

Open Enrollment In Progress

Open enrollment for 2023 benefits will end at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18. UCLA's new Healthcare Facilitator, Debra Wells, is offering Medicare presentations and "Help Desk" Zoom sessions, where you can drop in and ask questions. All these sessions are the result of the collaboration of the ERRC, Campus Human Resources, and the Healthcare Facilitator.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Open Enrollment Presentations

Combined Medicare & Non-Medicare Plans

- November 9 (10 a.m. – noon)
- November 10 (10 a.m. – noon)
- November 15 (10 a.m. – noon)
- November 17 (10 a.m. – noon)

Open Enrollment Help Desk

(No Presentations - Open Forum)

- November 3 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)
- November 8 (3 p.m. – 7 p.m.)
- November 18 (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Welcome, New Retirees



UCLARA President Elaine Fox and Chancellor Gene Block at a reception for retirees. See story on page 3.

UCLA Ranks No. 1, with New Housing and EVC/Provost

Fall brought students back to campus amid multiple reasons for UCLA to celebrate: a number one ranking, expanded student housing, and a new Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

For the sixth year in a row, UCLA was ranked the number one public university by *U.S. News & World Report*. This year UCLA tied with UC Berkeley. Four other UC schools were among the top ten: UC Santa Barbara (7), UC Irvine and UC San Diego (both at 8), and UC Davis (10).

Expanded residence hall and apartment space means UCLA is able to guarantee four years of housing to new freshmen and two years to new transfer students. UCLA is the first and only UC campus to offer this housing guarantee. New undergraduate housing in-

cludes the Centennial and Olympic residence halls, the Laurel and Tipuana apartment buildings, and a 17-story high rise called Gayley Heights, built on the site of the old UCLA Extension building. In all, 4,925 beds were added.

Effective September 1, Darnell Hunt became Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost. Hunt joined UCLA in 2001 as a professor of sociology and direc-



Darnell Hunt
EVC/Provost

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Welcome to UCLARA!

UCLARA is happy to welcome the following new members.

John Berger
Carol Bluee Walker
Phillip Bonacich
Melissa Chun
Jennifer Correa
Matthew Dang
Jack Drutz
Barbara Duncan
Renee Fortier
Mae Gordon
Christopher Hauck
Valerie Jones
Kiara Jordan
Maureen Keckeisen
Alex Kimura
Karen Mack
Kathleen Molla
Bill Parent
Richard Patlan
Susan Ponthieux
Anurak Promsiri
Sheila Richardson
Alit Ronen
Roberto Salazar
Connie Maria Sams
J. Bridget Sheehan-Watanabe
Sheila Shirazi
Dieselen Soberano
James Stoker
Susany Wisman
Gina Young
Young-seon Yun
Anna Zafar

Save the Date!

Holiday Party
Tuesday, December 6

Mentoring Programs Underway

Mentoring is a rewarding way for retirees to put their professional and institutional expertise to work. Eleven UCLARA members are now participating as mentors in the ACE Mentoring Program for campus staff. Applications were solicited in August, and about 20% of mentorship applicants were retirees.

Later this month, retirees will be invited to apply for the AMG ProShare Program, which brings together career staff in small groups to focus on networking and on personal/professional development. While mentoring isn't the primary purpose, informal mentoring naturally occurs among participants and group facilitators. AMG ProShare runs from January to June. Watch the [ERRC News](#) for application information.

UCLARA's involvement in these campus programs can be traced to 2019, when UCLARA determined to work with the Campus Human Resources Professional Development Program (PDP) to explore the feasibility of a UCLARA mentorship program. Both career staff and retirees demonstrated a clear interest in retiree mentorship. A follow-on project with the 2020 PDP group helped to identify the implementation requirements of a mentoring program.

In 2021, representatives from UCLARA, Campus Human Resources, Health Sciences Human Resources, Staff Assembly, the Administrative Management Group (AMG), the College of Letters and Science, Transportation Services, and Housing & Hospitality Services explored the possibilities. Existing programs proved to be the best option for involving retirees in campus mentorship.

