

UCI Emeriti Association

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Hello emeriti and emeritae!

I hope you have been reading our quarterly UCI Emeriti Association (UCIEA) Newsletter, which attempts to inform you about what we have been doing. Some details are below, but let me jump to the bottom line right away: **I ask that you please join/rejoin the UCIEA and pay our modest dues in order to support our advocacy work on behalf of all emeriti and to keep our volunteer organization going.** Our membership year now runs from January – December. This is new. So it is time for anyone who pays annually or has paid a sever-al-year membership that has expired to re-up. A few of you are already “Life-time Members”, and I thank you for that, but I ask you to consider adding a donation to keep us going or to contribute to our newly established disserta-tion scholarship for deserving UCI graduate students?

UCI has about 535 emeriti/ae. The current paid membership of the UCI Emeriti Association is about 120. Hence the large majority of UCI emeriti/ae are what economists call “free riders” who get the benefits of our organization’s efforts without contributing. I ask you to consider submitting the modest dues to help UCIEA function, during our annual membership drive, which is NOW. You may join, renew or rejoin for one year or multiple years, online at: <http://connect.uci.edu/UCIEADues>. You may also print out the membership form attached and mail it with a check.

UCIEA, for which I have served as President the past several years, has, as its core goals, protecting your interests, promoting opportunities for your engage-ment with the campus, and providing activities you might enjoy. If you want more details about all that, read on...

This past year, **UCIEA has continued to be a diligent and strong advocate of emeriti/ae benefits and interests** in the UC system and on campus. We helped mobilize our members and the Academic Senate to challenge an attempt by the Regents to rescind the existing agreement regarding a floor for the amount that retirees pay for health benefits. This pressure resulted in the Regents’ backing off and led to the formation of two committees, with emeriti/ae representa-tion, that are still negotiating the details. In recent months, we have remained active in discussions about further revisions to retiree health benefits that are now being considered. We have recently called attention to inadequate and confusing information about changes in the 2020 premiums. And we are pres-suring UCOP to address serious shortcomings in the new online information system for retirees (UCRAYS).

Over the past year, UCIEA, by means of numerous meetings with the Deans and the support of the Chancellor, Provost, and Academic Senate, has achieved

some notable improvements for emeriti/ae who want **more engagement with and visibility within their schools and the campus**. We have extended the complimentary parking for general parking spaces in any campus lot to all UCIEA members. Based on our multiple meetings with all of the UCI Deans, I believe they are now more sensitive to engaging their emeriti/ae and shining a spotlight on emeriti/ae accomplishments through their publications. Several Deans have now implemented a yearly survey to determine emeriti/ae activity in terms of research, teaching, and service as well as ask what each emeritus/a would be willing to do to contribute to the School's efforts, if called upon. Many Deans are also assessing their policies regarding office space and support services for emeriti/ae who continue to contribute to the school's activities (e.g., recall teaching, mentoring junior faculty or students, research, committee service) and to campus life. UCIEA leaders will soon meet again with each Dean to discuss where progress has been made and where further opportunities may exist. Among the emeriti/ae we spotlighted, we selected Professor Emeritus Ken Baldwin of Physiology and Biophysics for our 2019 Outstanding Emeriti Award. And Bill Parker, who has filled the Faculty Retirement Liaison position that we proposed as a part-time recall appointment, is available to provide assistance regarding all aspects of "the system" to those faculty who are retired or are thinking of retiring. He may be contacted at whparker@uci.edu.

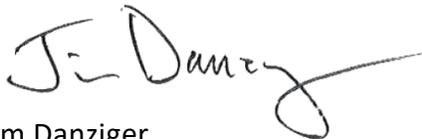
In concert with the Center for Emeriti & Retirees (CER) and the UCI Retirees Association (a separate organization for non-Academic Senate retirees as well as faculty retirees), numerous activities are offered every month. These include tours, local hikes, a golf tournament, lectures, and much more. We cohosted the annual Emeriti-Retirees Reception in November, bringing hundreds of retirees together for conversation, food and a talk and Q&A with Chancellor Gillman.

Emeriti/ae were the sole invitees to two really enjoyable events this year hosted by the Graduate Division that featured two-minute presentations by the best of our Grad Slam graduate students about their leading-edge research, followed by interesting Q & A sessions as well as great food and drinks. There will be more of these events, with the next one in April.

You are invited to our Annual Meeting and wine mixer on Wednesday, December 11th, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Newkirk Alumni Center on campus, where Steve Topik, Professor Emeritus History, will talk briefly on the world history of coffee! We will have food and drink and socializing. Call or email to RSVP for complimentary parking.

As leader of a volunteer organization that relies on dues to cover many of our operating costs, I ask you to step up and join/renew/rejoin UCIEA now!

As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, queries and participation.



Jim Danziger
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