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The Cottage - A New Home for the Retirement Center

By Andy Plumley

Over five years ago, both UCRRA and UCREA have been advocating for a physical home to the Retirement Center. We began discussions with campus administrators, and identified the Cottage, located across the street from the Barn, as a possible home. No commitments were made, so we continued to push for a space. In March 2023, the campus sent out a call for space, and we jumped on this opportunity. We wrote:

The UCR Retirement Center, a dedicated permanent space, will serve as the official link between retired employees and the university, currently serving 2,500 emeriti, retirees, and contingent annuitants from the UC Riverside campus.

On our application, we advocated for the Cottage as a possible home, indicating that this location had already been discussed with administration for several years. We said that the cottage "is an old building with history and to have it house retired faculty and staff with a lot of campus history seems appropriate."

Our efforts were successful! The Cottage is now under restoration, and the project includes a new roof, windows, finishes, HVAC, lighting, ADA plumbing, and casework. It is a six-month project, so we would expect it being completed in spring quarter. Both UCRRA and UCREA presidents, Andy Plumley and Jose Wudka, met with the new Chancellor and the Provost in late August and confirmed with them that the Cottage is to be the Retirement Center's new home.



Parking Update for 2025-2026

In June, we learned that Parking Services had changed some of the parking privileges that UCRRA and UCREA members have enjoyed in the past. We reached out to Parking Services to discuss these changes and worked together to reinstate some of the available lots previously enjoyed.

Parking privileges for UCRRA and UCREA members:

- Red Lots 6 and 13
- Blue Lots 1, 6, 13, and 24
- UCR Botanic Gardens
- All Gold Lots



In addition, if you have a paid recall appointment, you are not eligible for any retiree or emeriti privileges and must pay for parking similar to working employees. Visit the Parking webpage at: <https://transportation.ucr.edu/retiree-emeriti-parking>

Retiree or Emeriti R'Card

UCRRA and UCREA members may request their R'Card using the Interest Form at: https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3F8XtK5dEs9x45U

- 10% discount at the UCR Bookstore
- Updated R'Card design, new UCR logo, and option to upload a new photo
- Ability to validate status when visiting the library and be eligible to purchase UCR Athletics "All Sports Pass"

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UCR Retirees' Association

Andy Plumley
UCRRA President

Hello UCR Retirees' Association Members!

I hope had enjoyable summers and were able to beat the heat. I look forward to another year filled with programs and activities. Our first program is our Fall Luncheon, which will be on Friday, October 10. This is a great opportunity to be back on campus, see old friends, meet new people, and engage with a thoughtful presenter.

After a summer hiatus, we recently had our first meeting of the UCRRA Board and have many things planned for this year. 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.

We will soon send out information regarding our UCRRA Scholarship, which is for UCR undergraduate students who are related to UCR retirees, staff, emeriti, and faculty. We were able to award five students last year and I hope we have another great pool of candidates. So, if you have any relatives who are UCR undergraduate students, have them apply!

Other UCRRA business includes attending the system-wide meetings of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) in late October, which will be held virtually and hosted by UC San Francisco. We receive great information about what's going on at UCOP, which includes our retirement benefits. And like we do locally, CUCRA partners with the Council of UC Emeriti Associations. We will share information with the association after these meetings.

In closing, I want to encourage you to attend "A Reception Honoring Retirees and Emeriti", which will be held on Friday, November 14. We will be honored with a welcome address from UCR's new Chancellor Hu as we celebrate the valued impact you all have made to the campus and surrounding community. This event is for YOU, so I hope to see you there!

Have a wonderful fall!

Sincerely,

Andy



UCR Emeriti Association

José Wudka
UCREA President



Dear UCR Emeriti,

I hope you've had a relaxing summer! With the waning of the heat the UCREA reinitiates its activities, which I hope will provide stimulating and fun opportunities for engaging with friends and colleagues.

We will hold our Emeriti/Retiree fall luncheon at our usual venue, the Alumni and Visitors' Center, on Friday, October 10 at 11:30 AM. Professor Emeritus Ernest Ma from the Physics and Astronomy Department will give the presentation "Plato's Fire and Scotogenic Neutrinos" (from σκοτεινός: dark; no need to read the Timaeus before the talk). We will also honor Julia Torres and Hasin Us Sami who received the Student Travel Award in Spring 2025.