... new EVC/Provost

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tor of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies. Since 2014 he has been the lead author of the respected Hollywood Diversity Report, working with the entertainment industry.

In 2017 Hunt became dean of social sciences in the UCLA College. Under his leadership, the division expanded and continued to diversify its world-class faculty; established the Barbra Streisand Center for the Future of Women and the UCLA Bedari Kindness Institute; launched the "Big Data" and Society initiative and the interactive e-forum LA Social Science; and, in conjunction with the Division of Humanities, secured a multi-year grant from the Mellon Foundation to support hiring and curricula with a focus on social justice.

"Inclusive excellence and engaged scholarship are more than mere buzzwords," Hunt said. "As EVCP, I look forward to working with campus leadership and our broader intellectual community to elevate these long-standing ideals at UCLA in concrete ways. By doing so, I know we can build on UCLA's extraordinary contributions as one of the world's great public research universities."

New Retiree Reception

For the first time since the pandemic struck, Chancellor and Mrs. Gene Block were able to host new faculty and staff retirees at their home. Speakers at the October 18 event included Scott Waugh, new president of the Emeriti Association, and UCLARA president Elaine Fox.

Elaine told retirees about online events and recent in-person excursions to the Huntington Library and Gardens and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. She talked about the new mentoring program and the well-established staff scholarships. Other UCLARA board members circulated among the guests, handing out UCLARA business cards and personal invitations to join. Maria Lubrano and Lam Luu represented the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center, which provided “goodie bags” for all attendees.



Above: Reception set-up. Table flowers. Guest Susan Nolan and Lam Luu. At right: retirees Evangeline Vera and Angela Estrada with Judith Tuch, UCLARA vice president. Photos here and on page 1 by Todd Cheney, UCLA Photo.



In Memoriam

The UC Office of the President has reported the deaths of the following UCLA annuitants.

- Bruce Barbee
- George Barker
- Catherine Couture
- Jose De La Torre
- Edward Dickson
- Nativedad Elli-Drennon
- Katherine Fujioka
- Maureen Hooper
- Wanetta Jones
- Isgouhi Kassakhian
- Alcira Madelaida Lopez
- Kazuo Nihira
- Hiroshi Omori
- Joseph Pegram
- George Siscoe
- Oscar Stafsudd
- Anne Louise Steele
- Randy Stuckey
- Colleen Trujillo
- Manuel Valle
- Wilbur Vashaw

UCLARA CONNECTIONS

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UCLARA Visits Santa Monica

August was a busy month for the program committee, including several in-person events in Santa Monica. UCLARA members enjoyed tours of the Marion Davies Guest House and a morning at the Museum of Flying.

Marion Davies Guest House at the Beach

This tour was so popular, we had to add two more excursions to the original August 15 date. William Randolph Hearst created a “Versailles of the West” in the late 1920s for his lady, screen star Marion Davies. Only the swimming pool and this two-story guest house survive. The craftsmanship of the woodwork

and the stunning bathroom tiles hint at the elaborate Hollywood parties once held here.

Museum of Flying

Our August 26 tour of aviation history was led by a local who shared stories of his childhood in the Santa Monica Airport neighborhood. We learned about Donald Douglas and Douglas Aircraft, as well as the evolution of commercial air carriers. Other highlights of the Museum of Flying included a look at women in aviation and the touching film “The Gray Eagles,” about WWII pilots who still fly their original fighters, the P-51 Mustang.



August Events in Santa Monica

Top row: Marion Davies guest house entrance. Original bathroom tiles. Middle row: Learning about biplanes at the Museum of Flying. Gathering outside with our docent. At right: Women in Aviation exhibit. *Photos courtesy of Michael Heafey.*



Retirement and Its Unexpected Possibilities

Hello, new UCLA retirees! The UCLA Retirees Association (UCLARA) welcomes you and hopes that you will join our organization with your friends and coworkers. We invite you to participate in our programs and events ... some online and some in person. You won't be sorry!

Many of us looked ahead to the year we would be able to retire ... and it seemed that suddenly the day came. Were we prepared? Did we plan to retire to something that had a purpose, was satisfying, gave us an opportunity to make a difference ... and have fun? Did we have a bucket list and are now able to make choices not based on work schedules?

