

UCLA Celebrates No. 1 Ranking, Honors

For the fifth consecutive year, UCLA has been named the nation's best public university in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "Best Colleges." "I hope every member of our community takes pride in what this ranking represents," Chancellor Gene Block said.

Two members of the UCLA community were awarded Nobel Prizes. Ardem Patapoutian, an alumnus, shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on the molecular basis for sensing heat, cold and mechanical force. Patapoutian had his first research experience at UCLA and earned his bachelor's degree in molecular, cell and developmental biology in 1990.

Guido Imbens, a Stanford University professor who was a member of the UCLA faculty from 1997 to 2001, shared the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences with two other academics. "Professor Imbens' pioneering work in natural experiments has changed how researchers use data in economics and across the social sciences," the chancellor said.

Among other recent faculty honors was a MacArthur Fellowship awarded to UCLA internet and race scholar Safiya Noble. Noble co-founded the UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry. Her research focuses on



Professor Safiya Noble, MacArthur Fellow

the intersection of human rights, social justice, democracy, and technology.

For the eighth year in a row, UCLA broke its own record in generating new funding for transformative research. The \$1.6 billion in research awards that UCLA received in the 2020–21 fiscal year was an increase of 13% over 2019–20. Among this past year's major awards were two related to COVID-19 vaccines, highlighting UCLA's strengths in addressing real-world challenges quickly and effectively.

Open Enrollment Ends November 19

This year's Open Enrollment period is still more than three weeks long, but it started earlier and ends sooner than usual. Benefits choices must be complete by 5 p.m. Friday, November 19.

There's a new pharmacy benefit manager. Those already enrolled in UC Care, UC High Option Supplement to Medicare and UC Medicare PPO will automatically transition from the Anthem IngenioRx plan to Navitus Health solutions, the new administrator of prescription drug benefits.

The Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center will offer online Question & Answer sessions. Be sure to register in advance for a Medicare or Non-Medicare session.

November 9, Tuesday, 10 a.m. UCLA Health Plan Benefits Retiree - Medicare Plans

[Click Here to Register](#)

November 10, Wednesday, 10 a.m. UCLA Health Plan Benefits Retiree - Non Medicare Plans

[Click Here to Register](#)

November 12, Friday, 10 a.m. UCLA Health Plan Benefits Retiree - Medicare Plans

[Click Here to Register](#)

November 16, Tuesday, 10 a.m. UCLA Health Plan Benefits Retiree - Combined Medicare & Non Medicare Plans

[Click Here to Register](#)

Board Adopts Program Attendance Policy

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UCLARA has focused on providing virtual programming. The expenses of online programs have been underwritten by the organization. During 2020 and 2021, members and guests have enjoyed programs from the L.A. Conservancy, Art Muse L.A. and other resources without any fees.

While the Program Committee plans to continue free virtual programs, they also anticipate resuming in-person programs. Through the end of the calendar year, only virtual programs will be offered. In-person programs, whether indoor or outdoor, will be resumed in January 2022 at the earliest.

The UCLARA guidelines adopted by the Board in October 2021 mirror UCLA standards. All attendees at in-person programs, whether on campus or off:

- Must be fully vaccinated, or have proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the program/event start
- Must fill out the [UCLA Symptom Monitoring Survey](#) and receive a clearance certificate
- Must wear masks indoors (strongly recommended outdoors as well)
- Should observe physical distancing guidelines (strongly recommended)

While the UCLA Symptom Monitoring Survey is primarily set up for employees and students, it's also used for contractors and campus visitors.

As retirees, we think of ourselves as UCLA affiliates, and many of us have UCLA Logon IDs. But for the purpose of Symptom Monitoring, we are treated as visitors. The descriptor you'll select on the survey is "Non-UCLA community member." The first time you use the system, you'll need to enter an ID number. It's usually easiest to use your 10-digit cell phone number, without spaces or hyphens. The next time you use the system your number will be recognized.

The program/event description should include the email of the "contact person" for the event. If in doubt, you can use the generic UCLARA email uclara@ucla.edu.

Campus and participation clearances are good for only 12 hours! So you can't fill out the Symptom Monitoring Survey days in advance. That would defeat the purpose, since the concern is your current symptoms.



Welcome to UCLARA!

UCLARA welcomes the following new members.

