

Dear A&BS Colleagues,

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

As we start 2018, I continue to look for opportunities to elevate our levels of service, ways to break down administrative barriers to increase efficiency, and to streamline processes.

We are continuing to redefine what exceptional service means to us. In an environment where A&BS resources are often the only available resources, how can we provide better service? Improving customer service is about timeliness, operational excellence, serving one other and the entire Anteater Community, and by closing the loop to ensure that needs were met. We are working on providing tools to support all A&BS employees as we improve our culture of service. More information to come!

We had a great turnout at the last town hall meeting on Wednesday, January 17. We had over 250 A&BS employees come out to network and hear updates and presentations from various areas such as Associate Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jeff Lefkoff on research and campus priorities, and Assistant Vice Chancellor and Campus Architect Brian Pratt speak about projects around UCI. A big thank you to our department presenters:

- **Anju Subba and Sheila Hedayati** - Building a Culture of Continuous Process Improvement: Institutional Biosafety Committee Process Improvement
- **Melissa Lee** - KFS Upgrade
- **Anne Krieghoff** - Recycling & Sustainability

For those of you who attended the town hall, please click [here](#) to offer feedback about the event. Look out for future opportunities to come and meet your fellow A&BS colleagues as well as to learn the latest news and updates.

Thank you for all of your hard work, and as always, feel free to share your comments and suggestions by sending an email to ABSWithUForU@uci.edu.

With appreciation,

Ronald S. Cortez, JD, MA
Vice Chancellor
Administrative & Business Services

February 2018
Volume 2, Issue 1

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A&BS and UCI Events Calendar

- **February 1 - March 30:** [Book Drive](#)
- **February 21 - 24:** [Smart Cycling](#)

ZOT the RED TAPE



Click Here to Share Feedback,
Ideas, and Suggestions!

REAL ESTATE SERVICES SPOTLIGHT



On behalf of the University, Real Estate Services is the UCI Campus and UCI Medical Center's real estate partner. Real Estate Services includes Rick Coulon, Helena Dedic, and Jessica Soto. The team handles a number of real estate services including:

- Space lease planning
- Real property sales and/or purchasing
- Ground lease management
- Real estate development and contract negotiation for nontraditional capital improvements with outside vendors
- Develop and negotiate licenses and other contract forms for property use and real property easements
- Provide internal and external consultation as it relates to all aspects of real estate issues
- Faculty home loan programs

Real Estate Services manages over 597,641 square feet of lease activity throughout the year including new leases and lease renewals. This past year, Helena Dedic, has completed over 30 facility use agreements, 17 licenses, 7 easements, and 71 leases and subleases.

As the Home Loan Coordinator, Jessica Soto administers the UC Mortgage Origination Program (MOP) and Supplemental Home Loan Program (SHLP) for the campus. MOP provides support to eligible employees in obtaining home loans offered through the University. This past year, the campus has completed a notable number of MOP and SHLP loans. Per UCOP's annual report, UCI leads the MOP program with the greatest number of funded MOP and SHLP loans in the UC system. In collaboration with UC Office of Loan Programs and the Irvine Campus Housing Authority (ICHA), Real Estate Services strives to deliver optimal options through the University's housing assistance programs.

EH&S PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP



The first-ever EH&S Professional Education In-Person Workshop was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at the University of California (UC) Irvine. The program provided 41 participants, from 7 campuses & locations, an overview of advanced topics in Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), in addition to: hands-on exercises, networking with colleagues, and dialogue about core competencies such as communication, influence & negotiation, and program management. Course evaluations & tests were used to collect feedback and to assess participants' overall reactions, changes in behavior and learning, and demographic information.

Click on the image above to watch a short 1 minute video.



Click the image to learn more about UCI's commitment to providing a healthy working, learning, and living environment for all member of the campus community and its visitors.

OUTREACH - FRATERNITY ALCOHOL EDUCATION

With over four different fraternities in attendance, Officers Bessolo, Solomon, and Juarez spent a quiet evening educating students on practicing safe alcohol consumption - not only for their own safety, but also the safety of their friends.



Sharing the common pitfalls that students have made before them, they urged them to celebrate responsibly as one wrong decision can result in a DUI or even serious injury. Officer Juarez recounted a story where a student was arrested twice in less than twenty four hours for driving under the influence. "It's not worth it", said Officer Juarez, "because now that student and his parents will have to deal with the expensive legal fees associated with his two DUI offenses." With the popularity of Uber, officers encouraged students to be wise and make use of the service because it will keep them out of trouble.

The group also participated in mock field sobriety tests and ran through an obstacle course wearing drunk driving goggles.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - TO LIVE A "GREENER" LIFE



All of these resolutions are simple and are within your power to do.

These small changes will make a big difference to our environment and improve the quality of life for you, your children and future generations!

