

# TOWER TALK

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## Dr. Ronald Loveridge's Thirteen Reflections at the Winter Luncheon

By Mitch Boretz



After more than 60 years on the Political Science faculty at UCR and 33 years as a Riverside City Council member and Mayor, Ron Loveridge shared a few observations with UCRRA and UCREA members at our winter luncheon on February 6, 2026.

UCR was a tiny campus with about 3,000 students when he arrived in 1965 after completing his Ph.D. in political science at Stanford, Dr. Loveridge said.

He credits then-Chancellor Ivan Hinderaker – who, in his opinion, was UCR's greatest chancellor – with innovations to increase enrollment and a progressive, open-door attitude that kept 1960s-era campus tensions from boiling over at Riverside. After Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1963, Black students on campus created a list of demands, he said. Before they could present them to Hinderaker, he had made his own list – and the two largely overlapped, Dr. Loveridge said.

Another political challenge of the 1960s was the governor: Ronald Reagan. Reagan visited UCR more than any other governor, Dr. Loveridge said, but the visits often involved dodging protesters and feigning interest at meetings with faculty and students, he said. Still, he said, Reagan was smooth. "I still remember how good he was at painting word pictures."

Today's political landscape is even more daunting, Dr. Loveridge said. The Trump administration's attacks on higher education and on fundamental American principles make it hard to be optimistic, he said.

Although Dr. Loveridge's political career was primarily local, his impact as a public servant was much greater. Among his many prominent roles are service with the National Academy of Public Policy; serving as a member of the California Air Resources Board and South Coast Air Quality Management District governing board; and roles with the National League of Cities, Southern California Association of Governments and Western Riverside Council of Governments. He is the author of *City Managers in Legislative Politics* (1971). His research has appeared in *Polity, Environment and Behavior*, *California Air Environment*, and *Cry California*, as well as several edited volumes.

Air pollution is the greatest success story of the past six decades, Dr. Loveridge said. When he interviewed for his faculty position in the winter, the skies were clear. But when he arrived to start work in August, smog filled the skies. "You literally couldn't breathe very well, couldn't see very well." Air quality regulation and UCR's scientific and engineering work played a transformative role in changing that. "It's been a big success story." He also credited former Chancellor Kim Wilcox for taking decisive steps to bring the California Air Resources Board laboratory to Riverside. He also praised former Chancellor Ray Orbach "putting our campus on the map as a major institution."



Renew Annual Membership  
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(currently working remotely)

## Dr. Ronald Loveridge's Thirteen Reflections - Continued

As for UCR's newest chancellor, S. Jack Hu, "I have high hopes for the next Chancellor. He is very smart. He listens."

Dr. Loveridge said a healthy relationship between the city government, UCR, and the other higher education institutions in Riverside are important to the area's prosperity and quality of life. He recalled open houses and other events at UCR that brought city residents to campus, and he noted that long-range plans call for UCR's campus to extend beyond the 60/215 freeway and deeper into the city.

## Award and Scholarship Recipients

Captured below from left to right are moments of recognition for the 2025-2026 UCREA Distinguished Emeriti Award Recipients, Fall 2025 UCREA Graduate Student Travel Award Recipients and 2025-2026 UCRRA Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients.



## Donation Results for the R'Professional Career Closet Are In!

Thanks to the generous emeriti and retirees who donated professional clothing items at the Winter Luncheon, the R'Professional Career Closet collected 193 pieces which helped to serve over 1,000 UCR students each year. Please take a look at the UCR Career Centers "Shout Out" to the UCRRA and UCREA by viewing this social media post on [LinkedIn](#).



## UCR Retirees' Association

**Andy Plumley**

**UCRRA President**

Hello UCR Retirees' Association Members!

Spring is finally here, and that means a lot is going on this quarter! First and foremost, we will soon begin recruiting for **UCRRA Executive Board candidates for 2026/27**. Look for an email to come out soon asking for nominations. Our organization runs on volunteers, and I hope that you will consider running for an office, particularly one where we do not have an incumbent returning.

**UCR Give Day** is coming up soon, running from Noon on April 7th to Noon on April 8, and we are seeking donations to our Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment. I am pleased to announce that SchoolsFirst Federal Credit has pledged \$12,500 to our endowment if UCR Day reaches 425 individual donations from retirees, emeriti, staff and faculty. All donations, big or small, are welcome! Please consider giving so we may unlock SchoolsFirst generous give.

