

The Philosophy of the 60+ Club

The 60+ Club is a partnership between the University and the community of retired persons. It is an activity of California State University, Bakersfield, Alumni Association and is in accord with the by-laws of that association.

The retired community is made up of persons from all walks of life who are concerned citizens, active, curious, and with the time to pursue life-long learning.

The 60+ Club is a member-motivated and member-governed organization. Its purpose is to provide personal enrichment, educational opportunities, volunteer challenges and social activities in a campus environment utilizing the resources of the University and the experience of its members.

The 60+ Club Celebrates 20 Years - May 11, 2006

Mayor's Proclamation

Voices from CSUB

Dr. Horace Mitchell, President
W. Michael Chertok, Vice President University Advancement
Dr. Fred Dorer, Vice President Emeritus
Dr. Ken Ishida, CSUB Faculty Liason
Shannon Hill, Alumni Relations Director

In the Beginning....

1986 Founding Members/ Organizing Committee

Judy Clausen
Dr. E. David Cooke
Dr. Roy Dull
Leila Findley
Tom Jarvis
Charles Jones
Tara Hagen
Ralph Nowlen
Sunny Scofield
Lorraine West

Charter members Present

(Those attending 1st and 2nd Meetings)

60+ Club Presidents

Charles Jones (1986-1987)*
David Cooke (1987-1989)*
Tom Jarvis (1989-1990)*
Laura Brockmeyer (1990-1992)
Fred Dukes (1992-1994)*
Roger Clark (1994-1996)
Florence Gholz (1996-1998)
Mary Jo Kasselmann (1998-2000)
Tom Albright (2000-2002)
Perri Stinson (2002-2004)
AN Chamberlin (2004-2006)

*Deceased

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FIRST DECADE

1986-87 Beginning with 185 charter members

1988-89 Thirty 60+ Club 'students' in CSUB computer classes over three quarters
The infamous Nuts & Bolts Alumni campaign mailing!

1989-90 Nearly 300 members
New curator at Well Sample Repository (Russ Robinson)
Exploring Kern County trips to Rankin Ranch and Red Rock Canyon
60+ Club hosts Elderhostel session
ITV Committee is developed and debuts programs

1990-91 Second Elderhostel held, drawing from as far as New Hampshire
Camp Shakespeare at Cedar City, Utah with 22 members attending
First gathering of Brunch/Lunch Bunch (now the Diners Club)

1991-92 Held a 'Senior Prom' reminiscent of our high school proms
New high for volunteer hours on campus – 4,000+ hours
Christo's "The Umbrellas Joint Project for Japan and USA" drew much involvement of 60+ Club
Madigan Gallery volunteers
Received Beautiful Bakersfield Award in the senior category
60+ Club founding member David Cooke became president of ALIROW

1992-93 Stiern Memorial Rose Garden activity initiated
First Retirement Seminar held
Coffee with the Professor added to Interest Groups

1993-94 60+ Club selected as showcase university-based program in nationwide study of
Learning in Retirement organizations
Presentation of 60+ Club program by June Stiern, Lorraine West, and Tara Hagen at University
of North Carolina national conference of Learning in Retirement organizations
Membership at all-time high of 339
Alumni Director Tara Hagen departed CSUB – not a highlight!
The Stiern Project began to develop a profile of Senator Walter W. Stiern
New Interest Groups started: Exploring Health for Life; Laffs R Us, 60+; Come Along Side
Friends; Exploring Our Environment
The E. David Cooke Award for high personal integrity, extraordinary service and leadership to
the organization, dedication to learning, and good humor and civility was presented to
Laura Brockmeyer and to Charles Jones

1994-95 First Elder College sponsored by the 60+ Club held on CSUB campus
New Alumni Relations Director, Delani McMillin named and became 60+ Club liaison to CSUB
ITV Committee ceased midyear because of CSUB budget problems
The E. David Cooke Award was presented to Lorraine West

Laura Brockmeyer elected president of ALIROW at its biennial conference at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

1995-96 The 60+ Club observed its Tenth Anniversary

Presentation to CSUB for the Stiern Rose Garden – a bench and shelter and two plaques (one in honor of CSUB's 25th Anniversary and one observing the Club's 10th Anniversary)

