

UCI Retirees Association Report to CUCRA – October 2024

Submitted by Jill Vidas, UCI CUCRA Representative

Activities & Programs:

The UCIRA continues to work closely with our UCI Center for Emeriti & Retirees (CER) on all programming and activities. Our board president regularly attends UCIEA Executive Committee meetings.

Online Zoom and Webinar sessions (Medicare, Fidelity workshops) along with monthly in-person walks, hikes, and bike rides continue. In addition, we assist with promoting free lectures and seminars presented by the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute and courses offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UCI.

In October, Chancellor Howard Gillman is the Keynote Speaker at the annual reception celebrating our UCI Retirees and Emeriti.

For retirees who do not have an email address on file, UCIRA sent a hard copy postcard mailing to them. We have received 132 responses to date, and are confident that number will continue to grow.

In May, Mahtab Jafari, UCI professor of pharmaceutical Sciences presented a talk on The Truth about Dietary Supplements.

Then in June, retirees enjoyed a docent-led tour of the Moulton Museum showcasing Lewis Moulton's journey to California and his significant contribution to the Orange County area.

The Southern California CUCRA summer meeting was hosted by UC Irvine. It was well-attended and interesting ideas were exchanged.

On September 12th, the UCI Retirees Association sponsored a talk on Truth Decay presented by Trudy Josephson, from the Orange Coast League of Women Voters. With so many online and social media sources it is often difficult to decipher what is real and what isn't, and those who attended were given some useful ideas.

Upcoming in November, Professor Keramet Reiter, Department of Criminology, Law and Society is giving a talk entitled *UCI Lifted | Higher Education in Prisons* at the Newkirk Alumni Center.

New Programs and Partnerships:

The UCI Retirees' Association Board of Directors will be accepting nominations for the inaugural UCI Staff Assembly Outstanding Retiree Award. This award will be given annually to a retired UCI staff member who has demonstrated a high level of volunteer service to the campus, surrounding communities and participation in campus activities/programs while in retirement. This award will be presented at the end of October

The Center for Emeriti and Retirees has moved and an Open House took place on September 20 to showcase the new location.

In July, Jeri Frederick, Director and Founder, UCI Center for Emeriti & Retirees stepped down as director and officially retired. With her knowledge and expertise, Jeri has been a valuable resource for our campus. Mary Garcia has accepted the position of Director for the UCI Center for Emeriti & Retirees. Most recently she was the Strategic Partnership Manager for Advertise Purple, which followed her work as Manager of Community Partnerships with Helpline Youth Counseling. Mary is working with both Jeri and Emil Nguyen to ensure a seamless transition. Emil has recently been promoted to Associate Director for the Center. Mary currently is on maternity leave, and we are doing fewer programs until the office is fully staffed when she returns in November.

Bob Daly will be serving on the Board as UCIRA Treasurer and Cindy Fern as UCIRA Secretary.

Volunteering and Given Back

The UCIRA Legacy Scholarships - We awarded two incoming freshmen scholarships (\$4000 and \$3000 each) and two transfer student scholarships (\$4000 and \$3000 each) for fall 2024.

On September 7 we partnered with Anteaters in Service Day and volunteers helped to assemble food packages for low-income senior communities in Orange County with the Community Action Partnership of Orange County.

The list of perks available for UCI retirees who are paid members of the UCIRA continues: Discounts on membership at the Anteater Recreation Center, library access, newspaper access, department discounts and complimentary UCI campus parking for a day pass. Retirees continue to be eligible for 50% discounted parking for monthly passes and keep their UCI email.