

TOWER TALK

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Holiday Luncheon

"Dean Daryle Williams: Enslaved.org: A Short (Digital) History"

By Raymond Russell

UCR Retirees and Emeriti gathered at the Alumni and Visitors Center on December 9 for our first in-person Holiday Luncheon in three years.

UCR Retirees' Association President Andy Plumley began the event by introducing recently appointed Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer Alex Najera. AVC Najera served previously as UCR's Director of Employee and Labor Relations, and in similar positions at CSU San Bernardino and other institutions before returning to UCR in September of this year. Najera is now happy to be back at UCR, and looks forward to working with UCR retirees, emeriti, and the Retirement Center. Andy also announced that we received about 25 applications for the 2022-2023 UCRRA Undergraduate Scholarship, and that the UCRRA Board would be deciding recipients at their December meeting.

UCREA Co-President Rusty Russell followed with news of the Emeriti Association. The 2022-2023 Distinguished Emerita/Emeritus Award is being shared by Kathleen Montgomery and Richard Luben. The Emeriti Graduate Student Travel Award for Fall 2022 has been awarded to Jessica Bradford. Jessica is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, who will use the award to study the growing phenomenon of living in recreational vehicles (RVs). Following these announcements, Rusty convened a brief business meeting of the Emeriti Association, at which the members approved an amendment to the UCREA Bylaws that permits Presidents to be re-elected when the office of Vice President is vacant or the current Vice President has served less than a year in that office.

The featured speaker at the Holiday Luncheon was CHASS Dean Daryle Williams, who reported on his research on slavery. In collaboration with researchers at other universities, Williams has created a website called enslaved.org that allows visitors to search numerous datasets containing information about the lives of enslaved people. The goal is to make it possible to assemble short biographies of as many formerly enslaved and emancipated individuals as possible.

It was wonderful to see so many emeriti and retirees at this wonderful event, with a delicious lunch and beer and wine to toast the holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all in 2023!

If you missed the presentation or wish to learn more, please visit enslaved.org

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Secretary

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Retirement Center

Director

Cristina Otegui, retirees@ucr.edu

(951) 827-5008

Location: Human Resources, University Village, Room 208i

Office Hours: Tuesdays through Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (currently working remotely)

UC Retiree Travel Program

View all 2022-2023 planned trips on the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) website at:

<http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>



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 goes by in retirement!

Recent Events

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 are planning for our Winter luncheon. We have an ad-hoc committee hard at work to update our by-laws to align with our current practices. Karim and I participated in the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) meetings hosted by UC Berkeley. And we continue to partner with our wonderful UCR Emeriti Association (UCREA) to provide programs and activities. So much going on!

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 2023!

Andy



UCR Emeriti Association

Darleen DeMason and Raymond Russell
UCREA Co-Presidents

Dear UCR Emeriti Association Members,

Recent Events Fall 2022

Since the Fall Tower Talk went to press, our Mystery Book Club met on October 11 to discuss Philip Kerr's novel March Violets, and our monthly Zoom series of Tech-Tips had two informative sessions, one on "How to Use Cloud Storage" on October 11, and another on "How to Use Applications within Google Accounts" on November 8. At a reception in the Alumni and Visitor Center on October 21, Chancellor Kim Wilcox shared with us his vision of the future of UCR and joined us in celebrating the contributions and achievements of UCR retirees and emeriti. On November 1, Dickson Fellow and Distinguished Professor Emeritus Howard Friedman gave a Zoom presentation on the secrets of long life and good health. On December 2, our Interpretive Walks Club organized a stimulating tour of the new Student Success Center and the recently re-opened Barn. Our Holiday Luncheon on December 9 featured a presentation by new CHASS Dean Daryle Williams, who discussed his ongoing research on slavery.



Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award

The Emeriti Association's new Graduate Student Travel Award helps graduate students meet the costs of travel to scholarly meetings or to research sites by providing \$1500 in funding for domestic travel or \$2,000 for travel outside the United States. In 2021 and 2022, the Emeriti Association created two funds to support this new fellowship program: a "current use" fund to support current awards, and an endowment fund that will provide long-term funding. After awarding our first Graduate Student Travel Award in April 2022, as of November we had accumulated a total of \$5,577.50 in the current use fund, and more than \$47,000 in the endowment fund. Encouraged by these successes in fundraising, the Emeriti Board voted at its November meeting to begin awarding two Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Awards every year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. To ensure sufficient funding for future awards, members are encouraged to continue giving to the current use fund and/or to the endowment fund that support the Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award.

