

UCI EMERITAE/ Newsletter

University of California, Irvine

Spring 1999 Vol. 5, No. 2

CHAIR'S COLUMN

by Sam McCulloch

The University of California campuses are growing rapidly, with the exception of Berkeley and Los Angeles, both of which have reached their maximum enrollment of 30,000 student. Faculties are also increasing, as are Emeritae/i. UCI now enrolls some 18,000 students, its faculty numbers 847, and its Emeritae/i is 219. Another component of UCI's membership is the Retirees, who are all the staff who are not members of the Academic Senate. They number approximately 1300, and we Emeritae/i enjoy a good relationship with them. I attend their monthly Executive Committee meetings. Their various social activities are open to us as well.

Kivie Moldave, who represents the Emeritae/i on the Academic Senate Committee, closely follows the reports of the various Senate committees. Our mechanism for keeping abreast with all the other UC Emeritae/i is our membership in CUCEA (Council of University of California Emeritae Associations). These biannual meetings are attended by Julian Feldman and myself. They are held at UC San Francisco in the north and at UC Santa Barbara in the south.

I realize that some of you are aware of the Executive Committee's activities, but I am anxious that one and all become participants in a bigger and better organization.

One of the Emeritae/i's vital interests is to watch closely the twists and turns of our medical insurance, an already complicated subject. It is a pleasure to repeat, we have an excellent advocate in Julian Feldman. Another interest is in the planning of a Retirement Center for Emeritae/i of UCI. A small committee is researching those at UCLA and UCB. A number of Emeritae/i continue their research and publications. Two who have won significant awards for their writings are David Easton and Renee Hubert.



DATE: Thursday, April 22, 1999
TIME: Social - 5:30 p.m. Dinner - 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Zubies Restaurant, Old Newport Blvd and Hospital Road, Newport Beach
SPEAKER: Grant Gwimup, M.D., Professor Emeritus of UCI
TOPIC: "Medicine in Shakespeare"
(Please see enclosed insert. See, also, restaurant directions are on page 3 of Newsletter)

SPRING DINNER UCI Emeritae/i Association

Some of our members participate in their former departmental meetings, having been voted to be a department member. Please send me your ideas!

A request for BioBibliographical material was recently sent to you. We have received a return from 28% from our membership. The next similar request will be sent to you early in the year 2000. We will then be interested in your activities for this year. Thank you to all who submitted a response.

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EMERITAE/I ASSOCIATION DINNER AND WINE TASTING

Thirty-five members and guests of the UCI Emeritae/i Association enjoyed a wine tasting dinner on Friday, January 15th. A three-course dinner of mixed appetizers, pasta with chicken and vegetables in a light marinara sauce and tiramisu for dessert was served by Scampi Ristoranti, 1576 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, 92627 tel. 949-645-8560. The dinner was accompanied by wines selected by Ann Doyle Stephens, wine broker and faculty wife. We started with a dry Italian white 1997 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi "Ca Sal di Serra" made by Umani Ronchi, which retails for about \$8.00. Next several California Zinfandels (red) were presented. Zinfandel is the same grape variety as the

Italian "Primitivo" and matches well with Italian food. Some wine writers have even said it is a better match than Chianti! The first Zinfandel served was Ravenswood's 1997 "Vintner's Blend" which is widely available for about \$7.00. This was a very tasty lighter-bodied Zin with a lot of boysenberry-like fruit. We then moved to some older Zinfandels from Ann's personal cellar. The 1995 (See page 2)

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PROFESSOR SHERWOOD ROWLAND HONORED

The university has renamed its main Physical Science Building Rowland Hall after F. Sherwood Rowland, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry. Professor Rowland earned a Nobel Prize in 1995 for his groundbreaking work on ozone depletion. A bronze bust of Rowland was unveiled at a ceremony marking this event, and will be placed in the lobby of the building known now as Rowland Hall.

