

TOWER TALK

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Career Closet and R'Pantry Donation Drives at the Holiday Luncheon

Holiday Luncheon Career Closet Donation Drive

By UCR Career Center's, Melanie Navarrete

On December 6, 2024, the R'Professional Career Closet had the honor of collaborating with the UCR Emeriti and Retirees' Association during their Holiday Luncheon at the Alumni and Visitors Center. At the Luncheon, the Associations hosted us for a professional clothing donation drive for the second year in a row, providing us with the opportunity to meet members and to share more about this critical resource for our students. Throughout the event, we witnessed many members donate bags of pre-loved and high quality professional attire. It was clear that many attendees had set time aside to put effort into donating many items that they no longer needed and we are grateful for their generosity and care.

By the end of the event, we received a remarkable total of 154 clothing donations! Through this event, we were able to fill up two donation boxes in addition to our large black bin. Prior to this event, we were at critical levels in men's donations. However, through the overwhelming support from donors, the R'Professional Career Closet was able to stock up on the necessary items to ensure we were ready for students when they return in the Winter quarter. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated and for making this donation drive a huge success. Thank you on behalf of our students.



The UCRRRA, UCREA and Retirement Center thanks the Career Center for including the retiree community in their incredible efforts to support UCR students.

Holiday Luncheon R'Pantry Donation Drive

The UCRRRA and UCREA worked with UCR's R'Pantry to hold a donation drive with a focus on canned goods, top ramen, warm soups and easy meals to prepare students for the winter season. As a result, retirees and emeriti came together and donated a total weight of 97.5 pounds of food items. We are so thankful to those who made these generous donations to support our UCR students. The UCRRRA, UCREA and the Retirement Center would also like to extend appreciation to the people making this important cause possible. Thank you to the R'Pantry Coordinator Remi Rodriguez and R'Pantry Student Intern, Nohemi Gomez for their valuable work and partnership.

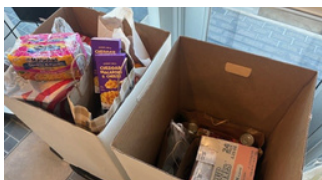
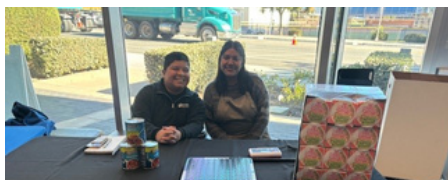


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UCR Retirees' Association

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 has provided for our Fall and Holiday Luncheons and is at work planning our Winter Luncheon. Our Membership and Outreach Committee has updated our website and marketing materials. In the next few months, our Nominations Committee will begin recruiting volunteers to run for our 2025-2026 Executive Board. Finally, Sheryl and I participated in the fall meeting of the Council of UC Retirees' Associations (CUCRA) hosted by UC Santa Cruz. Much of the meeting was dedicated to meeting with UC Office of the President representatives on issues around Retiree benefits. UCR will be hosting the spring meeting of CUCRA and CUCEA and will be working on this effort through the winter quarter.

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 2025!

Sincerely,

Andy



UCR Emeriti Association

Darleen DeMason and Raymond Russell
UCREA Co-Presidents



Dear UCR Emeriti Association Members,

Fall 2024 Events

UCR emeriti and retirees co-hosted several memorable events in Fall 2024. At the Fall Luncheon on October 4, UCR Professor Emeritus of Physics and Astronomy Jose Wudka made listeners believers in the existence of "Dark Matter and Energy." On October 25 emeriti and retirees had informative visits to Riverside's Main Library and to the Civil Rights Institute across the street from it. On November 15 we met with retiring Chancellor Kim Wilcox for the final time at the annual Chancellor's Reception for UCR Retirees and Emeriti. On November 19 Dickson Professor Scott Fedick shared the results of his research on "Ancient Maya Agriculture." At the annual Holiday Luncheon on December 6, UCR Professor of Biology Kimberly Hammond presented a vivid picture of UCR's multifaceted Natural Reserve System. In addition, our Mystery Book Club and series of Tech Tips held monthly meetings.

Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award

Since its inception in 2021-2022, the UCREA Graduate Student Travel Award has played an increasingly significant role in supporting graduate students who have been advanced to candidacy at UCR. Our award is the only travel award offered through Graduate Division that is available to doctoral students in all disciplines. It is also unique in offering support for research travel as well as travel to conferences. On November 6, a delegation of emeriti met with Graduate Dean Lidia Kos to plan future travel awards. We are now scheduled to make two travel awards per quarter in Winter and Spring 2025. To support future Graduate Student Travel Awards, emeriti and friends are encouraged to make gifts to the current use fund or to the endowment fund that support this award.

Winter 2025 Events

On January 24 at 10:00 a.m., UCR emeriti and retirees are invited to join in a tour of the Music Department that includes a musical performance followed by a visit to the Bell Tower to hear a carillon concert. At the Winter Luncheon on February 7, UCR Retirees' Association President Andy Plumley will resume his history of UCR where he left it the year before, which is somewhere around 1980. On March 4 our next Dickson Lecture will be given by Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English John Ganim. To sign up to attend these events, watch for notices from Retirement Center Director Cristina Otegui, or visit the Retirement Center website.

Sincerely,

Darleen and Rusty





In Memoriam



We recognize and honor those who have passed that have been reported this 2024 - 2025 academic year.

Saul Alvarado, retired in July 2021
 Linda Hunt Bunnell, retired in June 2009
 Edgar Butler, retired in July 1994
 Beverly Cox, retired in April 1991
 Donald Edwards, retired in November 1989
 Janet Fast, retired in August 2006

Le Baron Ferguson, retired in January 2010
 Anthony Ginter, retired in July 1994
 Margery Grant, retired in April 1983
 Juana Heredia, retired in January 2024
 Carl Lentz, retired in March 2005
 Donald McCollum, retired in January 1993
 Toshio Murashige, retired in July 1991

Edward Perez, retired in November 1992
 Elmer Rasmussen, retired in April 2010
 Anna Richwine, retired in October 1988
 James Smith, retired in March 1999
 David Stevens, retired in February 2013
 Judy Valdez, retired in May 2012

Please email retirees@ucr.edu if you know of a UCR retiree or emeriti who is not listed here but has passed away this academic year.

Join an Activity!

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

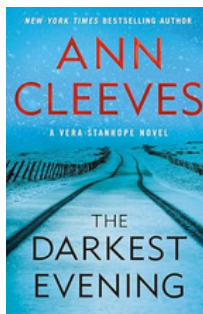


Mystery Book Club

Fall Book Activities

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

When: Tuesday, January 14, 2025
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
Book Activity: *The Darkest Evening* by Ann Cleeves



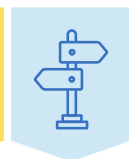
When: Tuesday, February 11, 2025
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
Book Activity: *The Black Loch* by Peter May



When: Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
Book Activity: *The Other Side of Silence* by Phillip Kerr



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.



Walks, Talks & Tours

Activity: Ring Out the Wild Bells Tour
Cost of Entry: Free
When: Friday, January 24, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.
Club Leader: Darleen DeMason



Details: Join us for a three part guided tour of UCR's Music Department with a musical recital and historical talk by University Carillonneur David Christensen followed by a visit to the Bell Tower for a carillon concert. To learn more about UCR's Carillon, please read the article written by Christopher Reynolds in this newsletter on page five.

Event Registration

Please complete your registration by Friday, January 17, 2025 at:
https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a8LH7ACecdtSk60

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>

Winter Luncheon

"A History of UC Riverside Part 2"



Andy Plumley, UCRRA President and former Associate Vice Chancellor of Auxiliary Services
Friday, February 7, 2025 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:

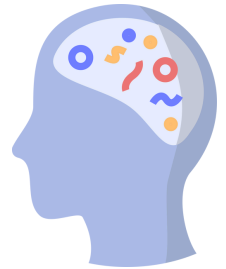
https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cx9xkkm0xLibtZk

Floral Centerpiece
Luncheon Raffle!
Proceeds go to the UCRRA
Scholarship.

