

TOWER TALK

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Winter Luncheon

"Laila Lalami: The Other Americans"

By John Ganim

Our guest speaker for the February 10, 2023 luncheon was Laila Lalami, Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing. Professor Lalami read from her most recent novel, *The Other Americans*, set in the California desert. A mystery centering on a hit and run death, it is told through alternating points of view, sometimes tracking the police investigation and sometimes exploring the past lives of the characters, some of whom are immigrants. The novel reflects Laila Lalami's longstanding interest in immigration and its conflicts. She was born in Morocco, speaking Moroccan Arabic, and was educated in French and classical Arabic, as well as English.



The reading demonstrated her elegant and precise prose, but her description of her writing process assured us that this is not easy to do. Early drafts of the novel were told in an entirely different manner, and she gave us insight into how an author works with her editor to revise the finished product.

Laila Lalami is also a widely read columnist for *The Nation*, and writes for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *The Guardian*, and many other outlets. She has recently published a collection of essays called *Conditional Citizens*. She is widely known for *The Moor's Account*, a historical reconstruction of the first African to encounter the New World, as a slave to conquistadors. It won the American Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer.

If you buy her books at the UCR Bookstore, look up. There is a larger-than-life photomural of Laila's face above the main entrance. More information about her is available at <https://lailalalami.com/>.



In Memoriam

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



Elmer Ross, retired in April 1991

Barbara Mullen, retired in June 1991

Selim Reuben-Karady, retired in July 1992

Leon Cozart, retired in November 1992

Gordon Eaton, retired in October 1997

Willette Bell, retired in April 1998

Lonnice Kienitz, retired in July 2002

Richard Autio, retired in August 2003

Steven Thomas, retired in November 2006

Melissa Conway, retired in January 2015

Gilbert Anthony Serros, retired in January 2018

Joshua Laib Schiffer, retired in March 2018

Orlando Taylor, retired in July 2020

Lee Brostrom, retired in July 2021

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/>



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Director

Cristina Otegui, 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!

While the first day of spring arrived last week, the temperature has not risen above 60 degrees and more rain is forecast later in the week. And I know will miss the cool weather once summer temperatures arrive.

UCRRA Initiatives

Once again, your UCRRA board has been hard at work this past quarter. The most significant accomplishment is the completion of updating our Bylaws. Current practices, particularly in officer duties and election restrictions, were not aligned with our Bylaws. This along with reviewing other UC campus retiree association bylaws led to a major rewrite of our Bylaws. This effort was led by Karim Zahedi, UCRRA Vice President, and Patricia Smith-Hunt, Chair of the UCRRA Hospitality Committee, along with input from the entire Executive Board. The new Bylaws were sent out to the membership via email on March 13. **A special UCRRA Bylaws Virtual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 at 9:00 a.m.** Approval of the amended bylaws requires a two-thirds approval vote of those members attending the special meeting. If you did not receive an email, please contact the Retirement Center Director at cristina.otegui@ucr.edu.

We will soon begin recruiting for UCRRA Executive Board candidates for 2023/24. Also coming soon, we will be sending out a call for nominations for the **"Mary Johnson Outstanding Retiree Award"**. Nominations will be sought out from both retirees and current staff. I enjoy learning about all the wonderful work retirees are doing, both on and off campus! Mark your calendars for our May 19 Spring Luncheon. This luncheon includes our annual business meeting. Please contact me for any questions, ideas, or just to say "hey!"

Andy



UCR Emeriti Association

Darleen DeMason and Raymond Russell
UCREA Co-Presidents

Dear UCR Emeriti Association Members,

Recent Events Winter 2023

The UCREA and UCRRA calendar was filled with interesting events in the Winter Quarter, including three meetings of our Mystery Book Club and two informative sessions of "Tech Tips." At our Winter Luncheon on February 10, Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing Professor Laila Lalami shared with us scenes from her most recent novel, *The Other Americans*, set in the California desert. On March 3, we were treated to a tour of the art on display at the new Cheech Center in Riverside. Detailed descriptions of those two unique occasions appear elsewhere in this newsletter. That all these events went smoothly was thanks to the tireless efforts of Demetrius Patrick, who ably filled in for Retirement Center Director Cristina Otegui during her maternity leave from December through February.

Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award

The UCREA 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. The UCREA has established two funds to support this fellowship program: a "current use" fund to support current awards, and an endowment fund that will provide long-term funding. By the end of 2022, we had accumulated a total of \$6,750.75 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. The two awards that we are giving in 2022-23 will leave the current use fund severely depleted, leading us to designate it as the primary target for gifts during this year's UCR Give Day on April 6. 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 Events

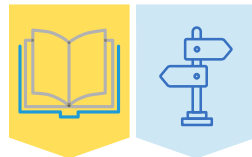
Our Spring calendar opens with a Dickson Lecture by Professor of Philosophy Emeritus Larry Wright on April 4. The "Tech Tips" series will have monthly sessions on May 9 and June 6 and the Mystery Book Club will have monthly sessions on April 11 and May 9. On Friday May 12 at 4:00 p.m., U.S. Poet Laureate Emeritus and current Dickson Fellow Juan Felipe Herrera will lead a multi-media production of his poems at UCR's Student Success Center. On Friday May 19, UCREA and UCRRA will co-host our annual Spring Luncheon. The featured speaker at the Spring Luncheon will be the Emeriti Association's 2022 Distinguished Professor Emeritus Wilfred Elders, who will tell us about his research on geothermal energy.

