

UC IRVINE EMERITI ASSOCIATION REPORT
APRIL 2026 (covering one year—May 2025 through April 2026)

Compiled April 22, 2026, for the
Council of University of California Emeriti Association (CUCEA)
by *Jessica Utts* (Vice President)
with *Susan Lessick* (Programs) and *Ken Chew* (President)

- **Programs for Emeriti:** Our revitalized Programs sub-committee has been active. During the reporting period, we offered the following:
 - June 4, 2025: General Membership Meeting featuring “Not the Students You Knew: Changing Landscapes in Teaching and Learning” by keynote speaker Brian Sato (UCI Associate Dean of Teaching) and also recognizing four EA Graduate Dissertation fellows.
 - October 27, 2025: A “backstage” tour of the Irvine Barclay Theatre, which resulted in a package of ticket discount opportunities for UCI emeriti and retirees.
 - February 10, 2026: A bus trip to the Getty Center and Museum in Los Angeles, coordinated with the Retiree Association, was fully subscribed and otherwise proved to be very popular.
 - April 20, 2026: A morning of pickleball in the University Hills courts.
 - April 22, 2026: A lawn bowling event at the Newport Harbor Lawn Bowling Club.

We continue to collaborate with the UCI Retirees Association (RA), with support from the Center for Emeriti and Retirees (CER), in offering monthly walks, hikes, and bicycle rides, as well as public lectures and presentations.

- **Coffee and Conversation:** CER’s monthly “coffee and conversation” gatherings for retirees and emeriti have proven so popular that they were moved to a larger venue (the University Hills Community Center). Some sessions have included guest speakers: David Brownstone (October 2025; Financial Planning for Retirees), Bill Parker (January 2026; Faculty Retirement Liaison), George Miller (Feb 2026; CUCEA Information Officer), and Judi Franz (April 2026; UCI liaison to the UC Retirees’ Travel Program).
- **Parking on Campus for Emeriti:** Our parking service continues to offer complimentary parking to emeriti (and retiree) association dues-paying members who are not on paid recall status. This privilege encourages continuing engagement with campus activities. The current agreement requires members to stop at a staffed parking booth to obtain a permit, but we have almost finalized a new agreement that will use license plate recognition instead.
- **Edward A. Dickson Emeriti Professorships:** Following a two-year pause, we reviewed a record-high 12 proposals, selecting three for funding: Barbara Finlayson-Pitts (Chemistry), Gloria Mark (Informatics), and Jane Newman (Comparative Literature).

- **Graduate Student Dissertation Fellowships:** In a continuing collaboration with Graduate Division, we fund “top off” awards for doctoral students in their final year. During the UCI Annual Giving Day, donations are particularly encouraged to be directed to this Fellowship Fund. We plan to award three \$2500 Fellowships this summer, to be used in AY 2026-27.
- **Faculty Retirement Liaison:** Bill Parker, Professor Emeritus of Physics, continues in a part-time position at UCI as Faculty Retirement Liaison. This role is very helpful in assisting new and future retirees to communicate with their departments and with the RASC. We are proposing a By-law change to make this position an *ex officio* member of the EA Executive Committee. The proposal will be voted on at our annual meeting on May 13th.
- **Academic Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare:** Our CFW By-laws specify that 3 emeriti faculty will be voting members of CFW. Many years ago, the EA President began attending with the understanding that their presence was as an *ex officio* member. But it was discovered recently that this status was never written into the CFW By-laws. CFW voted to do so, and the change is working its way through the Senate approval process.
- **Annual Meeting:** Preparations are underway for our Annual General Membership Meeting to be held on May 13. In addition to the usual EA business, we are delighted to have Edward Dickson Emerita Professor Gloria Mark as a guest speaker. Professor Mark is internationally known for her research on decreasing attention span in the age of modern of technology. Her talk is titled “*Attention Span: Harnessing Attention in a World of Distractions.*”
- **The ABCs of the EA:** Our president has devised a mnemonic for communicating the Emeriti Association’s core missions. *A* is for “*Advocate,*” we advocate for the protection and enhancement of emeriti rights and privileges. *B* is for “*Beat + Blow,*” we beat the drums and blow our horns both to highlight and to further encourage emeriti achievements and contributions. *C* is for “*Convivial,*” we promote conviviality among emeriti and their communities.
- **CUCEA Triennial Survey Re-Analysis:** Having recently directed CUCEA’s most recent systemwide survey (2021-24) of emeriti post-retirement activity, Jessica Utts extracted Irvine data to create a campus-specific portrait, detailed in our Winter 2026 newsletter.
- **Executive Committee Roster Renewal:** Rolling *two-year summary:* our governing board conveyed deep thanks upon completion of their terms of service: Dick Frank (Classics), Judy Horn (Classics), Pam Lawrence (Medicine), and Ron Jevning (Medicine). We welcomed three successors: Diane O’Dowd (Developmental and Cell Biology), Jone Pearce (Organization & Management), and Mary Gilly (Marketing). Net total board membership: 13.