



Campus Update – Office of the President September 2004

This summer UCOPA expanded on our mission to provide opportunities to increase the exchange of knowledge in our noontime series, focusing on individual needs of UCOP staff. UCOPA hosted three noontime educational programs and one social gathering. In June, our featured speaker was Emanuelle (Em) Gomez, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Eldercare consultant for UC Berkeley faculty and staff who discussed caring for aging parents. It is estimated that 30% of UCOP employees are caregivers who provide unpaid assistance to someone who is ill, disabled, or vulnerable. This program offered our employees information, support, and coping skills to help them manage this challenging role. The second program, entitled “E-Mail Management” was so popular when it was offered in our Kaiser location in July that we brought it back for an encore performance in our Franklin building in August. This program was presented by Cyndi Lukk, a Computer Resource Specialist for ANR, Computer Services. The program addressed common e-mail management issues including how to organize and prioritize messages, using junk mailboxes or spaminators, and how to avoid catching viruses. In advance of our annual Steering Committee election, we hosted an informal noon-time get-together late in June. This brown bag social event, provided a venue for interested UCOP staff to get to know the members of the Steering Committee.

This summer, UCOPA also distributed a web-based staff interest questionnaire to achieve two specific goals. The first goal was to support Human Resources by assisting them in soliciting staff ideas and interest level for UCOP-wide activities or events that could possibly be supported by HR once resources are available in the future. The second was UCOPA’s goal of facilitating the creation of group activities to promote community among staff. Our vision is that these small groups would be a place for employees to get together to share similar interests with fellow coworkers. The results indicated strong interest in a book club, languages, yoga, and gardening. The formation of a book club and classes in Italian and French are now being sponsored by UCOPA.

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