

## SoPS Event Report for SoPS/GD/CHR Retirement Planning Seminar - 2007

Date conceptualized	late 10/2006
SoPS Communications committee officers involved in planning:	Tracy Daniels, Ajaykumar Gopal
Original Event Date	11/29/06
Speakers, content, date and room booking finalized	02/23 - 3/01/07
Announcement/Flier sent to postdoc list	03/27/07
Refreshments ordered	1 wk before event
SoPS Expenses on Refreshments (5gal coffee, 2gal ice tea, 8doz cookies)	\$150 (approx)
Date of Event	04/11/07
Registrants within 1 day of 3/27 announcement	32
Registrant total before the last call on 04.10.07	52
Total Registrants on 04.11.07	86
Total Attendees (80 – 12 the number of handouts remaining)	68
Total Survey Responses	34

### Aggregate Statistics for Survey Questions

#### **Session I – by Robert Larriva**

1. Did you attend this session?

Partly (in late or left early)	3
Yes (all of it)	31
  2. Were the session contents at the level you expected from reading the event announcement?

No Idea (I am new to all this)	3
No (SoPS could have advertised better)	0
Loosely (It came close)	5
Precisely (I got what I expected)	26
  3. How did you find Robert Larriva's clarity of presentation and articulation during Q&A?

Poor	0
Fair	2
Good (positive with a few exceptions)	13
Great! (can't ask for better)	19
  4. Were all your questions about retirement programs answered and doubts cleared?

No – None	0
No - Some	5
Yes - Most	24
Yes - All	5
  5. Did you find any part of the presentation notably useful, unnecessary, or missing?

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User entered value	17
Average submission length in words (ex blanks)	17.82
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## Session II – by Batoul Amir-Ahmady

6. Did you attend the second session?		
No		4
Yes		30
7. Were the session contents at the level you expected from reading the event announcement?		
No (I had no expectations)		1
No (SoPS announcements were not clear)		2
Yes (mostly)		12
Yes (precisely)		17
8. How did you find Batoul Amir-Ahmady's clarity of presentation and articulation during Q&A?		
Poor		1
Fair		1
Good (clear with some exceptions)		11
Great! (cant ask for better)		19
9. Were all your questions about basic financial planning answered and doubts cleared?		
No - None		0
No - Some		5
Yes - Most		23
Yes - All		4
10. Did you find any part of the presentation particularly useful, unnecessary, or missing (which can be included in future)?		
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User entered value		16
Average submission length in words (ex blanks)		12.75

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## Overall Impact

11. Was this event a good use of your time?		
No		0
Yes		34
12. Will you be taking any immediate actions towards retirement-savings due to this event?		
No (no such intentions yet)		1
Maybe (within the year)		10
Yes (towards FY-2006/2007 and after)		23
13. Should SoPS organize a similar event each year with the same speakers?		
No		1
Yes		33
14. Would you attend a follow-up advanced session on retirement planning strategies?		
No - its not relevant/useful		3
Maybe - only if my schedule allows		8
Yes - I'll make time for it		23

15. Are you interested in helping SoPS organize similar events?	
No	30
Yes (include your contact info below)	4
16. Contact Info? Other Thoughts? Suggestions for Future Events?	
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User entered value	14
Average submission length in words (ex blanks)	55.71

**Specific Comments for Robert's Talk**

5. Did you find any part of the presentation notably useful, unnecessary, or missing?

1. I think Kyle Cunningham's intro was helpful in clarifying the difference between fellowship and employee status
2. Some parts were repetitive, the Q&As were very useful.
3. no clear information about UCretirement program contributions starting in july 07 for PGR employees
4. It was nice to know that \$2000 is a border to decide which way to go.
5. more time was needed
6. all excellent!
7. I was not aware of ROTH IRA etc... so I think it would be not bad to explain some ot the terminology at the begining and then proceed. or at least may be can send an email prior to session and provide some info, just a suggestion!
8. Switch this one with the other, since this was more specific for "employees" and the second talk was more for "everyone" even those on stipends.
9. It seems the background knowledge of the audience is quite different: some are quite knowledgable, some had no clue about the retirement plan (like myself). A little bit background/introduction about retirement plan, things to consider for the retirement plan, etc., would be very helpful to understand the rest part of the presentation. The time was kind of short, questions didn't all get asked. The SoPS introduction could be shorter.
- 10.It was not targeted well, he assumed that everyone knew the material, actually, most of us do not retirement planning very well. His talk introduced a lot more stuff that made me more confused
- 11.A little more time to cover some more detail would have helped
- 12.knowing the difference btw the dif funds and accounts
- 13.All of it was very useful to me.Thanks
- 14.basic section should be two parts - general info then specific questions. the questions added the most depth of info
- 15.useful
- 16.A follow-up necessary. Future presentations should include examples of planning/saving for and managing retirement funds
- 17.No

## **Specific Comments for Batoul's Talk**

10. Did you find any part of the presentation particularly useful, unnecessary, or missing (which can be included in future)?

