



# UC Irvine Emeriti Association Newsletter

Fall 2008

University of California, Irvine

Volume 16, No. 3

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## **PETRACCA TALK TO THE UCIEA - JUNE 2, 2008**

**By Ronald B. Miller**

Professor Mark Petracca shared his extensive knowledge of Presidential political history, his judgment of the current Presidential campaigns of the candidates in the primaries of both parties, and provided what he called an explanation of what may happen this summer and fall which he preferred not to label predictions. His talk for the UCI Emeriti and Retirees was titled, "**How the Democratic Party May Still Grab Defeat from the Jaws of Victory**". At the risk of oversimplification, I will omit most of the innumerable fascinating historical facts relevant to a fuller understanding of the current campaigns and the coming election that held the audience spellbound, and will simply summarize the two major themes of Professor Petracca's insightful lecture.

**There are compelling political reasons the Democrats should win the election this fall.** A large majority of citizens believe the country is moving in the wrong direction, and this expresses a desire for change and disadvantages the incumbent party. In his judgment, Petracca believes the Democrats have public opinion with them on 13 of 14 major issues. The Republicans are favored only on standing up to terrorism, and the Democrats on the economy, Iraq, health-care, Medicare, energy, government corruption, and even moral values, illegal immigration, and taxes. There have been historic turnouts in the Democratic primaries, and Democrats have picked up many seats in the Congress and are likely to win even more. Furthermore, the Democrats have a greater financial war chest.

**Despite these reasons, Petracca provides explanations for the possibility of a Democratic loss** whilst making it clear this is not a prediction. Americans seem to be content with politically divided government (a different party of the President than the majority in the Congress). Despite the Democratic advantage on the issues, unpredictable events in Iraq, terrorism against Americans, and regarding taxes and moral values might still provide a break for the Republicans. The Republicans will "play moral values for keeps", researching Obama even more than Hillary Clinton has done, and this may be a comparative problem since McCain's baggage has already been vetted. The Obama-Clinton debate has taken its toll, and since there are minimal policy differences, the primary campaigns have led to ad-hominem attacks likely to diminish crossover support irrespective of the winning Democratic candidate. This dynamic, however, could be changed by a gracious exit by Clinton, but the friendly debates are now 2 1/2 months old. Furthermore, McCain has followed the Nixon strategy of running to the right in the primaries, but to the center in the election, and he is seen as a moderate, a maverick, but cooperative senator. But all of these reasons pale in comparison with the most important reason the Republicans may win: the electoral college system. This system allows a candidate to lose 39 states, and yet win with the electoral college votes of only the 11 states. Even if the Democrats were to win all states they had won in 2000 and 2004, they will still be short unless they win a new Republican state.

Professor Petracca provided further interesting insight in response to questions such as why we continue to have the electoral college system, the likely influence of race and of gender bias, and the lack of a senior statesman in either party.

## President's Column

I am honored to be the new President of the UCI Emeriti Association. In this capacity I welcome all “old” and new members back from a summer that was, hopefully, restful and enjoyable.

We have a number of programs planned or in the planning stages, which will be discussed in this and subsequent Newsletters. For the first time, we will work with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI at UCI) to do some joint-programming.

All suggestions for future program topics and formats will be most welcome. I would like to encourage all members to participate in the programs, in part for their educational value, but also to meet and get to know emeriti whom you haven't interacted with during your academic career. I also urge members who are interested in being considered for membership on the Executive Committee to contact me at [bahamkal@uci.edu](mailto:bahamkal@uci.edu).

We are particularly saddened by the loss of Myron Simon, an important member of our Executive Committee, as well as Charles Lave and L.E. Cox. All of us on the committee send our sympathy to the families of these members.

Finally, in an attempt to control our postal costs, we encourage members to request the newsletter by email. Until the next issue –

**Barbara Hamkalo**

**Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology**

## Outstanding Mentorship Awards for 2007

### **ROBERT MOELLER, PHD**

Robert (Bob) Moeller is Professor and Chair of the History Department at UCI and Faculty Adviser to the University of California History/Social Science Project. Bob has distinguished himself not only as an exceptional scholar of the social history of modern Germany and outstanding teacher, but also as a mentor to students and young faculty. His mentoring of assistant professors is truly above and beyond what one normally expects of senior colleagues. It has not been uncommon for Bob to establish a relationship with a newly-hired assistant professor as soon as he or she arrives on campus. He continues to be a mentor with respect to professional as well as personal issues throughout the faculty member's quest for tenure and beyond. Bob meets regularly with young faculty, one-on-one, often for a meal, and communicates by phone or email daily. He generously reads and critiques articles, book manuscripts, and grant proposals for his junior colleagues, always with a unique sense of humor. This caring and generosity of his time extends to undergraduates whom he befriends, to graduate students and all fellow colleagues.

