We’ve had the pleasure of getting to know some brilliant young people at UCSC. They’ve been like family to us,” Janet says. “Students and staff are working so hard to make OPERS successful. We want to keep this important part of campus healthy.”

Dan agrees. “OPERS programs teach students self-efficacy: who they are, what they can handle, and to think, ‘I can get this done.’ We made this gift to set a good example of what that means.”

Dan Wood, who worked at UCSC for 22 years before retiring in June 2006, was instrumental in building the Office of Physical Education, Recreation and Sports (OPERS) into what it is today. OPERS programs and facilities serve all UCSC students and many other members of the campus community. Local residents are also drawn to the spectacular setting and fitness facilities.

Janet Wood, an accomplished artist, volunteers as a board member of the UCSC Arboretum. This year, she led an effort to establish the Arboretum sculpture garden.

Together, they’re shaping the future of UC Santa Cruz by including OPERS in their estate plans. “We included OPERS in our will because it was the right thing to do,” Dan says.