On Tuesday, October 21 at 3:00 p.m., Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Medieval Art History Conrad Rudolph will deliver the Dickson Lecture "Signature Rocks: Emigration and the Signed Landscape in Indian Country 1830-1869", at the University Extension Building 1101, University Village; the Lecture will also be live-streamed via Zoom. A reception will follow Professor Rudolph's lecture.

On Friday, October 24 former Senior Lecturer in Comparative Literature, KimDzung Pham will lead a "Walks, Talks & Tours" event "Meditation at the Botanic Gardens", to be held at the UCR Botanic Gardens Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

On November 6, at 10:00 a.m. UCR will hold a "Benefits, Health & Wellness Fair" (Highlander Union Building - HUB, room 302), where you will find help when making open-enrollment decisions.

You are also invited to the Chancellor's Reception on Friday, November 14 at 2:30 PM at the Alumni and Visitors Center, when both associations will welcome incoming Chancellor S. Jack Hu. The Chancellor will deliver a presentation on the state of the campus and his vision for the future.

Sincerely,

José





In Memoriam

We recognize and honor those who have passed that have been reported this 2025 - 2026 academic year.



Helen McQueen Alberts, retired in April 1991
Jacqueline Beck, retired in November 1992
Kathleen Jane Blondel, retired in July 2013
Geoffrey Cohen, retired in July 2017
James Conrod

Donna Cooney, retired in July 2003
Lonny Crinklaw, retired in February 2013
Marshall Wain Johnson, retired in July 2013
Marin Ledesma, retired in December 1998
Rodney Moreno, retired in April 2008

Bobbie Smith, retired in November 1992
Patricia Smith, retired in July 2016
Carmen Stark, retired in October 2020
Peter Ventimiglia, retired in July 2004

Free Use Days to the Student Recreation Center in October

The UCR Student Recreation Center (SRC) is offering free membership for the month of October beginning on Wednesday, October 1, 2025 through Friday, October 31, 2025. UCR retirees and emeriti can take advantage of this great opportunity. Take part in SRC's group exercise classes, swim in their awesome pool, join the lap swim & stay fit pool workouts, climb The Rock, receive a CHAIR MASSAGE, get to know more about Outdoor Excursions, play basketball and indoor soccer in their MAC gym, serve it up on the tennis courts, and explore their entire facility for no added costs for an entire month! Interest emeriti and retirees must register to gain free access and complete a required liability waiver.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 through Friday, October 31, 2025



Register on the Student Recreation Center webpage at: https://events.ucr.edu/event/free_use_days_at_the_src_2470

Explore an Activity!

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



Uncover the Clues with the Mystery Book Club



Fall Book Activities

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

When: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

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

Book Activity: *Head Cases* by John McMahon

When: Tuesday, November 12, 2025

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

Book Activity: *A Death in Cornwall* by Daniel Silva

When: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

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

Book Activity: *An Inside Job* by Daniel Silva



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: Meditation at the Botanic Gardens

Cost of Entry: Free

When: Friday, October 24, 2025 from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Presenter: Former Senior Lecturer in Comparative Literature and Language, KimDzung Pham

Details: Learn how meditation—through simple breathing techniques—can quiet the mind, reduce personal attachment and worry, and enhance mental clarity, memory, and emotional balance. This session will begin with a presentation from KimDzung Pham followed by a meditation practice. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable attire. Friends and family are welcome to attend.

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at: https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3CrDxtfREQ8674y



The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship Lecture Series



"Signature Rocks: Emigration and the Signed Landscape in Indian Country 1830-1869"

Conrad Rudolph, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Medieval Art History

Tuesday, October 21, 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

Signature Rocks is the first systematic study of the surviving "signatures" inscribed by the emigrants, as they called themselves, on both the famous and not so famous rock formations that line the overland trails through Indian Country from the Missouri River to the Pacific from the 1830s to 1869. Once numbering in the hundreds of thousands, only several thousand have survived. Following the overland crossing, we read these inscriptions—an unrecognized and vanishing American archive—in light of a number of motivations to signing culled from the over two thousand emigrant journals and other accounts that have come down to us. The result is a new understanding of this completely overlooked aspect of one of the most iconic episodes in the history of the United States.