One nominating letter states that “Bob's gift is that he teaches while he mentors.” One example of the depth of his mentoring was provided by a now tenured, then assistant professor. When this young colleague had a new baby while preparing for tenure, Bob frequently came to the family's rescue – cooking meals, babysitting and the like. Bob Moeller's generosity with his time, his sustained one-on-one interactions with faculty after tenure, his notably down to earth deadpan sense of humor, and his sincerity and compassion all support Bob Moeller's selection as an Outstanding Mentor.

## **LAURI THRUPP, MD**

Dr. Lauri Thrupp, Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, received the second Outstanding Mentor Award. In addition to serving the UCI medical community for over 40 years as a caring physician, he has been, and continues to be, a “beloved mentor” to individuals locally, regionally and nationally. He is viewed as a “natural leader”, deeply committed to teaching. He has trained numerous medical students, young doctors, infectious control practitioners, public health officers, microbiology technicians and hospital epidemiologists, always being encouraging yet humble. He is available 24/7 to all with his vast knowledge of infectious diseases. Lauri was singled-out among many outstanding teachers and clinicians at UCI because of his ability to inspire. He has trained nearly every single infectious disease physician practicing in Orange County and mentored nearly 60 Infectious Disease Fellows.

Dr. Thrupp uses his contacts nationally to assist Fellows in their research projects and has continued his teaching and research activities well into retirement as an Emeritus Professor. In sum, Lauri Thrupp is most deserving of the Outstanding Mentor Award based on his nearly half-century as a “Teacher’s Teacher” and “Doctor’s Doctor”.

## **To flush or not to flush...**

**Jennifer M. Cabral, MPA** | Senior Public Information Specialist,  
Public Information Office, Orange County Sanitation District

Do you know what to do with expired medicine? Most people don’t. We’ve been told to flush them to prevent harm to children or animals, but now we are being told not to flush. Scientists are warning about possible health problems associated with pharmaceuticals that are flushed down into the sewer. Some research has indicated that surface waters have tested positive for pharmaceuticals resulting from wastewater discharges. The long term health effects on marine life or on humans is still not certain, but risks do exist.

The Orange County Sanitation District has partnered with several other agencies to develop a public education campaign to reduce the improper disposal of pharmaceuticals. The campaign’s tagline, “No Drugs Down the Drain”, is meant to encourage Southern California residents to dispose of their unused or expired medicine in ways other than flushing them down the toilet.

In the past, residents were advised to flush unwanted medicines down the toilet; however, sewage treatment facilities are not designed to remove or destroy all chemicals present in pharmaceuticals. Therefore, pharmaceuticals present in wastewater can get into surface water and may cause a negative impact to the environment.

So what do we do with the expired medications we have at home? Trashing medicine is always better than flushing, the only precaution is to assure children or animals don’t get into it. It is recommended that capsules and tablets be made unusable and unattractive by wetting, breaking, crushing, and putting remains in original child proof container and sealing them with tape before trashing them. Another option is to mix the medication with unpleasant trash and put out with the regular household trash.

A third and more desirable alternative is to visit a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center that can take your over the counter as well as prescribed medication that is either expired or no longer needed. In Orange County, the Integrated Waste Management Department has four centers that could assist with discarding medication; the centers are open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. located at:

- 1071 N. Blue Gum St., Anaheim, Ca
- 17121 Nichols St., Huntington Beach, CA
- 6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine, Ca
- 32250 La Pata Ave., San Juan Capistrano

These centers not only take medication but various hazardous materials. For a complete list please visit their Website at [www.oilandfills.com](http://www.oilandfills.com) or call them at 714.834.4000.

## Sweet and Sour Grapes

by Ann Doyle Stephens

Man Vintners 2008 Chenin Blanc, Coastal South Africa Chenin Blanc is an underrated grape varietal here in the States. In South Africa the varietal is also known as Steen and is treated with more respect. The Man Vintners 2008 is delicious. It has a pale color, tropical fruit, guava and melon aromas and flavors with citrus notes in the finish. This wine is crisp and dry (although not bone-dry). It has .48% residual sugar. Most people can't taste residual sugar until it reaches .5%. The alcohol is a refreshing 13.5%, a figure that is modest in today's market. This white would be perfect as an aperitif or with lighter seafood and chicken dishes.

Man Vintner's sourced the 100% Chenin Blanc grapes from mostly un-irrigated, bush-vine (un-trellised) vineyards with low yields. They use only the free-run juice. The wine was cold fermented in stainless steel and left on its lees until bottling. The retail cost is only \$7.99 per bottle.

## Acknowledgement of Donors to UCIEA

The EA's financial obligations include staff salaries, travel expenses for meetings, postage, printing, payments to CUCEA, and funding for special projects, e.g., the survey of emeriti, report on retirement housing. These costs are covered by monies from several sources: funds received from the EVC, annual dues from members, and by special contributions including Lifetime memberships.

The names of those who have Lifetime Memberships as well as special contributors are listed below to acknowledge them and to encourage others to contribute. We thank you for your generous support.

### Lifetime Memberships from 2007

Jean Aldrich, Edward Arquilla, Martin Colman, Rowland Davis, Jean-Claude Falmagne, Albert Irwin, Yutaka Kikkawa, Ronald Miller, Robert Montgomery, Yuji Murata, A. Kimball Romney, Ann Stephens, Mare and Rein Taagepera.