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

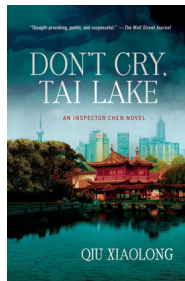
Spring Book Activities

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

When: Tuesday, April 11, 2023

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

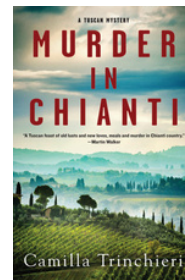
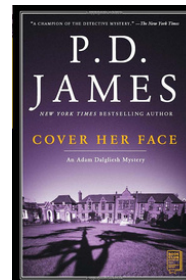
Book Activity: *Don't Cry, Tai Lake* by Qiu Xiaolong



When: Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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

Book Activity: *Cover her Face* by P.D. James



When: Tuesday, June 13, 2023

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

Book Activity: *Murder in Chianti* by Camilla Trinchieri

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 Spring Mystery Book Club meetings at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9H86u9C6YegLgtU



Interpretive Walks Club

Activity: Tour of UCR's Student Success Center and UCR Barn

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

When: Date in June to be determined

Club Leader: Darleen DeMason



Details: Back by popular demand, 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, May 26, 2023 at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9MK6QT9ikFFJZye



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.

May 9, 2023 Tips on Using Transportation Applications
June 6, 2023 Best Practices Using GPS on Mobile Devices

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4ZypibRsNLMMCbA

Long Term Care Options through ARAG Legal

An ARAG Legal representative will be sharing tools and resources available as part of the ARAG Legal Insurance program.

Friday, April 28, 2023 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8w91ltbX1nj5SHs

The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship Lecture Series

"HANDFUL OF GRAVEL"

Juan Felipe Herrera, U.S. Poet Laureate Emeritus

Friday, May 12, 2023 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Presentation delivered in person at the UCR Student Success Center Multipurpose Rooms 1 & 2



View the flyer linked to the image above

HANDFUL OF GRAVEL is a live performance of US Poet Laureate Emeritus Juan Felipe Herrera's poetry about the War in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. It features music, dance, voice, and screen imagery created by Herrera with a cast of performers who include UCR students and faculty. Departing from previous conceptions of poetry, this production presents poems as dynamic planes directly entangled in dance transmissions and vocal exchange within a radical field in global space. It proposes that all things are related and influence each other.

Refreshments will be provided.

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage by May 2, 2023 at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8w4loWsPwvrx6N8

Priority seating is given to UCRRA and UCREA members who register by April 11, 2023.

Spring Luncheon



"Green Energy and White Gold In California"

Wilfred Elders, Professor Emeritus of Geology, UCR

Friday, May 19, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

The use of alternative energy must grow in California as the State has a mandate to eliminate the use of hydrocarbon fuels that produce "greenhouse" gases which exacerbate global warming. Fortunately, California is a world leader in producing electricity using the Earth's natural heat to make steam for turbines that drive electrical generators, and there are still large undeveloped known geothermal resources within the state. The Department of Earth Sciences at UCR began a Geothermal Resources Program in the 1970's which focused primarily on discovering and evaluating geothermal resources in the Imperial Valley. Today we are witnessing the rapid growth of a major new industry at the Salton Sea Geothermal Field (SSGF), which, in addition to bringing online new electrical generation, will have as its main focus the extraction of Lithium from the concentrated brines produced from geothermal wells drilled in the SSGF. Today Lithium is in great demand for the manufacture of the rechargeable, light-weight batteries necessary for electric vehicles. Some estimates of the potential revenues of fully integrated lithium production and battery manufacture at the SSGF range up to \$80 billion a year. We are witnesses at the birth of a "white gold rush"!

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage by May 10, 2023 at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b2fM5QuLcbRuA50



Floral Centerpiece

Event Raffle!

Proceeds go to the UCRRA Scholarship.

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



UCRRA Undergraduate Scholarships Awarded By Karim Zahedi



The UCR Retirees' Association (UCRRA) proudly supports one or more UCR undergraduate students in financial need via its annual scholarship program. For the 2022/2023 Academic Year, the Association awarded four scholarships. Although the high quality of the twenty-five applicants made the decision difficult for the selection committee, scholarships ultimately were granted to **Kulpreet Chhokar (Biology major)**, **Colin Donahue (Public Policy major)**, **Van Nguyen (Psychology major)**, and **Sara Jean Sto. Domingo (Business Administration major)**. CONGRATULATIONS to these deserving UCR undergraduates!

