Dear Residents!

First of all, I would like to thank you all for taking part in our UASRA elections – we had a record of 500+ votes cast this year and after verifying all votes, we do have a new board and UASRA officers for the next academic year! In the next pages of this newsletter, you will find the results of our annual election and I want to thank everyone involved in this process. Our special thanks go to our Election Coordinator, Helena McDermott, who went far and beyond to make sure that this election was successful. We wish the new board best of luck and they have our full confidence that they will represent all residents in the best possible way.

We are coming to the end of the academic year and some of us are graduating and some are taking long-awaited breaks and vacations. These reminders should come in handy to the residents at this time:

- **If you are moving out, please contact UAS management office and they will help with move-out procedures. Please follow rules and regulations in regards to moving trucks and do not block fire lanes, exits and other residents’ garages. No moving van or vehicle is allowed inside University Village.**
- **Do not forget to lock your windows, cars, garage and deadbolt your doors if you are leaving for an extended time. Ask your friend or neighbor to handle arriving packages or re-route your mail while you are away.**
- **Any visitors/guests that will stay at your residence should stop by the rental office with proper identification to register and have a door key issued.**
- **Please break down all large boxes prior to discarding them in the recycle containers and leave no waste outside of trash bins. Should you have oversized items, please discard them at the 3327 Sepulveda Blvd dumpster.**
Please be courteous to your neighbors and maintain the common areas and playgrounds clean by disposing all household trash in the trash bins located by the garage alleyways. If there is a shopping cart on the premises, please take it outside of UA property.

Please supervise your young children while everyone is enjoying the playgrounds, pool or other common areas. For the safety of residents and children alike, no scooters, bikes and skateboards are allowed on the University Village grounds.

If you are using common areas for events and parties, please remember to follow “quiet-hour” regulations. No event can be held in common areas after 10 pm. No alcoholic beverages are allowed. Both UCPD and Apartment Coordinators will respond and/or cite for excessive noise or any violations observed.

UCPD is asking residents to follow parking rules and regulations and avoid being ticketed or having their cars towed. Signs are posted at every parking site – follow them or face the consequences. There is an increase of complaints from residents in regards to their parking spots being used by vehicles with no legitimate permits displayed.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to all members of UASRA, residents, Residential Life, UAS management and everyone involved with our community this year. While being a president of UASRA took far more effort, energy, time and nerves than I initially expected, it has still been a privilege and joy to represent and work with all of you. My years at UCLA have been very challenging and rewarding and our community has made this experience very enjoyable and truly, a happy place to live. I and my family thank you all for being a part of this exceptional community and we will cherish these memories for the rest of our lives.

As usual, please join us at our next General Assembly (GA) meeting that will be held on Wednesday, June 17th at 7:00 pm at the 3200 Sawtelle Community Center. Come and meet our officers and management, welcome the new UASRA board, learn more about the current issues, voice your concerns, or at least eat free food. Exceptional childcare will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

Kind Regards,

Saken Sherkhanov
UASRA President
Minutes from UASRA Board Meeting

Wednesday May 10, 2015

Saken Sherkhano, President
Martin Flores Bjurström, Vice-President
Jihyun Yeo, Treasurer
Miriá Biller Hendrickson, Secretary
Carmen Flores Bjarström, Newsletter Editor
Negar Omidakhsh, Event Coordinator (excused)
Raushan Abdmaulen, Community Center Coordinator
UASRA Election Chair: Helena McDermott
ORL Advisor: Addae Jahdai-Brown (excused)

Call to Order 6:40 p.m.

1. Public Comments (not to exceed 3 minutes per speaker): 0.

2. Information Item: Election Updates (Helena McDermott) a. Update to timeline and election process
   President Saken applauded election chair (EC) and read aloud the positive comments on UASRA FB page.
   Election chair delivered the event for less than 2/3 of the budget (under $1000). She discussed the start date
   of the election and described how the link and PDF would be sent to voters via email and on FB. She also
   informed the board that historically, less than 10% of residents have voted. While one candidate was
   concerned about differences in this year’s election timeline, the changes this year have resulted in over 40
   candidates whereas fewer than 20 candidates have run in previous years. Another candidate expressed
   concern over publishing candidate statements as flyers and having them delivered door to door. Previously,
   those statements have cost up to $3000 and therefore this year, it was decided to have all statements online
   only. Per the president’s request, the Election Chair would revisit training materials and update as needed in
   order to make materials relevant and submit a write-up to the board.

