

UCLA Will Transform Empty Westside Pavilion

UCLA has acquired the former Westside Pavilion shopping mall, which the university will transform into the UCLA Research Park — bringing together scholars and industry experts to create a nexus for discovery and innovation.

The 700,000-square-foot property, located 2 miles south of the Westwood campus, will initially host two multidisciplinary research centers: the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy at UCLA and the UCLA Center for Quantum Science and Engineering.

The new UCLA Research Park is made possible in part by an intended \$500 million investment, with \$200 million already allocated, from the state of California to establish and fund the immunology and immunotherapy institute at UCLA. The institute is also supported by a group of founding donors from the biotechnology, academic, entrepreneurship and philanthropic communities led by Meyer Luskin, Dr. Gary Michelson, Dr. Eric Esrailian, Dr. Arie Beldegrun, Sean Parker and Michael Milken. In addition, Google — which previously leased part of the property — helped enable and support UCLA's acquisition.



Artists rendering of research park
By David Esquivel and Suzannah Mathur

The acquisition caps a multi-year effort by Dr. John Mazziotta, vice chancellor for health sciences and CEO of UCLA Health, to establish the institute at UCLA and provide it with leading-edge facilities.

"UCLA's goal is to build the immunology equivalent of Silicon Valley in Los Angeles," said Mazziotta. "Given the university's expertise and state-of-the-art facilities, we are expecting to attract the world's best scientists in

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Farewell to 2023, Welcome to 2024!



2023 is a year I viewed with mixed emotions. I imagine everyone experienced a few difficulties determining what "normal" meant. Your Retirees Association carefully navigated a return to in-person events while continuing to offer virtual programs. Thanks go to our Program Committee for

dreaming big to bring us 25 events during 2023. We're also grateful to Ayesha Dixon, director of the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center, and to her staff, Lam Luu and Maria Lubrano, for all they do for the retirees.

I, for one, am happy to welcome 2024 and the new opportunities and challenges that await us. Our Board continues to meet monthly with a focus on how we can stay connected to each other and UCLA.

Making retiree voices heard

Through committees and representation in UC-wide organizations, we focus on making the voices of all retirees heard at the highest level of University administration. One important way is our participation in the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA), which was organized in 1993 to speak to the University on retiree issues. The past few years

Continued on page 2



In Memoriam

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

Mari-Anne Akers
Giraldo Ares
Samual Baber
John De Pippo
James Dean
Joyce Digiovanna
Alma Oliveira
Edythe Mae Espree
Anne Freeman
Clifford Fried
Qui-An Fung
Raymond Goldstone
Connie Hsi
Lianna Marie Johnson
Wei Hsiung Kao
Harry Lockart
Jose Martinez
Antonio Marzan
Marion McCarley
John McGhee
Tirrill Mehana
Jeffrey Morehead
Judy Mossman
Betty Nortman
Ernest Polk
Arturo Santiago
William Schram
Jeannine Schummer
Sidney Starkman
Ilene Swartz
Gordon Theil
Jack Thompson
Lili Tokuda
Lyla Vicklund
Gerald Wall
Anita Ward
Mary Watkins
Charles Young

Welcome to 2024!

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representatives have focused on problems with retiree medical and prescription benefits and problems with the Retiree Service Center (RASC) processing of retirement and service benefits. An advisory committee was formed to raise concerns including the lack of a COLA increase for out of state retiree medical benefits as well as problems with dentists leaving the Delta Dental Plan. The committee monitors changes in health benefits to assure that CUCRA and CUCEA, the Council of UC Emeriti Associations, are involved from the get-go.

Periodically, CUCRA conducts a survey of all retirees which increases our visibility UC-wide. The 2020 report includes demographics and highlights retiree contributions. You can review the 2020 and 2016 surveys at cucra.ucsd.edu/surveys.

Tailoring opportunities to our retiree community

Our Program Committee continues to identify activities to bring retirees together to foster friendships new and old and connect to campus life. UCLARA offered a variety during 2023 including the annual Holiday Lunch, hikes, concerts, interesting discussions on current issues or important research, and visits to Los Angeles area institutions such as JPL. Another committee supports interest groups organized by your fellow retirees.