### Benefactors

Anonymous, A.B Gazzaniga, Louis A. Gottschalk, Norman Rostoker, Wendell M. Stanley, Jr.

### Supporters.

Kenneth W. Dumars, Richard M. Freidenberg, Pamela Horowitz, Alexei Maradudin, Sam McCulloch, Kivie Moldave, Victor Passy, E.J. Quilligan, Thomas P. Saine, Jonas and Vivian Schultz, Jerome Tobis

## Irvine Emeriti Benefits Survey - a few preliminary results by Julian Feldman

We sent out about 225 surveys to retired faculty with addresses within a 50 mile radius of UCI. Some bounced back with address errors, so the net was about 200. Some responses are still trickling in.

Eighty respondents completed the hard copy version of the survey and only twenty completed the on-line version. Surprised?

## **Irvine Emeriti Benefits..... Continued**

On question 1: A bit more than 50% indicated that they had been offered and accepted an office.

The last half of the questions were on participation of retired faculty in department, campus, and professional activities including questions on faculty meeting, teaching, research proposals, committees, etc. The answers showed relatively little participation in these activities.

A little less than 50% of respondents were retired for 10 years or more.

More results to come.

## **Roadmap to Medicare**

The Council on Aging–Orange County's HICAP program is currently offering monthly Wednesday and Saturday meetings to help you map your Medicare journey.

Topics include:

- What Medicare Covers
- Supplemental Insurance
- Medicare Private Health Plans
- Part D Prescription Coverage
- Medicare and Employer Group Health Plans
- Medicare and Retiree Health Plans

Critical decisions need to be made about your healthcare direction and there are some Medicare road signs to watch out for. Our HICAP program can guide you on this journey. Individuals already on Medicare are also encouraged to attend! **Please call 714-560-0424 for meeting dates.** A \$20 donation will be appreciated but all are welcome! The meeting location will be at the Council on Aging–Orange County, 1971 East 4th Street, Suite 200, Santa Ana, 92705.

## **Upcoming Programs and Events:**

The following are provided through our Center for Emeriti & Retirees (CER) working together with the UCI Retirees and Emeriti Associations.

**October 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m. -Your Annual Open Enrollment Health Faire for All UCI Emeriti & Retirees**

Representatives from all your UCI Health Plans will be present to answer your questions!

The UCI University Club, in rooms A, B & C, from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Free parking, refreshments and give-aways!

**November 30, 2008, 2 p.m. - AN IRISH CHRISTMAS at The Barclay**

CER is offering a group discount rate - \$38 & \$32. This will require your DEFINITE RSVP to the Director's office via email ([jerii@uci.edu](mailto:jerii@uci.edu)) and/or phone @ 949-824-7769. The sooner we have our group confirmed, the better the seats and confirmed rate. Barclay website: <http://www.thebarclay.org/>

**December 18, 2008 - Fidelity Retirement Services Information Sessions**

UC Irvine Fidelity Representative, Jeff Crowley, will answer questions and present how to best use the on-line account access system to access your account and manage your portfolio. You have TWO sessions to choose from: 9:30 to 11 a.m., OR, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., at University Club, Room C. Refreshments will be provided.

PLEASE RSVP to Jeri Frederick's office via [jerii@uci.edu](mailto:jerii@uci.edu), or, 949-824-7769.

## Programs...Continued

### **January 23, 2009, 3:30 p.m. - Chancellor's Annual Reception for All UCI Emeriti & Retirees**

Our very own Chancellor, Michael V. Drake, will, once again, will be our host AND keynote speaker.

New Venue: Please come to the NEW University Student Center, Pacific Ballroom ABC, from 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Appetizer buffet will be served. PLEASE RSVP via email ([retirees@uci.edu](mailto:retirees@uci.edu)) , or, to 949/824-6204.

### **2008-09 Schedule of Meetings of the UCI EA Executive Committee:**

Please join us! Meetings are usually scheduled on the first Monday of each month from 9:15 to 11:00 a.m., in the new Training Room located in **the new space for UCI's Human Resources and the UCI Center for Emeriti & Retirees (CER).**

The new address is 111 Theory, Suite 200, Irvine, California, 92697-4600 at 111 Theory, Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92697 - 4600. The meeting schedule is as follows:

November 3, 2008

December 1, 2008

January 5, 2009

February 2, 2009

March 2, 2009

April 6, 2009

May 4, 2009

### **UCIEA Holiday Celebration Save the Date!**

Please join your colleagues on December 11, 2008, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the home of Julian and Marilyn Feldman for our annual celebration. We will have appetizers, wine and lots of holiday cheer! Cost is \$10.00 per person and we do ask that you let us know if you are coming, so that we may plan adequate food and beverage.

To RSVP, please call (949-824-6204) no later than Monday, December 1st. The party address is:

Julian and Marilyn Feldman at 2824 Carob Street in Newport Beach CA 92660



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