Minimize waste to landfill. Waste that goes to Landfill creates greenhouse gasses (methane) that are released, increasing global warming. Try thinking of waste as a precious resource that still has more useful life in it.

Ways you can minimize waste:

- **Carry a reusable water bottle with you every day.** By drinking from reusable bottles and cups you can stop buying water bottles. In the U.S. 50 billion plastic water bottles are used each year, but 38 billion of them never get recycled. 75% of these plastic bottles end up as litter polluting land or waterways and in landfills. At UCI we have over 160 locations to fill your reusable bottle with fresh, healthy filtered water that tastes great! Anteaters already reduce the use of 3 million water bottles each year by filling reusable bottles on campus.
- **Use reusable bags.** It takes 12 million barrels of oil to produce the number of plastic bags used in the U.S. each year. Paper bags aren't any better; the U.S. uses 14 million trees each year to produce the paper bags we use. By simply using reusable bags for all of your purchases you can stop that cycle of waste. Remember to refuse the box or bag. By refusing the box, bag, tray you become part of the solution!
- **Recycle.** When you dispose of boxes and other "clean and dry" items, remember to make sure the items get placed into blue recycle bins. Glass, plastics, paper, metal all can be recycled and become useful items again. Anteaters already divert 81% of waste away from landfill but our goal is 90% diversion. This simple act will reduce greenhouse gasses!
- **Compost whenever possible.** Food and yard waste can be used to create nutrient rich soils and energy sources if they are separated from trash. If you do not have your own compost bin, you can dine in the 26 places on campus that offer food waste composting.

Thanks for choosing to live your **greenest** life!

Click [here](#) to check out the great work that Anne Krieghoff, Facilities Management Sustainability Program Manager has done in securing grants for her program.

Click [here](#) to view the newest UC Climate Lab - Vox video. UCI is featured in this video about waste minimization.

GIVING BACK UPDATE

In the last newsletter, two "giving back" opportunities were highlighted where the UCI community could donate canned goods, stuffed animals, and unwrapped toys. Below updates the success of both events. Thank you to all who contributed and participated in the annual events!



Each holiday season, UCI Transportation and Distribution Services spearheads the Clash of the Cans food drive to collect nonperishable goods for our community members who go to bed hungry. This year, UCI Transportation's Clash of the Cans was a proud sponsor of UCI's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week during which Anteaters assisted in food preparations, participated in various hosted demonstrations and events, and donated goods to those in need. Thanks to this campus-wide effort, and the many donations from our A&BS partners, we stocked the UCI FRESH Basic Needs Hub shelves with 1,254 pounds of food. UCI Transportation will continue its community outreach efforts with the annual Book Drive, running now through March 30. If you would like to partner in support of the Book Drive, please email [Julianna Bayley](mailto:Julianna.Bayley@uci.edu).



The 2017 Toy Drive successfully concluded in large thanks to the UCI community who generously donated hundreds of toys and teddy bears. It seemed that no expenses were spared as they received a plethora of toys ranging from dolls and action figures to remote controlled drones. During the second week of December, UCI Public Safety personnel and UCI athletes gifted the toys to children at the UCI Medical Center. Loading the toys into classic Radio Flyer wagons, the team made their way to children's bedrooms to surprise them with a toy and a special visit from Peter the Anteater. Children, hospital staff, and parents were overjoyed with the group's visit and many of them used the opportunity to take photos with police officers and Peter the Anteater. The remaining toys were gifted to children at Crime Survivors, Beckman Laser Institute, and a halfway house in Orange County.

BikeUCI Ambassadors

Join us in strengthening our bike community!

[\[Click here for more information\]](#)

EMPLOYEE PROFILES



Brenda Duenas, Director of Contracts, Design & Construction Services. I have worked at UCI for 19 years and have been in my current position for 16 years. I am responsible for managing capital improvement contracts for the Design and Construction Services (D&CS) and Facilities Management departments.

What is one accomplishment at work that you are most proud of? Why? Enhancing partnering efforts with the Facilities Management department and assisting their team with Design-Build contract administration to successfully award their CR11-2 Med Sci C Major Building Maintenance project. The team effort resulted in shared knowledge and lasting partnerships that ultimately contributes to the growth and success of the campus.

What are some upcoming trends or challenges that you see in your field? Developing innovative contracting methods to fast-track the award of projects while still complying with laws, regulations, and UC policy.

Who is one colleague that deserves praise and recognition? Why? Jim Wahlmeier, Quality Assurance Mechanical Engineer. Jim has been part of the D&CS team for over 15 years and is involved in every single aspect of every single project, which requires him to multi-task and manage an immense workload. Jim's positive attitude and outlook never wane amid adversity, meeting unreasonable expectations, and long hours/weekend work. The success of our projects and our ability to exceed expectations are impossible without Jim's contributions. I appreciate his willingness to share his knowledge and educate everyone on technical matters even when he has no time to spare. Jim is always an absolute pleasure to work with.