The Board continues to engage with various campus administrators to form partnerships with an eye to providing more access or benefits to all of us. A joint Art Show Committee (Retiree and Emeriti Association members) will present a special art exhibition this spring on May 21 (see page 10). The Travel Chair connects retirees through travel by offering hand-picked travel experiences and lots of advice on how to get the most from them. A UC travel escort accompanies these groups (see page 9 for 2024 and 2025 listings).

Connecting with and supporting campus staff

In 2013, UCLARA established a UCLA Retirees Association Staff Development Scholarship Endowment Fund to recognize and support current staff who wish to attend conferences or take educational courses to further their careers. Annually the Association provides four or more scholarships through Staff Assembly, who administers these awards. Please feel free to make a donation to the Endowment at any time at [this link](#).

UCLARA provides mentoring opportunities through two programs: ACE (Advising Communities of Excellence) and the Administrative Management Group (AMG) ProShare Program. Volunteer mentors have already been selected for 2024.

Catch up on the latest

You can catch up on all of the latest happenings by visiting our website at retirees.ucla.edu. You can also follow us at our [UCLARA Facebook page](#). If you're not already a Facebook group member, please ask to join so you can be part of the ongoing conversations.

Let's welcome 2024 by staying engaged and connected through the amazing opportunities that UCLARA provides for its membership.

Judith Tuch, President

Welcome to UCLARA!

UCLARA is happy to welcome the following new members. We hope to see you at upcoming events!

Manuela Britsch
Weimei Chu
Christopher Crosson
Chris Dunkel Schetter
Carol Eng
Robert Engstrom
Nancy Escobedo
Manuela Friedmann
Rosemary Healy
Gerald Jackson
Rajeev Jain
Kimberly Jansma
Dana Johnson
Naomi Kobashigawa
Laura Levinson
Amy Mallow
Sandra Mano
James Muccione
Kevin Mulroy
Addy Olivier
Jose Olvera
Maria Louisa Padilla
Jim Roach
Gloria Rom
Jeffrey Rubin-Dorsky
Steven Santiago
Gi-Wook Shin
Thomas Smith
Debbie Suda
Eduwiges Trejo
Cathy Vogt
Eva Wong
William Zame

You're Invited to UCLA Conversations

The ongoing program of UCLA Conversations continues with two programs in March and one in April. Retiree Stuart Wolpert introduces the speakers and engages them in conversation. All the UCLA Conversations are scheduled from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the UCLA Faculty Club. The programs are free, co-sponsored by UCLARA and the Emeriti Association. See retirees.ucla.edu to register.

Travel

On Thursday, March 7 the speakers are Dolores Dyer, who heads the UCLARA Travel Group, and Christel Aragon of UCLA Alumni Travel. Dolores and Christel will discuss upcoming trips and the joys and challenges of travel in the 2020s.

Mindfulness

On Wednesday, March 13 the featured speaker is Prof. Sara Melzer. A professor of French and Francophone Studies, she has integrated mindfulness techniques into her teaching. A certified mindfulness coach, she is working on two books about mindfulness. She believes mindfulness can improve not only focus, but relationships and health.

Aging and the Brain

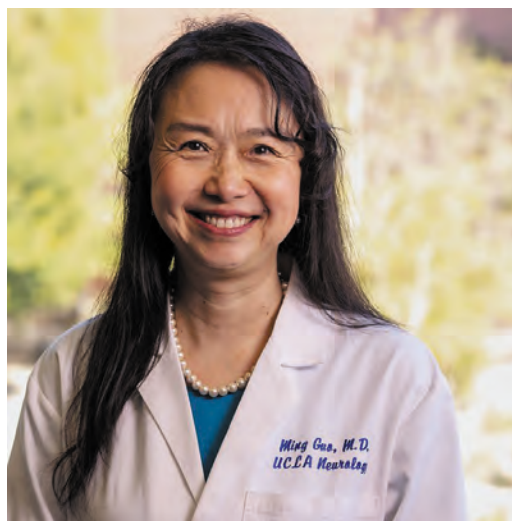
On Thursday, April 11 the featured speaker is Dr. Ming Guo. As the holder of the Laurie and Steven C. Gordon Chair in Neurosciences and director of UCLA's Center on Aging, she is uniquely qualified to discuss aging and the brain. Her research focuses on the molecular basis of diseases including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

Music and Memoir

On January 11, concert pianist and music professor Inna Faliks played piano and read from her memoir, "Weight in the Fingertips: A Musical Odyssey from Soviet Ukraine to the World Stage."