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UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE by Julian Feldman

Health Care Facilitator. Progress is being made on the implementation of this program. Most of the work is being done (See page 2)

University/Faculty Welfare (Cont'd)

by Gina Merriott (UCI Benefit Programs Manager), Deborah Larson (Office of the President), and Mary De Shaw (Gina's counterpart at UCB). They have drawn up a job description and an implementation plan. The recruiting announcement for the UCI position will be made shortly. The UCI Health Care Facilitator Advisory Board has been appointed and will have its first meeting within a few days. The Emeritae/i Association has one representative and the Retiree Association has one representative. The members include high ranking administrators and people with experience in the health care field. The Board should be able to contribute to the success of the program. In discussing the Health Care Facilitator program with friends and colleagues, the planning group has learned of a major Sacramento program, Health Rights Hotline. HRH is generously funded and the funding has enabled them to develop and implement a major program including a 300 hour training program for their counselors. The UC program has very modest funding, but it is an important starting point in the effort to help active and retired employees and their families with health care problems.

Response to the Request for Proposals on Health Plans for the Year 2000. The responses are all in. And the responses are very voluminous. We do not expect to learn any details for about two months. The responses are being digested by the Office of the President and their consultants. Vice Chancellor Brase is a member of the committee which will help evaluate the responses; he does not expect to get to work on them before April.

Survey of Annuitants on Medicare and Prudential High Option. The Office of the President is soliciting comments on a survey of Emeritae/i and retirees who are eligible for Medicare and are enrolled in Pru-Hi. As it stands now the survey will ask for your opinion on five possible changes to Pru-Hi increase in limit on out-of-pocket expenses, increase in deductible, a copayment of 10% on

Medicare approved expenses, reduction in payments to doctors who do not accept Medicare assignment, and use of a mail order pharmacy.

For each of these changes, you will be asked if you would favor the change if the change would reduce your premium by \$X. You will also be asked whether you would prefer either the present benefits (assuming the premium will go up about 10% a year) or one or more of the changes which would reduce the premium. The survey should be distributed in February. UC should be congratulated on this effort to obtain members' opinions on possible changes in a health plan.

Viagra. Kaiser has lost a court case in which the plaintiffs objected to the Kaiser policy of refusing to pay for Viagra. The newspaper report suggested that this court case would impact the decision of other health plans which have denied payment for Viagra. UC has not announced any change in its policy not to pay for Viagra.

Dinner and Wine Tasting (Cont'd)

Zinfandel "Sonoma County" from Hop Kiln (retail value \$13-15.00) was still youthful with a lot of fruit but also a lot of tannin and acidity.

The highlight of the evening was two 1993 vineyard designated wines from Ravenswood the "Wood Road/Belloni" and the "Monte Rosso". The current vintages of these single vineyard wines retail for about \$24.00. It was a real treat to taste five-year-old wines at the peak of their flavors. The wines displayed a lot of spice and blackberry fruit. The 1993 vintage has long since sold out but the current releases may be found at The Wine Exchange in Orange, the Wine Club in Santa Ana or Hi-Time Cellars, 250 Ogle St., Costa Mesa, 92627, tel. (949) 650-8463.

Judging from the conversation level, members of the Association really enjoyed the chance to see old friends.

The evening was a great success and we hope to put on similar events in the future.

LOST AND FOUND a female guest left behind a cream colored Scott & Castle lambswool sweater at the restaurant. Please call Ann Stephens at (949) 646-4931 to claim!

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RETIREMENT DAYS

by Julius Margolis

I had prepared for retirement, which I thought would be risky since I expected it to be very different from my professorship, by having an academic fallback package - two exciting research projects. I still have not opened the fallback packages and I hope I never do. My retirement wish to do sculpting, which was to be no more than recreational, has blossomed into a new career as a painter. And, almost as important, is a totally unexpected satisfaction as a tournament table tennis player. All of this was strange and surprising to me, but on introspection, what I am doing now is basically connected to the last half-century of my life as a professor.

Painting. In almost a decade I have gone through several phases primitivism, expressionism, surrealism, abstraction, . . . At first, it is frightening to face a blank canvas, to begin with strong marks and colors, and before the day is over there is the exhilaration of having created something new and exciting. Unfortunately, the "day" which was a few hours when I was a beginner, has become "weeks," as I have become more sophisticated. Creating art is very difficult but extremely rewarding, in some ways much more fulfilling than scholarship, because of the relatively rapid completion of a creative product. On the other hand, it is far more frustrating, since it is so difficult to judge the aesthetic worth of the output. I have exhibited in juried shows, won awards, sold some paintings, but I am still plagued with uncertainty about the quality of my work. I am sustained as I read the writings of many well-known

artists and recognize that they too suffer and glory in a similar way. In the academic world, you publish a good paper. It is recognized. Foundations and universities then reward you with grants and appointments. In the arts, the standards of judgment are far more capricious and mysterious.