3. Information/Action Item: Monster Drink Offer and Summer Movies Event (Martin Bjurström and Saken
   Sherkhano) We are declining this offer to distribute Monster drinks during finals week. The board agreed.
   a. Fees and expenses for summer movie events (Saken Sherkhano) Courtney will be receiving a $50 stipend
   for every summer movie that she holds through July until the new board takes over. This item was
   unanimously approved.

4. Action Items: Green Coordinator and Safety/Health Delegate Positions, Garden Coordinator, and 2
   Maintenance Coordinators a. Converting to elected positions starting Summer 2016 (Saken Sherkhano
   and Helena McDermott) The President described that the maintenance coordinator positions should be
   appointed as they closely work with the Community Center Coordinator (CCC). Previously, the maintenance
   personnel have been stay at home parents living close by the community center where they have been
   available on weekends and during special events to come open community center, tour people through, and
   go through checklist after each event is held (often every weekend). In the event that a maintenance
   coordinator position cannot be found in future years, the positions should be advertised through website and
   board approved. The Green Coordinator & Safety/Health Delegate positions shall be elected positions starting
   2016/2017 fiscal year. All changes will be cleared at next GA meeting.
   b. Changes to Stipend to Both Positions (Saken Sherkhano) The safety & health delegate earns a $65/mo
   stipend while the Green Coordinator earns $125/mo even though they have similar workloads. Both positions
   need updated by-laws and requirements. The President proposed that each position should receive a salary of
   $95/month. This action item passed unanimously. The Green Coordinator’s GA attendance will be checked
   and the stipend will be recalculated for next month.

5. Discussion/Action Items: Financial Updates (Jihyun Yeo) UASRA received a payment of $17,000 instead
   of $20,000. Jihyun, Saken, and Addae are working to ensure that UASRA receives monies owed.
   a. Website overhaul and proposed payment (Saken Sherkhano) As there is excess money in the budget, Dustin O’Hara
   will propose 3 different options to overhaul the UASRA website and the board shall choose the best option via
   email.
5. Discussion/Action Items: Financial Updates (Jihyun Yeo) UASRA received a payment of $17,000 instead of $20,000. Jihyun, Saken, and Addae are working to ensure that UASRA receives monies owed. a. Website overhaul and proposed payment (Saken Sherkhanov) As there is excess money in the budget, Dustin O’Hara will propose 3 different options to overhaul the UASRA website and the board shall choose the best option via email.

b. Changes to fees in UCLA Recreation and Election Expenses – Update for Next Year’s Budget (Saken Sherkhanov) The election event came under budget. UCLA Rec may increase fees starting in fall due to financial restructuring. UASRA will offset the increase so our residents can continue to pay the same fee. c. CPR training #2: Hopefully there will be a second CPR training within the next 6 weeks. d. GSA Meeting Attendees: A couple of residents have attended events on behalf of the board and will receive gift certificates.

6. Information Item: Unit Walkthroughs and Unit Events (Martin Bjurström) To date, 2 unit representatives have completed the post walkthrough requirements. Martin will follow up for all representatives to complete their walkthroughs by May 31. Based on the two first reports, there are still a number of maintenance requests from November that have not been addressed. Martin will work directly with Regis regarding this issue. All unit representatives besides those of Sepulveda A & B (scheduled for May) have completed their events.

7. Information/Action Item: Year-in-review from Board Officers (Saken Sherkhanov) Everyone needs to write a year-in-review. Saken emailed each board member reports from previous officers to use as examples. He requested that each board member please include any information/contacts that you have used and that may be helpful for future board members.

8. Information Item: Update on UCLA Recreation Spring Classes and Summer Programming (Saken Sherkhanov and Raushan Abdmaulen) We’re on budget and asked UCLA Rec to add more classes for the upcoming summer session.

9. Information Item: Last Newsletter (Carmen Bjurström) Saken’s interview will be published in the June Newsletter. Carmen also requested that everyone submit their suggestions and materials on time.

