President’s Letter—James N. Danziger, Emeritus, Political Science

Hello fellow emeriti/ae,

I hope that you had an excellent summer. For some of us, summer no longer has the same meaning of a notable break from the intensity of scheduling during academic quarters, full of research, teaching and service responsibilities. Many of us experience new levels of autonomy in our time and activities. And yet most of the retirees that I speak with feel that their lives are still very full, even if some of the core foci have altered. And, as the surveys of emeriti/ae activity have confirmed, many of us still do remain very active in research, teaching and/or service. In the last newsletter, I wrote about the results of the recent survey, presenting data from UC Irvine as well as all the UC campuses. The efforts of UC emeriti/ae were highlighted in a UC-wide report and also in an article in the Chronicle of Higher Ed where they were characterized as UC’s “Eleventh Campus.”

It was my honor to announce at our annual meeting in June that we had selected two of our emeriti/ae for the Outstanding Emeritus/Awards for 2016. Another article in this newsletter describes the impressive ongoing activities of Professor Emeritus Kim Romney from the Department of Anthropology in the School of Social Sciences, and of Professor Emeritus N. D. Vaziri from the Department of Physiology & Biophysics in the School of Medicine.

In addition, two awards have recently been given based on recommendations from the UCIEA, for the Dickson Emeritus/a Professorships. These awards provide campus-based financial support for special projects by emeriti/ae. The related article also provides a very brief description of the accomplishments of the two emeriti faculty selected this year for Dickson Professorships, as well as a characterization of how they will use the funds. The two recipients are Professor Emeritus Sidney Golub from the Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics and Professor Emeritus Tim Tackett from the Department of History in the School of Humanities. [I do recognize the gender distribution in these four awardees, but note that all nominees and applicants this year were from the XY chromosome group].

Not all emeriti/ae, including me, are as active as these four admirable individuals. However, the number of UCI emeriti/ae who are doing very interesting and valuable things is very high. One of the tasks of the UCI Emeriti/ae Association’s Executive Committee from last spring into this fall, is to provide Chancellor Gilman and Provost Lavernia, on their request, with suggestions about how to engage our emeriti/ae more fully in the work of the university.

We are developing a list of such suggestions and other information that will also be sent to School Deans and Department Chairs. They include the provision of office space, current inventories of the expertise of specific emeriti/ae for talks, mentoring and teaching, more detailed communications about the recent accomplishments of emeriti/ae, and possible, specific forms of recognition for the ongoing contributions of emeriti/ae to campus life. I will be meeting personally with many of the people who will be receiving this information.

I would very much value hearing any ideas that YOU have about how to better encourage and facilitate emeriti/ae activities. Please send me your ideas (danziger@uci.edu) and I will share them with the UCIEA Executive Committee.

Keep on truckin’!

Jim Danziger
The UCI Emeriti Association Awards 2016

The UCIEA is involved in the selection of two major awards each year. One is UCI’s Outstanding Emeritus/a, awarded for a distinguished career with a focus on continuing contributions after retirement. UCIEA accepts nominations, selects the winner(s) and provides the winner(s) with a “handsome crystal engraved trophy” (my description). The second award is the Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship. Each UC campus controls the endowment funding for this award, which is given for one to three years to support a meaningful activity pursued by the emeritus/a faculty. The UCIEA vets the self-nominations, rank-orders the applicants, and sends the short-listed nominations to the Provost’s office where final selections are made. This year, two awardees were selected for each of these honors. Below is a brief description of these four distinguished UCI emeriti.

UCI Emeriti Association Outstanding Emeritus/a Awards for 2016

Professor Emeritus A. Kimball Romney of the Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine School of Social Sciences. Kim Romney is a scholar of great distinction who produced major research in mathematical anthropology, resulting in his election to both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Sciences. During his career, he has published more than 100 papers as well as a book and several edited volumes. His distinction is grounded in his work in sociocultural anthropology, studying kinship structures, the semantic structure of cultural concepts, and the meaning of culture. Since retirement, he has published more than 40 papers, and quite interestingly, in retirement, Romney chose to move into an entirely different field of research associated with cognitive psychology and visual perception. He completely retrained himself and has developed a mathematical model that explains how the human eye sees color—a model that also allows the process to be replicated by digital devices. This work has led to multiple publications; the model has been patented and is the basis for his winning the InnoCentive Challenge Contest. Romney continues to be active on campus every day, interacting with colleagues and graduate students.