On April 29 and 30, we will be traveling to UCLA for the spring meetings of the Council of UC Retiree Associations and the Council of UC Emeriti Associations. These two councils engage the Office of the President on issues and concerns regarding retiree health and survivor benefits, along with addressing service and communication issues.

Our **Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting will be on Friday, May 15**. This will be our last luncheon of the academic year. In addition to delicious food, wine, and a wonderful program, the Spring Luncheon is also where we conduct our annual business meeting, approve bylaw changes, and hold elections.

But wait, there's more! Also coming soon, we will be sending out a call for nominations for the **"Mary Johnson Outstanding Retiree Award"**. Look for an email to be sent to you on this. 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!

I thank the UCRRA Executive Board for all their hard work and commitment to UCRRA and retirees. And as always, I hope you explore this publication and discover all the programs and events planned for Spring. Please contact me for questions, ideas, or to say "hey!"

Have a wonderful spring!

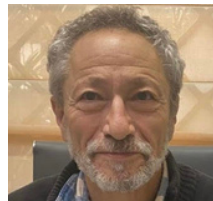
Sincerely,

*Andy*



## UCR Emeriti Association

**José Wudka**  
**UCREA President**



Dear UCR Emeriti,

This has been an exciting quarter in the Emeriti Association! During the Winter Luncheon on February 6 Professor R. Loveridge of Political Science and former Riverside Major, gave a lecture on his many experiences in government; Robert Patch (History Department) and Laxminarayan Bhuyan (Computer Science & Engineering Dept) were recognized as this year's Outstanding Emeriti; and Tzu-Chia Chen and John Hoang as recipients of Graduate Student Travel Awards. The Walks, Talks and Tours program organized a visit to the California Air Resources Board building in Riverside, and a visit to the new School of Business building on Campus. The quarter closed with Professor Leonard Nunney's Dickson lecture on "The War on Cancer".

The spring quarter promises equally rewarding. Do not forget the Spring Luncheon on May 15 when we will host Professor Carlos Cortés, and the next Dickson Lecture on April 21, with a lecture by Professor Chandra Varma. The next meeting of the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) will be held at UCLA April 29-30. I will provide an update afterwards.

Before closing I want to urge all members to follow all digital "hygiene" measures that are regularly recommended by the University. Do not respond to any digital communication you don't recognize; do not click on any link, type the URL instead; and if you have any concerns, please contact the RASC, if related to your pension in any way, or ITS for general digital questions. Scammers are continually on the prowl, steadily refining and improving their methods; these criminals need get lucky only once to cause what can potentially be a serious situation. Better careful than sorry.

Sincerely,

*José*



## Support UCRRA and UCREA Student Initiatives on UCR's Give Day!

### UCRRA Undergraduate Scholarship

UCR Retirees' Association is once again seeking donations for our UCR Undergraduate Student Scholarship Endowment. In the last 5 years, we have awarded over \$60,000 to eighteen deserving students, all of whom have been children, grandchildren, or other close relatives to UCR retirees, staff, emeriti, or faculty.



We need your help to continue providing our student scholarships by contributing to our scholarship endowment during UCR's Give Day, which runs from Noon on April 7 to Noon on April 8. SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union is once again generously supporting our scholarship fund with a \$12,500 gift – unlocked when we reach our goal of 425 UCR retiree, emeriti, staff and faculty donors! Help us make this happen by donating during UCR's Give Day. We need your donation, big or small, to reach our goal of 425 donors! Look for communications on how to make your donation. Thank you.

Visit the UCRRA Give Day webpage at: <https://www.givecampus.com/schools/UniversityofCaliforniaRiverside/2026-ucr-give-day/pages/ucr-faculty-and-staff-programs/ucr-retirees-association>



### UCREA Graduate Student Travel Award

The Travel Awards help PhD students who have advanced to candidacy meet the expense of traveling to national or international meetings or to access resources available at other institutions, collections, or field sites. The Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award is offered quarterly and provides \$1,500 toward the expenses of domestic travel, or \$2,000 to defray the cost of an international trip. Since 2022, 15 graduate students have received travel awards totaling \$26,000. Helping these students take these steps in completing their education and launching their careers has been one of the most rewarding projects that UCR emeriti have taken on, and our commitment to it remains strong.

This year, four generous donors have committed a combined pledge of \$4,000 in support of Give Day. Their combined pledge will match donations to the UCR Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award Fund dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000 per gift, up to a total of \$4,000 for all gifts.