Prof. Sara Melzer: Mindfulness



Dr. Ming Guo: Aging and the Brain



Prof. Inna Faliks: Music and Memoir

Growing Beyond Westwood

Westside Pavilion is not UCLA's only recent acquisition. Here are three major additions outside of Westwood.

Downtown Los Angeles

The historic Trust Building at 433 S. Spring Street gives UCLA a new home in downtown Los Angeles. Among its first occupants is UCLA Extension. Read more: newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-expands-with-new-building-in-downtown-LA

South Bay

The Marymount California University sites in Rancho Palos Verdes and San Pedro will ultimately enable UCLA to enroll an additional 1,000 students. The main campus in Rancho Palos Verdes is about 30 miles south of Westwood. Read more: newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-expands-with-new-sites-in-south-bay

Mid-Wilshire

A former medical center in the mid-Wilshire area is being transformed into a new behavioral health campus. Seventy-four beds, currently located in Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA in Westwood, will be relocated to the new hospital, with room for additional beds and a planned total of 119. Read more: www.uclahealth.org/news/ucla-health-selects-construction-team-neuropsychiatric

UCLA Will Transform Westside Pavilion

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immunology and immunotherapy, as well as top students.”

Joining the immunology center will be the UCLA Center for Quantum Science and Engineering. This center conducts research in the emerging field of quantum science and technology — including quantum computing, communication and sensing — with the aim of dramatically increasing information processing power by harnessing the unusual behavior of subatomic particles. Founded in 2018 and operated by the UCLA College Division of Physical Sciences and the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering, the center has received funding from Boeing and the National Science Foundation, among others, and counts among its members more than two dozen UCLA faculty from the fields of physics, engineering, computer science, chemistry, mathematics and biostatistics.

The vast new space, on Pico Boulevard between Overland Avenue and Midvale Avenue, is connected by an enclosed pedestrian bridge over Westwood Boulevard. The property features a broad metal and glass facade and open areas with 17-foot ceilings, panoramic windows and expansive atriums inside and out. In addition to research labs and offices, the property has the potential for additional uses, including classrooms, lecture halls and event venues.

A fixture of West Los Angeles since its opening in 1985, the Westside Pavilion quickly became a much-visited retail location and gathering spot and continued to evolve over the following three decades. At one time, the site featured a three-level bookstore and multiple movie theaters and appeared as a backdrop to numerous movies and TV shows. Over the past decade, it suffered from a decline alongside other indoor malls across the country, leaving storefronts largely empty.

Wide shot showing back of properties with patio, terraced benches and construction crane

Photo by David Esquivel



2023 Holiday Luncheon

About 70 UCLARA members and guests joined in celebrating the annual Holiday Luncheon at the UCLA Faculty Club on December 5, 2023.

The blue-and-gold themed tables included a UCLARA-branded magnifier and a luggage tag for each guest. Cody Gillette played piano before and

during the delicious buffet meal. Cody also played the accompaniment to a vocal interlude by board member Sue Abeles. The event ended with a prize giveaway and the awarding of flower arrangements.

Special thanks to Michael Heafey and the program committee for putting the event together.



More 2023 Holiday Luncheon



Thank you to
photographers
John Dahl and
Ayesha Dixon

News from the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center

Save the dates! Here are some upcoming events sponsored by the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center.

Dinner for 12 Strangers, March 3. For more than 50 years, UCLA Alumni has sponsored dinners for alumni and students to meet and discover their commonalities. Ayesha Dixon and Al Aubin have a tradition of their own, hosting a Dinner for 12 Strangers at Belmont Village in Westwood. If you are interested in attending, email Ayesha Dixon, adixon@errc.ucla.edu. To discover more about the tradition visit d12.alumni.ucla.edu.

ERRC Community Shred Event, April 13. To celebrate Earth Day, ERRC is having an on-campus shred event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. This event is open to all UCLA retirees, campus and community partners. Help protect yourself from identity theft! Bring documents that contain your personally identifiable information – such as old bank statements, tax returns, bills, receipts, credit card applications and outdated medical records – to be safely shredded. Register here: retirees.ucla.edu/event-5526138

A Team Effort: Terry Oftedal

Terry Oftedal, '70, credits his years on the UCLA Men's Rowing team with some of the most important lessons of his life. "In rowing, it all comes down to synchrony and that sense of teamwork," the Fresno, Calif., native says. "So, over my lifetime and business career, it's been all about teamwork and inspiring others to work together."

