

# TOWER TALK

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## Career Closet Donation Drive at the Holiday Luncheon

By UCR Career Center's Sophia Pham

At UCR and the heart of the Career Center, is career readiness. Taking the lead in instilling this crucial value is none other than the R'Professional Career Closet—a program initiative crafted to empower students on their journey to workplace success. Designed with the purpose of serving UCR students and staff, the R'Professional Career Closet facilitates access to free high-quality professional attire curated for important events such as interviews, career fairs, or networking events.



On December 8, 2023, the R'Professional Career Closet had the honor of collaborating with the UCR Emeriti and Retirees' Associations during their Holiday Luncheon. A dedicated donation spot was set up outside the event, allowing attendees to donate their gently-used professional attire. Expressing a deep connection to UCR, Kathleen Blondel, a generous donor from the UCR Retirees' Association, passionately stated, "UCR is my heart and soul!" Having been a valued member of the UCR community and retired since 2013, Blondel underscored the importance of collaboration events between the Emeriti & Retirees' Associations and current programs in UCR, noting that such events play a crucial role in keeping retirees informed about the newer generation of students. According to Blondel, it's a shared responsibility to understand their needs and actively explore how the retiree community can contribute to the success of these students.

Adding to this sentiment, Renee Reid, a retiree member, shared her enthusiasm, saying "This was my first event!" Reid emphasized that attending this event has inspired her to be more involved in the UCR community. She expressed gratitude for the Emeriti & Retirees' Associations for facilitating a space for the R'Professional Career Closet to host its donation drive, which further deepened her appreciation for the collaborative efforts of the entire UCR community.

By working with the Emeriti & Retirees' Associations, the R'Professional Career Closet received a remarkable total of 172 clothing donations! The generosity extended beyond professional apparel, as attendees donated a substantial array of high-quality ties, jewelry, shoes, and handbags. Such overwhelming support not only enhances the program's ability to provide professional attire to students but also highlights the incredible altruism and dedication of our community. On behalf of the R'Professional Career Closet and the students of UCR, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated and the Emeriti & Retirees' Associations for making this donation drive a resounding success.



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## Retirement Center

**Director**

Cristina Otegui, [retirees@ucr.edu](mailto:retirees@ucr.edu)

(951) 827-5008

**Location:** Human Resources, University Village, Room 208i

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays through Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (currently working remotely)



## UCR Retirees' Association

**Andy Plumley**  
UCRRA President

Hello UCR Retirees' Association Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holiday season with family and friends. I continue to be amazed by how fast time flies by in retirement.

Your UCRRA board has been hard at work this past quarter. Our scholarship committee reviewed many applications for our Undergraduate Scholarship. Our Hospitality Committee prepared for our Fall and Holiday Luncheons and is at work planning our Winter Luncheon. Our Membership and Outreach Committee is working on updating our marketing materials and engagement activities. And soon, our Nominations Committee will begin recruiting volunteers to run for our 2024-2025 Executive Board. And finally, Karim and I participated in the fall meeting of the Council of UC Retirees' Associations hosted by UC Davis. Much of the meeting was dedicated to meeting with UC Office of the President representatives on issues around Retiree benefits.

As always, I hope you explore this publication and get involved in anything that interests you ... I think there is something for everyone. And please contact me if you don't find what you're looking for.

Have a wonderful 2024!

*Andy*



## UCR Emeriti Association

**Darleen DeMason and Raymond Russell**  
UCREA Co-Presidents



Dear UCR Emeriti Association Members,

### Fall 2023 Events

In Fall 2023 UCR emeriti and retirees participated in a series of stimulating and memorable events, beginning with a tour of the College of Engineering Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) facility on October 13. On October 17, Dickson Fellow Eric Barr offered a personal and very moving presentation on how techniques used by actors can help in recovery from strokes and other life-changing events. On November 9, Chancellor Wilcox joined us for a reception honoring new retirees and emeriti with guitar music provided by Music PhD candidate Jorge Calaf. Our Holiday Luncheon on December 8 included a talk about bees by Drs. Boris Baer and Barbara Baer-Imhoff, a honey tasting table, and a musical performance by the UCR Kindergarten Academy.

### Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award

The Emeriti Association's Graduate Student Travel Award helps graduate students meet the costs of travel to scholarly meetings or to research sites. We awarded our first grant in 2021-2022. In 2022-2023, we gave two awards, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. Starting this Fall, we plan to give the awards quarterly. The Fall 2023 award recipient is Psychology PhD candidate Liz Wilson, who will use the award to make a presentation at the 2024 Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in San Diego in February. To support future Graduate Student Travel Awards, members are encouraged to continue making gifts to the current use fund and/or to the endowment fund that support this award.

### Distinguished Emerita/Emeritus Award Winners for 2024

In closing we would like to congratulate Professor of Physics Emeritus Ernest Ma and Professor of Economics Emeritus Prasanta Pattanaik for their selection as winners of this year's Distinguished Emerita/Emeritus Award. For information about the activities and accomplishments that enabled Professors Ma and Pattanaik to win these awards, see the articles that appear elsewhere in this issue. We will have an opportunity to congratulate these award winners in person at our Winter Luncheon on February 9, 2024.

*Darleen and Rusty*



## UC Retiree Travel Program

View all 2023-2024 planned trips on the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) website at:  
<http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>



## UCR Osher Program

UCRRA and UCREA members receive a \$20 discount on the Osher Annual Membership. Details on the Osher webpage at:

<https://palmdesert.ucr.edu/welcome-ucr-osher>



## In Memoriam

We recognize and honor those who have passed this academic year.

Sarah Blaker, retired in July 1986  
 David Burke, retired in November 1992  
 Jerry Carlson, retired in July 1994  
 Kuan-Wen Chuang, retired in August 2013  
 David Cudney, retired in May 2003  
 Curtis Grassman, retired in April 2003  
 Sharene Greene, November 1993

George Haggerty, retired in July 2018  
 Donna Henderson, retired in July 2007  
 Larry Bruce Koenig, retired in March 2018  
 Richard Mercer, retired in June 2000  
 Madelyn Millen, retired in July 2014  
 Suellen Rugg, retired in August 1999  
 David Rush, retired in July 2018

Eugen Simanek, retired in July 1994  
 Susan Spranger, retired in July 2000  
 Raymond Valencia, retired in July 2005  
 William W. Thomson, retired in July 1999  
 Irwin Wall, retired in July 2001  
 Sandra Willits, retired in September 2013

## Join a Club!

UCRRA and UCREA members are welcome to join in on the club activities and details are noted below.



### Mystery Book Club

#### Winter Book Activities

**Club Leader:** Club Members will be taking turns leading these engaging sessions.

**When:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024

**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Book Activity:** *The Likeness* by Tana French

**When:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024

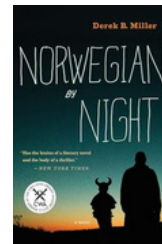
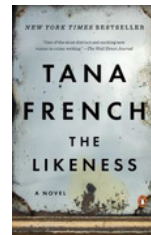
**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Book Activity:** *Norwegian By Night* by Derek Miller

**When:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024

**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Book Activity:** *The Grave Tattoo* by Val. McDermid



**Details:** Interested retirees and emeriti who wish to join the book club may contact the Retirement Center by email with the subject line, "Mystery Book Club" at: [retirees@ucr.edu](mailto:retirees@ucr.edu).



### Walks, Talks & Tours

**Activity:** California Citrus State Historic Park

**Cost of Entry:** Free

**When:** Friday, February 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**Club Leader:** Darleen DeMason



**Details:** This tour is led by a trained park professional and it includes an opportunity to tour varietal groves and focuses on the history of citrus in the Riverside area. There are 25 spots available for our group tour and we welcome you to join us. There is a parking fee of \$7 per vehicle and this fee is sometimes waived in some cases. More details about the park can be found on their website at: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=649](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=649).