I have been retired for 15 years now ... time that has enabled me to seize opportunities and experiences afforded with more time to spend with grandchildren, travel, staying connected to UCLA, and become more engaged in the community. I am sure you are looking forward to that and more, too.

I wanted to share with you an amazing experience I had this summer ... a spur of the moment trip to Krakow, Poland. This trip was not a vacation. I was invited to join an alumnus of the Anderson School at UCLA, Edward Shapiro, and representatives from major organizations supporting the refugee crises around the world. As guests of the Jewish Community Centre of Krakow, we were able to meet and greet refugees from the Ukraine and to see firsthand the efforts the Polish people were making to help those who

had to flee their homes on a moment's notice. The people of Poland were warm, welcoming, and engaging. The staff members of the JCC are undertaking such a monumental task and were eager to introduce us to many Ukrainians to hear their heartbreaking yet heartwarming stories. The spirit was contagious — so much energy and commitment.



*Elaine Fox,
UCLARA President*

As retirees, we all hope that we now have time to experience many unexpected possibilities. So please join in the many programs and events the UCLARA program committee has planned. Are you interested in traveling? Dolores Dyer is the UCLARA Travel Chair. In conjunction with Collette Travel, she has organized many worldwide (and nationwide) trips in 2022, 2023, and into 2024. Want to become involved with future planning for UCLARA? Committees are always interested in having new members.

Please check out the UCLARA website at [Retirees.ucla.edu](https://retirees.ucla.edu) for more information. We are here for you!

— *Elaine Fox, President*



Faculty Club Reopens

Most of us knew it as the UCLA Faculty Center. Now it's the Faculty Club, and membership is open to all faculty, staff, alumni and retirees. The renovation of the 1959 ranch-style building included many infrastructure improvements, from a reliable roof to new bathrooms at the south end of the building, a remodeled kitchen, and fireplaces that burn an eco-friendly alcohol gel in place of wood. New trellises promise a shady green future for outdoor spaces.

Visitors may notice a "new" fountain near the entrance: a bronze water lily that spills over into a series of stylized lily pads. The work of master fountain maker George Tstutakawa, it was rescued from storage and restored. Also restored were carved redwood panels by designer Evelyn Ackerman downstairs in the Cypress Room. That space is now brighter and lighter, with new wallpaper and a patio with a fire pit.



Canadian Rockies by Train, September 5-13, 2022

Top row: Getting our steps on a hiking trail. Gazing at lovely Lake Louise.

Bottom row: All aboard! Towering trees, towering mountains.

UCLARA Travel News

September found UCLARA travelers visiting the **Canadian Rockies by Train**. From Vancouver to Calgary, the scenery was beautiful. Highlights included Butchart Gardens in Victoria and picture-postcard hotels in Lake Louise and Banff. Thanks to our travelers for the photos!

And thank you to all our retirees, friends and family: our December **Danube River Cruise and Christmas Markets** trip has sold out! Buying Christmas gifts should be so much fun.

2023 is just around the corner and our first two trips are filling up fast. Don't miss out!

January 12-23: Treasures of Egypt
gateway.gocollette.com/link/1107489

February 2-15: Spectacular South Africa
gateway.gocollette.com/link/1076610

February 20-25: Cabo Cruise

We did this cruise before and had a huge turn-out. No flying involved, just park and cruise from San Pedro! Princess cruise 3H4W9J: call our cruise planner, Ron Hall, at 1-800-901-1172 x41810. Mention UCLA and he will take great care of you! I'll be your escort.

April 24-May 6: Shades of Ireland

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1088433

October 9-24: Greece and Its Islands featuring classical Greece, Mykonos and Santorini

gateway.gocollette.com/link/1125159

Dec 10-17: Music City Trio (Memphis, Nashville and New Orleans)

(Link to come)

— *Dolores Dyer, Travel Chair*

Paying It Forward

A longtime supporter of UCLA, Mary Hruby '65, '68 became a Bruin almost by chance. Finishing up at Santa Monica College, Mary went to the registrar's office intending to transfer to California State University, Long Beach. That's when the clerk asked her the question that changed her life, "With your grades, why aren't you going to UCLA?"