Register

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage to receive in-person or Zoom instructions at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6gRBzF3yv09Muhw

Refreshments provided
during the Reception

Tech-tips HEART Program

Retiree and Former UCR ITS Expert Bart Kats will share insights 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.

November 4, 2025 Getting Comfortable with Google Mail and Calendar

December 9, 2025 How to Use Google Docs



Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4GaUWSc5tUd153M

Emeriti and Retiree Social at the UCR Barn

Connect with fellow retirees and emeriti for an afternoon of great conversation, laughter and community.

Thursday, October 23, 2025

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

In-person at the UCR Barn

No registration needed; simply join us!

Appetizers will
be provided.

Emeriti and Retiree Reception with Chancellor Hu

The contributions of the UCR retiree and emeriti community are deeply valued, and we look forward to gathering to celebrate your hard work and dedication at this event. We will be joined by our keynote speaker, Chancellor S. Jack Hu who will provide a welcome and a campus status update. This is the first reception where our new Chancellor will have the opportunity to connect with our enduring community, and we look forward to giving him a warm welcome to UCR. The UCR Emeriti and Retirees' Association presidents will share the latest efforts on their ongoing initiatives while sharing time together to connect with one another. Appetizers and refreshments including assorted wine will be provided at this event.

Friday, November 14, 2025 from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time

In-person at the UCR Alumni and Visitors Center

The first 100 UCR Emeriti and Retirees who register will be given a UCR branded gift!



Register on the Retirement Center webpage at: https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6XPzuLgJgwm8EOG

Annual Benefits, Health & Wellness Fair

Join us as we kick off the Open Enrollment Season at the UC Riverside Annual Faculty, Staff, Emeriti, and Retiree Benefits, Health and Wellness Fair.

Complimentary health screenings offered by the Kaiser Permanente Mobile Unit, free chair massages, lots of giveaways, snacks, raffles, and more.

Thursday, November 6, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

In-person at the Highlander Union Building (HUB) 302

More information will be provided in the coming weeks!



Holiday Luncheon

Our Guest Speaker will be announced soon!

Friday, December 5, 2025

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

In-person at the UCR Alumni & Visitors Center

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ptpv4U0IAI08ui

Retiree Survey - Survey Says! By Andy Plumley



The results of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) survey of UC retirees were recently published. This was a comprehensive survey, and we thank those who took the time to submit their survey. Here are some highlights from the survey results:

- 4,466 Respondents (13% of retirees)
- \$169 Million in donations were made to UC in the last 4 years, with 38% of retirees having made financial contributions to UC.
- 23% participated in UC volunteer activities. 19% were involved in mentoring/teaching/advising UC groups.
- 70% participate in community service activity.
- 18% teach/coach/mentor, 15% serve on board of directors, and 14% consult.
- 57% overall provide caregiving which includes spouses/partners, parents, grandchildren, and other family members.
- Retirees are very active with family and friends (81%), reading (73%), travel (63%), fitness/physical activity/sports (61%), watching TV (55%), and performing arts (40%).

In addition to the system-wide results, we also have UCR specific information on our retirees. We will be looking closely at the results on UCRRA questions regarding why some are not members, on what activities respondents would participate, and general comments on how we can best advocate for retirees. The full 2024 CUCRA Survey Report can be viewed at:

<https://cucra.ucsd.edu/surveys/#2024-survey>.

UCREA's Distinguished Emerita-Emeritus Award

2025-2026 Call for Nominations



The Executive Board of the UCR Emeriti Association is pleased to announce the call for nominations for its 2025-2026 Distinguished Emerita-Emeritus Award. This award will be bestowed upon one or more retired faculty who have set a high standard of achievement in research, teaching or service during her/his years since retirement.

Nomination Process

Nominations, including self nominations, along with two letters of support, should be sent to the Director of the UCR Retirement Center at cristina.otegui@ucr.edu by November 1 for consideration by the UCREA Executive Board.

