

# TOWER TALK

[Become a Member](#) | [Make a Gift](#) | [Articles](#) | [Events](#)

The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a  
Professor Presentation

**HANDFUL OF GRAVEL,  
a live performance May 12, 2023**

By Linda Tomko

Retirees and Emeriti walked through the spacious halls of UCR's Student Success Center on May 12 to reach the building's Multipurpose Rooms, two of which were joined together to host *Handful of Gravel*. This live performance featured Juan Felipe Herrera's poetry about the War in Ukraine and the COVID Pandemic. It put into ensemble action the combined forces of four UCR Creative Writing and two Dance MFA and PhD students who voiced Herrera's poetry, amidst music improvised by three UCR Music and Creative Writing faculty plus a widely-known guest performer.



Emeriti Association Co-President Rusty Russell welcomed the audience, thanked the event sponsors, and introduced Herrera, a Poet Laureate Emeritus of the United States and winner of many awards and prizes for poetry. Herrera himself gave expansive thanks to UCR sponsors, the facility and production staff, and the "tech youngsters," as he put it, who staffed the microphones and made the livestream recording. He also spoke briefly about a quantum physics principle that helped inspire his writing during the just-passed year he had spent as an Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professor at UCR, noting "everything connects with everything else," an idea he elaborated in the printed programme. Herrera mixed these introductory remarks with "call and response" dialogue with the audience.

Bringing together music with spoken word and bodily movement, this event was the first to use the SSC Multipurpose Rooms for live performance. Seated on three sides of a rectangular performing space, viewers were able to see the production from several vantage points while slides projected onto overhead screens showed images Herrera had inked as part of his own creative process. Herrera had organized his long poem in about six chapters or sections which were spoken by poets Roda Avelar, Efen Castro, Carlina Perna, and Victoria Hurtado-Angulo and dancers Jorge Poveda Yanez and Mariia Bakalo. The six of them moved together as an ensemble, sometimes standing near the musicians in a loose crescent formation, at other times striding across the floor or shuttling toward and away from the audience. At several points, the dancers soloed or performed duets of their own composition, using movement qualities that responded to the urgent issues that the poetry raised.

(Continued on page 4)



## Table of Contents

**Presidents' Message** - P. 2

**Articles** - P. 3-7

In Memoriam

Health Facilitator Program

Spring Luncheon

Dickson Presentation

Mary Johnson Outstanding Retiree

Collecting & Sharing Scholarly Publications

**Upcoming Events** - P. 7

UC Retiree Travel Program Trip Preview

Garden to Table Vegetables

Retiree and Emeriti Reception

Fall Luncheon

## Retirees' Association Officers

### President

Andy Plumley, [andy.plumley@ucr.edu](mailto:andy.plumley@ucr.edu)

### Vice President

Karim Zahedi, [karim.zahedi@ucr.edu](mailto:karim.zahedi@ucr.edu)

### Treasurer

Al Chavez, [adchavez2437@att.net](mailto:adchavez2437@att.net)

### Secretary

Mitch Boretz, [mitchboretz@gmail.com](mailto:mitchboretz@gmail.com)

### Events & Programs Director

Patricia Smith-Hunt, [patricia.smith-hunt@ucr.edu](mailto:patricia.smith-hunt@ucr.edu)

### Communications & Outreach Director

Jorge Sanchez, [jorge.sanchezsc@icloud.com](mailto:jorge.sanchezsc@icloud.com)

## Emeriti Association Officers

### Co-Presidents

Darleen DeMason, [demason@ucr.edu](mailto:demason@ucr.edu)

Raymond Russell, [russell@ucr.edu](mailto:russell@ucr.edu)

### Vice President

Jose Wudka, [jose.wudka@ucr.edu](mailto:jose.wudka@ucr.edu)

### Treasurer

Larry Zahn, [larryz@ucr.edu](mailto:larryz@ucr.edu)

### Co-Secretaries

Bradley Hyman, [bhyman@ucr.edu](mailto:bhyman@ucr.edu)

Linda Tomko, [linda.tomko@ucr.edu](mailto:linda.tomko@ucr.edu)

## Retirement Center Director

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

(951) 827-5008

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

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



## UCR Retirees' Association

**Andy Plumley**  
**UCRRA President**

Hello UCR Retirees' Association Members!