Professor Emeritus N.D. Vaziri of the Department of Physiology & Biophysics in the UC Irvine School of Medicine. Dr. Vaziri has been on the faculty of UCI since 1974. He has received numerous honors and held major positions on campus and in the professional community. His research, particularly on the molecular mechanisms and search for novel treatments of chronic kidney disease, has resulted in more than 600 original publications, more than 185 invited reviews and book chapters and countless presentations at conferences. Included in this body of work are more than 100 papers and book chapters since retirement in 2011. This post-retirement work resulted in a continuing stream of awards and leadership positions, selection by the Faculty of 1000 for one of the top 2% of published papers in Medicine and Biology in 2012, and his selection in 2014 as the ICTS Clinical Translational Scientist of the Year. As an emeritus faculty member, Dr. Vaziri continues to mentor physicians in their research rotations as well as post-doc fellows and junior faculty.
The UCI Emeriti Association Awards 2016 (continued)

UCI Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorships for 2016

Professor Emeritus Sidney Golub, Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, UCI School of Medicine. Golub joined the UCI faculty in 1994 to serve as Executive Vice Chancellor after an outstanding research career at UCLA where he focused on the immune system in cancer patients, publishing more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles and receiving the Jons- son Prize for Cancer Research in 1991. He has remained very active in retirement, inter alia, as Interim Director of the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center and through his continued teaching and research activity in the School of Medicine. He has been one of the leaders in providing the campus with mechanisms to explore crucial ethical issues associated with developments in medicine and technology. Golub will use the Dickson funds to host conferences and guest speakers who will address critical issues emerging from the intersection of ethics and new technologies of modern biomedical science. Golub has been a key player in organizing similar activities at UCI in the past and the Professorship will provide him with the essential resources to build on these efforts. The first speaker in the series will be Distinguished Chair Timothy Caulfield of the University of Alberta who will speak on “Popular Culture, Stem Cell Hype, and the Marketing of Unproven Theories” on October 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Gross Hall (all are invited to attend).

Professor Emeritus Timothy Tackett, Department of History, School of Humanities. Tackett retired from UCI’s faculty in 2010 after 22 years. He has a strong publication record including eight books and about 85 articles or chapters, and several of his publications have been awarded notable prizes. In retirement, he has remained an active researcher and guest lecturer both in the US and internationally. One result is his 2015 book, The Coming of the Terror in the French Revolution from Harvard University Press, which has received considerable accolades. This book has stimulated his interest in the role of rumor and the forms of “improvised news” during the French Revolution. Tackett will use the funds from the Dickson Professorship to support his travel to multiple sites in France to conduct the field research necessary to write his next book that will identify, categorize and analyze important rumors during the French Revolution. Based on his previous scholarship and his exploration of theories in the social sciences, the book should be important to scholars of French history and also those studying the dynamics of rumors, linking with research in anthropology, sociology and social psychology.
Fall is also the time in which we ask you to join the UCI Emeriti Association as a dues-paying member. It was only a couple of years after I retired officially that I became aware of the many ways in which UCIEA is protecting my interests and promoting activities that enhance the opportunities of emeriti. Thus, my second “ask” in this Newsletter is for you to (re)join UCIEA now, send in your dues (which are well-spent), and indicate if you have interest in becoming more involved in the organization.

UCIEA is, as always, sponsoring a variety of activities this fall that you might enjoy. As a political scientist, I find the current presidential election to be the strangest in my lifetime. My colleague, Professor Marty Wattenberg, will share his insights on the election with us on October 10 at 3:00 p.m. at the Newkirk Alumni Center. Marty has researched the presidency and elections for a long time and perhaps can make some sense out of this one! The title of his talk is “How Donald Trump Won the Nomination and Handed the Election to the Democrats”. I hope he knows something that many of us are uncertain about...