#### Event Registration

Space is limited. Please complete your registration no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024 by visiting the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

[https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5hjuEVAAt18OWTc](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hjuEVAAt18OWTc)

## Winter Luncheon

### "A History of UC Riverside"



Andy Plumley, UCRRA President and former Associate Vice Chancellor of Auxiliary Services

Friday, February 9, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

In-person at the UCR Alumni & Visitors Center

**Register** on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

[https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bq5IDuMZ8HTstSu](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bq5IDuMZ8HTstSu)

**Floral Centerpiece Luncheon Raffle!**

Proceeds go to the UCRRA Scholarship.



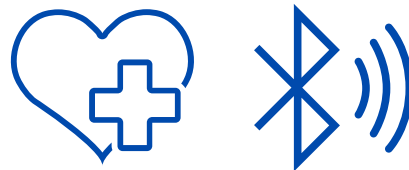
**Assorted wines will be provided**



## Tech-tips HEART Program

UCR Information Technology Solutions (ITS) will share their expertise with retirees and emeriti on various technology topics. Each session takes place on the second Tuesday of the selected months within the quarter from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and will have a themed topic but is formatted as an open forum for participants to ask questions.

- February 13, 2024 Monitoring Health through Apps and/or Devices
- March 12, 2024 Connecting to Bluetooth and How it Works



Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:  
[https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cP8tOThqWbnDpUa](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cP8tOThqWbnDpUa)

## Tax Efficient Investing



Learn about the impact taxes can have on your portfolio, discuss strategies to help plan for taxes and review upcoming changes in tax law.

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Adrian Rodriguez, Fidelity Investments Financial Planner



Register on the Fidelity Investments Zoom webpage at:  
[https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6X\\_atbKZQ4eFvU9oQfoF3w](https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6X_atbKZQ4eFvU9oQfoF3w)

## 2023 Holiday Luncheon

By Darleen DeMason

The UCR Emeriti and Retirees' Association hosted a very successful Holiday Luncheon at the Alumni and Visitors Center on December 8, 2023. 68 people attended which is the best attendance we have had at an in-person luncheon since before the pandemic.

The highlights of the gathering included updates from Andy Plumley, President of the Retirees' Association and Darleen DeMason, Co-President of the Emeriti Association, a clothing drive for the R'Professional Career's Closet for UCR students, a honey tasting table, a presentation by Drs. Boris Baer and Barbara Baer-Imhoff on their research projects designed to save honey bees, a musical performance by the UCR Kindergarten Academy, and a centerpiece raffle to benefit the Retirees Association Student Scholarships.



**172 clothing donations collected for UCR students thanks to our retirees and emeriti!**

## Retiree Digital Parking Permit Reminder



UCRRA and UCREA Annual and Lifetime active dues-paying members must call Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) at (951) 827-8277 to ensure that their parking permit is active annually. A TAPS representative will assist active dues-paying members over the phone with their digital parking permits and link vehicle license plate numbers to their permit. Email reminders to renew digital permits will be sent by TAPS at the end of the academic year in June.





## 2023 Reception Honoring Retirees and Emeriti By Andy Plumley

On November 9, 2023, a reception was held to honor all our Retirees and Emeriti. Chancellor Kim Wilcox was there to thank retirees and emeriti for the role they played in UCR becoming a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an association of leading comprehensive research universities distinguished by the breadth and quality of their programs of (a) academic research and scholarship and (b) graduate education.

The Chancellor provided a presentation on UC Riverside's journey to becoming a member of the AAU.

- Enrollment, growing from 589 in 1954 to almost 27,000 today;
- Research expenditures and awards reaching almost \$200M;
- Achieving rankings which includes being ranked in the top 1.3% of Universities Worldwide, #1 in Pell Grant Retention (Chronicle of Higher Education) and #2 in Social Mobility (US News);

Chancellor Wilcox ended his presentation on how UCR leads with a unique profile that provides opportunities for the future. The UCR Retirees' and Emeriti Associations were privileged to host this recognition event and provide continuing support to our retirees and emeriti.



## Walks, Talks & Tours

By Mitch Boretz

### Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) Tour



UCR Retirees and Emeriti took a tour of the Bourns College of Engineering-Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) in October to learn about a wide array of research into air quality and energy.