Upcoming Winter 2023

Our Mystery Book Club will discuss Peter Robinson's In a Dry Season on January 10, Into the Woods by Tana French on February 14, and Black Corridors by Constance and Gwenyth Little on March 14. The Dickson Lecture by Professor of Philosophy Emeritus Larry Wright that was originally slated for January 17 has been rescheduled for April 4. At our Winter Luncheon on February 10, the featured speaker will be world-renowned novelist and UCR Creative Writing Professor Laila Lalami. On February 14, our Tech-Tips series will offer a Zoom presentation on "Best Practices when Backing Up Your Computer." On February 23, Fidelity Investments will offer advice on "Tax Efficient Investing." On March 3, 1-2:30, our Interpretive Walks Club will organize a tour of the new Cheech Center in downtown Riverside. On March 14, the Tech-Tips series will take up the issue of "How to Change Settings on Devices for Easy Reading." Additional information about these events and how to sign up for them appears elsewhere in this newsletter or will be distributed separately.

Darleen and Rusty



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 10, 2023

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

Book Activity: *In a Dry Season* by Peter Robinson (Book 10 in the Inspector Banks Series)

When: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

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

Book Activity: *In the Woods* by Tana French (Book 1 of Dublin Murder Squad)

When: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

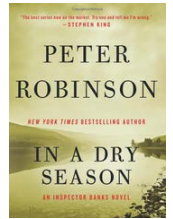
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Book Activity: *Black Corridors* by Constance and Gwenyth Little (Rue Morgue Vintage Mysteries)

Details: Interested retirees and emeriti may contact the Retirement Center by email with the subject line, "Mystery Book Club" at: retirees@ucr.edu.

Register for the Winter Mystery Book Club meetings at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bHI5NnWloIKAn8G



Interpretive Walks Club

Activity: Tour of the Cheech Center at the Riverside Arts Museum (RAM)

Cost of Entry: \$10 per person, space is limited

When: Friday, March 3, 2023 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Club Leader: Darleen DeMason

Details: Retirees and emeriti are cordially invited to attend this exciting off campus tour located at the Riverside Arts Museum. We are limiting the tour to 20 participants so don't delay. Information on the meeting location and parking for the tour will be provided in a confirmation email upon registering. Make sure to wear good walking shoes and a hat, bring water and wear clothing appropriate for the weather.

Register for the Tour of the Cheech Center at the RAM no later than Friday, February 24, 2023 at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ekULrbAs8NACILQ



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 14, 2023 Best Practices when Backing Up Your Computer
 March 14, 2023 How to Change Settings on Devices for Easy Reading

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4UX8A6HLsw2AAh8

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.

Thursday, February 23, 2023 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Adrian Rodriguez, Fidelity Investments Financial Planner

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iUWBgodLTaCb_c6e8-BgJg

Winter Luncheon



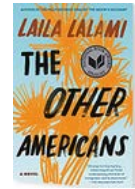
"The Other Americans"

Laila Lalami, UCR Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing and Author

Friday, February 10, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

In person at the UCR Alumni & Visitors Center, \$25 per person

We are delighted to have as our speaker the world-renowned novelist and UCR Creative Writing Professor Laila Lalami. Professor Lalami has published several novels, including *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits* (2005), *Secret Son* (2009), *The Moor's Account* (2014), and *The Other Americans* (2019), as well as her essay collection, *Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America*. Professor Lalami will read from her recent work and take questions from the audience. We are all looking forward to the exciting event.



For more information on her latest novel, *The Other Americans*, please visit Laila Lalami's website at: <https://lailalalami.com/the-other-americans/about/>.

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Z6JLbv9VqxPPPo

Recent Events

Interpretive Walks Club: UCR Student Success Center and UCR Barn

By Andy Plumley

On Friday, December 2nd, the Interpretive Walks Club toured two of UCR's latest buildings, starting with the new Student Success Center and ending with the old Barn.

The Student Success Center (SSC) tour was led by Assistant Dean of Students Brendan O'Brien. The SSC building planning began in 2019 to address the campus need for more classroom space and more student study and program space. These two needs drove the SSC's design and the building features state-of-the-art classrooms which includes UCR's first lecture-in-the round. Large and small student meeting and study spaces are throughout the building. Most impressive in the building is the central stair atrium that provides light from expansive windows and study spaces along the edges of the stairwell. As our tour was held during finals, every seat in the building was occupied. Two additions to come for this building will be an information kiosk and a small dining store. And planning is already being considered for another SSC!