While pursuing his degree in economics, Terry rowed his way to becoming one of UCLA's first four-year varsity lettermen. In the decades since, he has been dedicated to keeping the program afloat for future Bruin oarsmen.

Not long after graduation, Terry met his wife, Kathryn, whose philanthropic philosophy is, "You can always afford to be generous." Donating to the Friends of UCLA Men's Rowing was an obvious choice. During Terry's years at UCLA, men's rowing was a fully funded varsity sport, but that changed when the program was redesignated as a club sport in the 1980s. Suddenly, the program depended on alumni support to survive. The Oftedals became regular contributors.

"I always thought I was going to give back through my will at the end of my lifetime, but my wife, Kathryn, said, 'Why don't you do something now?'" Terry says. In that spirit, the couple established the Terry Oftedal Endowed Men's Crew Centennial Scholarship to provide financial aid to student athletes in the



men's rowing program.

Terry's generosity did not stop there. In addition, he opted to set up a charitable gift annuity with some appreciated stock shares. This not only allows Terry to help secure the future of the rowing team he loves, but it also provides him with an annual lifetime income where he incurs tax on only part of the gain. "It's a win-win," he says. "I get cashflow for the rest of my lifetime,

and the remainder goes over into The UCLA Foundation for the men's rowing team endowment. The fact that a simple step taken today can have an impact on many generations to come is a powerful concept."

Terry hopes his gift will inspire more UCLA alumni to support future generations of Bruins through charitable gift annuities. "It's not just about giving to be giving," he notes. "You're doing something that is meaningful for others, and hopefully making the world a better place." And, Kathryn says, "We also really enjoy associating with the consistently fine people who come into our lives every year through the Men's Crew program."

For information about UCLA charitable gift annuities, personalized gift illustrations and current payment rates, please contact Devon Brown, Senior Director of Gift Planning, at devonb@support.ucla.edu or 310-794-2213.

Recording Secretary Needed

Every year, at this time, the UCLARA Nominations Committee meets to review the composition of the Board of Directors for the next fiscal year and makes recommendations for any position(s) where the term of office expires on June 30.

Our committee is currently looking for interested candidates for the position of **recording secretary**. Per the by-laws of the association, "The Recording Secretary shall record and distribute the minutes of the meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings, shall keep the Book of Minutes, and shall maintain an up-to-date copy of the Bylaws, and be responsible for records of decisions

and actions of the Board of Directors."

Are you interested in becoming more involved in UCLARA? Are you a potential candidate or do you know one of your colleagues who could be considered for the position?

Please contact me with any questions, suggested potential candidate(s), or propose yourself as a candidate for the position of Recording Secretary of the UCLARA Board of Directors.

— Elaine Fox, (efox818@yahoo.com)

Immediate Past President

Chair of the Nominations Committee

Hiking Group on the Move!

The Hiking Group has an excursion planned for Monday, February 5, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Don't delay, [registration](#) ends Friday, February 2. Only UCLARA members are eligible.

The planned hike is 2.5 to 3 miles along the Tree People Trail at Coldwater Canyon Park. The activity level is considered moderate, going up and down hill on wide dirt trails with views of the San Fernando Valley.

The photos show the November 9, 2023 hike through the Ernest E. Debs Regional Park. About 18 members participated, enjoying mild temperatures and clear views courtesy of the Santa Ana winds. Highlights included the turtle pond at the halfway point and the nearby Audobon Center. The hike was curated by In-

grid Schmid and Elizabeth Juncosa. Photos provided by Elizabeth, Ray Juncosa and Michael Heafey.



UCLARA CONNECTIONS

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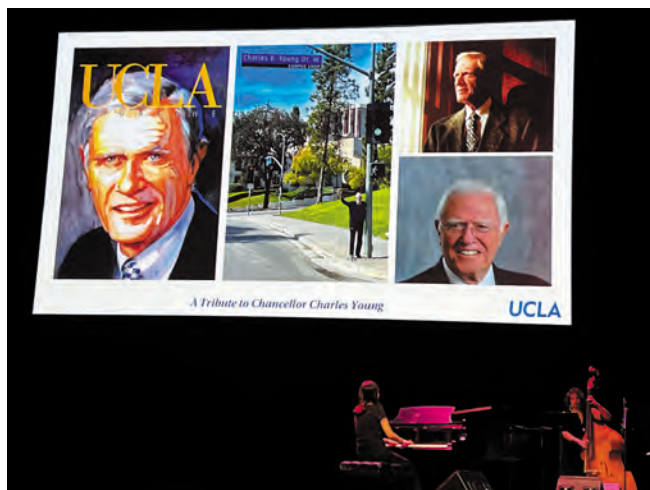
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Lam Luu

