President’s Letter - George Miller

Happy Spring and Summer to all Emeriti and Emeritae!

I hope you have managed to stay healthy through these trying times and have been following campus updates issued by Chancellor Howard Gillman and EVC/Provost Hal Stern. Thankfully, they report that UCI and UCI Health have survived and now have a very low level of virus contact.

The UCI Emeriti Association (UCIEA), has, as its core goals, protecting your UC retiree benefits and interests, promoting opportunities for your engagement with the campus, and, however possible, providing activities you may enjoy.

This past year, in spite of unusual obstacles, UCIEA has continued to be a diligent and strong advocate for emeriti/ae benefits and interests in the UC system and on campus. We have remained active in discussions about revisions to UC health and other benefits that are now being considered and may affect current and/or future retirees. While improvement has been made, we continue to call attention to shortcomings in the online systems for retirees (UCRAYS) and with the process for those entering retirement (RASC).

We thank many of you for your support via your membership dues as well as those who added a donation for or gave on UCI Giving Day to contribute to our soon-to-be-established UCIEA Dissertation Scholarship. We are now able to finalize this effort to contribute to a couple of deserving graduate students completing their thesis work.

We are pleased to report that complimentary parking for general parking spaces in any Irvine campus lot will continue to be offered to all UCIEA members when parking control restarts on July 1st 2021. If you wish to join or renew for one year or multiple years, we have an online link at http://connect.uci.edu/UCIEADues.

This year we have selected Professor Emeritus of History Spencer C. Olin for our 2020-21 Outstanding Emeritus/a Award. We will honor him in person at a meetings that we hope to hold Fall Quarter. Meanwhile, you can read in this newsletter Spence’s personal reflections on his substantial contributions to UCI since retirement. HINT: We encourage you to write an article showing how you are still active and making an impact wherever you may be in this phase of life called retirement!

This Fall, we plan to restart our meetings with Deans regarding their engage-
We continue, in our newsletters and on the website, to spotlight emeriti/ae accomplishments and keep you updated on those sadly leaving us in an In Memoriam section. Please inform me or the Center for Emeriti and Retirees (CER) staff of any information missing from our website (http://sites.uci.edu/emeriti).

Are you interested in the power of the written word – be it prose or poem? Can you foresee using this power to enhance healing and hope? I am pleased to welcome a proposal and solicitation from Professor Emeritus Frank Meyskens. View his distinguished career at https://sites.uci.edu/emeriti/emeriti-spotlight/. He would like to form a group with like-minded retirees to foster uses of the arts of the bards. Please read his entry further on in this newsletter.

Bill Parker, our Faculty Retirement Liaison, is still 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.

Together with CER and the UCI Retirees Association (a separate organization for non-Academic Senate retirees as well as faculty retirees), we promote events of interest for all retirees. A few activities have survived during the pandemic, safely distanced and masked, including local hikes, walks and bike rides. We will co-host the annual CER/UCI Emeriti-Retirees Reception on October 20, 2021. Whether online or in-person, those attending can enjoy the annual Q&A with Chancellor Gillman.

We are especially proud of our four-part series Maximizing Health Care Late in Life: Obstacles and Opportunities. The series titles are: Planning for health care as we age; sites and services; The All or Nothing to YOUR Advance Directive; How to Create Effective Advance Directives/Living Wills for Late-Stage Dementia, and Financial Solutions for Senior Health Care. They are available to view on-line at https://sites.uci.edu/emeriti. We thank Emeritus Professor Richard Robertson for organizing these discussions and Bill Parker for acting as MC. If you have ideas for follow-up sessions or other topics of special relevancy to retirees, please let us know. Emeriti associations at several UC campuses also have public sessions that can be freely viewed.

I warmly welcome your comments, suggestions and queries and value your participation. Please do not “Zoom Out” of staying in touch. Also, please update CER with your home and email addresses and let us know if you are not able to access our communications.

George E. Miller,
President, UCIEA: gemiller@uci.edu

We would like to recognize and congratulate the following emeriti/ae on their continued work.

Professor Emeritus Spencer C. Olin of History is awarded the 2020-21 Outstanding Emeritus Award by the UCI Emeriti Association.

Read more on the next page
NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN “RETIREMENT” - SPENCE OLIN

Dear Members of the UCI Emeriti/ae Association,

I express my sincere appreciation to the Executive Committee of the UCI Emeriti/ae Association for selecting me as the Outstanding Emeritus Awardee for 2020-2021 and to those who wrote letters of support on my behalf. It has been suggested that I might wish to reflect upon why I have chosen to remain somewhat engaged with the campus upon retirement, and in what kinds of activities I have participated during the past couple of decades.

My own continuing involvement in various ways with the UCI campus is motivated in large part by the examples set by others. I have been especially impressed in this regard by the efforts of Jim Danziger, a good friend, a longtime colleague and a former President of the UCI Emeriti/ae Association. During his term, among many important contributions, Jim joined with others at UCI to propose specific means by which retired faculty members could contribute their experience, knowledge, and professional expertise to ongoing developments on their respective campuses.

To be sure, not all emeriti/ae faculty are interested in remaining engaged in this manner. This is quite understandable, it seems to me, for there are good reasons upon retirement to undertake other activities unrelated to UCI. For me, however, various opportunities presented themselves over the years, and I have found great satisfaction in undertaking several of them. I will mention a few.