(Source prior to 1995: Previous 60+ Club Annual Reports)

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR SECOND DECADE

1996-1998 Recognition from the CSUB Student Body Campus Choice Award for “Outstanding Campus Support”

Preparation of job descriptions to identify further Board assignments and responsibilities

Construction of an events calendar for Board use throughout the year

1998-2000 Growth in membership to about 386

The 60+ Bulletin, edited by Jacqueline Hultquist, serves as an important part of the web that holds the group together and is a vital part of membership retention

Bus trips to Picasso and Van Gogh exhibits, wine tasting in Central California, and Whiskey Flat Days in Eastern Kern County

Attendance at annual Retirement Seminar, spearheaded by Perri Stinson, reached nearly 100 at the last two seminars

Elder College has been a sellout since Harvey and Laura Brockmeyer started it in 1996

March 3, 2000, saw the culmination of five years of study and research by Art Johnson with the Walter W. Stiern Papers Collection

2000-2002 Membership increase to almost 400 members

The creation of two new positions (Historian and Sunshine Chairman)

The creation of three new Interest Groups (One-Day Bus Trips, Reading Shakespeare Aloud, and Mah Jongg)

A monetary agreement was negotiated with the Bakersfield Community House to use their facilities for some of our Interest Groups

The E. David Cooke Award was presented to Art Johnson in 2000

The E. David Cook Award was presented to Jacqueline Hultquist in 2001

2002-2004 Our yearly “Elder College” which is spearheaded by Laura and Harvey Brockmeyer

The addition of new interest activities; The Seniors Philosophers Circle chaired by Phyllis Simms, Writing for Pleasure under the leadership of Adele Rylands, the continuation of the Historian's (Pat Cox) project

Association with the Alumni Board

2004-2006 Start of Greeters' Program and Meet the Person Sitting Next to You at general meetings

Membership voted to keep 60+ as a viable group that would support the OSHER program as an addition to CSUB's other programs

Two new Interest Groups were added (Out and About and Around the Cracker Barrel)

Wendall Kinney's writing of "The 60+ Fight Song"
Elder College and The Retirement Seminar were both successful

(Source Previous 60+ Club Biennial Reports and 1998-2006 Presidents' input)

The 60+ Fight Song

Words: Wendall Kinney Tune: The Sheik

CSU...We're Here...For You;
To Help...With What...You Do.
Doré...The Gym...The Rose;
The Birds...The Crowds...Who Knows?

Having Fun...We Learn...We Shine;
We Sing...We Laugh...We Dine.
Despite the Freeze...The Fry;
We're Young...Until...We Die.

(2nd Half Music, Gilbert & Sullivan style)

We're Not Idle Conversation;
Nor Afraid of Perspiration;
Education, Recreation, In This Section of the Nation.
Sixty Plus'll Cut the Mustard;
And We're Never, Ever Flustered.
We're Young...Until...We Die!!

Volunteer Challenges

Volunteerism is a major component of the 60+ Club. Action Network is the volunteer unit within the club. It is organized into seven teams which offer assistance to University departments which request help for a variety of activities: Athletics, Facility for Care and treatment of Animals (FACT), The Madigan Gallery, Fine Arts (Music, Jazz, Theatre), Short Term Projects, Stiern Rose Garden, and Well Sample Repository. From July, 1986 through June 2005, 60+ Club members who have responded to University requests have provided 43,561 volunteer hours of service to CSUB.

As noted by Action Network Coordinator, Doris Dermody, these volunteer hours contribute twice each time they appear on campus: first, by providing the hands-on assistance required; second, the hours contributed validate the all-important element of community support and in seeking funding for capital projects.

We have become an integral entity on campus, serving the needs of the University and of the Action Network team members. Records of our volunteerism reveal that at the level of individualism, eleven 60+ Club members through the years have each accumulated over 1,000 volunteer hours. On the average, about 100 members per year have provided volunteer hours to the University. Overall, we have measured up to the purpose cited in the Philosophy of the 60+ Club "to provide...personal enrichment...volunteer challenges and social activities..."

20th Anniversary Committee Members

Jacqueline Hultquist, Chair; Marilyn Bell, AN Chamberlin, Pat Cox, Camille Gavin, Evelyn Glines, Shannon Hill, and Judy Miller.