With consideration to financial resources available to the Association, the UCRRA awards one or more 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 students, 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>.

A No-Cost Way to Raise Funds for UCREA By Dallas Rabeinstein



If you have a checking account or savings account at Provident Bank, you can help raise funds for UCREA through Provident's Community Partnership Program. Provident Bank will donate an amount to UCREA based on the amount in your accounts. All you need to do is advise Provident Bank that you want to have your accounts linked with the University of California Riverside Emeriti Association checking account. You can do this by a phone call (951-781-8080) or by a branch visit. Donations to the UCREA checking account will be from Provident Bank and not from your account. This is an excellent funding opportunity for UCREA, and it is of no cost to you.

Explore All that the UC Retiree Travel Program Has to Offer

UC Retirees Travel offers escorted group tours so that UC retirees, emeriti, their friends, and their families can explore the world together. Trips are filling quickly, but space remains in several 2023 excursions, including a Rhine/Moselle River cruise, and land tours of Ireland, Iceland, Greece Cuba, and America's music cities for the holidays. Nine 2024 trips are available for registration now: Costa Rica, Australia/New Zealand, Japan, Sicily, and Morocco. Details are being finalized for additional 2024 adventures, including Tunisia, Morocco, Switzerland, Tuscany, Scotland, Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia/Thailand, Montreal & Quebec's Christmas markets and a Great Rivers of Europe river cruise. Travelers can register with just a deposit.

By participating in UC Retirees Travel, you help to support to the Council of UC Retirees Associations (CUCRA). CUCRA's volunteer retirees meet with UC Office of the President representatives twice per year and advocate for retiree benefits and services, such as retiree healthcare and University support of retiree services.

Visit the UC Retirees Travel website at: <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/> to see trip details or subscribe to the monthly travel e-newsletter.

For any questions, please email UCRetireesTravel@gmail.com.





UCR Retirees and Emeriti Visit "The Cheech"

By Mitch Boretz

About 20 UCR emeriti, retirees, and guests participated in a tour of the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture in downtown Riverside on March 3 – a guided opportunity to learn about the collections and displays at Riverside’s newest cultural landmark.

The museum, known as “The Cheech,” displays works collected over a lifetime by Cheech Marin, a comedian, actor, musician, and activist. It opened in the summer of 2022 after a touring exhibit from the collection received an enthusiastic reception when it reached Riverside.

Dominating the entrance and main floor of the museum is a lenticular installation – a 26-foot-tall piece called “Gaiatlicue” that reveals different images depending on where the viewer stands. The artists, brothers Einar and Jamex de la Torre, have embedded images in the piece including views of automobiles, fruits and vegetables, fantastic animals, and, if you look closely, three pictures of Cheech Marin’s face.

The permanent collection on the museum’s first floor includes paintings and sculpture reflecting Chicano life, particularly in Los Angeles. Themes range from landscapes to impressions of racism and police brutality to affectionate portraits, including a large portrait of Mr. Marin himself, wearing a crown. Other works reflect religious and cultural underpinnings of Chicano life.

Near the museum’s entrance is an area set aside for local art, curated not by the museum but by community organizations. The current exhibit, “Life Logistics,” examines the impact of the warehousing and transportation industry on residents of the Inland Empire. The exhibit was prepared by the Garcia Center for the Arts at in San Bernardino.

Traveling exhibits occupy the museum’s second floor. The current exhibit, “Land of Milk & Honey,” is a multimedia exploration of our relationship with food and the people who plant and harvest it. Videos, paintings, photos (including a clearly recognizable Victoria Avenue in Riverside), an outsized bowl of Cheetos, and a tamale cart are notable features. Other works from the traveling MexiCali Biennial fill the rest of the second floor.

Tours are limited to 20 guests, and the discounted admission cost of \$10 includes a docent-led tour. The ticket also provides admission to the Riverside Art Museum a block away. Following the strongly favorable reactions to this first tour, the Emeriti and Retirees’ Associations are now organizing a second visit to the Cheech to take place in June.



UCREA Honors Emeriti Award Recipients

By Cristina Otegui



In light of the many years that UCR emeriti have set a high standard of achievement in research, teaching and service in retirement, the UCREA celebrates award recipients of the Outstanding Emeriti Award and the Distinguished Emerita/Emeritus Award through perpetual plaques which will be displayed in UCR's future Retirement Center. A heartfelt thank you to UCREA Executive Board Member Carol Lovatt who led this great effort and for her generous donation of these plaques. A special thank you to Professor Emeritus of Geology, Lewis Cohen who supported this project and to UCRRRA Lifetime Member, Pat Daly for designing a beautiful new logo.