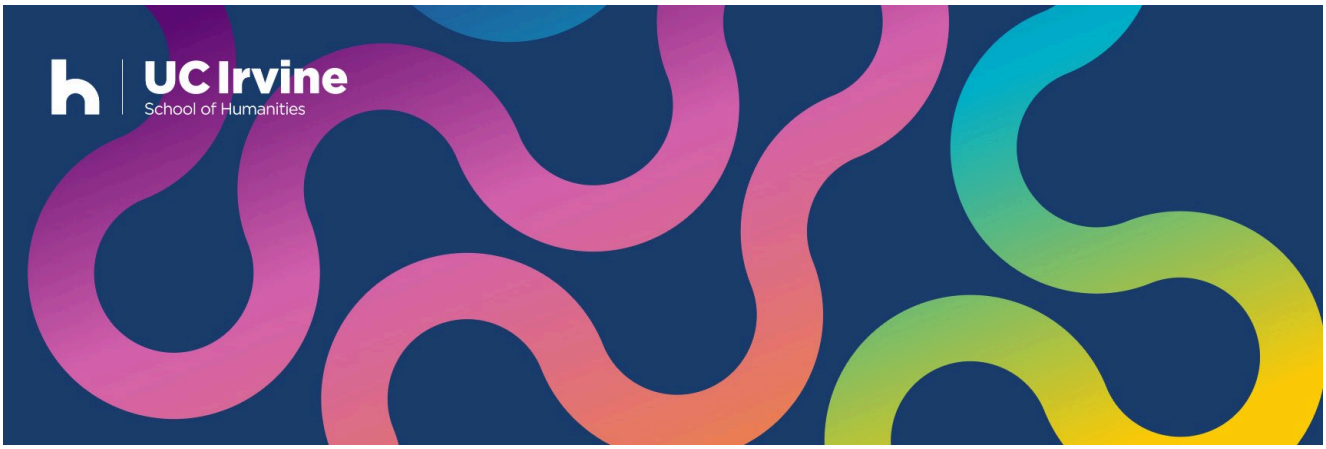
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Summer 2026 Internal Newsletter

Communications

Website
The School's website moved to Drupal 11 in late July. The homepage for the School's website will be getting a light update so that it better reflects the updated branding we designed last year. There will be some universal changes (especially to the menu and footer across the entire site) and we are in touch with active website members of various departments to get feedback on some of these changes before finalizing the details. The website update will also result in some optional new modules and design options for departments! Stay tuned for more information about this, which will be sent out to the Website Wizards Teams Chat (and in our fall internal newsletter).

Branding
Interested in adopting the School's new branding for your department or center? Please reach out to Kelly and set up a time to talk! We're excited to see the many ways that departments have adopted different iterations of the main SOH branding to try and reflect their individual department.

Fall Quarter Trainings
The Communications team will be offering fall trainings on topics like website design, web accessibility, and social media. As we finalize dates and descriptions for these trainings we will send out a communication asking for folks to sign up. Want a different communications training? Don't hesitate to let us know!

Kelly Anne Brown

Facilities

Recent Projects:

HIB Fire Alarm System Replacement
The fire alarm system has been replaced with additional work discovered during replacement being scheduled soon.

HIB 135 Renovation and Reservations
Lighting in HG 135 has been upgraded, which included the removal of the old pendant lights and installation of new recessed overhead light fixtures. Upgrades to the podium and other technology, which are intended to make the room match the tech currently found in HG 1010 and HG 1030, have been completed. Other information to take note of includes:

- HIB 135 is now reserved through the Dean's Office.
- Official capacity: 68
- Reservations can be made via the SOH Conference Room Reservation Form

2025-26 Small Capital Improvement Project Proposal
Our proposal to upgrade many of our departmental conference rooms to Zoom Rooms or to improve their Audio/Video capabilities has been completed. Those rooms include:

- HH 342, HH 344
- KH 374, KH 400D
- HIB 208, HIB 220, HIB 246

Current Projects

2026-27 Small Capital Improvement Project Proposal
We have submitted a proposal to upgrade and improve HH 251 and 269A/207 in the next year's SCIP. HH 251 will be reconfigured with a collaborative layout that can accommodate small group instruction and sharing student work with the class via wall-mounted monitors. By combining HH 207 and 269A, the project will create a space for accessible, flexible, and multimodal learning experiences, which can also accommodate larger classes than most Generally Assigned Classrooms. Improved technology and easily configurable furnishings will allow the space to be modified for multiple different uses, including virtual reality experiences and film screenings.

HIB 135 Furniture Replacement
The chairs currently in HIB 135 will be replaced over the summer.

Safety On Site (SOS)/ Workplace Violence Prevention Program (WVPP)
We are currently going from department to department to identify hazards and unsecured furnishings in our workspaces and correct them. Separately but related, we are evaluating

EH&S Building Inspections
EH&S will resume conducting our annual building safety inspections when they once again have enough personnel to conduct them.