- Beverly Alison
- Lucinda Bernheimer
- Bette Billet
- David Brown
- Jane Carpenter
- Charles Chen
- Christina Choi
- Inder Chopra
- Ming Chung
- Mark Cohen
- Molly Coulson
- Barbara Cross
- Rosemary Dearnley
- Alice del Rosario
- Colleen Devaney
- June Dickson
- Donna Dixon
- Gloria Galvez-Carlisle
- Deb Geller
- Randi Greenberg
- Margaret Haberland
- Michael Hall
- Martha Hansen
- Chante Henderson
- Becky Henriksen
- Carol Horky
- Andrea Kaplan
- Jung Kim
- Cindy Kimmick
- Edward Leamer
- Emily Lerner
- Dongwook Lim
- Joan Ling
- Karen Marrs
- Karen Mathews
- Janice Numamoto
- Donna O'Toole
- Delnice Parker
- Jonathan Post
- Laurie Reven
- Maria Riley
- Betty Rodman
- Sandra Saika
- Craig Schoenbaum
- Robert Small
- Lazetta Smith
- Michael Sondheimer
- Karen Taka
- Rick Tuttle
- Michele Vertucci
- Daniel Warren

Board Briefed on Alumni Programs, Graduate Education

*Editor's note: We devote about 30 minutes of each Board meeting to a guest speaker. It's a way for UCLARA to stay in touch with the campus, and to raise our visibility among campus leadership. Each issue of **Connections** includes some of the highlights of our speakers' presentations.*

At the October Board meeting, our guest speaker was Patricia Chau Nguyen, senior director of UCLA Alumni Diversity Programs and Initiatives.

Patricia came to UCLA in 2013 from Cornell University. But her roots in the University of California system are deep: she was born at UC San Diego, and grew up there in student housing. She's also a current doctoral student at UCLA in the School of Education and Information Studies. She is interested in intergenerational connections and has deliberately made friends from each decade of life.

Patricia told us how Alumni used a consulting firm some 10 years ago to delve into the relationship between alumni and the university. The consultants had two important findings. First, "class years" were a relatively weak bond. Shared interests were a much stronger predictor of engagement. Second, alumni tended to think of their relationship to the university as transactional — interactive, with measurable results.

Patricia notes that Alumni only offered about six interest groups at the time of the study. Now there are ten active groups, including a group for Pacific Islanders and for alumni who identify as multiracial. Other



Susan Ettner, UCLA Dean of Graduate Education

groups are in the making, including a new group for alumni with a shared experience of AAP, the Academic Advancement Program.

Patricia ended with a statement about the Alumni vision: "A space to learn, to be supported, to give."

Susan Ettner, UCLA Dean of Graduate Education, visited the Board at our September meeting. Herself a first generation college graduate — she earned a GED in place of a high school diploma — Dean Ettner shared her concerns about graduate students and post-docs.

Dean Ettner is planning a new Graduate Education unit focused on academic success. This unit would promote peer mentoring and strengthen the connections of cohorts, the entering groups in each school and department. Lab-focused departments already have a successful Entering Mentoring program, and the dean wants to see if that approach can be adopted for humanities as well.

About half of the programs and departments do annual academic progress reports, the dean told us. Reducing time to degree is an important goal for the students and for the university.

Finally, Dean Ettner talked about the need for alternative career pathways. Advanced degrees have many uses outside of academia, and graduate students need to be made aware of those career options.

Coincidentally, both guests earned their bachelor's degrees at UC Santa Barbara.



Patricia Chau Nguyen, UCLA Alumni senior director of Diversity Programs and Initiatives

Don't Forget to Renew!

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to renew your UCLARA Membership for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Don't let your membership lapse and miss out on participating in interest group activities, programs and events, travel opportunities, and connecting with colleagues. Keep abreast of UCLARA news through *Connections*. Don't put off your renewal for another minute. The clock is ticking for your membership to stay active. [Click here to renew.](#)

Mary Petersen
Membership Chair

ERRC News

The Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center (ERRC) has had a busy quarter already, organizing open enrollment presentations about retiree health care benefits, and supporting the Emeriti and Retirees Associations. Director Ayesha Dixon along with Retirees Resource Specialist Maria Lubrano are on campus a few days a week and working remotely on others.

Zoom 101

The ERRC partners with IT Support for Zoom 101 Sessions. Get confident and comfortable with Zoom!

Friday, November 5, 10 a.m.: <https://ucla.zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0udeqvpzsvGtVrEz8iCCUFftJaPa9smXBe>

Friday, December 10, 10 a.m.: https://ucla.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwof-usqDIpHtDctev_OvJVE2ecEFjqfksI

CalPERS Long-Term Care Plan

If you purchased Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance from CalPERS and included inflation coverage, you should have received a recent mailing describing the tentative settlement in a class action suit triggered by the premium increases that took effect in 2015 and 2016.

The Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) recently released information on the CalPERS LTC Settlement. You should carefully read the options available to you and make a choice.

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2021/08/class-action-settlement-involving-calpers-long-term-care-plan.html>

Contacting the ERRC

The ERRC can be reached by email at emeriti@errc.ucla.edu or voicemail at 310-825-7456. See the website at ERRC.ucla.edu.

In Memoriam

The UC Office of the President has reported the deaths of the following UCLA annuitants. We are grateful for their service and extend condolences to their families and friends.