10. Information Item: Outstanding Officers award / UASRA Officers’ event (Saken Sherkhanov) Instead of distributing financial awards to a few officers, the board decided that a picnic will be held for all officers and their families (date to be decided).

11. Any Additional Reports by the Officers: 0.

Adjournment of Meeting
1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Emma Sorrell, Sustainability Manager for UCLA Housing & Hospitality Services. (310) 825-5873. esorrell@ha.ucla.edu. HHS department works on all sustainability issues regarding on and off campus housing including landscaping, transportation, etc. If you have any ideas, please contact her. New to this office, Emma will begin working with our green coordinator. When asked to talk about LADWP billing, Emma informed us that they rolled out a new program over a year ago and are aware of its “ghost glitches” that overcharge some residents and businesses. It’s an ongoing problem that they’re trying to fix which is why their billing is incorrect and why they’re so behind.

3. AC REPORT: Victoria Fiorretti presented 3 points: (1) A discrepancy about barbeque inclusion with gazebo reservations will be resolved by management and presented at next GA meeting. (2) Household trash must be removed to UV trash bins – household trash cannot be disposed of at park garbage cans. (3) Residents with blue parking permits must abide by time restrictions. UCPD will be increasing their vigilance, therefore ticketing more and towing repeat offenders.

4. UCPD REPORT: Officer Duren was unable to attend due to a major arrest made earlier.

5. MANAGEMENT REPORT: A resident in a 2nd floor apartment on the Sepulveda side yanked a sweater stuffed into her closet thereby activating the sprinkler in the closet. It flooded the first floor apartment. Do not hang anything from sprinklers and be very careful when moving items around sprinklers as they are very sensitive. Regis just completed a walkthrough of all the barbecues and fixes should be complete very soon. The exterminator sprayed in front of the 3191 Sepulveda laundry room for cockroaches. The playground areas cannot be sprayed, so he sprayed granules around play areas instead. The rodent problem near the Sepulveda facility shop has been taken care of. The family of cats outside the 3290 Sawtelle building were safely relocated. Playground shades are in the works. Due to a contractor change, the shades will be coming later than expected. Keystone Mentone apartments are getting 4 large garden boxes with multiple plots in each. In addition, new pathways and outdoor exercise equipment will be installed in that area. The security cameras request is on the table and part of a larger conversation. The budget for it has been approved for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The money for the cameras will be spent at some point during the next fiscal year. There is also a renter’s insurance plan for next year to be offered as part of the rental contract as an option. Lizca answered questions about how the shootings a few weeks ago were gang related and both LAPD and UCPD have increased their patrols. Anyone can request more patrolling. Lizca will follow up with Regis about pedestrian gate at 3240 Sawtelle. Rental contracts for next year are to be renewed online now.
6. GENERAL OFFICERS’ REPORTS:
One unit still has an upcoming event. 7 units held their events this month with few to many attendees. Events included breakfasts, brunches, concerts, and raffles. Two officers had nothing to report. Two were excused. Green Coordinator hosted an event with more people than expected. All the bags, light bulbs, and water bottles were distributed. Due to the successful bike event partnered with UCLA, another will be planned in the near future. The student lounge on Sawtelle is still having internet problems and the barbecues are still not all in working condition. President reminded all officers to submit write-ups to Carmen by the 25th of May, 2015.

7. MANAGEMENT EXCUSED at 7:59 p.m.

8. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS
The election chair reported that there were probably close to 540 votes this election (a huge increase from previous years). The Event Coordinator reminded everyone that the last event will be the UASRA yard sale to be held June 6th, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be provided. The Vice President reminded unit reps to complete their walkthrough write-ups and reminded them to be accurate so management can address outstanding issues. The President presented an action item for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Officers voted unanimously to level out the pay of the Green Coordinator and the Safety Health Delegate. Each officer will receive a $95 monthly payment, and starting 2016, these positions will be elected rather than appointed by the board. All officers need to submit their year-in-review reports by the next GA meeting. Unit reps were reminded to pick up and distribute flyers and clean out the glass cases.