Will you join the UCREA in reaching our Give Day goal? The strength of the UCR emeriti community lies in what we can accomplish together. By coming together in this effort, we can make a lasting impact on the success of UCR graduate students for years to come.

Visit the UCREA Give Day webpage at: <https://www.givecampus.com/schools/UniversityofCaliforniaRiverside/2026-ucr-give-day/pages/ucr-faculty-and-staff-programs/ucr-emeriti-association-graduate-student-travel-award>



## 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  
 Bronte Bird, retired in April 2015  
 Kathleen Jane Blondel, retired in July 2013  
 Jane Brown, retired in February 1997  
 Robert Capelo, retired in April 1991  
 William Carson, retired in March 2015  
 William Clark, retired in January 2013  
 Geoffrey Cohen, retired in July 2017  
 James Conrod  
 Donna Cooney, retired in July 2003  
 Lonny Crinklaw, retired in February 2013

Dorothy Dube, retired in November 1993  
 Donald Farley, retired in December 2006  
 Arthur Foster, retired in September 2010  
 Arturo Gomez-Pompa, retired in July 2005  
 Jose Antonio Hernandez, retired in April 1991  
 Jeanie Humphrey, retired in December 1990  
 Marshall Wain Johnson, retired in July 2013  
 David Kleckner, retired in July 2018  
 Marin Ledesma, retired in December 1998  
 Jan Mccorkle, retired in July 2011  
 Doris Mcnamara, retired in September 1980  
 Frederic Metcalf, retired in July 1994

Rodney Moreno, retired in April 2008  
 Sarah Rangel, retired in April 1991  
 Roger Ransom, retired in July 2008  
 Patricia Skotty, retired in May 1981  
 Bobbie Smith, retired in November 1992  
 Patricia Smith, retired in July 2016  
 Carmen Stark, retired in October 2020  
 Fred Strickler, retired in July 2007  
 James Thompson, retired in January 2002  
 Anthony Urena, retired in July 2015  
 Peter Ventimiglia, retired in July 2004  
 Bobbie Wallace, retired in August 1998

## Why Travel with UC Retirees Travel?

When you participate in UC Retirees Travel trips, you help to support CUCRA (Council of University of California Retirees Associations), a systemwide consortium of volunteer representatives from all of the UC retiree associations. CUCRA represents retiree interests and advocates for retiree benefits in regular meetings with UC leadership.

- A chance to meet your fellow retirees. Introduce your friends and family to a great travel group.
- Terrific small group travel and small group explorations.
- All inclusive, air, hotels excursions meals etc

What do our travelers say about our trips and liaisons?

*"I arrived a day early and the liaison set up a fabulous dinner prior to the tour"*

*"Made the trip more fun by answering questions and helping the tour manager"*

*"Visited places I had only seen on TV"*

*"The liaison was tech savvy and helped with translation"*

*"The liaison was wonderful as I am a slow walker, I didn't feel left behind"*

*"A real asset"*

Join us on a UC Retirees adventure and see what everyone is talking about. Explore the 2026-2027 upcoming trips on the UC Retiree Travel Program website at: <https://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>

Contact UC Retiree Travel Volunteer Dolores Dyer at [ddyer44@verizon.net](mailto:ddyer44@verizon.net)



## Stay Connected: 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](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"

## 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>

Emeriti faculty interested in teaching for the Osher program may contact the UCR Osher Program Director Johnna Norris at [johnna.norris@ucr.edu](mailto:johnna.norris@ucr.edu) or learn more about teaching opportunities

at: <https://palmdesert.ucr.edu/share-your-love-lifelong-learning>



## Free Use Days to the Student Recreation Center in April

The UCR Student Recreation Center (SRC) is offering complimentary membership throughout April 2026 (April 1–30). UCR retirees and emeriti are encouraged to explore everything the SRC has to offer—from group exercise classes, swimming, lap swim workouts, and rock climbing at The Rock, to chair massages, Outdoor Excursions, MAC gym sports, tennis courts, and more—all at no cost for the entire month. Registration and completion of a liability waiver are required to participate.