Selection Process

The Distinguished Emerita-Emeritus Award Committee will review the nominations and make a recommendation to the full UCREA Executive Board for a final vote at its December or January meeting.

Recipient/s of the Award

The Award Recipient/s will be announced at the joint UCREA and UCRRA February Luncheon and will be awarded a plaque. Distinguished Emerita-Emeritus Award Recipient/s will be invited to speak at one of the joint UCREA-UCRRA Luncheons or as part of the UCR Osher Program. An announcement of the Distinguished Emerita-Emeritus Award recipient/s will appear in Tower Talk, with a photo and write up summarizing the recipient's achievements.

UCRRA's Undergraduate Scholarship

Why the UCRRA Scholarship is Special

By Sheryl Hayes



As you may know, UCR has done an excellent job of attracting a bright and diverse undergraduate student body. With student costs now rising to over \$40,000 per year (tuition and fees are now over \$14K/yr.), scholarship support truly is needed more than ever. What makes the UCRRA Scholarship unique is that the gifts that are donated to our endowed fund are directed to undergraduates who are closely related to a UCR staff member, a retiree or, new this year, a faculty member or emeritus/emera faculty member.

This past year, the UCRRA Scholarship Committee was thrilled to select five such students for scholarship support. They were all impressive A students, majoring in Biochemistry, Psychology, Computer Science, Physics, and Public Policy and Economics. With your support in growing our fund we can continue to support outstanding students who have this special connection to our UCR community. Any amount helps!

If you are interested in giving to our UCRRA Scholarship fund, please visit the Retirement Center website at: <https://emeriti-retirees.ucr.edu>.

Click on "Make an Impact", select "Ways to Donate", click on your desired fund, then make your donation.

We so appreciate all the donations given so that we can make a difference in the lives of some exceptional UCR students!

UCRRA Scholarship - Continued

Call for Student Applicants

By Andy Plumley



The UCR Retirees' Association are excited to have UCR students who are children, grandchildren or close relatives of UCR retirees, staff, emeriti, or faculty apply for a UCRRA Undergraduate Student Scholarship. Scholarships are in the amount of up to \$5,000 and are possible due to the countless contributions of retired staff and others. In addition to being a close relative, applicants must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher. First year and new transfer students without a UCR GPA should have a cumulative high school or transfer GPA of 3.3 or higher. Applications will be available on October 13, 2025 and due by November 12, 2025.

The link to the application, available on October 13, can be found at:

https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4VhHmEo9SAYUAHc

Calling All Volunteers: UCRRA Committees Need You!



Later this month, we will be sending out a call for UCRRA members to volunteer for one of our committees. We need you and hope you'll consider joining one of our committees. Time commitment is minimal and most of the work is done via zoom. Our standing committees are:

- Nominating Committee. This committee prepares a slate of recommendations for Executive Board Officers. Work begins in March.
- Membership and Outreach Committee. Led by our Communications & Outreach Director, this committee helps with outreaching to future members and increase UCRRA visibility of to the campus and community.
- Events and Programs Committee. Led by our Events & Programs Director, this committee assists with our quarterly luncheons and other activities.
- Scholarship Committee. Led by our Vice President, this committee is responsible for selecting one or more recipients for our UCR Undergraduate Scholarship.

Interested? Complete the UCRRA Committee Application at: https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1OnlcT8Eawd1t7o

Travel to Antarctica with the UC Retirees Travel Program

Now is your chance to go on a special trip created for UC Retirees Travelers friends and family by Collette travel. It is a first come first serve limited seating. Booking now for January 2027. Please don't wait!

Antarctica: The White Continent

Feb 3 – 14, 2027 Activity Level 4 - Very Active

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1378834>



To express interest, please contact Dolores Dyer, Assistant UC Retirees Travel Co-Coordinator, at: ddyer44@verizon.net

Get the latest on upcoming trips by visiting the UC Retiree Travel Program website at: <https://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>

Save the Date for Open Enrollment

October 30, 2025 - November 21, 2025

It is essential for all Emeriti and Retirees to review medical plan design and rate changes that include increased out-of-pocket expenses and copays for all plans. After reviewing the medical plan changes, if you are satisfied with your current benefits elections and not making any changes, then no action is required and all existing benefits will roll over to the new plan year effective January 1, 2026.