- Gilbert Aguinaga
- Deann Baber
- Marvin Brown
- Mar Lim Cube
- Kenneth Daniels
- Terrence Donahue
- Eliana Duque
- Evelyn Hannigan
- Ann Hansen
- William Lawrence Harris
- Harold Katz
- Fe Lingad
- Arthur Joseph Logsdon
- Marvin May
- Catherine McBride
- Eduardo Navas
- Ngoc-Anh Thi Nguyen
- Lee North
- Florencio Ortega
- Frankie Ragsdill
- Anthony Ricci
- Melania Romo
- Rosalee Sass
- Madeleine Schlag
- Morton Smith
- Mary Spletter
- Napoleon Ward
- Doris Williams
- Robert Williamson
- Yung Yeh

UCLA Campus Comes Alive Fall 2021

For retirees, the UCLA campus isn't quite open: our groups can't easily meet on campus, senior scholars are limited to online classes, and the Faculty Center (now the Faculty Club) is closed during construction.

But the campus of November 2021 is a lot closer to pre-pandemic "normal." We can visit the Fowler and Hammer museums and the libraries, as well as the hospital and medical plaza. We can eat at Plateia, the

restaurant of the Luskin Conference Center. We can shop at the UCLA Store in Ackerman Union again. Pauley Pavilion is welcoming basketball fans, with gymnastics coming soon.

And the campus is no longer empty: it swarms with students. Here are some Reed Hutchinson photos from the UCLA Newsroom showing how Fall Quarter 2021 marked a return to campus life.



Move-In Weekend

Many new Bruins moved into the residence halls the weekend of September 17-19, greeted by helpful student housing staff and rolling bins.



Volunteer Day

On September 25, UCLA volunteers fanned out to work on projects at 39 different sites. Here student volunteers are gathering outside the residence halls.



First Day of Class

Chancellor Gene Block surprises UCLA students on Bruin Plaza on the first day of class in the fall 2021 quarter.



COVID Test Vending Machine

The David Geffen School of Medicine developed a test called SwabSeq. Faculty, staff and students use Bruin Cards to dispense free tests from vending machines.

The Gift of Vision Inspires a Visionary Gift



Jules Stein Eye Institute

Photo by DocFreeman24, Wikimedia Commons

Arlene Pinkerton is a member of a farming family in Santa Paula dating back to the turn of the 20th century. Growing up, she was surrounded by the fresh, uplifting aromas of the family's lemon grove. Beginning at age eight, however, Arlene suffered a gradual loss of vision that prevented her from enjoying the beautiful sights of the grove.

After years of deteriorating vision, Arlene sought treatment at UCLA Stein Eye Institute. The moment she arrived, Arlene knew she found the right place for treatment. "In the lobby, there was a statue of a young man who is blindfolded," she says, "and when I saw that, I thought 'these people understand.'"

Doctors at the Institute diagnosed Arlene with Keratoconus, a degenerative disorder that causes the cornea to thin and form a conical shape. In 2007, Arlene volunteered for an experimental procedure wherein doctors implanted corrective lenses. Within minutes of the procedure, Arlene's vision was restored. "I thought to myself, 'I can see!'" she exclaims.

To thank the doctors who saved her vision, Arlene named the Institute as a beneficiary of her charitable remainder unitrust. Arlene now enjoys income for life from the trust and has the satisfaction of knowing that in the future, funds from the trust will allow the Stein Eye Institute to provide the gift of vision to others.

Interested in charitable remainder unitrusts or other gift planning options?

For information about life income gift planning arrangements or ways to include UCLA in your estate or long-range plans, please contact **Devon Brown**, Director of Gift Planning, at devonb@support.ucla.edu or 310-794-2213.

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Within

Sculpture of a blindfolded young man, gift of Jules Stein
Photo, Public Art in Los Angeles website



Interest Groups Open

Many UCLARA Interest Groups are still on hiatus. But a few are meeting and accepting new members.

Thousand Oaks Book Club - meeting in person

Campus Book Club - meeting online again in January

Valley Intermediate Mah Jongg Group - meeting in person in Canoga Park

If you are interested in joining any of these three groups, please contact their coordinator, Pat Lotker, at patlh@verizon.net.

Age-Friendly California

In June California became the eighth state in the nation to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. AARP's network is an affiliate of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (NASFC) Program. So California is now part of an international campaign to help communities prepare for rapidly aging populations and the parallel trend of urbanization.

Travel Talk from Dolores



We have had so many terrific responses on the recent Canadian trip! It's so much fun to plan trips and much more fun to hear what great times our UCLA retirees experience.