I write this summer message after the first day of summer occurred last week. It is the time of year that many participate in trips and family gatherings, although as retirees we can do this all year long!

### UCRRA has had a productive and active year, and the following are some highlights of 2022-2023:

- Submitted a request for campus physical space for the UCR Retirement Center.
- Awarded \$12,500 in scholarships to four UCR undergraduate students.
- Participated in two UCR fundraising events, raising over \$5,500 for our undergraduate scholarship fund.
- Hosted three quarterly luncheons and the annual retiree and emeriti reception.
- Overhauled and updated our UCRRA Bylaws, which the membership approved.
- Recognized staff getting ready to retire at the quarterly Staff Assembly General Meetings.
- Represented UCR at the semiannual meetings of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA).

It was great seeing so many at our Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting, where we elected our 2023-2024 Officers. I am grateful to continue serving as your President, and please join me in congratulating our 2023-2024 Executive Board:

- Karim Zahedi, Vice President
- Mitch Boretz, Secretary
- Al Chavez, Treasurer
- Patricia Smith-Hunt, Events & Programs Director
- Jorge Sanchez, Communications & Outreach Director

We are currently recruiting members for our standing committees: Nominating Committee, Membership and Outreach Committee, Events and Programs Committee, and Scholarship Committee. If you are interested, please contact Cristina Otegui, the Retirement Center Director.

In closing, I want to encourage you to save the date for a couple of events in the fall. First, our fall luncheon will be held on September 22. Also, "A Reception Honoring Retirees and Emeriti", which will be held on Thursday, November 9th. We will be honored with a welcome from Chancellor Wilcox as we celebrate the valued impact you all have made to the campus and surrounding community.

As always, I hope you explore this publication and get involved in anything that interests you. And if you don't find what you're looking for, let us know. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

*Andy*



## UCR Emeriti Association

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



Dear UCR Emeriti Association Members,

### Recent Events Spring 2023

Our Spring calendar opened with a Dickson Lecture by Professor of Philosophy Emeritus Larry Wright on April 4. On Friday May 12 at 4:00 p.m., U.S. Poet Laureate Emeritus and current Dickson Fellow Juan Felipe Herrera led a multi-media production of his poems at UCR's Student Success Center. On Friday May 19, UCR's Emeriti and Retirees held our annual Spring Luncheon. The featured speaker at the Spring Luncheon was the Emeriti Association's 2022 Distinguished Professor Emeritus Wilfred Elders, who spoke about the "Green Energy and White Gold" now being harvested from the Salton Sea Geothermal Field. Following on the success of our first visit to Riverside's new Cheech Museum on March 3, another 20 UCR emeriti, retirees, and guests toured "the Cheech" on June 2.

### Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award

The Emeriti Association's Graduate Student Travel Award helps graduate students meet the costs of travel to scholarly meetings or to research sites by providing \$1,500 in funding for domestic travel or \$2,000 for travel outside the United States. The Emeriti Board voted at its November meeting to begin awarding two Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Awards every year. The recipient of the Fall 2022 award, Anthropology Ph.D. candidate Jessica Bradford attended our annual Spring Luncheon on May 19. The recipient of the Spring 2023 Graduate Student Travel Award was to be selected later in the Spring. To support the expense of awarding two

## UCR Emeriti Association Co-Presidents Message continued

graduate student fellowships per year, the Board designated funds to support current fellowships as the primary target for gifts during this year's UCR Give Day on April 6. Thanks to gifts and pledges received from 33 donors, more than \$8,000 was raised during this campaign. 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 Summer and Fall 2023

