



Campus Update – Office of the President March 2005

This winter UCOPA created an informational brochure about the Assembly, hosted a noontime speaker program, and participated in a UCOP holiday crafts fair.

The featured speaker for December 2004 was staff member Sean O’Hara (California Digital Library) who made a presentation titled “Understanding Gardening in our Mediterranean Climate.” Sean is co-chair of the Northern California Branch of the Mediterranean Garden Society, an international forum devoted to furthering knowledge and appreciation of plants and gardens suited to the Mediterranean climate regions of the world. He reviewed the definition of the Mediterranean climate showing how plants and people have adapted, and highlighted the climate’s influence on horticulture, art, architecture and lifestyle. His presentation was so popular that UCOPA plans to schedule another presentation of his remarks.

In December 2004, UCOPA participated in the annual Office of the President Holiday Crafts Fair as an outreach effort. A table featured handmade scarves, tote bags, truffles, and peanut brittle. The event encouraged networking and provided employees with information regarding the organization.

Interest Group Updates:

In response to the results of our 2004 web-based staff interest questionnaire UCOPA sponsored the creation of several interest groups. The interest groups are lead by staff volunteers for the enjoyment and participation of UCOP staff. The interest groups will be publicized.

Conversational Spanish

This interest group first initiated by UCOPA is now co-sponsored by the Latino Staff Association (LaSA). It meets over lunch conducting informal meetings in Spanish. Members improve speaking skills in a friendly atmosphere wherein UCOP staff can build relationships. Fluent and/or Spanish speakers maintain conversational skills, while informally helping others to learn. This group is for all levels from beginner to native speaker and it features cultural information in addition to informal discussion.

Book Club

This popular book club has two chapters, one at the Kaiser Building and one at the Franklin Building. The chapters meet monthly to discuss the same book. Two books are chosen from each location for discussion during a 4-month cycle. The following four books were selected for the January – May time period: Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur

Golden, Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, The Mistress of Spices by Chitra Divakaruni, and Nighttime Is My Time by Mary Higgins Clark.

Golf Group

Members of The UCOP Golf Group meet on weekends at designated locations and times to play golf in a collegial atmosphere.

Kaiser Knitters and Crocheters Group

Experienced and beginning knitters and crocheters work on their individual projects during weekly meetings where they have an opportunity to network, advance their skills, and socialize. Beginners are coached in a safe environment by those already accomplished in the art. This month, the group took a lunchtime field trip to a nearby yarn store, learning about the variety of yarns and needles available to them for selecting their next project.

Franklin Crafts Group

This group completes crafts in an informal and friendly environment in the Franklin Building.

Any questions regarding this report or other issues at UCOP can be sent to Debra Richerson, Senior Delegate (Debra.Richerson@ucop.edu) or Kathy Mendonca, Junior Delegate (Kathy.Mendonca@ucop.edu).