Here's one traveler's take:

"The trip was fabulous! Our tour guide, Maryse (Mar-eeze) Blouin was superbly organized, informative, helpful and compassionate; our coach driver Ed entertained us with witty remarks ... The Rocky Mountaineer train spoiled us with food, food, food, and because the train car was just half full, we had the luxury to change seats from time to time. ...

"My roommate and I were both really happy and thankful that this tour was offered. The lodgings and amenities and food provided were well worth the expense. In fact, I think that as an individual I would have spent much more. We had an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience, thanks to Collette!"

Another traveler also weighed in on the Canadian Rockies trip:

"This was our first experience with a tour group. We were a bit skeptical about being regimented, but the tour leader's graciousness made it OK. ... The good itinerary allowed us to cover a lot in a short period of time and see places we might choose to return to later. We enjoyed being with a mixed group, including the others who joined via UC Retirees. Thanks very much for facilitating this 'bucket list' trip for us."

Please check out our 2022 trips. I am hoping to be your UCLA escort as we enjoy exploring!

Netherlands, Belgium and France

Featuring the Keukenhof Tulip festival. April 20 - May 2 (this is almost sold out). Visit this link:

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1052319

Islands of New England

Aug. 26-Sept. 2. Visit this link:

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1063056

Canadian Rockies by Train

Sept. 5-13. For those who missed the 2021 tour — but a different itinerary. Visit this link:

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1046225

Christmas on the Danube

Features a 6-night Danube River cruise, Christmas Markets. Departs December 2. Visit this link:

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1055724

Spectacular South Africa 2023

The trip of a lifetime. The photo at the top of the page is from Collette's tour. Visit this link:

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1076610

If you have any questions please give me a call:

Dolores Dyer 805-758-0053, or email ddyer44@verizon.net

UCLARA CONNECTIONS

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Upcoming Retiree Events, November-December

On the Trail of Legendary L.A. Architect Paul R. Williams

Tuesday, November 9 at 11 a.m.

Los Angeles-born Paul Revere Williams was one of the country's greatest architects. His career spanned almost 60 years, and his versatile buildings can be found across Los Angeles County. He was also a remarkable trailblazer. As a Black man in the field of architecture, he persevered in the face of racism to achieve remarkable success. Join us on a county-wide expedition.

[Register Here](#) before November 6

After-Lunch Program: Barbara Ferrer

Wednesday, November 10 at 1:30 p.m.

L.A. Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer has been in the news throughout the pandemic. A nationally-known expert, she works to keep 10 million residents safe and informed about policy decisions.

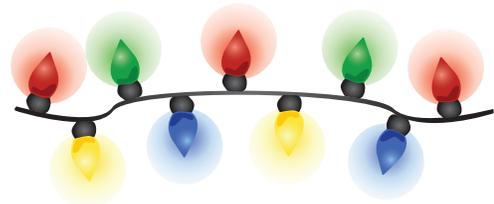
[Register Here](#)

Play Reading Group

This group meets at 7 p.m. on Thursdays via Zoom. New members are welcome as audience or readers. The play for Thursday, November 11, will be *Life Is a Dream* by Pedro Calderón de la Barca.

Contact Marjorie Friedlander, friedlander.marjorie@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Contact Rochelle Caballero, rrcab90272@cs.com to be added to email list or for the reading information.



Save the Date! Virtual Holiday Party

This year's holiday party will again be virtual. Friday, December 3 will be the date. More info to come as our plans take shape.

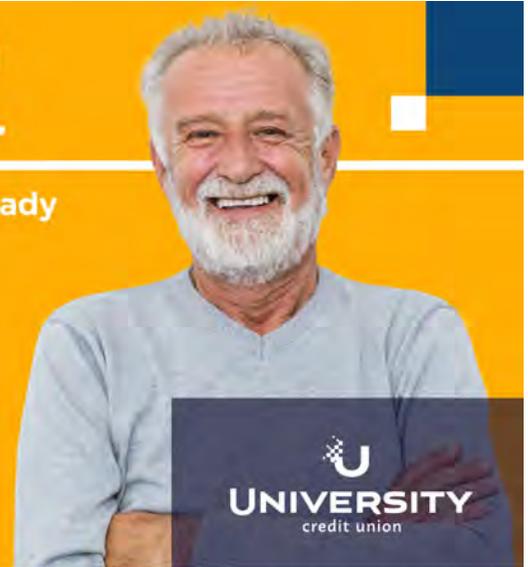
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To earn up to 5.00% APY, member must have a qualifying University Checking Account. Based on a combined rate of 4.88%. Credit card must be active, have at least one monthly transaction (excludes balance transfers and cash advances) and be enrolled in credit card eStatements to qualify for the extra 1.00% APY in dividends. Account does not earn dividends if there is a \$0 balance in a HELOC at the end of the month. All accounts must be in good standing with no delinquency or bankruptcy pending. Multiple loans in the same category count for only 1.00% APY in dividends.

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