Campus Retiree Organization Profile

The University at Buffalo Emeritus Center

by Pierre Radimak, Editor
SUNY Retirees Newsletter

The University at Buffalo (UB) Emeritus Center was established in 1977 thanks to the initiative of School of Social Work Professor Rose Weinstein and the support of then UB President Robert Kettner. The Center was designed to enable all faculty and staff who retire from UB to continue their relationship with the university community.

After several changes in location on campus, the Emeritus Center (EC) now has a well-appointed lounge, library, kitchen, and meeting room in Goodyear Hall (a large student residence hall). The UB President’s office supports the maintenance and repairs to the Center’s space as well as supplies, printing, mailings, and audio-visual services. Emeritus Center membership is $5.00 annually and must be paid by December to receive monthly mailings for the following year. REV-UP members receive a free annual parking permit from the Office of Parking and Transportation.

UB’s Human Resources Department provides names and addresses of all retirees to the Membership Chairperson of the Emeritus Center, who sends new retirees an invitation to join the Center. They may join either closely following retirement or at any future time. Spouses of retirees are also eligible for membership. There are currently approximately over 500 members of the Emeritus Center.

Retired Employee Volunteers-University Program (REV-UP) Manager Leila (Lee) Baker, who has her office in the Emeritus Center, devotes a percentage of her time to support the Center’s activities, including fielding phone calls and noting maintenance/facilities problems.

“Emeritus Center members meet monthly to hear a timely speaker, travel together to cultural events, and maintain ties with the university and their retired colleagues,” Center President Elenora Heffner stated. From September through December and February through April, the EC offers a lecture or musical performance followed by a social hour with refreshments provided by members. “It is definitely a worthwhile organization which extends connection to the university and an opportunity for learning,” Heffner said.

The REV-UP/Emeritus Center partnership allows members to share their skills and talents with the university, creating a symbiotic relationship. “Lee recruits volunteers for REV-UP only from the ranks of the Emeritus Center members; therefore, both organizations are intertwined,” Heffner stated. “The Emeritus Center membership offers a ready-made pool of volunteers who maintain their ties with the university by helping where needed. In addition, volunteering is fun as well as meeting up with your former colleagues!”

Emeritus Center members also contribute to the annual State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) campaign. The EC president serves on UB’s SEFA administrative committee, which oversees the campaign.

For more information on the University at Buffalo Emeritus Center, contact Jack Baker at bakerja@buffalo.edu.

NOTE: The contact person for the UB Emeritus Center is now Elenora (Ellie) Heffner, president of the Center. She may be reached at heffner@buffalo.edu (current as of 10/7/16).

DO YOU HAVE A RETIREMENT STORY TO TELL?

We Want to Hear from You!

One of the objectives of the SUNY Retirees Newsletter is to share activities of SUNY retirees. We know many of you are doing great, interesting things in retirement, from scholarship to volunteerism and everything in between. Your story can inspire others.

We welcome stories from retired SUNY faculty, staff, and administrators from any of SUNY’s state-operated and community college campuses, System Administration, the Research Foundation, State University Construction Fund, and affiliated organizations.

Please share your retirement story or tell us about a retired colleague’s story by contacting the SUNY Retirees Service Corps (RSC) at retirees@suny.edu.