Assorted wines will
be provided

Aging and Your Brain: Advancing Aging Research at UCR 2025

Join the UCR Aging Team for their annual engaging symposium on brain aging. You will get a chance to interact with the research team who will present on topics such as brain aging, memory, and Alzheimer's Disease. There will be multiple opportunities for you to chat and ask questions. This event will feature distinct speakers and presentations from their 2024 event. They will also discuss how you can get involved in research studies. You will discover the meaningful impact your participation has had or can have on UCR's research and the progress the research team has made in understanding the brain. Light refreshments will be served and complimentary parking will be available.



Friday, January 31, 2025 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

In-person at UC Riverside (Room TBD) or via Zoom

Register on the UCR Aging Initiative webpage at: <https://forms.gle/bGtAqRfnLdZLkELr7>

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 11, 2025 Basics of Setting Up Smart Homes

March 11, 2025 What is ChatGPT and How to Use It

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nvP36SKY1PU30q



Tax Efficient Investing Featuring Fidelity Investments

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

Thursday, February 20, 2025 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EaEixln5T8eHqqYfLRaHNA



Volunteer in Aging Research

UCR's Aging Research team invites retirees and emeriti to get involved in their research with a focus on cognitive development and cognitive aging.

To learn more about the UCR faculty group in the Psychology Department working on this research, please visit the Lifespan Research at UC Riverside webpage at: <https://lifespan.ucr.edu/>

For information on the UCR Aging Initiative, please visit the UCR website at:

<https://aging.ucr.edu/>



LIFESPAN RESEARCH
at UC RIVERSIDE

Want to get involved in research?
Are you at least 55 years young?
If so, we are looking for you!

We seek to connect older adults in the Riverside area to researchers at the University of California, Riverside who conduct studies on various aspects of aging. As part of our effort to coordinate and expand research on aging at the University, we invite you to join our participant database.
\$ You will be compensated for your participation in our studies \$

Call us at (951) 827-5273
UCRAgingStudies@gmail.com www.lifespan.ucr.edu

The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship Lecture Series



"Cosmopolitanism and the Middle Ages"

John M. Ganim, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the Graduate Division

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. with Reception to follow

Presentation delivered in-person at University Extension Building Room 1101 and Livestreamed via Zoom

Description

One of the most important ideas surrounding human rights, international relations and political responsibility has been the concept of cosmopolitanism. These discussions focus on the heritage of enlightenment thought, as the eighteenth century reconceived what it meant to be "a citizen of the world." In this tradition, medieval concepts of the global and the other have been usually dismissed as one dimensional and xenophobic. This lecture describes some examples of cosmopolitan experience in medieval writings that complicate our present-day assumptions and concludes with some modern literary and visual imaginings of medieval cultural interactions.

Register

Priority registration is given to UCRRA and UCREA members who must register by February 3, 2025. Registration will open to the public on February 4, 2025. Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage to receive in-person or Zoom instructions at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8nVUHHXTJcDBcQC

William H. Reynolds and the UCR Carillon By Christopher Reynolds

Plans for the Bell Tower and Carillon were developed in 1964, thanks to separate anonymous gifts by University of California Regent Philip Boyd and his wife, Dorothy, \$300,000 for the tower and \$50,000 for the bells (about \$3,500,000 in today's dollars). When the Regents approved plans for the design of the tower in October 1964, they also approved funding for five major buildings, including the Library and the Humanities building. The campus had just completed its first decade as a full-fledged university.



At the time my father, William H. Reynolds, who had been hired away from Vassar College in 1954, was a 39-year-old associate professor and chair of the Music Department. It was his idea to build the bell tower, a remarkable notion for a still relatively young professor. Whether he already had the Boyds' gift in hand, or first had the idea approved and then went out searching, I do not know. When Chancellor Ivan Hinderaker, then in his first year, gave him the green light for the project, my father immediately set out to determine the optimal size of the carillon and which foundry would be chosen to cast the bells. Negotiations with bell foundries in England and France had begun by March 1965.