Teams Phone Transition
As departments transition to MS Teams for phone communications, they should contact Colin or Jeremy to arrange for old office phones to be picked up as e-waste. For more information visit OIT's page here: OIT Phone Retirement Project

HG Chilled Water System
Initial planning has begun for the replacement of "V" band clamps on the chilled water supply and return lines—the type that failed and caused the HG leak last year.

HH and KH Fire Alarm Systems Replacement
Initial planning to upgrade Fire Alarm systems in HH and KH is underway in coordination with Facilities Management and Design & Construction Services.

Humanities Hall Bike Rack Site Study
Facilities Management has initiated a project to assess the options for the installation of more bike racks in the areas around Humanities Hall and Anteater Learning Pavilion.

Events

Conference Room Updates
A new video resource is now available in the Facilities section of the SOH portal, providing an overview of conference rooms, capacities, layout options, and recommended uses.

Conference Room Guidelines
As a reminder, when submitting a reservation, try to be as detailed as possible.
If you are submitting a request for a weekend event, include a KFS account in the description so we can order HVAC and restroom unlocks. Restroom unlocks must be scheduled at least one week in advance through UCIPD/CSA. If you are reserving a room for someone else, include a contact name and verify that they are familiar with the guidelines.

For anything that might be ambiguous, we will reach out but including these details in the description helps us plan more efficiently.

Event Safety
For events involving sensitive topics or potential security concerns, notify the Dean's Office and UCIPD promptly so that appropriate safety measures can be arranged. Consider factors like venue capacity, publicity, and pre-registration when planning. The guidelines also include UCI's Disruption Guidance for managing potential event disruptions.

Supplies

Colin Andrews
Director, Facilities and Space Planning

Humanities Center

Summer highlights from Humanities Center
Nalika Gajaweera participated in the 2026 LEAP Advance program by Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) this July 9-11th in Pomona. LEAP is a leadership development experience designed for higher ed administrators, faculty, and staff, where Nalika was part of a cohort of 35 nationwide program participants.



Attendees of 2026 LEAP Advance program by Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP).



Nalika Gajaweera, fourth from left, with other participants of the 2026 LEAP Advance program by Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics identifying her style of leadership with the workshop on the DISC Personality Assessment tool.

Nalika also attended the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes 2026 Annual Meeting, “Building the Present We Want” held at the Centre for Arts and Creativity in the Rocky Mountains of Banff, Canada, June 1 - June 5, 2026.



Institutes 2026 Annual Meeting, “Building the Present We Want” held at the Centre for Arts and Creativity in the Rocky Mountains of Banff, Canada.

From July 13-24, SueJeanne Koh is attending a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, Law and Religion: An Interdisciplinary Toolkit for the Humanities Scholar, hosted by Emory University’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion in Atlanta, GA.
Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, the faculty director of the Humanities Center, has been working on two international collaborations this summer. First, she recently traveled to Portugal and connected with Luiz Oosterbeek, president of the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH), based at the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar and the Prehistoric Art Museum of Maçāo. In March of 2026, six UCI faculty traveled to Portugal to present their scholarship related to environmental humanities and still images as part of the 12th APHELEIA International Seminar on “Imagination and Landscaping.” Wu returned to discuss and plan future collaborations in which UCI will host international scholars on a seminar next spring/summer tentatively entitled “Elemental Thinking.” Second, Judy has been partnering with humanities center program manager Joo Hoon Sin and professional photographer Mark Leong to launch an international exchange photography program with Fudan University in Shanghai. Leong will be mentoring 10 students at UCI and 10 students at Fudan to create portfolios that reflect that sense of identity and community. We will then travel to each other’s locales to share their inspirations and to co-create an exhibition. The program, entitled “Seeing Each Other,” is funded by the Cyrus Tang Foundation, the North Oaks Huang Foundation, and the Schools of Humanities and Social & Behavior Sciences.

SueJeanne Koh, third from left, workshopping a book chapter with her colleague, Franklin Tanner Capps at the NEH summer institute, Law and Religion: An Interdisciplinary Toolbox for the Humanities Scholar.



For 2026-2027, the Humanities Center will be launching a new theme related to “History, Truth, and Myth.” More details forthcoming. For more information, please contact Professor Judy Wu

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu
Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Humanities Center

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SOH Trivia Break: Congratulations to Amanda Swain, winner of the Winter Newsletter Trivia Break!

1) Spencer C. Olin was a founding faculty member in the School of Humanities. He served as the chair of the Department of History, chair of the Academic Senate, dean of Humanities, and what major central campus role:

2) Fall SOH Trivia Break Question: True or false, Dean Miller has never owned or even tried on a pair of Crocs?

Answers:

1) Spencer Olin also served as Acting Executive Vice Chancellor
2) Despite the rumors on Reddit, it is TRUE, Dean Miller has never owned or even tried on a pair of Crocs.

Summer Newsletter Trivia Break Questions (must answer both correctly)

Be the first to send the correct answers to Haleema Sood (hsood@uci.edu**), with the Subject line: SOH Summer Newsletter Trivia, by August 10 for a chance to win a gift card.**

1) As part of the CASE award winning Humanities The Power of Imagination Banners campaign, what power of imagination does this image represent:



2) With Experiential Learning trips made possible through generous funding from the Steckler Family Initiative in Art History, what art museum did students visit as part of Professor Nisbet's Art History 197 course in winter quarter?

