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### **Eddie Murphy Retires**

This past January, Eddie Murphy retired as Director of the UCLA Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center (ERRC), after 16+ years on the job. The list of Eddie's achievements during her tenure is both extensive and impressive. But several of her accomplishments will have a lasting impact, such as:

- Obtaining recognition for staff retirees as a separate constituent group. The Emeriti Relations Center was changed to the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center to reflect the new organizational imperative.
- Instituting First Friday Technology Training on the first Friday of every month. This program pairs campus IT experts with seniors to instruct them on the use of their electronic devices.
- Organizing the Joint Housing Committee, which was instrumental in the development of the Belmont Village Senior Living facility, a 168 unit complex that was built adjacent to UCLA.
- Conducting surveys to first gather information regarding retirees' post-employment experience for the purpose of establishing their participation, achievement and contribution; and next to determine the extent to which staff retirees are victims of food insecurity.
- Initiating the exploration of University provided liability coverage for all campus Emeriti/Retirees Associations. This privilege was granted by order of UC President Mark Yudof in 2011.

As much as retirees may remember Eddie for her tireless efforts, most of those with whom I have interfaced since her retirement was announced have confided to me that they will miss her warm and patient demeanor.

During the recruitment period, the remaining staff of Jonathan Y. Bates and Maria Lubrano has served in the Interim Director capacity. The constituent services and Center programming that UCLA retirees expect have continued during this time. On April 1, Vice-Chancellor Carole Goldberg announced the appointed of Ragini Gill as the new Director of the ERRC, effective May 4. Ms. Gill is currently a UCLA Health retirement and benefits counselor as well as program manager for staff health and wellness.

### **Programs**

The ERRC in conjunction with the Chancellor's Healthy Campus Initiative and FITWELL (UCLA Recreation) started a fitness program in a new, modern campus facility this past January. These classes are tailored for retired staff and faculty and are taught by certified fitness instructors. They meet weekly in four week segments and include balance/strength training as well as yoga.

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Last spring, the ERRC started a round of on-going tours highlighting the various forms of flora throughout the campus. These tours, led by Professor Emeritus Wayne Dollase (Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences), are restricted to specific quadrants of the campus and allow participants to understand the plant life that they may have come across as active employees but failed to realize their unique composition and attributes. Attendees also have the side benefit of a two-hour walk to augment their fitness routine.

The ERRC helped to secure the retired staff and faculty inclusion in UCLA Athletics' Appreciation Day last November for the football game versus Stanford University. Those retirees that participated were able to purchase discounted event tickets in a designated area of the Rose Bowl.

We are happy to continue hosting successful on-going events such as our San Fernando Valley event series, which serves retirees who reside in the Valley and are unable to attend events on campus. This event was made possible, in part, as a result of the Center's affiliation with Belmont Village and was spearheaded by Eddie Murphy. Last November's program was a presentation on controlling blood sugars by Professor Emeritus Seymour Levin (Endocrinology).

Using the health emergency of an active UCLA employee as an impetus, the UCLA Emeriti Association entrusted the ERRC to host an event pertaining to emergency preparedness. The presenters were Dr. Mark Morocco, Physician of Emergency Medicine in the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, and William Dunne, Administrative Director of UCLA Health System's Emergency Preparedness, Safety and Security Services. Attendees learned both how to prepare for emergencies, as well what to do in case of an emergency.

### **New Website**

The ERRC launched a revamped website last summer. This modern-looking website is designed in accordance with University standards for all departmental websites. Visitors to the website are greeted with a calendar showcasing our upcoming events as well as a regularly updated section highlighting the lives and achievements of various noteworthy retired staff and faculty.