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 through Thursday, April 30, 2026

**Register** on the Student Recreation Center webpage at:

[https://events.ucr.edu/event/free\\_use\\_days\\_at\\_the\\_src\\_2470](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

#### Spring Book Activities

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

**When:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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

**Book Activity:** *The Road to Murder* by Camilla Trinchieri

**When:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026

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

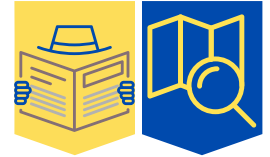
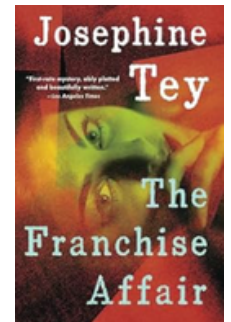
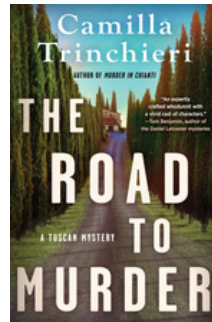
**Book Activity:** *An Event in Autumn* by Henning Mankell

**When:** Tuesday, June 9, 2026

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

**Book Activity:** *The Franchise Affair* by Josephine Tey

**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](mailto:retirees@ucr.edu).



### Walks, Talks & Tours

**Activity #1:** UCR Botanic Gardens

**Cost of Entry:** Free (Covered by the UCRRA and UCREA)

**When:** Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

**Presenter:** Guided Tour from Curator Janine Almanzor

**Details:** The tour will highlight the gardens with a focus on the rose gardens.

**Register** on the retiree and emeriti webpage at: [https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5hhTLG3wa3X8DXw](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hhTLG3wa3X8DXw)

**Activity #2:** American Red Cross Blood Bank

**Cost of Entry:** Free

**When:** Thursday, June 4, 2026 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**Presenter:** Guided Tour from Red Cross Representative

**Details:** Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of your local American Red Cross chapter in Riverside! This guided experience offers a unique opportunity to see how our mission comes to life every day through our vital services and dedicated teams.

**Register** on the retiree and emeriti webpage at: [https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6sWZWH82miLl2Bg](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6sWZWH82miLl2Bg)

UC RIVERSIDE



**American  
Red Cross**



## Connect and Unwind: Emeriti and Retiree Happy Hour



Join us at the UCR Barn Stable for a relaxed social gathering for retirees and emeriti. Enjoy great conversation, laughter, and connection in a welcoming space. We meet monthly from 4:00–6:00 p.m. on the dates below. No registration required—just stop by. We hope to see you there!

Thursday, April 16, 2026  
Thursday, May 21, 2026

Beverages available for purchase.  
Appetizers will be provided.



## The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship Lecture Series



### “Discovery of Superconductivity - Historical and Physical Perspective”

Chandra Varma, UCR Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics and Astronomy

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 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

I will set the scene for the surprising discovery of Superconductivity in 1911, and the simultaneous (but not realized) phenomena of Superfluidity, by relating what was known and considered important to discover, and

what was unknown in the bubbling but un-fermented prior decade. I will talk about the confusion of great minds when the essential physics, without which these phenomena could not be understood, was yet to be discovered. Yet with the right attitude and great leaps of imagination, some of them made remarkable and enduring contributions, which survive the full understanding which arrived only in the 1950s and 1960s. Such an understanding has affected everything subsequent in physics from nuclear physics to particle physics to cosmology.

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

[https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aaacFzhTfJR9mrc](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aaacFzhTfJR9mrc)

## Long Term Care Options with ARAG Legal

This session highlights ARAG Legal’s caregiving resources, including new support through Cariloop. Learn how these services help retirees, and emeriti care for loved ones and plan for their own aging, with practical guidance and personalized support for navigating eldercare decisions.

Thursday, May 7, 2026  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

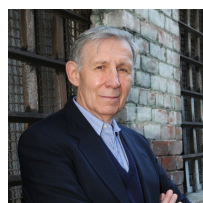


**Register** on the retiree and emeriti webpage:

([https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1Bz2rM1813zSJDg](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Bz2rM1813zSJDg))

## Spring Luncheon

Dr. Carlos Cortes  
UCR Professor Emeritus of History



Friday, May 15, 2026  
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\\_aVKP4mTdesOshHE](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aVKP4mTdesOshHE)

## Tech-tips 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.

May 12, 2026 Tips on Staying Safe Online

June 30, 2026 Understanding Virtual Private Network (VPN)



**Register** on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

[https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2bZII5q79kgbLRs](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2bZII5q79kgbLRs)

## Lawn Bowling at Fairemount Park

UCR retirees and emeriti are invited to a fun outdoor lawn bowling event at Fairmount Park! Join the Riverside Lawn Bowling Club for a guided practice session followed by a friendly game. All skill levels are welcome!

