

# The *SamCERA* Times



RETIRES AND BENEFICIARIES EDITION | FALL 2012

## Take a Free Estate Planning Class Online or in Redwood Shores

SamCERA is offering two free estate planning classes in December. These popular classes are taught by financial experts and seats fill up fast—so sign up now! Many of our more popular offerings are fully booked in less than a week.

Plus, with our **Free Online Class** on December 10, you'll be able to learn from the comfort of your own home.

As always, our classes are free of charge for SamCERA retirees and their spouses or partners.

### FREE ONLINE CLASS

#### **Estate Planning: Understanding the Basics**

*Wherever you are, we bring the classroom to you.*



Monday, December 10, 2012  
6–8 pm

#### **Estate Planning: Understanding the Basics**

**Where:** Live Online

**When:** Monday, December 10, 2012, 6–8 pm

**What you need:** A fast internet connection, like DSL or cable

#### **Creating and Managing Wills and Trusts**

**Where:** Redwood Shores Library, 399 Marine Parkway, Redwood City, CA

**When:** Tuesday, December 11, 2012, noon–2 pm

You can register for classes by calling Colin Bishop, SamCERA Retirement Communications Specialist, at (650) 599-1231, or sending him an email at [cbishop@samcera.org](mailto:cbishop@samcera.org).

## SamCERA's New Chief Investment Officer

Over the summer, SamCERA hired Michael Coultrip as its new Chief Investment Officer (CIO).

Mr. Coultrip will manage a portfolio of \$2.5 billion in net assets. He comes to SamCERA from Raytheon, where he was Director of

Pension & Investments. In that position, he helped oversee \$15 billion in assets across multiple classes, including domestic equity, international equity, fixed income, alternatives, and hedge funds.

Prior to his work at Raytheon, Mr. Coultrip was Manager of Asset Allocation for Qwest Asset Management, where he worked on investment

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# Want to know more about Social Security?



We asked Social Security's Robert Pepper a few basic questions about Social Security retirement benefits.

**Question:**

I'm doing more things online, including shopping and paying bills. What are some things I can do at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)?

**Answer:**

Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to take a look at your *Social Security Statement*, which allows you to check your earnings record and get an estimate of your future benefits. Revisit your *Statement* annually, around your birthday for example. If you're ready to apply for benefits, you can do that online as well.

Applying for Social Security retirement benefits online can take as little as 15 minutes. Once you've submitted your electronic applications, in most cases, you're done! Also online, you can find more than 100 publications with information about Social Security and its programs. Most of these publications are also in Spanish, and some of the most popular are available in 14 other languages.

You also can estimate your future retirement benefit using our *Retirement Estimator*, which allows you to get personalized estimates based on different retirement ages and scenarios. The possibilities are endless at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Question:**

Can I delay my Social Security retirement benefits and receive benefits as a spouse only? How does that work?

**Answer:**

It depends on your age. If you are between full

retirement age and age 70 and your spouse is receiving Social Security benefits, you can apply for retirement benefits and request the payments be suspended. Then, you can choose to receive benefits on your spouse's Social Security record. You then will earn delayed retirement credits up to age 70, as long as you do not collect benefits on your own work record. Later, when you do begin receiving benefits on your own record, those payments could very well be higher than they would have been otherwise, because you earned delayed retirement credits.

**Question:**

I need to make changes to my Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. When can I do that?

**Answer:**

Open season for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage runs from October 15 to December 7. The Medicare Part D prescription drug program is available to all Medicare beneficiaries. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary and participants pay an additional monthly premium.

While you are looking at changing your plan, you might want to revisit the *Application for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs*. If you have limited income and resources, you also may be eligible for *Extra Help* to pay monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. The *Extra Help* is estimated to be worth about \$4,000 per year. To find out more, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp). For more information about the Medicare Part D prescription drug program itself, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

*Robert Pepper is Social Security's Bay Area Public Affairs Specialist, based out of San Francisco.*

## Get the Flu Shot, not the Flu!

a message from County Human Resources & the Health Department

### Protect yourself against the seasonal flu this year with a safe, effective vaccination.

It's recommended that you have a seasonal flu shot if:

- you have a chronic health condition, like diabetes, asthma, or diseases of the heart, kidney, liver, blood, brain, nervous, or immune systems (review with your doctor); or
- you are a resident of a nursing home or long-term care facility; or
- you work in health-care in direct contact with patients; or
- you live with or care for children less than 5 years of age, or adults 50 years or older, or persons with chronic health conditions (mentioned above); or
- you will be pregnant during the flu season (winter).



### Take advantage of your many options to get a flu shot this year:

#### Use your Health Insurance.

**Blue Shield or Secure Horizons members:** see your doctor to get a flu shot.

**Kaiser members:** check the flu clinic schedule at your nearby Medical Center. The Redwood City Medical Center's Flu Clinic hotline is 299-3888; the South San Francisco's Medical Center Flu Clinic hotline is 742-2900. Or call toll-free 1-866-573-5811.

#### Go to a Health Department Flu Clinic.

Call the Health Department's Flu Hotline at (650) 573-3927 for more information about upcoming community flu clinics near where you work or live. You may also obtain this information on-line at [www.smhealth.org/flu](http://www.smhealth.org/flu).

*\$5 donation requested.*

#### Get a low-cost flu shot at your local grocery store or pharmacy.

Watch for information at your nearby Safeway, Longs, Walgreen's, or Costco store for special flu clinics offered there.

## PENSION LEGISLATION

### What does it mean for you?

In September, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a sweeping pension bill into law. The Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) will take effect in 2013, but most of the bill's provisions won't affect current or retired SamCERA members. That's because the bill is mostly aimed at future employees hired on or after January 1, 2013.

There will not be any change to your retirement benefits, and any existing COLA for your plan will remain in place.

There will, however, be one change that will affect recent retirees if they are asked to return to work. Effective January 1, 2013, recent retirees won't be eligible to return to work for the County or any SamCERA employer for a period of 180 days following retirement, except under special circumstances.

Up-to-date information on pension legislation can be found at [www.samcera.org](http://www.samcera.org).

## Retiree Paydays

These are the dates of the retiree paydays through spring of 2013:

Friday, November 30, 2012  
 Monday, December 31, 2012  
 Thursday, January 31, 2013  
 Thursday, February 28, 2013  
 Friday, March 29, 2013  
 Tuesday, April 30, 2013  
 Friday, May 31, 2013  
 Friday, June 28, 2013



## New SamCERA CIO

*(Continued from front page)*



SamCERA CIO  
Michael Coultrip

policy issues—including liability-based investing, alpha-beta separation, risk budgeting, portable alpha strategies, and risk management—for an \$11 billion portfolio.

Mr. Coultrip has more than 20 years of experience in investment management and strategy. He holds an M.S. in Finance from DePaul University, and a B.S. in Finance from Illinois State University.

The hiring comes after a nationwide search for a new CIO which began earlier this year. Mr. Coultrip replaced former SamCERA CIO Gary Clifton, who retired this spring after 23 years of service.

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## Join SCORPA!

The San Mateo County Retired Personnel Association (SCORPA) invites all San Mateo County retirees to become members of SCORPA for \$15 a year. SCORPA is a voice for retirees before the Board of Supervisors, the Retirement Board, and CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association) in Sacramento.

For information, please call Sylvia Row at (650) 368-1795, or email:

[scorpa09@yahoo.com](mailto:scorpa09@yahoo.com).

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SAN MATEO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
**SamCERA**