

Lawrence Berkeley Lab Association

Fall 2011

Introduction. The EX-Ls, founded in 1982, is an association for retired and other former employees of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. It allows its members to enjoy and benefit from continued association with the Lab and with their fellow former employees. We currently have 272 members, including 4 honorary life members and 31 paid life members. Dues remain at \$15/year or \$150/life membership.

Luncheon speakers. We have been very fortunate to have especially interesting and timely speakers for our spring and summer quarterly luncheons. Dr. Robert Budnitz, LBNL, spoke at the May luncheon on “**The Fukushima Nuclear Reactor Accident: What Happened and What Does it Mean?**” Bob brings considerable expertise to the topic, having spent most of his scientific career involved with nuclear-reactor safety and radioactive-waste safety. In addition to describing what happened at the Fukushima reactors, he also described the path forward at the site and the potential implications upon the future of nuclear power in general. At the August luncheon, we heard from Doug McWilliams, former LBNL head photographer, about “**Everywhere I Look I See Pictures.**” Doug highlighted his 30+ year career as an LBNL photographer and 40 years taking photos of baseball players for baseball cards.

Newsletter. Our quarterly newsletter is now distributed by email as the default option, with an opt-in policy to receive a paper copy. About 40 paper copies are being sent.

LBNL Activities. Participation in LBNL activities helps us strengthen our ties with the Lab. Recently, the EX-Ls have participated in the annual Lab Wellness Fair and the Lab booth at the Solano Stroll, a one day-a-year event when a mile-long commercial street in Berkeley and Albany is closed to traffic and populated by food booths, bands, arts & crafts, and information booths on all manner of things. The EX-Ls staffed its own booth at the Lab Open House October 15.

LBNL Retiree Survey. The LBNL retiree survey (designed and administered by the EX-Ls) was launched on June 11 when an email message with the survey link was sent to the 500 LBNL retirees for whom the UCB Retirement Center has email addresses. The Center included a special insert for all 2282 Lab retirees in the paper copy of its June newsletter, the CenterPiece, informing them of the survey and including a link to it. Reminders were then sent by email to the Center’s email list and also to the EX-Ls in mid-June and again in mid-July. A postcard reminder was mailed to the ~1800 Lab retirees for whom the Center does not have email addresses on July 16. The survey is now closed; we received **425 responses (19% response rate).**

Analysis of the results has just begun, but we can already see there are many interesting and useful responses that will allow us to create a fairly broad and comprehensive picture of Lab retirees. EX-Ls members account for 45% of the responses. The majority of respondents (81%) live in the East Bay or Greater Bay Area. 183 respondents are scientists

or engineers; 188 respondents were active professionally within the last 3 years. Retirees have been active volunteers, both at the Lab (42) and in their communities (212). 23 received awards for professional activities and 21 for community service. 310 responded with educational activities like attending lectures, college level courses, etc. 400 respondents reported on activities/hobbies; the 5 most frequent activities were reading, computer, dining out, gardening, and travel. 88% reported that their retirement experience so far has been excellent or good. 284 respondents provided insights into what surprised them most about retirement – some wonderful comments. We are now continuing the data analysis and deciding how best to present the data.

Janis Dairiki, EX-Ls CUCRA representative

**LBNL Retirees Association – the EX-Ls
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