Bill Reynolds brought to this task three important skills: he was a musician and so understood the musical issues involved; he had served as a draftsman during World War II, and thus could discuss and evaluate the architectural aspects of building a 161-foot tower just miles from California's major earthquake fault line; and because he spoke excellent French, he could communicate easily with Alfred Paccard at La fonderie Paccard in Annecy-le-Vieux, France.

The project gave my father welcome reasons to travel. To become expert enough about carillons to guide the planning at UCR, he visited carillons in the U.S. These certainly included Stanford's carillon in Hoover Tower, then the only existing carillon in California. I imagine he also visited the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Their carillon, also from the Paccard Foundry, had just been installed in 1963. Ultimately, he flew to Annecy-le-Vieux to inspect the bells and approve them for delivery. Today there are 64 universities, schools and churches in the U.S. that have a carillon, but in the mid-1960s, there were very few. 1966 was a bumper year for installing carillons at American universities. In addition to that at UCR, projects were completed at USC, Yale, and Princeton (also by Paccard). UC Santa Barbara followed in 1969. When it was inaugurated at 6:00 p.m. on Oct. 2, 1966, the UCR carillon was indeed "one of the finest in the country." Speakers at that event included Clark Kerr, president of the University of California, Regent Philip Boyd, and Prof. William Reynolds. The day in June 1966 that the 48 bells were hoisted into the tower was a big day for the university community and one of the highlights of my father's career.

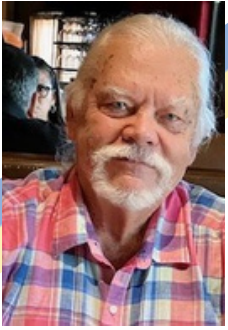
Chris Reynolds, class of '73.

Christopher Reynolds is Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor at UC Davis. He has been elected to memberships in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and also the Academia Europaea. His most recent book is Wagner, Schumann, and the Lessons of Beethoven's Ninth. His collection of 7000+ songs by women from the 1790s to the 1970s is mostly housed in Shields Library at UC Davis. He was founding editor-in-chief of the yearbook Beethoven Forum, and more recently, of the blog, Women's Song Forum. Reynolds has held visiting professorships at Yale, Stanford, and UC Berkeley, and in Germany at the Universities of Heidelberg and Göttingen. He was President of the American Musicological Society for 2013 and 2014.



Join the January 24
tour! See page 3.

2024-2025 Distinguished Emeriti Award Recipient: By Dallas Rabenstein David A. Swanson



Emeritus Professor of Sociology David A. Swanson joined the faculty of the Department of Sociology in 2007. Since his retirement in 2018, he has continued, and even accelerated, his record of scholarship as a demographer.

To quote one of his references, since retiring, Professor Swanson “has remained active at what could easily qualify for full-time endeavors. He continues to research, teach and serve our US population studies and analytics profession in highly impactful ways”. He has co-edited one book, contributed 4 book chapters, published 35 refereed journal articles, and made 30 conference presentations. His research on demographic developments covers all spheres of contemporary American life, such as from COVID-19 to census recording methods to immigration.

The continued impact of Professor Swanson’s research is reflected in his service on national committees. He served as a member of the U. S. Census Bureau’s Scientific Advisory Committee for six years and chaired the committee for two. He is a member of the mortality expert panel of the Society of Actuaries, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Demographic association, and is editor of its official journal, and he is general editor for Springer’s Applied Demography series.

In 2023, Professor Swanson was elected to membership in both the Washington State Academy of Sciences and the Mississippi Academy of Sciences for his past and continuing contributions to research and professional service.

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

UCRRA Scholarship Awards 2024-2025

By Sheryl Hayes

With thanks to all who have donated to our fund, and on behalf of the UCRRA Scholarship Committee, I’m pleased to announce that five exceptional students have been selected for the 2024- 2025 UCRRA Undergraduate Scholarship. These students were chosen out of an applicant pool of just under 50 students, and all met our priority criteria of being a close relative of a UCR staff member or retiree.