In 2004, for example, former Dean of Physical Sciences Hal Moore and I were appointed by then Chancellor Ralph Cicerone as the first recipients at UCI of Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professorships. Each of us was appointed for a three-year term of service, during which we were expected to contribute something of value to the campus. I worked primarily on the history of UCI. I met with the vice chancellors and academic deans to urge the retention of significant materials for future historical reference and analysis. I also conducted oral history interviews with leading academic administrators and founding faculty members about their experiences in building UCI into a major research university. (Written transcripts of the interviews are deposited in the UCI Special Collections and Archives, available through a request...
We remember our colleagues who have passed.

James L. Calderwood  
*English*  – February 2020

Salvatore R. Maddi  
*Psychological Science*  – November 2020

J. Hillis Miller  
*Comparative Literature*  – February 2021

James J. Flink  
*School of Social Sciences*  – April 2021

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

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**INVITATION:**  
**Art of Healing and Hope Forum - Frank Meyskens**

Help explore the power of poetry to provide insight, hope and healing with this new forum: “Art of Healing and Hope” via storytelling, both narrative and poetic.

This is a unique initiative among all UC retiree and emeriti associations. Diverse yet familiar topics such as caregiving and aging challenges as they impact personal, partner, and family life will provide a meaningful platform for ongoing personalized retiree interaction. Reflections on lessons learned throughout life may also be shared by participants. Interactions will occur both virtually and in-person, and a concurrent hybrid model will be developed.

Dr. Meyskens will serve as the contact person. If you are interested in participating or assisting in the development of this activity, please respond to emeriti@uci.edu. Once the level of interest is confirmed, an initial virtual meeting will be scheduled and the journey can begin.
management system called Aeon.) In 2005, I organized the celebration of UCI’s 40th Anniversary, including a symposium held in The Barclay Theater and also participated in composing a publication entitled “Designing UCI” (which is also available in the UCI Special Collections and Archives).

In 2008, as an emeritus faculty member, I was invited to serve on an Ad Hoc Academic Senate Committee on Shared Governance. Members of that committee included Alan Barbour, Tim Bradley, Ellen Greenberger, Jutta Heckhausen, Meredith Lee, and William Sirignano. Not all of these colleagues at the time were emeriti/ae, but all had extensive administrative and/or Academic Senate experience. In fact, four had previously served as Chairs of the Academic Senate and three had been academic deans. After a couple of months of thoughtful deliberations, our committee submitted eighteen specific recommendations regarding dean searches and reviews. Those recommendations received strong endorsement at a Special Assembly meeting of the Academic Senate held on May 15, 2008. Later that year, after consultations with then Chancellor Drake and then EVC Gottfredson regarding our recommendations, a working compromise was finally reached. A document entitled Guiding Principles of Faculty Involvement in Dean Search and Dean Review Committees was published, to which the central administration agreed to adhere. I am unaware of the extent to which these principles are currently being implemented, but it is certainly my hope that they continue to hold sway in dean searches and reviews. Regardless, that was for me a meaningful experience and an example of how emeriti/ae faculty can at times effectively contribute to UCI’s development.

More recently, I have enjoyed serving on the Graduate Dean’s Leadership Council (2018-2020) and on the Dean of Humanities Leadership Council (2019-to-present). Not only have I thereby become well acquainted with two highly effective colleagues I did not previously know – Dean of the Graduate Division Gillian Hayes and Dean of Humanities Tyrus Miller—but I have also met on many occasions with two quite impressive groups of extremely intelligent and professionally-accomplished Council members, all of whom are deeply committed to UCI’s well-being. They include, for example, a management and leadership consultant, a RAND researcher, a number of engineers with different specialties, a financial services professional, a neuroscientific consultant, a cybersecurity expert, an entertainment industry executive, a member of an executive search firm, and several current and retired professors. In short, these are two very diverse sets of UCI supporters, many of whom possess UCI graduate degrees and remain firmly committed to contributing what they can – in terms of experience, contacts, funding – to promote the improvement of our campus.

These are some of the ways, then, in which I have remained involved with the UCI campus since my retirement in the late-1990s. I most definitely do NOT offer them as a model, or as a stimulus-to-action, for anyone else. I do, however, suggest that such activities can, in fact, be personally very rewarding and even helpful.

Again, with much appreciation for this significant recognition by the UCI Emeriti/ae Association. Collegially, Spencer Olin, Professor Emeritus of History.
Like a gerrymander, retirement is a complicated beast, assembled from parts that we don’t all choose. What has your beast been doing? Please tell us—in the UC-wide survey of emeriti activity, coming this fall!

In the last survey (covering 2015-2018), about 1,200 retired UC faculty members reported having published over 5,000 journal articles. Impressive enough. But for others, things went in entirely different directions:

- “Research in family genealogy covering over 300 years;
- “By working with him over an extended period, saved my grandson from suicide;
- “Caregiver and advocate for my wife.

Tell us what your retirement beast is like. Watch this newsletter for a link to the latest emeriti activities survey, coming this fall (October-November).

UC Retirees Travel offers extraordinary opportunities to see the world with UC retired staff, faculty, family members, and friends. Expert group trip planners coordinate all of the details so you can relax and enjoy the journey. All UC Retiree Travel trips include airfare (or a land-only option), lodging, most meals and excursions, and transportation.

Our 2022 trips are filling rapidly, but space still remains on several excursions. Destinations next year include Spain/Portugal, the Netherlands/Belgium, France, the Baltic Capitals/St. Petersburg, Cuba, Chile/Argentina and a “Christmas on the Danube” river cruise. For those who want to stay closer to home, we are offering domestic trips to New Orleans and the Islands of New England.

Visit the UC Retirees Travel website to subscribe to our “Travel Talk” e-newsletter and view the most up-to-date trip information: http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/