As the 2023-2024 academic year begins, it is time for annual members of the Association to renew their memberships, and for all of us to reach out to recently retired faculty and invite them to become involved in Emeriti Association activities. One such activity is the travel program hosted jointly by the Council of UC Emeriti Association (CUCEA) and the Council of UC Retirees Associations (CUCRA). Information about this travel program will be provided to UCR emeriti and retirees at a Zoom presentation by Program Coordinator Sue Barnes on July 26 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. On August 18, a Master Gardener will offer Zoom tips on how to grow "Garden to Table Vegetables." For the Fall we are planning our annual Fall Luncheon for September 22, a reception with Chancellor Wilcox on November 9 honoring new retirees and emeriti, and a full line up of Dickson presentations, Interpretive Walks, tech tips, book club meetings, etc. On October 13 at 10:00 a.m. the Interpretive Walks Club will host a tour of the CE-CERT facility.



*Darleen and Rusty*



## In Memoriam



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

Richard Autio, retired in August 2003  
 Willette Bell, retired in April 1998  
 Paul Boykin, retired in September 1994  
 Lee Brostrom, retired in July 2021  
 Carolyn Carstensen, retired in December 1990  
 Melissa Conway, retired in January 2015  
 Leon Cozart, retired in November 1992

Gordon Eaton, retired in October 1997  
 Lyle Gaston, retired in November 1993  
 Abel Gonzalez, retired in July 2010  
 Lonnie Kienitz, retired in July 2002  
 Barbara Mullen, retired in June 1991  
 William Orttung, retired in July 1994  
 J. Poppl, retired in March 2005

Selim Reuben-Karady, retired in July 1992  
 Elmer Ross, retired in April 1991  
 Joshua Laib Schiffer, retired in March 2018  
 Gilbert Anthony Serros, retired in January 2018  
 Orlando Taylor, retired in July 2020  
 Steven Thomas, retired in November 2006

## Healthcare Facilitator Program

The Health Care Facilitator Program helps emeriti and retirees obtain full benefits and services available from health, dental and vision plans. Whether your concern is with coverage, access or billing, chances are your health care facilitator can help you sort it out.

### A Healthcare Facilitator is trained to handle issues such as:

- Assist in resolving issues with your physician, medical group or health plan.
- Help you understand your medical plan coverage and rights.
- Help you understand how Medicare benefits coordinate with UC Medical Plans.
- Help you navigate the Health Care system.
- Provide referrals to other campus or community resources.

### Contact UCR's Healthcare Facilitator when you are experiencing the following:

- If you have unresolved Medical Care or Medical Plan issues.
- If you have a question about your medical plan coverage or rights.
- If you would like to discuss a health care issue.



UCR's Healthcare Facilitator may be contacted at (951) 827-2636 or [benefits@ucr.edu](mailto:benefits@ucr.edu).

For more information, please visit the UCR Benefits webpage at: <https://hr.ucr.edu/human-resources-benefits/health-care-facilitator-program>

## 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>



## HANDFUL OF GRAVEL *continued*

Waves of improvised music were interspersed with the “chapters” of spoken poetry, and here too the poets and dancers moved together as a group. Guest performer Francis “Pancho” Wong played saxophone, with UCR faculty Deborah Wong on percussion, Terry Nguyen on taiko, and Tom Lutz on electronic keyboard. Often the improvised score echoed the intensity of the experiences and emotions that the poets and dancers signaled with their voices and their bodies. When the voices and movement crescendoed and subsided at the piece’s conclusion, the music played on for another minute, then grew still.

During the post-performance Q and A session, viewers queried Herrera about his creative process, and also about the process by which the sound score had been created. That brought the musicians into the conversation to speak about their working methods. The dancers, and also a poet speaking for her peers, elaborated aspects of the collaborative process by which they created the performance with Herrera. Herrera acknowledged the critical input of Yumi Hatta. He concluded with a story about his third grade teacher, Mrs. Sampson, who encouraged him to speak, sing, and write: “You have a beautiful voice,” she told him. The event closed with a reception in the adjacent room.