The Open Enrollment resource webpage for UCR emeriti and retirees will have more details soon and can be viewed at:

<https://emeriti-retirees.ucr.edu/>



Your UCR Healthcare Facilitator is Here for You



The Health Care Facilitator Program was established to help you obtain full benefits and services available from your health, dental, and vision plans. The Health Care Facilitator is available to assist with unresolved medical care or plan issues, questions about coverage or rights, and general health care concerns. Visit the UCR Healthcare Facilitator Program webpage to learn more at: <https://hr.ucr.edu/benefits-0/health-care-facilitator-program>

Volunteer for the 2025-2026 FIRST LEGO League Robotics Season

By Mitch Boretz



FIRST LEGO League, an international program that teaches children about robotics, programming, teamwork, and problem-solving, is growing in the Inland Empire. Along with that expansion comes a greater need for volunteers at tournaments in November and December – roles that UCR Retirees and Emeriti are well-qualified to fill.

No knowledge of robotics is necessary to be a volunteer. All volunteers work in teams and receive training online and on the morning of an event. Tournaments consume almost an entire Saturday – a long but fun and rewarding day.

Teams around the world compete in tournaments in November and December to build robots from Lego bricks capable of performing numerous missions. They also must undertake an “innovation project” based on the year’s theme (this year it is archaeology) and make a presentation about their robot design and programming choices.

Qualifying Tournaments are scheduled for November 1 and November 8 in Riverside, Perris, and Temecula – a record number of such events for Riverside County. About half of the QT teams are invited to a Regional competition in December; tentatively, the only Inland Empire Regional will be on Saturday, December 13, in Riverside. And a handful of the top Regional teams will advance to the Southern California championships in January.

Most volunteers serve as referees, enforcing the rules and scoring the performance of the robots, or as judges, listening to the teams’ presentations on robot design and innovation project. Many other roles are available, including some that don’t require a full day’s commitment.

For information and to sign up, visit firstinspires.org and create an account as a volunteer. For questions, contact Mitch Boretz, (909) 200-8583 or mitchboretz@gmail.com.

You might have heard of a new California law, AB 506, requiring volunteers to register, be fingerprinted, and to be trained in child protection and safety. This law does not apply to casual volunteers who spend fewer than 16 hours a month in direct contact with children, so it will not affect most FLL volunteers.

Make a Difference: Become an American Red Cross Volunteer



When most people think of the American Red Cross, they picture a blood drive in a school gym or community center. It’s true—the Red Cross supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood needs, a lifesaving service that touches countless lives every day.

But that’s only part of the story. Behind the familiar image of blood drives lies a much larger mission to: *“prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.”*

Red Cross volunteers help out after wildfires, comfort families after hurricanes, teach life-saving CPR, and support our nation’s military and veterans. In fact, more than 90% of the American Red Cross workforce are volunteers – up an incredible 275,000–300,000 people, standing shoulder to shoulder with 17,000–20,000 paid staff.

Volunteer opportunities with the American Red Cross are flexible – whether in-person or virtual, local, state, or national, one-day or long-term – and include, but are not limited to:

- **Disaster Services:** Provide immediate, financial and emotional relief to those affected by local, state and national emergencies. Services include providing food, shelter, health services, emotional support, and recovery assistance.
- **Services to the Armed Forces:** Help military members and their families manage the challenges of service and provide emergency communications and assistance with travel expenses to return home for a family emergency
- **Disaster Preparedness:** Help communities prepare for disasters before they strike through programs like Be Red Cross Ready, Sound the Alarm (free smoke alarm installation), and Prepare with Pedro for grades K-2.
- **Blood Services:** Recruit and welcome blood donors, and transport lifesaving blood products to hospitals.

These are just a few examples of the many volunteer opportunities available with the American Red Cross. To find out more, contact your local chapter or visit the American Red Cross website at: <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html>