The Committee was extremely impressed with this group of students, whose GPA’s ranged from 3.90 to 4.45! In addition to their academic achievements, they also reflect our diverse UCR student body in terms of majors, backgrounds, leadership experience and their desire to serve their community after graduation.

Three freshmen were awarded. They are Isabelle Graham, Jacob Cervantes, and Christopher Zaldivar. Sophomore Citlali Campos was also chosen, and Colin Donahue, now in his Junior year, was again awarded. We’re excited to meet our scholars at our upcoming Winter Luncheon on February 7.

Congratulations scholars! If you would like to contribute to future UCRRA Scholarships, please use this link to make your donation at any time at: <https://emeriti-retirees.ucr.edu/ucreara-welcome/make-impact#ways-to-donate>

Your support makes a world of difference to our many needy and deserving UCR students!

TruEvolution Invites Emeriti and Retirees to Volunteer Your Community Needs You!

By Madison Thompson

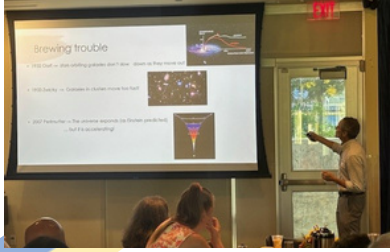


Your experience and leadership are essential in shaping a brighter future for the Inland Empire’s youth and community. At TruEvolution, founded by UCR graduate Gabriel Maldonado, we tackle critical social and health challenges with a vision for long-term change. Our IE LGBTQ+ Center, led by Program Director Toi Thibodeaux, a retired UCR professional, demonstrates the power of seasoned expertise in guiding and mentoring the next generation. Together, we are building a legacy of inclusion, equity, and opportunity for the youth and families in our region.

By becoming a TruVolunteer, you’ll take an active role in initiatives that inspire and support our youth to thrive. From advocacy to program development to community events, your contributions will directly impact their lives and empower them to achieve their fullest potential. This is more than volunteering—it’s a chance to leave a lasting mark on the future of our community. Step forward and make a difference today. Complete our volunteer application and join us in creating meaningful change! Interested retirees may email info@truevolution.org to express interest. To learn more, view the TruEvolution video at: https://youtu.be/VGXHpzf3_s.

Report on the Fall Luncheon

By Linda Tomko and Darleen DeMason



UCRRA President Andy Plumley welcomed members to the Luncheon at 12:00 noon. He opened the business meeting by calling for volunteers to serve on UCRRA Committees, including the Events & Programs, Membership and Outreach, Nominations, and Scholarship committees. Anyone interested was invited to contact Andy or Retirement Center Director Cristina Otegui. Andy also elaborated on the activity of the UCRRA Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, explaining that priority is given to UCR students who are related to family members or others who have retired or are employed by UCR.

Each year, UCRRA in conjunction with Staff Assembly presents the Mary Johnson Outstanding Retiree Award. Andy recognized Kathy Barton, who received the 2023-24 Award for her work on the accreditation process for the UCR School of Medicine. Andy also called members' attention to the Systemwide Retirees Survey, scheduled for Fall. He urged members to respond; the results of the Survey help UCRRA to demonstrate to the Chancellor and the Provost how engaged retirees are and how much they contribute to the UCR campus.



Andy encouraged everyone at the Luncheon to attend the Chancellor's Reception for retirees and emeriti, slated for Friday November 15 at the Alumni & Visitors Center. Chancellor Wilcox hosted this annual reception for the last time since he has announced his plan to retire at the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

Andy turned the microphone over to UCREA Co-President Darleen DeMason, who introduced Co-President Rusty Russell to Luncheon attendees. Darleen announced the October 25 free tour of the New Main Library and the Civil Rights Institute, across the street from each other in downtown Riverside, an event hosted by the UCREA's Walks, Talks and Tours committee. Darleen also alerted Luncheon attendees to the annual competition for the Distinguished Emeritus/ a Award that took place in Fall 2024, and to the Edward A. Dickson Professorship Lecture on Ancient Maya Agriculture presented by Dr. Scott Fedick, Professor Emeritus in the Anthropology Department, on November 19.



