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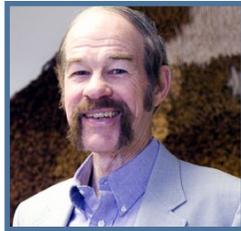
- Jeri I. Frederick

## SAVE THE DATE AND RSVP

**Mon, March 6, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Lecture with Reception**  
 “From Precious Farmers and Soldiers to Vicious Enemies— How Kidney Disease Converts Our Gut Microbial Community” with *Professor Emeritus N.D. Vaziri*  
*Department of Physiology & Biophysics*  
 UC Irvine School of Medicine.

@ The Newkirk Alumni Center, 450 Alumni Ct., Irvine. Complimentary Parking with RSVP to [emeriti@uci.edu](mailto:emeriti@uci.edu) in Lot 14. [Map here](#)

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



Hello fellow emeriti/ae,

For a political scientist (still teaching a bit), these are strange times. The recent political discourse seems to reflect, for academics, a

disturbing and fundamental decline in the value placed on “truth” and “objective facts.” The Oxford English Dictionary’s Word of the Year is “post-truth”, characterizing an era in which what many people believe is dominated by feelings and biases rather than what seem to be valid data and reliable findings.

Of course, there are few absolutes in the political world, since politics is grounded in differences in both values and also understandings about what is and especially about what should be. Philosopher Gilbert Ryle distinguished competing explanations from alternative explanations, with only the former being mutually exclusive. Thus, while the recent Conway-ism of “alternate facts” might have at least a semblance of meaning on some political issues, the widespread rejection of well-grounded facts is very troubling.

And on our campuses and in the media, questions about freedom—of speech, of the press, and of personal behavior and beliefs, inter alia—are ubiquitous. There might be no moment in many of our lives when it has been as important as now that those in the university community speak truth to power.

As emeriti/ae, can we offer any meaningful contribution to the current state of affairs? Many of us have slowed or even stopped participating in the knowledge creation business. Yet most of us can still have a role in knowledge diffusion. On topics from global warming to homelessness to the value of the arts in contemporary society to many other topics, we can speak out, write letters and op-ed pieces, promote policies and people we believe in, and use all the protean media available to share our viewpoints.

In this issue of our Newsletter, with the support of the UCIEA Executive

Committee, there is a new feature called “Issues”, which briefly explores one of the topics that is timely—the question of free speech on our campuses. It is meant to stimulate your thinking and, ideally, to provoke a response that we might include in a future Newsletter as part of a constructive dialogue. There is also another wonderful reflection on the early period on our campus, this one by Professor Emerita Majorie Caserio.

On a more mundane level, the leaders of your Emeriti Association continue to be active in promoting your interests. We are involved in the attempt to better understand the mess associated with some individuals’ 2017 transitions to different medical and prescription drug plans in relation to Medicare.

We are hosting a talk (please come) on March 6 by Dr. V.D. Vaziri of the School of Medicine, one of last year’s recipients of our Outstanding Emeriti/ae award.

We are very involved in a major ongoing effort, through extensive discussions with Deans, the Academic Planning Group, and the Academic Senate, on a range of initiatives that will increase the visibility and engagement of UCI emeriti/ae, at the campus, School and department levels. I am encouraged that many Deans seem committed to actions that will facilitate that engagement. If you are asked by your School what you are doing of relevance to UCI’s missions of research, teaching and service, and/or what activities you are willing to participate in on campus, and/or to come to an emeriti/ae recognition event, I hope you will step up!

As always, I welcome your input.

**Jim Danziger**

**President, UCI Emeriti Association**

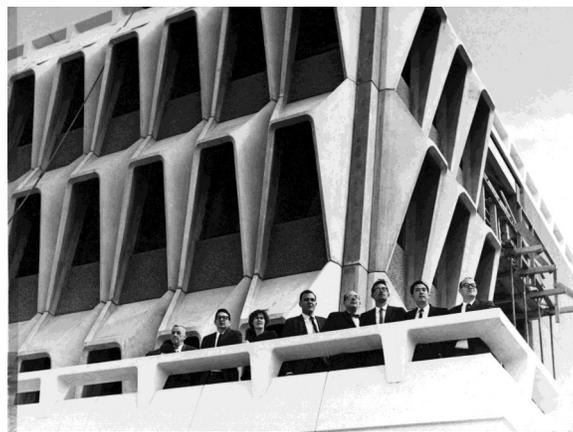
## EARLY YEARS AT UC IRVINE — Marjorie Caserio



I was one of a few faculty hired before the campus officially opened - months before construction of the main campus was complete. In 1964, I was close to the end of eight wonderful years at Caltech as a chemistry research associate in John D. Robert's group. I say "end" because the prospects of my achieving faculty status at Caltech were zero. At the time, the campus had no women faculty and did not admit women undergraduates. There would be no exceptions for me. However, a new UC campus was under construction on a lonely stretch of land on the Irvine Ranch in Orange County. Recruitment was underway and I applied for a faculty position in the incipient Chemistry Department. Miracles do happen. I was offered a position as assistant professor by the Chair of the Department - future Nobel Laureate, F. Sherwood (Sherry) Rowland. My appointment began January 1, 1965, and the next nine months were spent "setting-up-shop" in a temporary structure designated as a "faculty research facility" on the North Campus. The only other building was a temporary administrative facility

that was the provisional headquarters for the Chancellor, Daniel Aldrich, a few academic deans, and a skeleton staff. That was the campus.