10. MEETING ADJOURNED 8:21 p.m.
UASRA Election Results 2015

President
Arash Shamsian (Community Strong) 253 (65%)
Ching-Yi Wang 136 (35%)

Vice President
Aaron Cayer (Community Strong) 309 (100%)

Treasurer
Jihyun Yeo (Community Strong) 264 (74%)
Chao Yue 92 (26%)

Secretary
Ahuva Odenheimer 16 (5%)
Haylie Hunsaker 102 (29%)
Jenna Donohue (Community Strong) 199 (57%)
Kimberly Insigne 30 (9%)

Community Center Coordinator
Kishan Gupta 5 (1%)
Courtney Cunningham 48 (14%)
Loni Rocchio 38 (11%)
Ana Paula Quintana 216 (61%)
Xumeng Han 32 (9%)
Amichai Bergman 15 (4%)

Newsletter Editor
Yohey Tokumitsu 25 (8%)
Elva Ortega 21 (7%)
Dustin O’Hara 161 (51%)
Edgar Rios Piedra 13 (4%)
Jennifer Fernandez 97 (31%)

Event Coordinator
Negar Omidakhsh (Community Strong) 170 (48%)
Charlie Jakthong 54 (15%)
Nicole Goring 83 (23%)
Chase Yim 30 (8%)
Samira El Sahih 17 (5%)

Unit Rep Mentone
Rommina Vedadghavami 13 (72%)
Ehsan Ebrahimzadeh 5 (28%)

Unit Rep Sawtelle A
Na Young Kyeong 17 (27%)

Michelle Hughson 35 (56%)
Congli He 10 (16%)

Unit Rep Sawtelle C
Youfan Yang 9 (36%)
Feng Bai 16 (64%)

Unit Rep Sawtelle D
Kevin Donohue 46 (100%)

Unit Rep Sawtelle E
Josue Fernandez 11 (61%)
Christopher Prejean 7 (39%)

Unit Rep Sepulveda A
Tracy Martison 27 (100%)

Unit Rep Sepulveda B
Ching-Yen Chung 20 (31%)
Ying Li 3 (5%)

Elizabeth Magness 42 (65%)
Minutes from UASRA Policy Review Board Meeting

Board Members
Saken Sherkhanov, President (present)
Martin Flores Bjurström, Vice-President (present)
Miria Biller Hendrickson, Secretary (present)
Addae Jahdai-Brown, ORL Advisor (present)

UAS Management
Shirley Wong, Director (optional not present)
Bridgette Bell-Reed, Assistant Director (not present)
Lizca Spalding, UA Support Services Manager (present)
Stan Markowitz, UAS Area Manager (not present)
Regis Mesko, UAS Area Facilities Manager (not present)
Wayne Lue Chin – Budget Analyst (present)
Jerchel Anderson – Business Analyst (not present)
UCPD Officer Terry Duren (not present)

1. Call to Order
2. Information Item: UCPD report n/a (A major arrest occurred, Officer Duren unable to attend). Per Lizca: Facilities personnel saw a suspicious guy with a backpack walking around, called UCPD, he has a long wrap sheet – a whole bunch of tools in his backpack. He was obviously casing the property. Go with your gut, if someone seems out of place, call. Officer Duren will be stepping up parking enforcement with tickets and towing. Please do not leave anything in vehicles as it is bait for thieves.

3. Information Item: UAS Financial Update (Wayne Lue Chin)
March: lower expenses, over budget. Various vendors have yet to bill us. I.e. DWP has major billing issues and while we've been requesting monthly bills, nothing has arrived. Labor expenses lower than anticipated due to open positions, employees on disability. Costs from campus haven’t been billed either. We are $116,000 above budget. Higher than normal vacancy (partially due to Venice Barry construction). We’re budgeted for 4.2% vacancy, now at 6.3%.

- On behalf of Regis: 1.1 million left for Keystone window replacement will probably be expensed by end of fiscal year. As per budget: $5 per unit UASRA fee. Wayne will assist Saken & Addae to get an estimate of monthly UASRA fees being collected for the last two years.