CE-CERT is a UCR laboratory occupying three buildings a few miles north of campus, next door to Bourns Inc. Associate Director Arun S.K. Raju guided visitors through indoor and outdoor facilities where UCR faculty, students, and research staff investigate technologies to improve air quality, energy efficiency, and sustainability.

CE-CERT originally concentrated on controlling emissions from cars and trucks through fuel chemistry, combustion management, alternative powertrains, and smart traffic systems. Its portfolio has expanded to include research on emissions from aircraft, ships, restaurants, and consumer and industrial products and processes. CE-CERT has worked to establish itself as an "honest broker" trusted by regulators, industry, and the public to study environmental issues and point the way toward consensus on solutions.



In addition to producing important basic and applied research results, that role also contributed to the California Air Resources Board's decision to move its research laboratory to Riverside two years ago. CE-CERT and BCOE are cultivating adjunct appointments and joint projects with CARB staff to create new opportunities for research that benefits the public and unique educational opportunities for students.



## Report on the October 17, 2023 Dickson Lecture By John Briggs "Thinking Like an Actor" by Eric Barr



Aging, illness, and retirement can and do pose many challenges to retired faculty and staff. Add a series of strokes, paralysis, and a dose of confusion to the mix and you have grounds for appeal. Professor Emeritus Eric Barr, who underwent a series of strokes in 2013 that led to those devastating events, found a way to engage his condition by using strategies he had developed as an actor and professor of theater. Thirteen years later, he travels widely to tell his audiences what he did, what he continues to do, and what he has learned from his experience.

The lecture Eric presented on October 17 was about something bigger than theater and acting, as we typically think of them. It was about "acting and being": the rediscovery of "the character called you" that must be developed by means of "choices" and "commitment" to those choices. In his paralysis, he imagined himself becoming more fully human as "the new character called you." With patience and the help of others, he slowly began to reclaim "a sense of self," learning how to do the most basic things: sitting up, concentrating, observing, smiling, and speaking – by means of grounded imaginative projection and persistent practice. He began to play the story of his life, discover the wonders of ordinary existence, and recover a sense of self and a lost ordinary world.

A key to this gradual transformation was recovering what was present: being awake to one's surroundings and the powers of mind and emotion to apprehend the world feelingly, undistracted by errant thoughts or, when it comes, seemingly relentless pain. There was no easy progress or success according to plan. There had to be patience and a certain kind of humility in the actor's needing to create "the illusion of the first time" – to be "alive and living in the moment," a beginner again.

The power of imagination is not always good. It can be a "poison" if there is no acceptance of what comes to us and our dependence upon others in the imperfect work of recovery. Say "yes, and" Eric said, not "yes, but." It is important to play the part given to us in our "improvisational moment," not according to a wishful imagination of the "end of the story." That is why playfulness is so important. "Candy is a great lubricant." One source of inspiration was Norman Cousins' playful, industrious and ingenious overcoming of a seemingly hopeless prognosis, thanks in part to a generous helping of Marx Brothers movies and an openness to joy, laughter, and happiness (Anatomy of an Illness).

Eric concluded with a reminder that for most of us, our lives will be changed by events that we do not control. What then? "I found," he concluded, "that the key to restoring my life was discovering what is important to me."



## Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Awards Updates

By Darleen DeMason

This travel award helps UCR graduate students enrolled in any Ph.D. program and advanced to candidacy cover expenses associated with research for their dissertations or travel to a professional meeting. These grants are given in amounts of \$1,500 for domestic travel or \$2,000 for international travel. It is administered through the Graduate Division and is funded by donations from our membership.

Our fourth recipient of the Travel Award was chosen from applicants this past fall. We chose Liz Wilson from the Psychology Department who will use the award to present a talk entitled "Cultural Tightness Predicts Regional Personality, Beliefs, and Values Across the United States" at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Convention 2024 in San Diego in February. Liz will report on her experience at our Spring 2024 Luncheon. We hope to give two additional awards this year.