The printed programme for the event can be consulted on the Retirees’ and Emeriti Website at: <https://emeriti-retirees.ucr.edu/resources-past-events>

## Spring Luncheon

### ***“Wilfred Elders: Green Energy and White Gold in California”***

By Raymond Russell



When UCR Retirees and Emeriti gathered for our annual Spring Luncheon on May 19, the featured speaker was Professor Emeritus Wilfred A. Elders.

Wilfred Elders retired from UCR’s Department of Geology in 1994 and has remained professionally active throughout the subsequent decades. In 2000 Elders was appointed Co-Principal Investigator of the Iceland Deep Drilling Project, an international effort to explore the development of extremely high temperature geothermal resources. In recent years, he has focused his efforts on geothermal systems in California, specifically the Salton Sea Geothermal Field.

On May 19, Elders spoke about ways in which geothermal energy can be seen as “Green Energy and White Gold in California.” Geothermal energy is “green,” because it keeps carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. It is a source of “white gold,” because valuable metals such as lithium and manganese can be extracted as byproducts of the processes that harvest geothermal energy. Lithium is an essential component of batteries for electric cars. Elders quoted an estimate that the brine in the Salton Sea Geothermal Field contains reserves of between one and six million tons of lithium. To encourage greater use of these resources, the State of California has now established a “Lithium Valley Commission” with headquarters in the Imperial Valley.



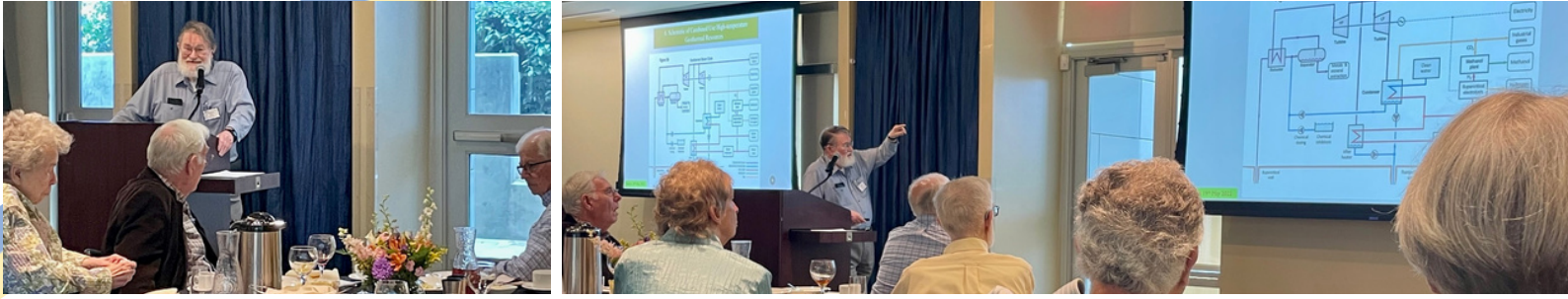
It was exciting for the audience to hear about these possibilities, and to see that a UCR Professor Emeritus is so closely involved in the changes taking place. In 2016, Elders received the Pioneer Award of the Geothermal Resources Council. In 2017, he received a Special Achievement Award from the Geothermal Association of Mexico. A year ago, UCR’s Emeriti Association selected Elders for recognition as our Distinguished Emeritus of 2021-





## Green Energy and White Gold in California continued

2022. On May 19, we enjoyed a brief look at the some of the activities that have won Wilfred Elders so many awards.



## The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professor Presentation

**"Larry Wright: Philosophical Understanding"** By Raymond Russell and John Ganim

The Dickson Lecture series returned to a live, in-person format on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 with a lecture on "Philosophical Understanding," by Larry Wright, 2020-2021 Edward A. Dickson Professor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy.