4. Information Items: UAS Services Update (Stan Markowitz and Lizca Spalding) Flooding 2nd floor, Sepulveda next to facilities, had sweaters folded in closet tightly under emergency sprinkler, pulled it off and the sprinkler became activated. Water sprinklers are mostly activated when accidentally hit/jostled. Bridget has ordered stickers that will be put around the sprinklers that clearly say to not use sprinklers for anything. Lizca will follow up on timeline of sticker installation with Regis. A lot of maintenance calls for sink back ups – educate folks of what goes down the kitchen sink. Wipes down toilet, etc. cannot be flushed. Important to have renter's insurance.

5. Discussion Item: Gardens on UAS grounds a. Gardens of Sepulveda side – fences or no fences: Regis is now getting fence estimates for gardens on Sepulveda side. Bid should arrive this week.
b. New gardens in other areas – the logistics and supervision of those gardens. Our board will be giving out plots – goal is mid June for other residencies. Lizca will follow up with Regis & Saken as per garden plot completion. Keystone/Mentone has outdoor workout machinery being installed.


7. **Discussion Item**: UASRA Walkthroughs and follow-up – completed by May 31. Will be assembled and presented to maintenance prior to the June GA-meeting.

8. **Discussion Item**: Short term parking for UASRA visitors (*Saken – add text*)

9. **Discussion Item**: The Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP) and collaboration with UAS/UASRA (*Saken – add text*)

10. **Discussion Item**: Feedback to UASRA functions this academic year and recommendations to future board (*Saken – add text*)

11. **Notes and Remarks by ORL Advisor** *(Addae Jahdai-Brown) (Addae add text)*

12. Any Additional Reports by the Officers

**Adjournment of Meeting**
Meet Your Neighbour

Tea and cake with outgoing UASRA President Saken Sherkhanov (35) and his wife Raushan (36), and their children Ansar (9) and Daria (8). The family is from Kazakhstan. Saken is coming to the end of his PhD in biochemistry, Raushan is an MD, researching the use of stem cells in cardiology.

Thank you for the tea and cake! Coming to your home is always such a treat.

Saken, I wanted to interview you as you come to the end of your term as the President of UASRA. And the end of our time in University Apartments! We have been here for almost seven years. **Have you been in this apartment the whole time?** Yes! Wow. To someone who basically lives like a yak, that sounds like heaven. Raushan: yes, it has been really nice. I hate moving, too! Saken, we organised last month's UASRA elections together. **How did you originally get involved with UASRA?** I lived in UAS for a while and there was some general residents' programming, but I felt that there wasn't a sense of community where everybody shared their ideas, came together for playdates or social drinks and got to know neighbours. In addition, there were some issues, such as community safety and increasing rent, that bothered me a lot. Living here for 3-4 years, I had no idea that UASRA was that missing link that connected residents with each other and UAS management. I just saw UASRA in charge of pizza events and newsletter distribution. **What's being President like?** I have to say I under-estimated the time and effort required to be president! Initially, it took a bit time to restructure the organization, have UASRA finances in order and establish the annual plan. My ultimate goal has been streamlining the conversation between residents and management. Having a great team of UASRA board and officers made this job so much easier. **What accomplishments are you proud of?** I'm proud of establishing renewed dialogue with residents and UAS management where we truly work as a team, making connections with UCLA organizations such as UCPD, Graduate Student Association, UCLA Transportation, Residential Life to better represent our interests and have diverse programs and events available to residents in our grounds. We made huge progress in making public transportation available to residents, convincing Big Blue Bus and Santa Monica Council to introduce new line on Sawtelle while keeping old routes until the fall of 2016. We made our homes safer by working with management, UCPD and neighborhood council. UAS budgets now include new amenities such as more bike racks, new garden plots, bike fixing stations. There are green initiatives, and we are a case study on how to be truly self-sustaining and environmentally conscious. UASRA and GSA is supporting a study group to address the affordability of housing and financial burden that graduate students face in UCLA. **And as you leave UAS, what are your hopes for the future here?**
All of this is still a work in progress and there are many things we could improve in our community. I hope that the new board and officers will keep the momentum going and residents will be more involved in the decision-making process in our community. With all being said and done, the years spent in University Village are the times we will remember fondly.

