President’s Letter—William H. Parker

This will be my last message to you as President of the UC Irvine Emeriti Association. I have been elected to serve as Vice Chair/Secretary of the Irvine Division of the Academic Senate for 2015/16 and then will become Chair the following year. This new responsibility motivates my resignation as President at the conclusion of my first year of a two-year term. Vice President George Miller will succeed me as President in Fall 2015. I have enjoyed this last year as President and have had the opportunity to interact with many faculty who are now in the status of Emeritus Professor.

During the past year the UCIEA sponsored two excellent lectures by active faculty. The first lecture was delivered by Professor Jeffrey Wasserstrom of the Department of History on March 13 with the title From Tiananmen Square to Hong Kong’s Occupy Center: Dissent and Its Enemies in the People’s Republic of China, 1989-2014, and the second by Professor Margaret Miles of the Department of Art History on May 12 with the title Segesta: A Trojan City in Sicily?. Both lectures were well attended and generated significant comment following the presentations.

In addition, on June 9 Professor Spencer Olin, Professor Emeritus of the Department of History, spoke at the Annual Meeting on the subject Democracy in Peril: Global and Local Perspectives. The presentation was followed by a lively exchange among those in attendance. These three presentations are excellent examples of what the UCIEA can offer to enrich the academic environment at UCI.

The UCIEA is planning at least three more lectures during the 2015/16 academic year. All members are encouraged to suggest speakers by forwarding recommendations to Jeri Frederick at emerit@uci.edu.

The academic year 2015/16 will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the UCI campus and will offer many opportunities to acknowledge the contributions and vision of the founding faculty. The UCIEA has been actively engaged with organizers of the 50th anniversary celebration to develop programs appropriate for the occasion. For example, a campus-wide “Founders Celebration” will be held on the afternoon of September 30th. On that day, in addition to the afternoon event, several Schools are planning events focused on the founding faculty of the departments in their school. On October 3rd, the campus will stage a major celebration called the “Festival of Discovery”.

Throughout the 2015/16 academic there will be an Academic Symposium Series (at least 7 events) beginning on October 8-9 with “Transforming Migrations: Beyond the 1965 Immigration Act” organized by the faculty members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. For more information on these and other activities for the 50th anniversary see: http://50th.uci.edu/events/

I encourage you to become actively engaged in the activities of the UCIEA and to share your ideas for future events and activities that may enrich the lives and welfare of all faculty. Please join with those who are already engaged with the UCIEA.

William H. Parker
President, UC Irvine Emeriti Association
UCI’s Trees

By Richard Frank

Daniel Aldrich earned three degrees in agriculture, and in 1958 was appointed Dean of Agriculture of the University of California. This brought him to the attention of Clark Kerr, President of the University. In 1963, after the decision had been made by the Regents to found a new branch of the University in Orange County, Kerr chose Dan Aldrich to be its Founding Chancellor.

From the first Dan was concerned about the landscape of his campus. And that continued. For 22 years he took members of the grounds staff on a tour of the campus every week, pointing out features that he wanted repaired or improved. He was always insistent that the campus be kept neat, and frequently would bend down himself to pick up offending trash. At his funeral in 1990 his widow, Jean Aldrich, said: "If there is a candy wrapper on the road to Heaven, I am sure Dan will pick it up."

But it was the campus trees that were his special interest. He chose the trees installed on Gateway Plaza, carob trees that made a distinctive feature with their generous foliage. At the foot of the steps leading up to the Plaza he placed four splendid coral trees. Unfortunately they had to be removed ten years ago, because their roots were breaking into the concrete of the nearby paths.

Most important was the park he planned with architect William Pereira. From the first it was placed right in the center of the campus, as can be seen in the first Long Range Development Plan, approved by the Regents in January of 1963. Here too Dan took a personal role in choosing and planting the trees. His favorites were eucalyptus and Western sycamore. Both are now considered "exotic," meaning they are not native to Southern California. In recent years preference has been given to native species.

Today trees are chosen and planted by a University office, Campus and Environmental Planning. An official guide is used, The Green and Gold Plant List, which lists plants no longer to be used on campus such as Tubbaghia Violacea ("pungent odor"). It also indicates the plants which may be used—native species and are graded according to water requirements, longevity and size. Western redbud (Cinnamomum Camphora) is a deciduous native and has medium water requirements.

But the impetus to arboriculture given by the Founding Chancellor continues. Today UCI has a total of 40,000 trees, 25,000 of them on the core campus. In the center is the splendid landscaped park, fittingly named Aldrich Park on the occasion of his retirement in 1984.

[Thanks for generous help is owed to Gregory Jue of the Office of Space Management and to Matthew Deines of Campus and Environmental Planning.]

Other Days, Other Ways

By Richard Frank

William H. Parker (Bill) came to UCI in 1967 as Assistant Professor of Physics. He soon became full professor, held important positions in the university administration (including Vice Chancellor for Research), served as Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and helped plan and implement the faculty on-campus housing community of University Hills. He is now Research Professor of Physics and Astronomy and president of the UCI Emeriti Association. He has had an academic career that is quite distinguished, but not different in essentials from an academic career today. Not so, however, in how his career began. (Continued on next page.)
Other Days, Other Ways (continued)

Here is an outline of that important stage in his life. Prof. Parker began his studies at Allegheny College, a small liberal arts college in northwestern Pennsylvania. He was a physics major, and the chairman of that department decided Bill should go on to graduate work. He took Bill in his own car to the University of Pennsylvania, a distance of about 300 miles. Once there, while a graduate student showed Bill the campus, he spoke with the chair of the department and arranged for Bill’s admission to the physics graduate program. Then they drove back to Allegheny. There was no application, no letters of reference, no transcript, and no real interview. Totally “informal.”