Larry Wright has taught at UCR since 1970. He is the author of Practical Reasoning (1989), Better Reasoning: Techniques for Handling Argument, Evidence & Abstraction (1982), and the widely used and reprinted Critical Thinking: An Introduction to Analytical Reading and Reasoning (2001). His book, Teleological Explanations: An Etiological Analysis of Goals and Functions (1976) remains a starting and ending point for many of its topics, and is still debated today, especially in the philosophy of science.

He has more recently devoted his time and energy primarily to investigating the relation, and some of the differences, between the concepts of argument and explanation, and the illusions generated by our competence with them. What should we expect of abstract reflection? His lecture provided some examples and their difficulties.

Professor Wright told us about the progress of his career, from his beginning as an engineer to his immersion in philosophy. He has been a foundation of UCR's intellectual community across many departments, exemplified by the nearly half-century open reading group on the work of Ludwig Wittgenstein and others that he has led.

Professor Wright confessed to the audience that years of wrestling with the philosophical classics have made him "a mealy-mouthed compatibilist." Many disagreements among authors are more apparent than real. Wright asserts that in order to understand a work or to learn something from it, it is necessary to get a sense of what is "true" about it. Even to recognize that someone chose the wrong word, you first have to understand what they said. This leads Wright to subscribe to a "principle of charity:" one must first be sympathetic to an author in order to understand them.

As one would expect from someone who won the UCR Distinguished Teaching Award (2008-09), the question and answer segment was lively and engaged, with participation both by Department of Philosophy faculty and graduate students and by UCREA and OSHER members, who held their own.



## The 2022-2023 Mary Johnson Outstanding Retiree By Andy Plumley



UCR's Staff Assembly presents the "Outstanding Staff Awards" at the end of each year, and UCRRA has partnered with them to include recognizing an outstanding retiree. The Mary Johnson Outstanding Retiree award is given to those retired staff who have demonstrated a high level of volunteer service to the campus and surrounding communities and participate in campus activities/programs in retirement. **This year's recipient is Bob Daly.** Bob served as UCRRA President from 2014 to 2019, and accomplished much during his time as president, which included:

- Tripling membership from 90 to 300 by making UCRRA more visible and increasing membership benefits.
- Created the Email4Retirees program, where retired staff can keep their UCR email address.
- Negotiated an agreement with Parking Services in which retirees may park on campus for free.
- Established a more formal and productive working relationship with the UCR Emeriti Association.
- Began the conversation with campus leadership to provide a dedicated meeting space on campus.

We continue to benefit from Bob's efforts, and he continues to support and represent retirees in the UC system by serving as the Information Officer for the Council of UC Retiree Associations. **Congratulations Bob!**

## Fall 2022 UCREA Graduate Student Recipient Awarded

The UCR Emeriti Association proudly awarded Anthropology Ph.D. candidate Jessica Bradford with the Fall UCREA Graduate Student Travel Award and announced it at the Spring Luncheon. The Emeriti Association Co-President Raymond Russell shared highlights of Jessica's travel award application and her research which is titled, "Quasi-homeownership among Full-time RVers: A Sociocultural and Economic Study of Housing Decision-Making in Mesa, Arizona."

Jessica shared her appreciation for being selected as the Fall 2022 recipient of the UCREA Graduate Student Travel Award and reported on how the travel award of \$1,500 benefited her research.