During the "Giving Tuesday" event on November 28, 2023, the Emeriti Association raised \$2,800 to fund future student travel awards. Thank you to everyone who donated. There will be another opportunity to donate to this fund in Spring 2024 at a UCR Giving Day event.

## UCRRA Undergraduate Scholarships Awarded For Academic Year 2023-2024

By Karim Zahedi

As one aspect of its ongoing commitment to the UCR campus and its outstanding students, the UCR Retirees' Association (UCRRA) proudly supports one or more UCR undergraduate students in financial need via its annual scholarship program. For the 2023/2024 Academic Year, the Association awarded three scholarships with funding for one of the scholarships generously contributed by the UCR Emeriti Association (UCREA). Although the high quality of the thirty-two applicants made the decision difficult for the selection committee, scholarships ultimately were granted to **Colin Donahue (Public Policy/Economics major), Lauren Dingle (Media and Cultural Studies major), and Yalise Yanes (Psychology major)**. CONGRATULATIONS to these deserving UCR undergraduates!

With consideration to financial resources available to the Association, the UCRRA awards scholarships to undergraduate students in financial need in order to support their education goals and success at UCR. The Scholarship Criteria include:

- Preference is given to the children, grandchildren, and/or close relative of UCR non-Senate staff members and retirees;
- The recipient is a continuing undergraduate student who has a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher;
- The recipient is an under-represented student, first generation college student, transfer student, student veteran, foster youth, and/or an immigrant student.

An education changes everything. As part of your charitable donations, you can support the education of students at America's most transformational public university. Financial gifts of every size have great impact at UC Riverside, enhancing the student experience and providing funding where it's needed most on campus. A recurring donation, either monthly or annually, is a simple way to increase the impact of your donations.

For anyone who wishes to contribute resources to the UCRRA Scholarship program, the Association encourages donations to this worthy endeavor. An easy way to provide support is via the Association's Giving Page at:

<https://give.communityfunded.com/o/university-of-california-riverside/i/ucr-support/s/ucr-emeriti-retirees-association>

## 2023-2024 Distinguished Emeriti Award Recipients: Ernest Ma and Prasanta K. Pattanaik

By Dallas Rabenstein

Emeritus Professor of Physics Ernest Ma joined the faculty of the Department of Physics in 1987. Following his retirement in July 2014, he has maintained an outstanding record of accomplishment in his field of theoretical physics, with an emphasis on theoretical neutrino physics.

In his research since retirement, Professor Emeritus Ma has continued his scholarly activities with a high rate of productivity. To quote a colleague: "Since his retirement in 2014, Ernest wrote a superhuman 84 published papers", which is more than 8 papers per year. Seventeen were published with UCR graduate students. These papers have accumulated more than 1400 citations, not including self-citations. One paper has been cited more than 100 times, another has been cited more than 140 times and ten others each have more than 50 citations, an indication of the continuing high impact of his research since retirement.

Professor Ma has given more than 45 invited conference, workshop, and seminar talks, all but one of which were at international venues. He also has served on the scientific advisory board of two international conferences. Although he became an emeritus professor in 2014, he continued to receive grant support for his research in neutrino physics from the science office of the Department of Energy until 2018.

Since his retirement, Professor Ma has continued to be a member of the particle physics group at UCR, and he has been active as a mentor of junior theoretical particle physics faculty. He also has graduated six Ph.D. students since retirement.

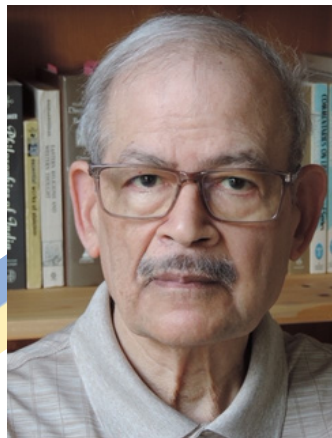
With his outstanding record of accomplishment since retirement, Professor Ma is a most deserving recipient of the Distinguished Emerita/Emeritus Award.



Emeritus Professor of Economics Prasanta K. Pattanaik joined the faculty of the Department of Economics in July 1991. Since retirement in June 2007, he has continued to distinguish himself through his scholarly activity. He has worked mainly in the areas of welfare economics, the measurement of deprivation and living standards, and development economics.