**So what about your future, where are you guys headed to?** It will depend on jobs. Raushan would love to be in Europe. Ansar wants to move to London so he can watch Arsenal play [grin from Ansar, who is football crazy like his father]. Raushan: I want to move to Sweden! I hear you. In my next life, I will be a Swede. So not back to Kazakhstan? We would like to. But right now, the research opportunities are not there. Do you miss it? What is it like? Oh it’s beautiful. And so fun. Beautiful restaurants, music, dancing. Food and family. It’s wonderful. I’m looking at your wedding picture, Raushan, your headdress is extraordinary. Oh thank you. You have two weddings in Kazakhstan, one for the bride and one for the groom. It is very traditional and elaborate, and so much fun. We got married in Turkey, and then in Kazakhstan. How long have you been married? Saken: I should know this, right? [laughs] Twelve years. How did you meet? Well. There are two different stories – hers, and mine. Raushan: That is not true. Actually we know each other from middle school. Middle school! What was Saken like? He was a geek. A straight-A student, and usually in trouble. Ha! And Raushan? She was straight as an arrow. Raushan: I am the only child of a policeman! a mean one, too! [both laughing] So have you been together since middle school? Raushan: no, we went our separate ways and met again several times. We moved apart for high school, then bumped into each other on the street during college. And became great friends, we were such good friends. Saken: she was always setting me up with her friends. Raushan: And then he went to America. When was that? Saken: 1997, I came to CalTech to study Biology. I bet coming to the US was different back then. Oh, completely. It was so much easier. And then? Raushan: he came back for a visit and I was visiting his town. And he was there, surrounded by girls. He was the only person in the town who had been to America. Saken: I was definitely milking it. I was shameless. [smirk]. Raushan: he had changed a lot. He was different from Kazakh boys. In what way? Less traditional? Maybe, I don’t know. Is Kazakhstan very traditional? What is life like for women there? It has traditional Kazakh culture, but men and women are very equal. We have the legacy of the Russians [the USSR], of everyone being the same. I am a doctor, Saken’s mother is a doctor, she’s incredibly successful. How old were you when the USSR collapsed? Twelve, thirteen. What was that like? It was a strange time, really worrying, for our parents more than for us. When we lost the ruble, people lost a lot of money, their savings. I cannot imagine living through such upheaval.

OK so Saken was surrounded by girls… Saken: She locked on me! [laughs] Raushan: It wasn’t like that! we were talking all night, when the bars and restaurants closed at 2am, we went to his mother’s hospital and sat in the corridor there, talking. And then after three days, I went home. And? And he followed me! [laughs] Saken: I just turned up in her town and asked her to show me around. I mean, I saw everything in this town [laughs]. I remember her car was pristine, like she never used it, so clean and always full of gas. Raushan: because my father always took care of it! I never had to put gas in my car. Not like now [laughs]. It’s always on red! So then you were dating. Raushan: on the last day of the summer, you told me that you loved me. Saken: I did? Raushan: Yes! You brought me different flowers, every day. Saken, Meet Your Neighbour will add you to the romance Hall of Fame. And then it was long distance. Saken: Actually Raushan and my mother decided we were going to get married without me there! That was fine with me. Raushan: our families know each other so well. It’s not like in Europe, or America, family approval is important. I think lots of us who live far from our families here can understand that. Ok, can you share your top tips for the neighbourhood? Where are good places to eat?
Sofra on Venice for Turkish food is a great local spot. Heider Baba in Pasadena for Persian food – we go over there to Huntington Library, then eat here. For a fancier place, there is an amazing Brazilian restaurant in Beverly Hills, Fogo de Chão, that we love. What do you do with your kids? There’s so much for older kids in LA. The Getty is a favourite. We all love to cycle – there’s a bike path that starts near here, that takes you all the way down the river and then you can ride on the coast [Ballona Creek bike path]. We do that and are cycling for hours, the kids love it. There’s a full moon hike in Griffith Park that’s really cool. Ah you can do so much with older kids! That’s something to look forward to. Where do they go to school? They are at Brentwood Science Magnet. We are really happy with it – Daria is artistic and loves drawing, and Ansar is very logical, he wants to be an engineer! They are both happy there. It has a great after school programme and is diverse too. [Apply through LAUSD in the autumn.]

Last but absolutely not least, MYN’s favourite question: What is for dinner? S: goose neck! What?!