Mary was taken by surprise. "The thought had never crossed my mind," she says. Inspired by the idea, Mary entered UCLA as a transfer student and earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology. She spent some time in the Ph.D. program before leaving to pursue a career in nonprofit management and public affairs.

Mary has never forgotten that chance encounter in the SMC registrar's office. "I'm sure that person who steered me to UCLA is long gone," she says. "So, the only way I can thank that person is by supporting other people."

Mary's generosity to UCLA has taken many different forms. Starting with a \$15 donation in 1980, she has supported a variety of Bruin causes over more than four decades of annual contributions to the university.

In 2011, Mary experienced a dangerous health situation that landed her in the ICU at the UCLA Medical Center in Westwood. She received critical interventions just in time. "UCLA saved my life — literally," Mary says.

Once recovered, she began to seek out more substantial ways to give back to her alma mater. Through the UCLA Office of Gift Planning, she learned about the



Lusk School of Public Affairs

benefits of a charitable gift annuity. She chose to donate the majority of the General Electric stock she inherited from her father to support the Department of Social Welfare in the UCLA Lusk School of Public Affairs.

"It's a win-win," Mary says. "The university gets the value of the stock, and you can declare a charitable donation and receive a nice tax-reduced annuity. It was just such a wonderful opportunity."

Mary has also chosen to remember UCLA in her will. "I come from a family of donors," she says, "It's so important for me to give back. I always love when UCLA sends me videos of recent graduates whose smiling faces say, 'I was able to give up my part-time job because I got a scholarship.' To me that's the ultimate proof that I did give back."

For information about establishing a bequest, sample bequest language, or for information about charitable gift annuities, please contact Devon Brown, Senior Director of Gift Planning, at devonb@support.ucla.edu or 310-794-2213.

News from the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center

The Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center (ERRC) has had a busy fall, organizing open enrollment presentations about retiree health care benefits, staffing the Chancellor's reception, and supporting the emeriti and retirees associations.

On December 8, ERRC Director Ayesha Dixon will be part of a panel of experts in a UCLA Extension course, "The Aging Landscape: Emerging Trends and Changing Perspectives." The speakers will share

emerging trends in aging research and practice across UCLA, and explore how culture and society shape our views towards aging.

You can enroll in this free course at [UCLA Extension](https://uclaextension.org/).

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](https://errc.ucla.edu). For the latest announcements, [sign up](#) for the twice-monthly ERRC emails.

Give to the UCLARA Staff Endowment

Please consider the UCLA Retirees Association's Staff Endowment when you plan your 2022 year-end contributions. This investment in scholarships for UCLA staff reinforces the support that retirees continue to provide to the university.

Since the endowment was established in 2018, UCLARA has awarded 54 scholarships to support professional development for staff who have been working in all areas of the campus and UCLA Health as well. They have included clerical, technical, medical, research and administrative support personnel who have used their scholarships for advanced courses, conferences, or specialized studies to advance their careers.

Visit the [UCLA Retirees Association - Staff Scholarships](#) web page to learn about the recent recipients of the awards, who they are, and how they used their scholarships.

You can make your tax-deductible gift by credit card or check. If paying by credit card, go to giving.ucla.edu/UCLARA.

If paying by check, make your check payable to 'The UCLA Foundation' and reference fund #82013E, UCLA Retirees Association Staff Development Endowment. Send your gift to: The UCLA Foundation, P.O. Box 7145, Pasadena, CA 91109-9903.

Thank you for making the UCLARA Staff Endowment a priority when you make your gifts this year.

Join the Play Reading Group

Open to new members as play readers or "audience." [Email Rochelle Caballero](#) and tell her you read about the group in UCLARA *Connections*.

Thursday, November 10, *Richard III* by William Shakespeare, 7 p.m. via Zoom

December - to be determined

Thursday, January 12 (and Thursday, January 26, if needed), Open Mic Night, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Avoid market volatility and
keep your money **secure.**

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield


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