Friday, May 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

In-person at the Fairmount Park located at

4020 Bowling Green Dr., Riverside, CA

Register on the retiree and emeriti webpage at:

[https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9TtaBkJL0zCv9Vs](https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9TtaBkJL0zCv9Vs)



## Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Awards

### Winter 2026 Recipients

By Darleen DeMason

The Committee, consisting of Byron Adams, Piotr Gorecki, Dallas Rabenstein and me as chair, was very impressed by the quality of the student applicants and their projects. It was extremely difficult to make three selections from among the 24 applications submitted this quarter. This is the fifth year that we have been honored to give out these awards.



**Rory Fewer**, is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Music and will use his award to do field work in Bangkok, Thailand in the fall.



**Yuheng Ko**, is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Comparative Literature and used his award to attend an Association of Asian Students conference that took place in Vancouver, Canada in March 2026.



**Ananya Paul**, is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Physics and will use her award to attend an International Workshop in Quantum Chromodynamics in Bologna, Italy in May 2026. This meeting will be attended by invitation only.

We continue to be excited by the intellectual contributions that our UCR graduate students are making and we look forward to meeting these students at the Spring Luncheon.

## UCRRA Latest Updates

By Andy Plumley

### Mary Johnson Outstanding Retiree Award



Annually in partnership with the UCR Staff Assembly, we seek nominations for the Mary Johnson Outstanding Retiree. This award is given to those retired staff who have demonstrated a high level of volunteer service to the campus and surrounding communities and participation in campus activities/programs while in retirement.

Look for a separate communication on how to nominate a deserving retiree! Visit the Retirement Center website to view past recipients of this award at: <https://emeriti-retirees.ucr.edu/ucreara-welcome/staff-assembly-mary-johnson-outstanding-retiree-award>

### 2026-2027 UCRRA Executive Board Elections

Later this month, we will be sending out a communication on our board elections for 2026/27. Per our bylaws, officers are elected by the membership annually and the positions for which we are seeking candidates are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Communications & Outreach Director, and Events & Programs Director. Each position serves for a one-year term, except the President position which serves a three-year term. Look for a communication soon on how to run and please contact the Retirement Center Director, Cristina Otegui, for any questions.



### UCRRA Bylaw Proposal



In late April, we will be sending the membership a proposal for bylaw changes. The two significant changes are:

- Adding two Member-At-Large positions to the executive board.
- Updating the description of the UCR Retirement Center Events & Programs Committee and the Programs & Events Director position description.

We will vote on the proposed bylaw changes at our business meeting during the Spring Luncheon.

## Summary of Leonard Nunney's Dickson Lecture

By Ameae Walker



After an amusing introduction about Len Nunney having been head boy at his British grammar school and his current application of skills thus learned to his duties on the board of his Canyon Crest homeowner's association, we were treated to an erudite discourse on the subject of cancer.

First, Len introduced the concept that as multicellular organisms, we function somewhat like a colony of honeybees. As we all know, honeybees have a queen who lays eggs to produce the next generation, while other bees are mere workers, creating the home and nourishment for the queen and her offspring. Everything is orderly but what stops the workers from laying their own eggs? Management of the ordered social system works 1) by active suppression of fertility in the workers. This is accomplished by the queen's production of pheromones (substances that the workers smell that affects their hormones, thereby inhibiting fertility). i.e. the queen actively suppresses worker fertility; and 2) by colony policing to kill off any worker's eggs that do appear. Similarly, our bodies use

suppression systems to keep individual cells from inappropriate reproduction. These are tumor suppressor proteins, coded for in our DNA by tumor suppressor genes (many people have heard of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 breast cancer tumor suppressors). In addition, we have police in the form of immune cells that recognize and kill off abnormal pre-tumor and tumor cells. What many do not realize is that there are trillions of random mutations in DNA that occur each day in a human (factoid added by this audience member). Luckily, it usually takes a number of mutations all occurring in a single cell for this to result in cancer. Given the scale of random, daily mutations, the suppressor and immune systems do an amazing job or none of us would make it to an age to reproduce.