Goose neck! I have goose neck in the freezer. Actually two. Since we don’t know what Raushan can eat [due to unexplained allergies], I am experimenting. She is a guinea pig. Hmm. What else is for dinner in a Kazakh family? Raushan: meat, everything meat. Actually soup, in Kazakhstan you eat soup every day. I make it with meat, vegetables, dumplings or noodles. Where do you get your meat from? I am obsessed with finding good meat. Saken: I slaughter it! I have a guy in Lancaster. It is important to us as Muslims that animals are slaughtered in accordance with our beliefs. Amazing. As an immigrant to America, everything here can seem so homogenous at first. It’s always interesting to learn how differently people do live their lives here.

Guys, thanks for talking to me. I and other people who come to the UASRA meetings – and perhaps on the Facebook group! - know that you have both worked so hard for this community. We appreciate it.
2015 Earth Day Event

by April Lin, UASRA Green Coordinator

We had a blast on the Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 25th - we were happy to have so many attendants join us in the Community Center! I would especially like to thank those who volunteered on this event: Ana Paula Quintana, the UV Sawtelle C unit rep, and Wei Ping, the UV Sepulveda C unit rep. Your efficient help made this event a success!

After sign-in, each attendant was given a blue UASRA reusable bag, a blue UASRA water bottle, and a compact fluorescent light bulb. Special thanks to Addae Jahdai-Brown, the Assistant Director for Graduate & Family Housing, for providing CFL bulbs to all the residents who attended this Earth Day event; and Saken, the UASRA president, for providing the UASRA reusable bags and water bottles to help the residents lead a greener life. Switching from traditional light bulbs (called incandescent) to CFLs is an effective, simple change. Making this change will help us use less electricity at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global climate change [1]. Moreover, organic mandarin oranges from the South Central Farmer’s Cooperative and non-organic mandarin oranges from a grocery store were provided at the event. We encouraged attendants to try both types of oranges, to taste the difference.

Our four raffle prizes were two full size, and two mini size CSA Boxes, which were full of organic, seasonal vegetables and fruits from the South Central Farmer’s Cooperative. Community supported agriculture (CSA) is a new idea in farming, one that has been gaining momentum since its introduction to the United States from Europe in the mid-1980s. The CSA concept originated in the 1960s in Switzerland and Japan, where consumers interested in safe food and farmers seeking stable markets for their crops joined together in economic partnerships. Today, there are more than 400 CSA farms in the USA. Most are located near urban centers in New England, the Mid-Atlantic states, and the Great Lakes region, with growing numbers in other areas, including the West Coast [2]. Furthermore, we provided some light bands and bike info booklets, such as LA Bike Way Guide, LA Bike Trains, and LADOT Bike Program. I was very glad to see that our attendants enjoyed studying the bike maps!

In closing, thank you for coming to the 2015 Earth Day Event - I hope to see you at our next green event!

References:

1. ENERGYSTAR.GOV
2. South Central Farmer’s Cooperative
   http://www.southcentralfarmers.com/scfcoop/shop/categories/CSA-Boxes/

Learn more at:

1. Department of Public Works  http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/uwaste_disposal_CFLs.cfm
Learn more at:

1. Department of Public Works  http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/uwaste_disposal_CFLs.cfm

2. California Public Utilities Commission  
   http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/consumers/080210_cfls.htm
UASRA Unit Events Spring 2015

Rose Event

We held our Rose Avenue Apartments event on April 26, between 10-12pm. Our "World Breakfast" was a delight to host! We had food items from all over Europe (Amsterdam, Sweden and France), Canada, United States, Mexico and Iran. It was great to meet the few residents that did come to mingle (approximately 12 in total) and share some delicious food among our neighbours.

Thanks!

Sawtelle B Event

The event was a gathering for all residents of Sawtelle B in the form of a breakfast. The crowd slowly started to gather a few minutes after the event started. The residents expressed their happiness about this kind of events where they can just have a relaxed and delicious breakfast a few steps from their homes. It was very pleasing to see how residents were introducing themselves to neighbors who had just moved in, as well as the ones they never get to meet because of their busy schedule. Approximately 40-50 people attended the event, including many children. The breakfast menu was diverse, including different kinds of pastries (muffins, cookies, croissants, macaroons, etc.); bagels and cream cheese; crackers and cheese. There was also a lot of fruit. The beverages consisted of coffee, chocolate milk, yogurt, water and a variety of juices. They all seemed happy about the food and complimented the menu. A lot of neighbors offered their help to clean up the place after the event was finished, and took home the leftovers.