Also, Provost and EVC Enrique Lavernia will join us for a discussion on November 10 at 3:30 pm in the Student Center Ballroom. He will address issues of concern to emeriti as well as broader campus issues and will welcome questions. The timing of these two events should be a bit easier than usual to remember: 10/10 at 3 and 11/10 at 3:30. There are also walks, presentations and other activities that are coordinated by the Center for Emeriti and Retirees and co-sponsored by UCIEA as indicated in this Newsletter. Join us for some of these activities!

UCIEA leadership is also active in other domains to attend to emeriti concerns. I serve on the campus’ Academic Planning Group; several of us are on the Senate Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom and Diversity. Several of us also attend the biannual meetings of the UC Systemwide Emeriti Association (CUCEA), which monitors policies and advocates our interests with the Office of the President and the state government, especially on issues such as health care benefits.

We are out there negotiating arrangements for you in such areas as campus parking and retirement housing. In Trumpian rhetoric, we will make you the best deals! And all this for only $30 for a one year membership. The money is well spent! Please complete the dues form to receive a tax-deductible receipt and mail the form to UCI EA, 450 Alumni Ct., Irvine, CA 92697-1225.

**UCI Emeriti Association Dues—FY 2016-17**

1 Year $30 _____ 5 Years $125 _____ Lifetime Membership $350 _____ Other Donation $____

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Email Address (if we do not already have it): ____________________________________________

Suggestions for Programs or Other Interests: ____________________________________________

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Some Remembrances  

By James McGaugh, Founding Chair of the Department of Psychobiology (now renamed Neurobiology and Behavior)

It all began with a phone call. In early January of 1964 Edward Steinhaus, founding dean of the School of Biological Sciences, asked if I’d like to be considered for the position of founding chair of a department at the new campus of the University of California that was being created on a ranch near Newport Beach. At that time I was an associate professor in the psychology department at the University of Oregon. I had been there for only a little over a year and was not thinking about making a move. But, I agreed to come to the ranch (the city of Irvine had not yet been established) to consider a possible move.

I did so for two reasons. First, I did my graduate studies at UC Berkeley and knew, of course, that it was considered to be one of the best universities in the world. I assumed that any campus of the University of California would be expected to have the same academic standards, aspirations and achievements. The opportunity to help create a new “Berkeley” was, at the very least, intriguing. Second, at Oregon, I was one of two faculty members whose research focused on the neurobiological bases of behavior. And there were no obvious prospects of having additional colleagues in the Department of Psychology who had neurobiological interests. At Irvine, if offered the position, I’d have the opportunity to build an entire department focused on studies of brain and behavior (the very first in any university) within a school of biological sciences. This was quite a fantasy for a 32 year old who had never even been asked to serve on a departmental committee!

So, in late January I came to Newport Beach for the interview. Steinhaus first drove me to the corner of Bison and MacArthur where the campus physical planners had their offices. He showed me where the campus would be located but there were at that time no buildings or roads so there was nothing to see. We then drove to University Avenue and found a dirt road that led to the area where the foundations of several buildings could be seen. We had to open a barbed wired ranch gate to get on to that road. Then I was interviewed by Academic Vice Chancellor Ivan Hinderaker and Ralph Gerard, who was later appointed as the first dean of the graduate division. Steinhaus told me of his then novel plan for creating a school of biological sciences with departments organized by levels of analysis, rather than by the conventional departments such as of zoology and botany that focused on plants versus animals. By the time I caught the helicopter back to LAX for the return to Oregon (that’s how we traveled to LAX, as the 405 had not as yet been constructed) I had decided that I’d likely move to UCI if offered the position. The following day the position was offered and I decided to move to Newport Beach (where most faculty lived at that time) and begin to recruit faculty for the new department at the new university.

I then watched the buildings rise on the campus. At that time all of the offices and laboratories were located in temporary steel buildings on Jamboree Road. Of course, the temporary buildings are still there. A couple of months after my arrival in July of 1964, Hinderaker left to become chancellor of UC Riverside. Jack Peltason, who was recruited as dean of the college was, on his arrival, promoted to the position of academic vice chancellor. The deans of the schools then quickly conspired to recommend that the position of dean of the college be eliminated so that all academic deans would report directly to the academic vice chancellor. Chancellor Aldrich agreed to that plan and the academic organization created by the departure of Hinderaker became the permanent organization of the campus.