Darleen recognized the two winners of the UCREA's Graduate Student Travel Award competition conducted in Spring 2024: Juan Carlos Chavez Quispe and Chi Y. Ha, each a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Mr. Quispe gave a summary of his project on the archeology of ancient Bolivian cultures, illustrated with slides. Ms Ha sent a video greeting from Vietnam, where she is researching collaborations between Hmong community textile artisans and fashion designers in Vietnam and beyond. UCREA provided funding for one award and was delighted when Graduate Division provided full funding for a second award.

Darleen introduced the featured presentation on "Dark Mater and Energy" by José Wudka, Professor Emerita in the Physics and Astronomy Department and current Vice-President of UCREA. Dr. Wudka took an historical approach to show that over the course of human history our concept of our importance has changed being earth-centric to acknowledging our minor place in a large and expanding universe. Using the same approach he showed the history of our knowledge of what elements and forces make up our universe. Dr. Wudka then stated that this knowledge could explain all phenomena in our solar system. However, he then pointed out that astronomers observed phenomena in the other galaxies that could not be explained by that knowledge. In order to explain these strange astronomical phenomena, the presences of dark matter and energy have been proposed. They are "dark" because we cannot detect or measure them. The talk was mixed with humor and levity and it was appealing to the broad audience present. A lively question and answer period followed the presentation.





Tour of the Riverside Main Library and the Civil Rights Institute

By Darleen DeMason



On October 25th thirteen Retirees and Emeriti Association members were given tours of the new Riverside Main Library and the Civil Rights Institute. We thank Assistant Librarian, Jessica Herdina and Audrey Maier, Public History Director for the Civil Rights Institute for arranging the tours.

Our first tour was of the Library. We entered at a staff-only elevator and visited a room of rare books and local history that is not open to the public. Then we walked through the staff offices where we heard about many opportunities offered to the public. An interesting option is checking out bags of toys which people can use if grandchildren are coming to visit. Next we saw the very extensive children's section on the main floor. The walls were covered by colorful pictures painted by local artists. In a separate room near the Librarian Desk there are 3-D printers, video and digital resources and even a sewing machine for use by the public. Just outside the room there is a grand piano that can be reserved for playing on Fridays. The remainder of the floor has shelves of books and work stations all around with views out the windows. Laptop computers can be checked out for use in the library. In addition, we saw a large outside patio that can be used for special events and a conference room. The conference room has a light pole that came from the original Riverside public library.

Next we went across the street to the Civil Rights Institute. They had just set up a new exhibit which filled the main floor of the building. It consisted of a set of 27 poster-panels of local civil rights heroes who advocated in the following categories: Race and Ethnicity, Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Disability and National Origin. These heroes were either living or deceased. The docent leading the tour picked out a few people to discuss in detail. Robert Bland who moved here from Virginia was the major leader of a parents' group during the movement to integrate the Riverside public schools. Vivian Stancil was a former teacher who became a competitive senior swimmer after losing her eyesight and started the Vivian Stancil Olympian Foundation that teaches swimming to disadvantaged youth. Ofelia Valdez-Yeager was a community leader who founded Latino Networks and was a key supporter of the Cheech and of UCR. Oral histories of 25 of these heroes are available on the Homegrown Heroes Oral History Project | Civil Rights Institute Inland Southern California at: <https://www.inlandcivilrights.org/exhibitions/homegrown-heroes/oral-history-project/>

After leaving these two sights I was very impressed with the wealth of resources and the many inspirational members of our community in Riverside.