Sawtelle C Event

The event was a concert where the performers were Andrew & Polly (A&P), who specialize in children’s music. They played a variety of instruments including the ukulele, accordion, xylophone, drums, etc. Approximately 20-30 people attended the event, most of them were children. The people that came were very pleased and interacted with the performers the whole time by singing and dancing. A few neighbors knew A&P already because they used to teach music lessons at the University Village. The musicians were very playful and were constantly engaging the audience to participate; they even brought musical instruments for everybody to play. Snacks and beverages were also offered at the event. The residents expressed their happiness about this event and asked to be contacted in case another event of this kind would take place in the future. It was very nice to see everybody enjoying the concert. A lot of neighbors offered their help to clean up the place after the event was finished and brought home the leftover snacks and beverages.
Sepulveda A

The event was organized so that our neighbors could get to know each other better and be introduced to food from local businesses. Primo's donuts, Bagel Factory bagels and Venice Bakery treats were served along with plenty of coffee and fresh fruit. The event was well attended with 80 to 100 guests, including lots of kids. The courtyard was full of picnickers and socializing seemed high. Personally, I met many new people and got the sense that many experienced this. The Amazon gift card raffle was very popular and many residents voiced their satisfaction with the event.

Sawtelle D Event

Sawtelle Unit D had a great event on Saturday, May 9. The children made beautiful cards for their mothers for Mother's Day and were able to put together bouquets of flowers with tied ribbon. The adults chatted over coffee and bagels and had a chance to get to know their neighbors. We had about 30 families come to celebrate Mother's Day and our community. It was a wonderful time!

Venice/Barry Event

The event was the second of the year for Venice/Barry, featuring a wide range of Thai food from Thai Boom, which is just down the street on Venice Blvd. The menu included a variety of meat and veggie options, including tofu pad Thai, veggie fried rice, BBQ chicken, teriyaki steak, as well as a Thai salad. The weather was great, and many residents came out to meet one-another for the first time and learn about other departments and research going on at school. The most popular food item was the chicken, and residents were able to take home leftovers after lunch. Unlike the last event, which was dark, cold, and required lanterns, candles, and the pool's light for everyone to see their food, the sun was bright and it was an enjoyable meal. There was a fantastic turnout for our small building, and we are all looking forward to meeting newly familiar faces in the hallways during the summer and next year. Many residents stayed after to help clean up, and the event went very smoothly.
Hyundai Event

Thank you to all individuals who attended the Hyundai event! We had an outstanding attendance of approximately 300 people and 225 individuals took home Trader Joes gift cards. The activities included a petting zoo as well as glitter tattoos and balloon twisters. We also had pizza and drinks available to all residents. The overall atmosphere was happy, light and full of energy. Participants came from all residences and luckily the wait times to test drive cars were never more than about 45 minutes. We enjoyed working with Hyundai on this event and they have shown interest to come again next year. This is a decision that will be made by the new board along with the residents of University Village South next year.

Residential Life Employment Opportunities

Community Assistant:

Residential Life will be hiring CAs for 2015-2016 very soon! Keep your eyes open for the email announcing when the application goes live. In the meantime, you can visit Residential Life’s employment page for the job description (https://reslife.ucla.edu/employment/ca).

We will be hiring 2 CAs in UA South (1 for University Village & 1 for K/M, V/B, Rose). Interviews will be conducted from June 8th - 26th. Applicants must already be contracted to live in each community respectively (for the 2015-2016 academic year), in order to be considered.

Employment and training should begin the week of July 6th. For more information about the department, see our website (https://www.orl.ucla.edu/employment/about).

For questions, contact AJahdai-Brown@ORL.UCLA.EDU.
To view the monthly UASRA Newsletter: [http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu/uasra/](http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu/uasra/)

To receive the newsletter/other notices by email: [http://lists.ucla.edu/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/uasra-l](http://lists.ucla.edu/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/uasra-l)

You can now join us on Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/groups/UASRA/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/UASRA/)

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### 2014-2015 UASRA Contact Information

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