*"This UCREA Travel Award has been extremely beneficial in that it enabled me to get to my fieldsite in Arizona. I used the funds primarily on fuel, new tires for the RV, and my first month's rent at the destination park in Arizona. This park is one of the only all-age parks, where my target population (25-55 year old full-time RVers) reside, so that I can inquire on the economic and sociocultural conditions behind the rise in full-time RVing among employment aged adults."*



The UCR Emeriti Association will be announcing the 2023 Spring Graduate Student Travel Award Recipient at the Fall Luncheon. If you would like to contribute to the Emeriti Graduate Student Travel Award Endowment Fund, please visit the retiree and emeriti webpage at: <https://emeriti-retirees.ucr.edu/make-impact>

## Help with Collecting & Sharing Scholarly Publications By Doug Mitchell

The UC Office of Scholarly Communication (OSC) has released a "Toolkit" to help authors to collect and archive the entire corpus of their publications on eScholarship, the UC open access website for scholarly publications. The aim is to increase access to, and use of, this University program supporting organized access to the treasure trove of scholarly work generated by UC faculty. Using this storage hub will help secure the legacy of UC scholars while promoting the University as a leading center for open access to high quality scholarly work. The toolkit offers emeriti and active faculty step-by-step guidance for preparing web-based storage and access to all of their scholarly works. The toolkit and guidance for its use are found at:

<https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/for-authors/collect-and-share-your-publications/>.

A sample of a few publications by UCSB Professor Ted Bergstrom can be found at: [https://escholarship.org/uc/ucsbecon\\_bergstrom](https://escholarship.org/uc/ucsbecon_bergstrom).

### Using the Toolkit

In a word of warning, the toolkit reminds us that, "Organizing a lifetime of publications can be a demanding task." Some authors may have staff help or resources, but most of us will have to do for ourselves the relatively tedious work of preparing and posting manuscripts. In reasonably clear and detailed instructions, however, the Scholarly Communications team break the task into relatively manageable tasks.



## Collecting & Sharing Scholarly Publications continued

The Toolkit is Comprised of Five Parts

1. Creating your list (of publications)
2. Collecting your files (electronic manuscripts ready to post)
3. Figuring out contracts and copyrights
4. Putting work online
5. Wrapping up and related issues



When using the toolkit, we are advised to begin preparing a few publications at a time rather than trying to do all of your manuscripts at once. There is some help for the most challenging of these tasks – dealing with contract and copyright permissions. Consulting with OSC staff can be helpful. The UCR contact person is, Michele Potter ([michele.potter@ucr.edu](mailto:michele.potter@ucr.edu)).

## UC Retiree Travel Program Info Session

Sue Barnes, UC Retirees Travel Coordinator  
 Wednesday, July 26, 2023 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

UC Retirees Travel offers extraordinary opportunities to discover and explore iconic sites and lesser-known destinations featuring a mix of history, culture, and nature. UC Retirees Travel coordinator Sue Barnes will preview upcoming 2023 and 2024 adventures. UC Retirees Travel offers wonderful opportunities to connect with travelers from all UC locations including retirees, family members, and friends.



**Register** on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:  
[https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b4rojehi6O9ZAbA](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b4rojehi6O9ZAbA)

## Garden to Table Vegetables

An expert from the Riverside Master Gardeners Program will be sharing best practices on how to manage a vegetable garden.



Wednesday, July 26, 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\\_9HXaUsXzaplOqwe](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9HXaUsXzaplOqwe)

## Retiree and Emeriti Reception

Chancellor Kim Wilcox will discuss the state of the campus while we honor retirees and emeriti and their years of service.



Thursday, November 9, 2023 from 2:30 - 4:00 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\\_9HXaUsXzaplOqwe](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9HXaUsXzaplOqwe)

## Fall Luncheon



### "Archiving Life Stories of Veterans"

John Corona, Martin Luther King High School History Teacher  
 Friday, September 22, 2023 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\\_6ApIS3x9liSs5tI](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ApIS3x9liSs5tI)



## 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](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3F8XtK5dEs9x45U)

## Recordings of Past Events

Did you miss a Zoom event? Retirees and emeriti may view recordings of past Zoom events by visiting the retirees and emeriti webpage at:

<https://emeriti-retirees.ucr.edu/resources-past-events>