The few faculty colleagues in the research building were mostly biological science faculty. Sherry Rowland and I were the only chemistry faculty on location at the time. We named our premises "The Swamp" because of its proximity to the San Joaquin marsh which we shared with all the wildlife in the area, mostly rabbits, mice, snakes, and endless crickets. Incredibly, after 50 plus years, those two temporary buildings are still there (among others, including the Arboretum). The administration building is now the Facilities Management Building, the research building is still a research facility, and the rabbits are still around.



When the campus opened its doors to students in September of 1965, the Chemistry Department was seven-faculty strong, but construction was still incomplete. The bookstore was in a trailer, parking lots were unpaved, and pathways mostly mud. The city of Irvine did not exist, and there were no commercial facilities anywhere close to the campus. We were literally in the middle of nowhere. Yet the campus spirit was high.

There was a sense of adventure among students, staff and faculty that, together, we were creating a great university. There were hard times ahead, but the campus weathered them because of the commitment to its vision for the campus. Remember, in 1965, the nation was embroiled in the Vietnam War; the free speech movement was spreading; there were student demonstrations. As a campus, UCI avoided serious disruptions, but did not escape the aftermath of the '60's revolution. Development of a community near the campus was delayed, and county residents were less supportive of a liberal campus in their midst. In 1967, the newly elected Governor of California, Ronald Reagan, fired UC President Clark Kerr and, for the next eight years, imposed budgetary restrictions on UC that were particularly onerous for UCI as a new and struggling campus.

By 1967, my department had moved to the new Physical Science Building, as part of the original campus plan. The ensuing years witnessed unprecedented increases in student enrollments but no commensurate growth in capital or operating budgets to support them. To accommodate their needs, we had to offer lab sections around the clock, six days a week, and offer multiple lecture sections for basic courses. Space was at a premium, and some of these courses were held in the cinema across the street in the Town Center in order to accommodate several hundred students. Initial class enrollments for the basic organic chemistry class were around 30, but within a few years were 200 or more per section.

## EARLY YEARS AT UC IRVINE — continued



Although we had hired several excellent new faculty in addition to the original seven, a hiring freeze was imposed after 1967. Even so, some outstanding so-called “temporary” faculty were hired who carried us through this period and remained as key members of the faculty for years to come. One regret I have in all of this is that it took 25 years before the department was able to hire another woman ladder-rank faculty member. How different it is today!

One most notable feature of the new campus, including my own department, was that just about everyone participated in its governance. Academic Senate standing committees had student members, contrary to the practice on most other campuses. Another anomaly is that assistant professors in my department were included in discussing and voting on academic personnel actions except their own. There was never any doubt as to whether assistant professors were aware of the standards for promotion.

The circumstances of the times required that we all work cooperatively, and we did. I believe that this created, for my department at least, transparency and trust at all levels that helped build and sustain excellence as we grew. We were not without faculty tantrums and staff dilemmas, but these difficulties were not allowed to become divisive, or lead to dysfunction. I believe that the attributes I have described still exist.

I remember my years at the untenured level mostly as a frenetic effort to justify my appointment and earn permanent status. Post-tenure was a more expanding experience, especially as I began to be included in the Academic Senate governance structure. This eventually led to my election as Chair of the Senate. There were a few crises, one of which was a proposal to site the Nixon Presidential Library on the campus (1983). If you wonder why the library now resides in Yorba Linda, it is because the Senate voted overwhelmingly against its presence on the campus. The issue was a dangerous one because it would surely have led to a deep division between the faculty and the Chancellor. As Senate Chair, I was uncomfortably aware of this, but in retrospect, the faculty did the right thing.

Although it is now several years since I was a member of the department or the campus, it is with much pride and gratification to witness how much the campus has grown in size, in diversity, and stature since those early years. It has indeed become the great university we hoped to create.

**Marjorie C. Caserio, Department of Chemistry, 1965-1990**

## UCI Emeriti Association

RSVP to [emeriti@uci.edu](mailto:emeriti@uci.edu)  
or call 949.824.7769

**FREE EVENT**

### WINTER QUARTER LECTURE

*From Precious Farmers and Soldiers to Vicious Enemies-*  
How Kidney Disease Converts Our Gut Microbial Community

Please join us for a talk by Professor Nosratola D. Vaziri.