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see cast as you? Anna Kendrick or Amy Schumer.

If you were stuck on an island what three things would you bring? Practical items: knife, water purifying system, and a pot.

If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it? I Wish I was a Ninja.

John Graham, Cogen Operator, Facilities Management. I started working at UCI 16 years ago, and have been in my current position for that time as well. I am responsible for controlling the plant machinery remotely from a control room using computers as efficiently as possible. I also work as Second Operator, where I monitor equipment, perform maintenance, and assist the Plant Operator as necessary. I also monitor and help maintain equipment in all building mechanical rooms and respond to most maintenance requests or emergencies as directed.



What is one accomplishment at work that you are most proud of? Why? Making the decision to attempt a start of the Co-Generation Plant using the boiler feed pumps assigned to the smaller, original boilers when the larger feed pumps for the Co-Gen were not available. It was successful and we achieved approximately 60% of power producing capacity.

How has UCI/department helped you in your career development? I've always wanted an opportunity to work in a Co-Generation Power Plant as an Operator and this happened for me when UCI made the decision about 11 years ago to build such a plant here and provide the necessary training for the Central Plant Operators.

Who is one colleague that deserves praise and recognition? Why Carlos Perez. Carlos has been with us for 4.5 years and has a tremendous background in power plant experience from plants in the USA and many other countries. In addition to his accomplishments and work performance at Central Plant, Carlos seems to always have an answer for every technical question asked of him or he always provides solutions to operational problems to co-workers and management.

Favorite travel spot? San Pedro, Belize.

What is the weirdest thing you've ever eaten? On a trip to Belize, I tried a Belizean delicacy, a sea snail and it ended up making me extremely nauseous.

Before your time at UCI, what was your most interesting or oddest job? My most interesting job was definitely working in a nuclear powered propulsion plant while serving in the U.S. Navy.



Michele Ramirez, Police Officer. I've been with UCI for 1.5 years and it is my responsibility and duty to provide faculty, staff, students, and visitors of UCI with a safe and secure community. My fellow officers and I help create and sustain a safe and secure community by providing 24 hour police services. As a UCI police officer, I strive to build and strengthen the relationships between UCI Public Safety and the UCI community.

What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most? Working for a university and constantly interacting with a student population is a very unique and rewarding experience, and by far the most enjoyable part of my job. These students are in a time in their life where they are figuring out who they are, who they want to be and are continuously absorbing so much information and new experiences that are shaping the way they think and behave. Being able to interact, being a role model, and building positive experiences with students is a very special opportunity. Also, I am giving the opportunity to create a positive law enforcement experience with each student I interact with, which is a step in the right direction for law enforcement all over the nation.

What is one accomplishment at work that you are most proud of? Why? I am most proud of my D.U.I. arrests. Those are moments in my career where I can look back and know I potentially saved a life, or even provided someone a life changing event that might help them for the better. We all know someone or have heard stories of people whose lives have been drastically changed by the effects of D.U.I. drivers, and now being a police officer I have the opportunity to do everything I can to play my part in preventing and stopping D.U.I. drivers.

Favorite travel spot? My favorite travel spot is my family home in Baja, Mexico. It is a beautiful beach house just a few miles past Rosarito in a community called Las Gaviotas. A few of the things that makes Las Gaviotas my favorite travel spot are the windows in my house that go from floor to ceiling that allow you to sit on the couch and just stare out at the beautiful ocean, the patio where you can lay for hours and enjoy the sun, the private beach where you can surf or enjoy a late night bonfire, and most importantly the homemade tortillas that I can eat for every meal. I am beyond fortunate to be able to have my favorite vacation spot a short drive away.

Before your time at UCI, what was your most interesting or oddest job? I think my most interesting job was working at the happiest place on Earth, DISNEYLAND! I worked on the children's ride, Storybook Land. My job was to sit on the back of the boat and tell the various short stories that go to the different "Lands" throughout the ride. Before I started a shift, I would have to get myself into a whole different mindset because once I stepped out into the park I had to be ready to put on a show for all the young children and families who traveled from all over the world to be there. It was a very unique and rewarding job that I will always remember and cherish.

Motto or Personal Mantra: I do not really have a motto or personal mantra, but there is a quote that helps me realize that your life does not always go as planned and things happen for a reason. If

someone told me where I would be today 15 years ago, I would have looked at them in shock and probably would have laughed as well. Though my life right now is not how I planned when I was younger, I know this is exactly where I am supposed to be and I couldn't be happier. - "If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans." - Woody Allen

Administrative & Business Services
Office of the Vice Chancellor
559 Aldrich Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-1025
(949) 824-5109

