.

You may still be eligible for Supplemental Life, AD&D, DepCare, Legal, and Auto and Homeowners/Renters coverage.

You may cancel your enrollment or continue in DepCare and/or HCRA to the end of the plan year if your average regular paid time remains less than 17.5 hours per week. However, you will not be able to enroll for the following year. If you cancel enrollment, you may submit claims for eligible expenses incurred through the last day of participation in the plan(s).

If you are a UCRP member, your membership continues.

UC Briefs

A+ Auto and Home Insurance Adds New Benefits

California Casualty, through its A+ Auto & Home Insurance Program recently introduced Identity Theft Resolution Service, a new benefit automatically available to UC members at no extra cost. In addition, a Vandalism Deductible Waiver will be added to all auto policies. More: atyourservice.ucop.edu/briefing

HRCA and DepCare filing deadlines

You may use any 2006 HCRA or DepCare funds that remained in your account at the end of 2006 to pay for qualified expenses incurred through March 15, 2007. Funds from your 2006 account that are unused after that date will be forfeited under IRS rules.

You have until June 15, 2007 to file reimbursement claim forms for any qualified expenses incurred through March 15, 2007 with 2006 HCRA or DepCare funds.

New PIE/Family Status Changes?

Did you know that when you marry or have a new dependent, you have a new period of initial eligibility (PIE)? More: atyourservice.ucop.edu/briefing

Emeriti and Retiree Groups Support Restart of Contributions

The chairs of the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) and the Council of University of California Retirees Associations (CUCRA) have written a letter in support of the reinstatement of contributions to the University of California Retirement Plan. The letter is posted at the Future of UC Retirement Plan website, available from the At Your Service homepage.

Academic personnel policy update

Summary of Academic Personnel Manual (APM) policies issued www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/issuance.html

APM sections and proposals under systemwide review www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/review.html

Employees who enrolled in HCRA for 2007 should have received their new spending account cards. For an update about using the card, see the At Your Service website.

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Call for Nominations: Staff Advisor-Designate to The Regents

The Office of the President is calling for nominations for the next Staff Advisor-Designate to The Regents, who will serve from July 2007 through June 2009. Information about the program, along with the application, is available on the Staff Advisor website (ucop.edu/staffadvisorpgm) as well as in hard copy at each UC location. Applications will be accepted through February 28, 2007.

Briefing

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