Since retiring, Professor Pattanaik has published one book and edited four others. Three of these were published by Oxford University Press. He has published 31 articles and book chapters, which is about one book every 4 years and 2 articles/chapters per year.

## Distinguished Emeriti Award Recipients continued



He has presented 9 lectures at various international venues. To quote one of his colleagues: "Professor Pattaniak was a prolific and influential scholar prior to retirement, and it is no surprise that he has continued on this path since retirement".

The continued impact and influence of Professor Pattaniak's research is reflected in the many awards he has received since retiring. Since 2001, he has been a non-resident Honorary Distinguished Fellow of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, India. In 2020, he was honored with the Padma Shri award, one of India's highest civilian awards, awarded by the President of India. From 2014-2015, he was president of the Indian Econometric Society. He also has been a visiting scholar/professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; the University of Bath, UK; and Oxford University, UK.

In addition to his continued research activity, Professor Pattaniak has continued to teach in the Department of Economics, teaching two graduate courses and seven undergraduate courses since he retired.

With his outstanding record of accomplishment since retirement, Professor Pattaniak is a most deserving recipient of the Distinguished Emerita/Emeritus Award.

## Report from UCREA's Spring 2023 Graduate Student Awardee

By Adriana Rizzo

I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to the donors who support the UCREA Graduate Student Travel Award, which enabled me to travel to the International Meeting of Organic Geochemistry (IMOG) in Montpellier, France.

I am a 5th year PhD candidate in the UCR Department of Earth and Planetary Science, and a geobiologist who tracks the coevolution of life and the environment on very ancient Earth in my research. The tool I use is lipid biomarkers or molecular fossils, organic compounds produced by living organisms that survive in rocks for hundreds of millions of years after the organisms that die. Specifically, I study the fossil record of steroids, a class of compounds produced by most eukaryotes, from humans to algae, plants, and single-celled protozoans, to track the rise of eukaryotes – that's all life with a nucleus, or all complex life on Earth. Based on my research, we have determined that eukaryotic algae (the basis for the Earth's most productive marine ecosystems today) became abundant in the oceans around 800 million years ago, enabled by an increase in nutrients to the oceans that may have been triggered by the breakup of the supercontinent Rodinia, but that different environments had a biological heterogeneity similar to what's seen in the oceans today. My research has also shown that the global Snowball Earth glaciations around 700 million years ago fundamentally changed the composition of the biosphere by giving rise to green algae, which later algae gave rise to plants. Thanks to the UCREA travel award, I was able to present these results at the main conference in my field.

At this year's IMOG, I gave a plenary talk, "The Rise of Eukaryotes Recorded by Tonian Lipid Biomarker Patterns and Biomarker Stratigraphy", attended by most of the conference's several hundred attendees, after which I received a number of detailed technical questions and considerable praise. I was able to make connections with an Omani researcher who I have been trying to get access to samples from for months, and had dinner with two of the biggest critics of my advisor's work, both of whom live in Europe and I would otherwise not be able to interact with. I had several senior faculty members offer to collaborate with me after my talk. Most meaningfully for me, I was able to build connections with one of the pioneers of ancient biomarker study, who retired this year and was delighted by my talk. Attending this conference gave me a sense of belonging in the organic geochemistry community that I had not previously felt, due to the isolation of the pandemic.

This conference was also my first time traveling to Europe or outside of North America. The UCREA travel award paid for my plane tickets as well as my shared lodging. Thanks to the flexibility of the award, I was able to stay in an Airbnb in a historic building in Montpellier, which added considerably to the cultural experience, and I was also able to travel on personal funds to Paris, where I visited cultural sites such as the Louvre and the Parthenon as well as the Marie Curie Museum at Sorbonne University, a site of great importance to me as a chemist. Attending the 2023 IMOG was a transformative experience for me, helping me build connections, share my science, and get my career on track, and I have returned more confident and focused and eager to publish my data. Thank you so much to UCREA for making this possible.