At Penn Bill did well, earned the approval of his teachers, and was recommended to colleagues at universities recruiting faculty. An invitation came from UC Irvine, and so he came to our fair university. Again, no letters, no dossier, no interviews. Totally “informal.”

So one could say that Bill’s hard work, abilities, and creativity earned him the esteem of his teachers, and that gave him his start in the groves of academe. One could also say, with equal justification, that at these crucial stages he benefited from The Old Boys Club, a small group of white men with the right connections.

The present writer had much the same start, but with one significant difference. I benefited from The Old Girls Club. It came about in this way. In April of 1962 I was awarded a fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, largely due to the support of two of my teachers at Berkeley, both former fellows. The fellowship was renewed for another year in April of 1963. As January of 1964 approached, my wife and I had to make a crucial decision. A third year was out of the question.

It was time to think of getting a job. That meant flying to Philadelphia for the annual meeting of the American Philological Association in order to interview. But we also wanted to go to Greece before returning home. We couldn’t do both; not enough money. We decided to go to Greece, since we might never have the chance again. We would skip Philadelphia, and look for jobs later.

But then fortune intervened. One of the visitors at the Academy was Professor Bert Marti, a distinguished Latinist and recognized authority on the poetry of Lucan. My work at the time was on Roman military institutions, not one of her interests, but she knew of me through the Resident Professor, Henry Rowell. She offered “to speak for me” at the Philadelphia meeting.

That was a real coup. At that time Classics was unusual in having a number of leading professors who were women. That was due to the outstanding scholarship of graduates of Bryn Mawr and Vassar, women’s colleges. Professor Lily Ross Taylor was the first American to receive the Gold Medal from the city of Rome, and still the only one. She taught at Bryn Mawr and Professor Marti was one of her students. Professor Marti went to Philadelphia, carried out her duties as an officer of the Association, and “spoke for me.” Two offers came, and we decided to accept one.

In June we enjoyed a wonderful month traveling in Greece, and in September I began teaching at Reed College in Portland. Again – no dossier, no letters of reference, no interview, and no vote. Totally “informal.” The Old Girls Club worked!

Today such procedures are impossible. Rules originally imposed by federal support for Affirmative Action are now universal. What was once quite “informal” is now very, very formal. References, dossier, letters, discussion, vote. There are many who will firmly maintain that the old ways worked very well, maybe even better than the new ones. Makes no difference. For better or worse, the old ways are gone.
**OLLI at UCI**  One of the important elements of the UCI community is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute – OLLI. It owes its founding to the work of several women – Rose Moldave, Joan Schwartz, Sally Schwartz, and Rayna Zeidenberg; all wives of early UCI faculty and staff.

It all began in 1997 when Rose Moldave and Joan Schwartz went to San Diego to find out about a new type of program – aimed at “mature learners” and based on classes conducted in people’s homes. One of the strategies they learned was the importance of affiliation with a college or university.

On returning they approached UCI Extension. At first Extension was skeptical about the success of such a program, but they finally allowed the ladies to use the name of Extension in an invitation to a meeting at the Faculty Club. The purpose of the invitation was to ask a question: how much interest was there in the community for a program aimed at “mature learners”?

There were 400 responses, too many for the Club. They had to hold two meetings. Interest in the project was enthusiastic. Their question had been answered.

As a result Extension gave them some seed money and they established an organization, The Academy for Lifelong Learning. Membership fee was set at $50 a year. And in that same year – 1997 – four courses were offered. Teachers were Colin Slim (music), Dickran Tashjian (Art History), Renee Hubert (French), and Stephen Barker (Drama). All were UCI faculty.

The Academy prospered and was rewarded. In 2002 the Bernard Osher Foundation gave the Academy a generous grant for two years and the Academy became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute – OLLI.

Today the organization offers courses each semester in Arts and Humanities, Science and Mathematics, and Social Science – about 60 in all. In addition there are Special Events, including Trips and Forum Sessions; these bring the total of activities each semester to about 140. Two secretaries have been hired to handle mailings and records; all other tasks are entrusted to volunteers. So OLLI is not only an element of the UCI community. It is an extraordinary success story!

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**In Memoriam**

We honor and note the passing of the following colleagues:

- Wadie Najm - Integrative & Family Medicine, 09/16/2014
- Dickson D. Bruce - History, 11/24/14
- Irwin Albert - Recreation, 12/22/2014
- Julian Palley - Spanish & Portuguese, 12/20/2014
- Norman Rostoker - Physics & Astronomy, 12/25/2014
- Willem Van Overeem - Music, 01/12/2015
- William J. Winchester - Medicine, 01/20/2015
- Jack W. Peltason - UCI Chancellor Emeritus, 03/21/15
- Patrick L. Healey - Developmental & Cell Biology, 05/01/2015