After our SSC tour, the group walked over to the new Barn Complex. The original Barn had its beginnings in 1917, housing horses and wagons for the new UC Citrus Experiment Station. This building has gone through many changes in its 100 year history, from dining to bar and bands to dining. One mainstay has always been serving as a hub for interactions between students, faculty, staff and community. In 2012, discussions began of a new, reimagined Barn, expanding the dining program and bringing back entertainment and alcohol. After many stops and starts and leadership changes, the new Barn plan was approved and the Barn closed for construction in 2019. The project was completed in spring of 2020, but it's opening was delayed due to Covid. Moses Preciado, Sr. Dining Services Manager, provided us a tour, and while almost all of the Barn complex is new, the main Barn building features the original truss system. In addition to the main building, there is a large kitchen for all day and night dining, two patios with one featuring an outdoor performance stage, the Barn Theater for music and dance performance practice, and the Barn Stable which features a full bar and will soon be reopened for dining and drinks. We celebrated the end of our tour with a few beers and glasses of wine!

Special thanks to our tour guides Brendan and Moses.

2022-2023 Distinguished Emeriti Award Recipients: Kathleen Montgomery and Richard Luben

By Dallas Rabenstein

Professor of Organizations and Management Emerita Kathleen Montgomery joined the faculty of the School of Business in 1990. Following her retirement in 2010, she has continued to distinguish herself through her research, her professional service and nationally and internationally through her activism.

In her research since retirement, Montgomery has published eight refereed journal articles, she has served as editor or co-editor of thirteen books and she has contributed fifteen chapters to edited books. She also has made sixteen conference presentations since her retirement. In 2014, she held the Edward A. Dickson Emerita Professorship for the UCR campus.



Professor Emerita Montgomery has an outstanding record of professional and University service since retirement. She has served, and continues to serve, on the editorial boards of three professional journals. She has served on award selection committees of several professional organizations. Her University service has been extensive. System-wide, she was a member of the UC President's Cyber-Risk Governance Committee for four years, she was on the UC Academic Senate Committee on Academic Freedom for three years, and she chaired the committee for two of those three years. Her service to UCR includes being a member of 5 senate or chancellor's committees. She was chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom for one year and currently is chair of the Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction.

Montgomery has long championed issues related to women in organizations and leadership. She has been active in the League of Women Voters (LWV). She represented the LWV of the United States at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2019-2020. She is co-founder of the Human Rights Special Interest Group (HRSIG), a non-profit, research-based group that evolved from the UN Commission meeting. The mission of the HRSIG is to inspire local community efforts to educate, advocate for and implement human rights policies and goals (www.hrsig.org).

In recognition of her outstanding professional contributions, Professor Emerita Montgomery was elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2018.



Richard A. Luben joined the Division of Biomedical Sciences and the Department of Biochemistry in 1976. Following his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 2006, he has a record of outstanding service to UC Riverside. He has continually taken on heavy service duties, and he has contributed to the teaching programs of both the Division of Biomedical Sciences and the Department of Biochemistry.

Since his retirement, Professor Luben has served in high-visibility administrative positions. He served as Special Assistant to UCR's Vice Chancellor for Research from 2006 to 2009, as Special Assistant to UCR's Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs from 2009-2012, as Chair of the Department of Biochemistry from 2017-2020, and as UCR's Research Integrity Officer from 2018-2020.

Professor Luben has made, and continues to make, significant contributions to the UCR School of Medicine (SOM). He has served continuously on the SOM's Admission Committee since his retirement. Medical school admissions requires extensive work by members of the committee with file reviews, evaluations and discussions of each candidate. The SOM annually receives thousands of applications (currently over 7,000 applications for 80 seats). Each committee member provides written evaluations of 10 applicants each week from September to March.

Since his retirement, Professor Luben has also contributed to the teaching mission of both the School of Medicine and the Department of Biochemistry. This has included teaching in the Department of Biochemistry's Topics in Human Biochemistry course from 2006-2017, in General Biochemistry from 2006-2016 and the Signal Transduction and Biochemical Regulation course in 2017. In addition, during his time as Chair of the Department of Biochemistry, he organized the Department's two advising courses: Topics in Biochemistry for Career Planning, designed for incoming freshmen biochemistry majors, and Introduction to Humanitarian and Healthcare Service, designed for biochemistry majors planning careers in Health Professions.