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Human Resources

UCI Staff Service Awards Honorees UCI
This year's UCI Staff Service Awards were celebrated at the Bren Center on June 16, 2026.

of service. Congratulations to our UCI Staff Service Award Honorees!

Congratulations to our UCI Staff Service Award Honorees!

30 years	10 years	5 years	3 years
Cynthia Bee	Camille Laws	Alice Nguyen	Nikki Babri
	Haleema Sood	Layah Ziaii-Bigdeli	Kimmy Bao
	Stephanie Wijetilleke		Katie Desmond
			Nicole Giles
			Crysta Hu
			Nina Nguyen
			Grace Mosher
			Natalie Villarreal
			Quincy Warkentin

Congratulations to School of Humanities Staff Service Honorees!

20 years	10 years	3 years
Angelica Enriquez	Camille Laws	Nikki Babri
	Nancy Morallo	Kimmie Bao
	Stephanie Wijetilleke	Kelly Brown
		Katie Desmond
		Nicole Giles
		Hannah Kanenbley
		Daren Mai
		Alex Mendoza
		Arya Moknat
		Grace Mosher
		Alice Nguyen
		Kimberly Pham
		Natalie Villarreal

Congratulations to the Recipients of the Unit 18 Faculty Professional Development Award!

On behalf of the University and the UC-AFT Council on Professional Development, congratulations to the recipients of the Unit 18 Faculty Professional Development Award for the 2025-2026 academic year:

Amalia Herrmann	Hyunyoung Hyun	Larisa Karkafi
Laura Klein	Katrina Lewin	Jung-Hsien Lin
Ghada Mourad	Darby Price	Mohammad Rafi
Neda Sahranavard	Rebecca Schultz	Beheroze Shroff
Daniel Siakel	Robin Stewart	Jie Zhuang

her dedication and hard work as a member of the 2025-26 UC-APT Council on Professional Development.

Congratulations to all award recipients! We look forward to your continued contributions and achievements!

End of Year Event
Our End of Year event was held on June 4 on the Humanities Hall patio. SoH Staff enjoyed a World Cup themed event with a tasty taco bar and a foosball tournament!



Congratulations to first prize winners of the tournament, Jennifer Choy and Syliva Meza-Tallada! Second place winners were Trevor Jue and Nikki Normandia!

Juanita P. Jackson
Director of Academic Personnel

Office of Graduate Study

New Ph.D. Student Orientation
OGS will hold a new student orientation for incoming PhD students on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to NOON. This is supplementary to program-specific and Graduate Division orientations. The orientation will focus on School of Humanities-specific policies, procedures, and funding opportunities. We will share the agenda with graduate program staff later this summer.

- Pre-Arrival and Post-Arrival Checklists for New **Domestic**Graduate Students
- Pre-Arrival and Post-Arrival Checklists for New **International** Graduate Students

Graduate Admissions

this was due **Monday, July 20;** however, if you missed this deadline and are unable to log into the Administrative Portal, please contact Grad Div at gradslate@uci.edu to provide them with your updates.

These updates get posted to the Graduate Division website and are programmed in the Slate system. In addition, please check the OGS website to update Geneva (lopezg@uci.edu) on contact information for your program.

Reminders and resources

- Email us at soh-grad@uci.edu if there are any changes in your students' status (e.g., withdrawals, Academic LOA, In-Absentia) for the upcoming academic year.
- Send all DocuSign forms that need the Associate Dean signature to soh-grad@uci.edu Submit your fellowship and GSR hiring and/or stipend award requests via this google form. Please note, GSR hiring requests that you upload a copy of the Written Notice of Appointment (WNA). Please contact Kimberly Pham (k.pham@uci.edu) regarding salary points for GSR hires and WNA template.
- Check our OGS tab in the SOH staff portal for quick links to forms and graduate student related policies and information.

Geneva Lopez-Sandoval
Director, Office of Graduate Study

Office of Undergraduate Study

The School of Humanities Dean's Welcome will take place on Tuesday, September 22 in HIB 100 immediately following the 9am New Student Convocation in Bren Events Center. If your department is hosting Welcome Week or Fall Quarter welcome events that you would like announced at the Dean's Welcome, please email details to youngw@uci.edu by Friday, September 18.

Whitney Young
Director, Office of Undergraduate Study

Office of Undergraduate Study - Experiential Learning

Save the date! On **Thursday, October 22**, we will be hosting the second annual **School of Humanities Career Development Summit** - a day-long event focused on enhancing the professional development skills of Humanities undergraduates.

The day's programming will include alumni networking opportunities; a graduate/professional school opportunities panel; and workshops on resume, interview, and LinkedIn skills. If your unit would like to participate, please reach out to Brittney Pinney (brittney.pinney@uci.edu).

Brittney Pinney
Director of Experiential Learning



UC Irvine
School of Humanities

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