Wine reception to follow.



**Nosratola D. Vaziri**

Chief, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension  
UC Irvine School of Medicine  
University of California, Irvine

@ Monday  
March 6 (2pm - 5pm)  
**UCI** Center for  
Emeriti & Retirees  
Newkirk Alumni Center  
(Mesa Road and University Drive)

## ISSUES CORNER

One of the most vexing and controversial issues at our university and those throughout the United States is the question of free speech on campus. There are the discussions of “safe spaces” and “trigger warnings” and “microaggressions.” These topics have raised strong opinions about what, if any, regulations and restrictions should be applied as a matter of policy, rather than of personal judgment, regarding what it is acceptable to say if it might upset or offend others. One might think that nearly everyone in the university community would endorse near-absolute First Amendment rights to say anything (short of inciting violence) and that it would be up to others to either contest the comments or ignore them.

Those alarmed about restrictions on free speech cite campuses of UC (as well as the Office of the President) as sources of concern. Indeed, last year, UCOP floated rather restrictive ideas about the kinds of comments (“microaggressions”) that were inappropriate. The Academic Senate pushed back and the proposals were dropped, at least for now. Later, UC President Janet Napolitano and the Board of Regents’ advocacy of fighting offensive speech with “more speech” rather than censorship was included in the “Principles Against Intolerance” approved by UC regents last year as guidelines for the 10-campus system.

A related issue regarding the suppression of speech has been triggered by speakers that many find offensive or worse. On February 1, the controversial/incendiary Milo Yiannopoulos was prevented from speaking on the Berkeley campus, after protests, considerable faculty and student pushback, and some violence. Although he spoke at UCI last year, he was recently also cancelled at UCLA and UC Davis. After the Davis cancellation, Chancellor Hexter said he was “deeply disappointed...Our community is founded on principles of respect for all views, even those that we personally find repellent...As I have stated repeatedly, a university is at its best when it listens to and critically engages opposing views, especially ones that many of us find upsetting or even offensive.”

Should the majority be allowed to prevent someone with a minority and/or offensive viewpoint from speaking? Should groups who threaten or engage in violence against a speaker be able to prevent such speech? Can we define “hate speech” in a manner that is not a slippery slope? Should a faculty member censor herself/himself due to a concern that a statement might be offensive to some student(s)?

Here is an excerpt of what our Chancellor, Howard Gillman has sent to the campus community regarding his views:

*“Free speech requires us to accept that we will be exposed to viewpoints, arguments or forms of expression that make us uncomfortable or even offend us... Speech that makes us uneasy may compel us to reconsider our own strongly held views—in fact, a willingness to reconsider strongly held views is one of the reasons why people pursue higher education. Hearing offensive viewpoints provides opportunities for those sentiments to be exposed, engaged and rebutted.*

*Universities exist to provide the conditions for hard thought and difficult debate so that individuals can develop the capacity for independent judgment. This cannot happen if universities attempt to shield people from ideas and opinions they might find unwelcome, or if members of the university community try to silence or interfere with speakers with whom they disagree.”*

Most emeriti left the classroom and the lecture halls before these issues became so contentious. We invite your comments (for publication in a future Emeriti Newsletter) about this issue. Short of inciting violence, do you think there should be any restrictions on what individuals say in public settings at UCI?

**Please send any comments to [emeriti@uci.edu](mailto:emeriti@uci.edu)**

### **A few further readings:**

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/03/the-glaring-evidence-that-free-speech-is-threatened-on-campus/471825/>

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-makdisi-free-speech-on-campus-20161024-snap-story.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/03/milo-yiannopolis-berkeley-california-free-speech>

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-furedi-safe-space-20170105-story.html>

## CRACKING THE GLASS CEILING



I was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Second Annual Women in Science (WinS) Symposium at the University of North Carolina on April 6, 2016. I described how my career began when I was a student at an all-girls' public high school in New York City and realized I had no constraints on what I could do.

Interestingly, my significant mentors were incredibly supportive men in college, graduate school and beyond. The very rare female scientist didn't seem to feel that their mentorship was important! I also described some of my research projects and accomplishments and emphasized the importance of collaboration, especially in the current era of multidisciplinary research.

I enumerated issues that, in my opinion, young female scientists should be addressing. The most important one is mentoring at all levels. I noted a book, *Every Other Thursday: Stories and Strategies from Successful Women Scientists*, written by Dr. Ellen Daniell, who, after being denied tenure at UC Berkeley, moved to the biotechnology industry, and established an informal get-together for female scientists in the Bay area as a professional problem-solving group that for

over 25 years has provided practical and emotional support.