1. Differences between various IRAs were discussed but not clear. The Andy & Andrea simulations were very useful!
2. good that she shared the need to care about retirement, and that you should start early
3. It would be nice if the case studies or examples were shown and to be explained concretely.
4. could have used more detail
5. fantastic- wish we had more of these!!!
6. Also some part of the power point presentation in the financial advising was missing and thus confusing
7. Unfortunately I had to leave early. Next time please put the more "general" presentation first, before one that is related only to one specific postdoc category ie "employee"
8. Excellent talk!
9. No
10. Dr. Amir-Ahmady's slides were incredibly informative
11. All of it was very relevant.
12. the basics were good but to help us actually do it, needs much more. eg when you manage account 2x/yr, what do you need to do?
13. useful
14. She was GREAT. I think she should come back again and give a more in-depth seminar
15. Too bad it was so short. Hopefully there will be future presentations by Amir. I particularly liked that her presentation included examples, bars and charts.
16. Overall, I learned a lot since I did not know much about these topics.

## **Other thoughts and suggestions for future events**

16. Contact Info? Other Thoughts? Suggestions for Future Events?

1. I would be interested in more career events that cater to research needs.
2. Investment is personal and this was mentioned. shares were glorified a bit... I guess I currently know enough to take care of my retirement saving and investment. I do not understand that UCLA does not make matching contribution to a 403 plan, I consider this inadequate, in my home country this was the case even during my phd. maybe people would better invest in their retirement if they would be encouraged by their employer.
3. I guess both talks were interrupted too often by questions, which disrupted somewhat the flow of the presentation. I think it would be better to have the speakers give their talk uninterrupted and then have a questions and answers period, like what you guys did at the end.
4. Great initiative! Very helpful for all of us I believe. However, put the more general presentation at the beginning of the program. In this way people that are not eligible for the UC retirement plan can get some input without having to stay and listen to a presentation that does not apply to them. Great work! Thanks! I am more than willing to help, but I am rather limited as to the amount of time I can put in. Let me know if you need assistance. (Contact info hidden) Disregard my answers to part to - I did not attend! But the questionnaire wont close unless I put an answer.....!!!
5. I would like to receive e-mails from SOPS regarding the info on career or social events. My e-mail is xxxxx@mednet.ucla.edu. My phone number is xxx-

xxx-xxxx (lab) Thanks! (identity hidden)

6. Already involved (identity hidden)
7. I thought the presentations were fantastic. I have been to other events provided by the career center at UCLA as a UCLA grad. student and the information was no where near as clear as the information provided at the SOPS event. I am jump-starting immediately on my retirement accounts and will acquire a ROTH IRA account for 2006 and I want to thank the presenters for informing me about this. I also now understand my retirement account at fidelity and will act on it immediately as well. I am very grateful for this event. thank you for organizing it!!
8. It would be great if we could have other symposiums and meet-ups for career options like you organized before.
9. Excellent seminar! Almost everything presented was new info for me; didn't even know I had a UC retirement plan. Looking forward to an advanced session on financial planning.
10. Dear Organizer, Thank you for arranging the above sessions. It was informative and answered many of my questions. I would have loved to attend the second session, but was unable to because of prior commitments. I think such sessions should be conducted every year to give new post docs an idea about their investment options. I wish there had been such seminars when I first joined UCLA. At the time, I had no clue about my options, nor did I know who to address my questions and concerns. I would really appreciate it if you could arrange some seminars or interactive sessions on 1. career opportunities for post docs in the biological field. 2. making the transition from academics to industry. Thanking you Sincerely (identity removed)
11. It was very good. I liked the 2nd seminar best, as it really showed the differences in savings plans. She should come back and give a 2nd seminar more in-depth. Perhaps even more than 1 seminar actually.
12. [xxxxxxxxxx@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:xxxxxxxxxx@mednet.ucla.edu) (contact info for help with events)
13. i thought this seminar was excellent!! the only suggestion i have is that maybe the next time this intro seminar is offered, it could be dumbed down even a bit more than it already was, esp. given that many of us have probably never even thought about retirement or investment. a take-home message of this seminar, that didn't seem to be made explicit until the Q&A at the end, is probably that at the very minimum everyone should think about how to get more out of their mandatory DCP contribution than they are by default. so maybe a bit more time could be spent on what the options are. for example, it might help to explain what the "UC core funds" are and how one might go about choosing to invest their contribution in one of those funds versus another. or maybe that's material for an advanced class...? i'm not sure.
14. It might be helpful to have more explanations on bonds, stock or mutual funds, which are all new to me. I don't get much information about this from this session.