UCR Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

The UCR Osher Program offers courses and events on both the Riverside and Palm Desert campuses. Both in person and online courses are available in areas of history, literature, the natural and social sciences, fine arts and more. The Winter 2023 Osher Catalog can be viewed at: <https://palmdesert.ucr.edu/welcome-ucr-osher>.

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

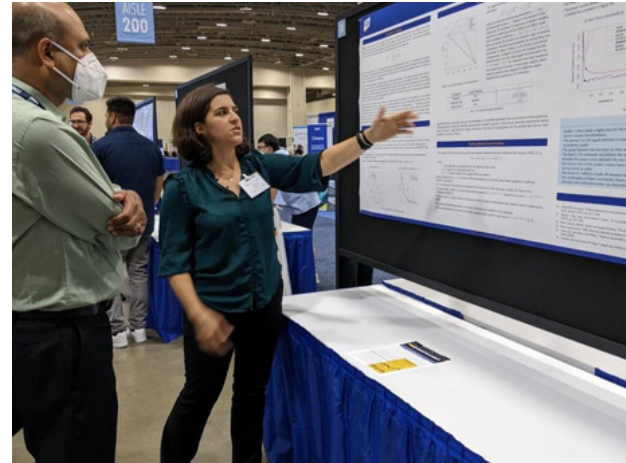


Report from UCREA's First Graduate Student Travel Award

By Darleen DeMason

At our annual Spring Luncheon on May 20, 2023, Emeriti Association Co-President Darleen DeMason announced that Rebecca Kurtz-Garcia had been selected as the first recipient of the Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award (GSTA). Rebecca is a UCR alumna who is working on a Ph.D. in Statistics. The Emeriti Graduate Student Travel Award made it possible for Rebecca to attend the 2022 Joint Statistical Meeting in Washington DC, where she presented a poster on "Alternative Time-Average Covariance Matrix Estimation Procedures."

A requirement of these awards is for the student to submit a report of his/her activities at the conference or research site. Rebecca's report was so heart-warming that we wanted to provide it to the membership. The following is Rebecca's report:



"IT WAS SO AMAZING! I met so many people and did a lot of networking. Shortly after knowing I received the award, I was invited to co-organize the Graduate Student Mixer/Social for the National Institute of Statistical Sciences on the first night of the conference. This set me for the rest of the week, as I met so many people, and many people recognized me from leading this social event.

I learned a "ton," got new ideas for my next research steps, made friends, and set up potential collaborations. My poster seemed like a hit, and I was invited to apply to several universities for academic jobs for Fall 2023. I have maintained communication with several of these connections, and I could not imagine the week going any better. One of the people I met invited me to do a mock interview, all paid for, at a college I am interested in working for in the future. The arrangements for that have been set up, and I will be heading to Pennsylvania in the fall.

I definitely could not have afforded to go to the conference without the award. This conference is one of the coolest things I have gotten to do in graduate school, and came at the perfect time in my professional preparation. Thanks again for everything! This has undoubtedly helped me transition into the next phase of my career."

Congratulations again, Rebecca. We look forward to following your continued successes!

Retirement Center Director Welcomes New Baby

Cristina Otegui became the Director of UCR's Retirement Center in the Fall of 2019. The job began as a halftime position, but in response to ensuring providing services to retirees and in assisting the Retirees' and Emeriti Associations, the appointment was increased to fulltime in the summer of 2022.

After working fulltime through the end of November, Cristina began a maternity leave on December 1. Just a few days later, on December 6, Cristina gave birth to her daughter Emelia. Members of both the Retirees' Association and the Emeriti Association congratulate Cristina on this new addition to her family and wish them the best in 2023 and beyond.

While Cristina is on maternity leave, Demetrius Patrick is serving as the Acting Director of the Retirement Center. Demetrius is normally Cristina's supervisor, so he is already well acquainted with the services that Cristina provides to UCR retirees and emeriti. To contact Demetrius, email demetrius.patrick@ucr.edu.

R'Card Benefit

UCRRA and UCREA members interested in receiving a new R'Card may complete the R'Card Benefit Interest Form in the retirement center webpage at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3F8XtK5dEs9x45U