Finally, I encouraged young female scientists to be proactive in negotiations, be they for lab space, set-up funds or salary—men are expert at this! In retrospect, I was both impressed and excited about this generation of female scientists both at UNC and UCI—I have confidence that these women will DESTROY the glass ceiling!

**Barbara A. Hamkalo, Professor Emerita, Molecular and Cell Biology, Past President, ARCS-OC, Past President, UCIEA**

## ACRONYM SOUP: CER, UCIRA, UCIEA (& to which one should I pay)

University culture is inundated with acronyms. This article seeks to clarify some UCI Emeriti and Retiree acronyms.

UCI **CER** is the Center for Emeriti and Retirees. Created in 2005, it has grown to be an official connection between retired UCI faculty and staff, their respective associations, the local community and the university. CER is the administrative organization over the UCI Retirees Association (**UCI RA**) and the UCI Emeriti Association (**UCI EA**), helping to coordinate supplies, meeting rooms, letter and newsletter administration and mailing, financial processing, dues processing, and maintaining the confidential database for all emeriti and retirees information. The CER also offers programs and information related to retiree benefits, health and other general topics, as well as acquires access to and maintains services such as continuing UCI email, Wellness and Financial Help Tools and negotiates the discounts (parking, bookstore, Regents Point, etc.) all continue to enjoy.

The UCI Retirees Association (UCI RA) is an official UCI Support Group for retired faculty and staff that began back in the 1980s. It is coordinated by an all-volunteer Board of Directors comprised of UCI retired staff and non-Senate faculty. The Board endeavors to provide fun, social and educational activities for all emeriti and retirees. This has included lectures, cooking classes, hikes, bus tours, and two ever-popular annual events: the Art Show and the Anne Paden Memorial Golf tournament. The UCI RA also sends representatives to CUCRA, the system-wide Council of UC Retirees Associations, that collaborates with UCOP on issues of retiree continuing benefits. The UCI RA has its own dues effort each year that was mailed end of January.

The UCI Emeriti Association (UCI EA) is also an official UCI Support Group with a primary focus on Emeriti/ae issues (those faculty and physicians with Academic Senate status). The UCIEA is directed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors comprised of UCI emeriti/ae. UCIEA also collaborates with both the CER and UCIRA on common programming. The UCIEA has representation on the Academic Senate Council on Faculty Welfare, UCI's Academic Planning Group, and CUCEA, the system-wide Council of UC Emeriti Associations, which advocates to UCOP on issues of emeriti and retiree continuing benefits. The UCIEA requests dues from emeriti/ae at the beginning of each academic year. The dues to UCIEA help support its attendance at system-wide meetings with UCOP, distribution of the Newsletter and other forms of communication (to those without email) as well quarterly Community Lecture Series expenses.

**Jeri I. Frederick, Director, Center for Emeriti and Retirees**

## UPCOMING EVENTS - Sponsored by UCIRA

**Mar 6**

LECTURE - Professor Nosratola D. Vaziri 2:00 p.m.— sponsored by UCI EA

Includes a wine reception. Newkirk Alumni Center, RSVP emeriti@uci.edu or 949-824-7769

**Mar 14**

WALK - Oso Creek Trail 9:30 a.m. RSVP retirees@uci.edu or 949-824-7769.

**Mar 27**

HIKE - Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park 9:00 a.m. RSVP retirees@uci.edu or 949-824-7769

**Mar 30**

TOUR - USS Iowa Battleship Tour 11:00 a.m. — SOLD OUT

**April 7**

WALK - Details TBD

**April 12**

HIKE - Peters Canyon East Ridge Loop. RSVP retirees@uci.edu or 949-824-7769.

**April 19**

BIKE RIDE - Details TBD

**May 23**

EVENT - UCI Retirees & Friends Anne Paden Memorial Golf Tournament

This event is for golfers at all levels and held at the beautiful Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club in Mission Viejo.

RSVP for further details and registration form found at this link: <http://retirees.uci.edu/>

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### UCIrvine Emeriti Association

c/o: The UCI Center for Emeriti & Retirees  
450 Alumni Court, Irvine, CA 92697-1225

Email: emeriti@uci.edu

<http://www.sites.uci.edu/emeriti>

***In Memoriam:*** *We honor and note the passing of the following colleagues:*

***Jeremiah G. Tilles\**** Medicine – December 27, 2016

***Richard M. Friedenberg*** Radiological Sciences– December 23, 2016

***Michael D. Butler*** School of Social Sciences – November 27, 2016

***Robin Shepherd*** Civil & Environmental Engineering – November 14, 2016

***Ralph J. Cicerone*** Earth Systems Sciences – November 6, 2016

FULL list at our In Memoriam webpage: <http://sites.uci.edu/emeriti/in-memoriam>

\*The Tilles family has requested any stories or memories of Dr. Tilles to be submitted to [swtilles@nwasthma.com](mailto:swtilles@nwasthma.com)