I also watched, and participated in, the development of the academic plans for the campus. Aldrich held almost daily meetings with all campus administrators (including me) to plan the academic requirements. We had to determine whether we would have a quarter system or semester system. We had to create the “breadth” requirements and settled on what we called the 6-3-3- system; six courses for the academic major and three courses in each of two other schools. We also had to recruit the faculty needed to open the university the following Fall. I had to organize the planning for the Department of Psychobiology. It was a busy and exciting year.

In my previous positions at large universities, I knew only faculty in my department. In the early days of UCI we had the rewarding opportunity of knowing faculty in many departments as we were all together in the same building. Sherry Rowland had his office and lab across the hallway from mine. Abe Melden, chair of the Department of Philosophy, and I served on several committees together. Dan Dennett, a newly minted assistant professor of philosophy and I met frequently. These relationships became less common as the campus grew.

Several important themes emerged in the early development of UCI that guided its development. First, we wanted to create a new university based on new ideas. Second, we wanted the eventual quality (and perhaps size) to match that of Berkeley. Third, we wanted the students to get a broad education in the humanities, arts and sciences. Of course, over the intervening years the specific plans evolved and changed as new faculty arrived and influenced the evolution of UCI. But, much of what UCI is and aspires to be was very significantly influenced by the pioneering vision of the founding administrators and faculty. Aldrich, Hinderaker, Gerard, Steinhaus and the other pioneers deserve much credit for their wisdom. They recruited a remarkably talented group of faculty to launch the campus. It is worth noting that every founding dean who was eligible for election to the National Academy of Sciences was subsequently elected and of the faculty appointed in 1965, four founding faculty subsequently received a Nobel Prize. Not a bad way to start a campus.
The Association for Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) is a dynamic network of ~100 member institutions from across the U.S. and Canada that advocates for, educates and serves campus-based organizations for retired faculty and staff. By promoting a culture that values and encourages retirees’ continuing contributions to campus and community life, AROHE helps colleges and universities to harness the remarkable talents of their retired faculty and staff.

AROHE has a conference every two years and I attended the one held in Seattle, Washington, August 13-16, 2016. A central theme was the challenges and opportunities from the evolving nature of university relationships with their retiring faculty. Among the notable speakers were Fernando Torres-Gil, Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy at the Center for Policy Research on Aging, UCLA, and Carole Goldberg, Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel, Emerita, and Jonathan D. Varat, Distinguished Professor of Law, UCLA.

Here are some of the key “takeaways” from the Conference. Universities are increasingly recognizing the value of Retiree Organizations (ROs) and Emeriti/Retiree Centers (RCs) in engaging faculty to consider their roles in retirement. Surveys of senior faculty in various institutions show that many would like to retire, but need appropriate incentives and support for this decision, as well as a better understanding of this transition. ROs/RCs can help to provide this transition through intellectual enrichment, camaraderie, and scholarship/research opportunities in addition to providing service and leadership. ROs/RCs can provide a new view of retirement as a reconfiguration of the relationship between the university and its emeriti/ae, rather than a severance, stemming from the recognition that emeriti can and do continue to contribute in significant ways to the university if the appropriate processes and incentives are in place. There are also increasing issues regarding retirement benefit planning as faculty longevity extends.

Although at this time less than 10% of all colleges and universities have an official RO/RC, those that do are finding that thanks to these entities, new avenues for emeriti/ae are emerging in the form of phased retirement, terminal sabbaticals, new forms of tenure, administrative incentives and the creation of post-retirement opportunities.

Some universities are hiring Retirement Liaisons who work with department heads and deans to aid retirement negotiations as well as oversee the conventional mechanics of retirement. The liaisons often also work with Faculty Senates and AAUPs, as well as monitor other peer institutions’ efforts. Many institutions of higher learning are seeing significant need to mentor ALL faculty and staff in considering long-term financial planning, and emotional considerations and social support, not just in their late pre-retirement phase, but early in their careers as well.