Just based on chance and missed suppression or inadequate immune policing, one would expect larger animal species to have more cancers than smaller ones because they have more cells, but this is not the case. Elephants and whales, for example, have few cancers. Len's evolutionary model predicts that large and/or long-lived animals have evolved more mechanisms of cancer suppression, mechanisms we can learn from and apply to human cancers. However, within a species, bigger animals do tend to have more cancer: In people, there is an ~ 10% increase in the basic risk for each 10 centimeters of height gain, suggesting that given similar genetic backgrounds, the more cells you have, the greater the chance of developing cancer. Similarly, small breeds of dog have much lower rates of cancer than bigger breeds.

Our ability to combat cancer is not addressed well by natural selection since natural selection is based on reproductive success and most cancers arise in post-reproductive years. Longevity is a benefit of modern life, but with trillions of mutations occurring every day, longevity increases our chances that a cell will escape tumor suppression or immune surveillance. The incidence of cancer goes up with age until over the age of 80, when it begins to drop again. Do those who have survived past 80 have better suppressor or immune systems or a lower mutation rate or are they dying of something else before a cancer is diagnosed? But natural selection can act to make early-onset cancers (before about age 40 in humans) very rare and evolutionary theory can tell us how rare they should be. Using this knowledge, Len argued that a small group of cancers are violating that expectation, indicating that something in our modern environment has caused them to become more frequent – the problem is to find out what.

Currently, we cannot do much to avoid most cancers, but a few cancers, causing about 30% of cancer cases, have clear, important, and modifiable risk factors. These include smoking (not just lung cancer), exposure to human papilloma virus (HPV), ultraviolet light (sun), helicobacter infections in the stomach, ionizing radiation, and a high body mass index. They are modifiable by cessation of smoking, vaccination protection against HPV, sunscreen and other sun-blocking measures, antibiotics, shielding, and weight loss, respectively. Therapeutically, agents that can amplify immune policing are currently in clinical practice, with more and more approaches being developed. With our ability now to sequence the DNA in a single cell, the hope is that new therapeutics can be customized to specifically combat each person's cancer through gene editing.





## California Air Research Board (CARB) Facilities Tour By Brad Hyman

In late January 2026, 25 members representing the UCR Retirees and Emeriti Associations were treated to a 90-minute, highly informative and entertaining tour of our State's newest CARB Headquarters. The tour was divided into three portions: commissioned art depicting aspects of air quality research including colorized interpretation of aerosols and a large sculpture in the courtyard depicting a decaying gas station – the goal of zero emission transportation; light- and heavy-duty vehicle emission collection; and laboratories that chemically analyze the content of emissions. We learned that the types of emitters under study is vast, ranging from gas-powered lawn and garden equipment to massive vehicles such as tug boats and larger marine vessels.



Vaporized residues emanating from tires are also analyzed. The massive bays in which discharged particulates can be experimentally collected are maintained in a pristine, highly-filtered fashion to avoid contamination; state-of-the-art computer technology is featured, replete with robotics. The latest gas chromatography and mass spectroscopy equipment can be found in the chemical analysis laboratories. Motorized vehicles are also catalogued as short- and long-haul vehicles, and how each category impacts our environment is studied in the context of particulates produced. Global warming impacts resulting from emissions is an important goal of these analyses. We learned that states across America look to California as a leader in the field. It is rewarding that internships are available to UC-Riverside students enabling them to take advantage of this amazing nearby resource.

Captured below from left to right is a large decaying gas station sculpture, art depicting particulates at the front entrance of the building and colorized art depicting aerosols in the air.



## School of Business Tour

By Sheryl Hayes



A group of retirees and emeriti were fortunate to attend the tour of the new School of Business on February 25, 2026. We began by meeting our wonderful tour guide, Mackenzie Dawes, in the lobby of the new building. The stunning multipurpose lobby invites visitors to enjoy floor-to-ceiling windows, comfortable seating, and the popular Biz cafe for snacks and cafe drinks. What a great first impression! Across from the lobby, we entered the large state of the art auditorium with huge LED screens for large classes. We took a peek at one of the two high tech classrooms, and the impressive computer lab up the central staircase.

The second and third floors held a variety of spaces, including several well equipped meeting rooms, student and faculty lounges, and faculty and staff offices. As you can imagine, the view got better and better as we rose to the fourth floor. Here, an impressive boardroom looked out on an amazing view of the campus. Behind the building lies a beautiful landscaped courtyard with a hillside view, that can also serve as an added event space. The building was designed for both form and function, being LEED certified based on its energy efficiency. It was a pleasure to see the care and quality that went into to the development of this building, which will serve students, faculty, staff and visitors for many decades to come.