Reception Honoring Retirees and Emeriti

By Andy Plumley

On November 15, 2024, a reception was held to honor all our Retirees and Emeriti. About 85 retirees and emeriti gathered at the Alumni & Visitors Center for wine, appetizers and great conversations. Chancellor Kim Wilcox was in attendance and provided an update entitled "Rising to the Top!" He thanked retirees and emeriti for the role they played in the many UCR successes. Highlights to his presentation included:

- UCR being a leader in research and transformation. We are a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities while also being ranked #1 in social mobility, ranked #22 in most innovative, and ranked #45 in overall public universities.
- Enrollment has grown to 26,384.
- Research expenditures have grown to over \$200 million, up 67% since 2010.



Reception Honoring Retirees and Emeriti (Continued)

- New construction continues, with the recent opening of a new building for the School of Business, and a new University Teaching and Lab Facility and new student housing under construction.
- New research parks called OASIS (Opportunities to Advance Sustainability, Innovation, and Social Inclusion) include a Rare Minerals Lab near the Salton Sea, the California Air Resources Board adjacent to our Agricultural Research Fields, a Clean Tech Park being planned, and an Ag Innovation Center.
- The new RAISE Institute (Riverside Artificial Intelligence Research & Education Institute) envisions a future where AI enhances every aspect of human life. Through robust research, collaboration, and education, UCR will strive to advance technologies that are ethical, transparent, and beneficial to society.



At the end of his remarks and in recognition of his pending retirement at the end of the school year, the UCR Retirees' and Emeriti Associations presented the Chancellor with a plaque thanking him for his great support to retirees and emeriti, with the establishment of the UCR Retirement Center.

Holiday Luncheon: Professor Kimberly Hammond on UCR's Natural Reserve System

By Raymond Russell

UCR retirees and emeriti gathered at the Alumni and Visitors Center for our annual Holiday Luncheon on December 6. As arriving guests checked in and mingled, live background music was performed by recent UCR Music PhD Dr. Pedro Garcia Lopez de la Osa. Pedro was a Winter 2024 recipient of an Emeriti Graduate Student Travel Award. Pedro used the award to conduct research in Spain that he recently presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Musicological Society in Chicago.

UCRRA President Andy Plumley welcomed all attendees on behalf of both the Retirees' Association and the Emeriti Association. He began by reminding everyone that donations of food and clothing for UCR's R'Professional Career Closet and R'Pantry were being collected in the lobby. We later learned from R'Pantry that gifts of food received filled two boxes and weighed 97.5 pounds. Andy then announced the five winners of UCRRA Undergraduate Scholarships for 2024-2025.

Emeriti Association Co-President Raymond Russell made a few brief announcements on behalf of the Emeriti Association and then introduced the featured speaker, UCR Professor of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology Kimberley Hammond. Kim Hammond grew up in California and has spent a lot of time hiking and backpacking in the mountains. She earned her undergraduate degree and PhD in Zoology from Colorado State University. Since 2012 she has been the Faculty Director for the UCR Natural Reserve System and a full-time member of the faculty at UCR.

Hammond began by giving an overview of the UC Natural Reserve System, which includes 41 distinct reserves totaling more than 750,000 acres. UCR's portion of this system covers 42 square miles and employs 14 people full time and several others part time. The natural reserves are resources available for teaching and research.

Hammond then shared photos and provided information about specific reserves and research centers that are part of UCR's diverse Natural Reserve System. At the James San Jacinto Mountain Reserve, UCR Professor Marko Spasojevic has been studying why so many pines are dying while oaks that grow near to them are thriving. At the Motte Rimrock Reserve near Perris, Assistant Director Joe Messin has helped to bring the Stephens' kangaroo rat back from being a "critically endangered" species to one that is merely "threatened." At the Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, Entomology Professor Kerry Mauck has been studying viruses that affect native and exotic plants. At the Boyd Deep Canyon Research Center, researchers track Mojave desert tortoises and are studying the acoustic ecology of Costa's hummingbird. Other studies take place at the Emerson Oaks Reserve and the Box Springs Reserve.

Hammond finished by describing a new "Experiential Internship" that has been established at the UCR Natural Reserve System with the help of a gift endowed by UCR emeriti Mary Price and Nick Waser. The internship program began in 2021 with just three students but now is reaching 10-15 students per year.