Celebrating the Life of Charles E. Young

On January 18 hundreds of UCLA alumni, faculty, staff and retirees gathered in Royce Hall to celebrate the life of Charles E. Young (December 30, 1931 — October 22, 2023). Young served as UCLA chancellor from 1968 through 1997.

Current Chancellor Gene Block opened and closed the celebration. Speakers included Ted Mitchell, Prof. Carole Goldberg, Zev Yaroslavsky, Ann Meyers Drysdale, Ralph Ochoa and Keith Parker. The family was represented by wife Judy Young and granddaughter Cara Young. Five young instrumentalists from the Herb Alpert School of Music played some of Young's favorites, including "Moon River."

Visit alumni.ucla.edu/CEY to watch a tribute video.



Slide show image: note student musicians

Time to Travel: 2024 and 2025 Trips

Thanks to everyone — UC retirees, friends and families — for making our travel program such a huge success.

We have some great trips coming up, discounts for sure. I will be the UC escort on Alpine Lakes and Trains as well as Kingdoms of Southeast Asia. I am excited to experience these trips with you!

Please note: if you love the itinerary but the date won't work, let me know. We may be able to book the same trip on another date. We want you to have a great time and we are here to make that happen.

Check the listings below and remember these are all-inclusive trips, hotels, airfare, most excursions and most meals.

Reach out to me, Dolores Dyer, ddyer44@verizon.net

2024 September: Alpine Lakes and Trains

September 10 - 20. Zurich, Glacier Express Train, Lake Maggiore, Borromeo Palace, St. Moritz, Lucerne, more! *\$250 discount per person if booked before 3-11-2024.* gateway.gocollette.com/link/1187608

2024 November: Kingdoms of Southeast Asia

November 7 - 25. Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand. This trip is already a sell-out, but we are putting together a second departure. Please sign up for the waitlist if you don't want to miss this trip! gateway.gocollette.com/link/1196617

2025 January/February: Tropical Costa Rica

January 31 - February 8. Includes San Jose, Coffee Plantation, Arenal Volcano, Cano Negro Refuge, Lake Arenal Cruise, Farm Tour and Lunch, Monteverde Cloud Forest. *\$100 discount per person if booked before 7-21-2024.* gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213566

2025 February: Northern Lights of Finland

February 20 - 17. Helsinki, Arctic resort glass igloos, Finnish sauna, reindeer safari. gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213555

2025 March: Italian Vistas

March 3 - 15. Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Florence, Venice, Leaning Tower of Pisa, boat trip to Murano island for glass blowing and much more. *\$250 discount per person if booked before 9-4-2024.* gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213502



Bigger Than Ever: Arts and Crafts Exhibit May 21



Oil painting by Michelle Shin
Image courtesy of the artist

The annual Sylvia Winstein Arts and Crafts Exhibit is a long-standing campus tradition. This year the Emeriti Association and UCLARA are collaborating to highlight more creative work than ever from emeriti and retiree members and their spouses.

Save the date: **Tuesday, May 21** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Morrison Room of the UCLA Faculty Club.

The exhibit offers the rare opportunity to both see the work and meet the artists. The 28 artists will be exhibiting sculpture, photography, oil painting, watercolor, ceramics, weaving, calligraphy, and jewelry.

The featured retiree artist is Michelle Shin, whose primary interest is oil paintings of natural scenes in California and in Korea. She had a solo exhibition in Seoul in July 2023 and was part of a group show in New York City in November 2023.

Play Reading Group

This group is open to new members as play readers or “audience.” Currently meeting via Zoom. [Email Roschelle Caballero](#) and tell her you read about the group in UCLARA *Connections*. Plays are subject to change.

February 8, Dating, Love & Marriage Neil Simon style • **March 14**, Spotlight on Women Playwrights • **April 11**, *The Hostage* by Brendan Behan • **May 9**, *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller



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