Paintings hang on every spare spot on the walls of my house, they lean against couches, chests and bookcases. Sometimes I "go back into a canvas" as I find a better solution. The house may seem the abode of an eccentric, but far from it. I live in a cocoon of my creations. Even my wife has learned to love the ever changing hangings. I extend an invitation to any reader to come and visit us and my collection - my inventory of unsold paintings.

Table Tennis I have been fortunately endowed with unexpectedly good hand-eye coordination, reflexes and energy. I stumbled on the game, tried to excel, entered tournament play, went up the ladder of seeding and can seriously compete for state or regional championships at my age level. Unlike art, it is clear in table tennis who is better. As my age cohort shrinks to the inevitable zero membership, and I remain fit, I have expectations to compete successfully in national championships. Dan Aldrich would have been proud of me.

The academic roots to the above may seem strained but I do feel they are real. The academy drilled into me a passion for excellence which is very akin to competitiveness. Therefore I have been doomed to try to be outstanding. Even if failure in this new phase of my life is more than likely, there is an exhilaration in trying.

(Editor's note This is the first of continuing articles written by members of the UCI Emeritae/i Association regarding their retirements.)

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UCI HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Sam McCulloch

Editor's note: Starting with this issue and continuing in future issue, we have asked our colleague and esteemed historian of UCI, Sam McCulloch, to extract a few paragraphs from his book about the history of UCI for inclusion in a new column. Look for another interesting excerpt in this series in the next issue.)

UCI's beginning dates from one of the recommendations of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education (the Donahue Act). Clark Kerr, UC President from 1957 to 1967, was one of the best presidents UC ever, and he was the driving force behind the Master Plan, which clearly articulated the distinct roles of the three segments of public higher education in California (1) the UC campuses would have professional schools and Ph.D., (2) the State Colleges (non universities) would concentrate on undergraduate education and masters degrees, and (3) the Junior Colleges (renamed Community Colleges) would provide freshmen and sophomores a year preparatory education as well as vocational training.

New campuses belonging to the three systems were planned, and the UC level produced Irvine, San Diego, and Santa Cruz. A Regents Site Selection Committee set its eye on the Irvine Ranch. Chancellor Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr. was appointed in January 1962. To quote President Kern, "Dan Aldrich was the perfect choice. Dan knew the university very well. He had energy, enthusiasm, and a 'lets get it done' approach . . . it took someone who would and could defend academic freedom and institutional autonomy, and Dan had the convictions and the personality to do both."

The next issue of the Newsletter will feature the story of Joan Irvine Smith and her role in persuading the Irvine Ranch Company to donate the campus site.

(Quotes come from my book *Instant University The History of UCI - 1957-93*.)

Only 180 copies remain in the UCI bookstore. All royalties go to the UCI Alumni Scholarship Fund.)

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UCLA EMERITI/RETIREE CENTER CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Over one hundred people celebrated the 30th anniversary of the founding of the UCLA Emeriti/Retiree Center on Thursday, 25 February 1999. The Center was established by Chancellor Young in 1969 to provide pre-retirement counseling to faculty members. In the last thirty years, the Center has greatly expanded its activities to provide many varied services to retired faculty and staff.

Associate Vice President Judith Boyette was the principal speaker. She was introduced by Eddie Murphy, the director of the UCLA Center. Boyette talked about her vision for a supportive environment for active and retired faculty and staff. In particular she talked about the goals of the new health plans, about the health care facilitator program, and about the work-life symposium. And she answered questions about all of these programs. Invited guests included the Retirement Center Directors from UCB and UCSD. Julian Feldman represented the UCI retirees and emeritae/i. He came home with copies of newsletters and information from the Retirement Centers at other campuses.

Directions to Zubies Emeritae/i Dinner April 22, 1999

From Pacific Coast Highway, turn onto Newport Blvd (which becomes Freeway 55), travel for two blocks, and turn right on Hospital Road, go one block to Old Newport Blvd. where you will see Zubies across the street on the left corner. The restaurant offers underground parking at no charge.

*UCI Emeritae/i Association
1998-1999 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS*

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*A new website, UCI Partnerships,
has been created by University
Advancement. Components of the
website are support groups. Each
one has a web page. You will find
this information at
www.uadv.uci.edu/~uadv.*



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