



Dear DFA employees,

Last month, the Division of Finance and Administration turned one! The creation of DFA provided another opportunity for collaboration and identifying the best ways to work together to serve the faculty, staff, and students of UCI. As we forge ahead in doing our part to fulfill UCI's strategic plan, I am proud of what we accomplished so far. We continue to focus on reducing administrative burden for the campus, and utilizing our [balanced scorecard](#) to ensure progress toward our vision of becoming *world-class campus partners*.

Last month, Assistant Vice Chancellor Richard Demerjian and his team joined DFA to leverage existing synergies that support implementing UCI's ambitious capital plan. Environmental Planning and Sustainability has been renamed to Campus Physical and Environmental Planning and reports to Associate Vice Chancellor Rick Coulon. Campus Physical and Environmental Planning will continue to work closely with the associate chancellor for sustainability on efforts to enhance campus sustainability.

I look forward to seeing everyone at [April's town hall](#) on Wednesday, April 24th. This is a great opportunity to network with your fellow coworkers, receive divisional updates, and learn more about our initiatives. In addition, please take the opportunity to submit nominations for the [employee recognition program](#). Winners will be announced at this town hall.

Thank you for all of your hard work. As always, feel free to share your comments and suggestions by sending an email to [WithUForU@uci.edu](mailto:WithUForU@uci.edu).

With appreciation,

Ronald S. Cortez, JD, MA  
Chief Financial Officer  
Vice Chancellor, Division of Finance and Administration



March 2019  
Volume 2, Issue 7

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### DFA Events

- **February 1 - March 28:** [Book Drive](#)
- **April 1 - 30:** [Cool Campus Challenge](#)
- **April 24:** [Town Hall Meeting](#)
- **July 31:** DFA Picnic

### UCI Events



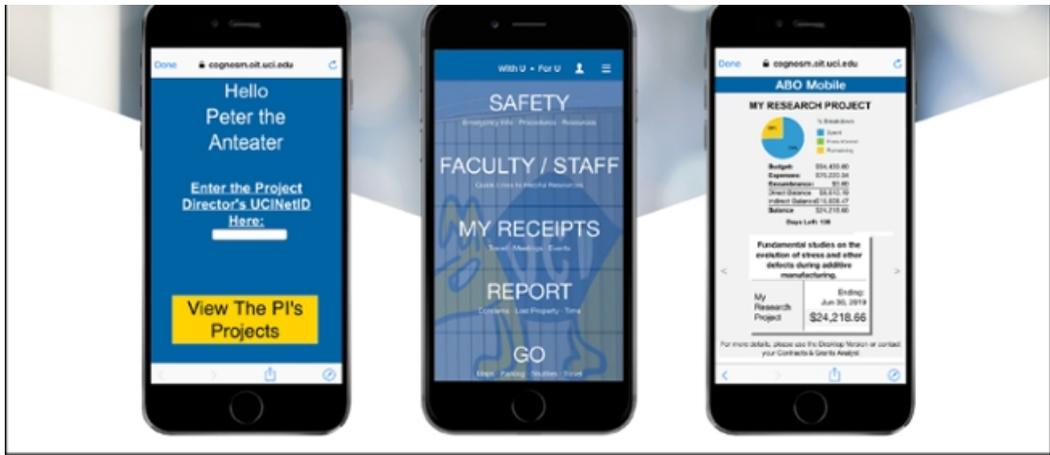
MISSION  
Advance UCI's  
Brilliant Future

VISION  
World-Class  
Campus Partners

VALUES  
Health & Safety  
Integrity  
Teamwork  
Change & Innovation

## 2019 - YEAR OF THE APP





2019 is the year of the DFA **With U • For U** mobile app. [Our mobile app](#) brings DFA's strategy to life—it uses technology to transform the way we serve our campus partners.

Earlier this month, we introduced [ABO Mobile](#), a mobile version of the Award Balance Overview report for principal investigators and research administrators.

New features are under development; however, we welcome your ideas to help us identify what should come next. Please submit your ideas to [WithUForU@uci.edu](mailto:WithUForU@uci.edu) or contact Jen Swann ([jenifer.swann@uci.edu](mailto:jenifer.swann@uci.edu)) or Kelly Kadlec ([kkadlec@uci.edu](mailto:kkadlec@uci.edu)).

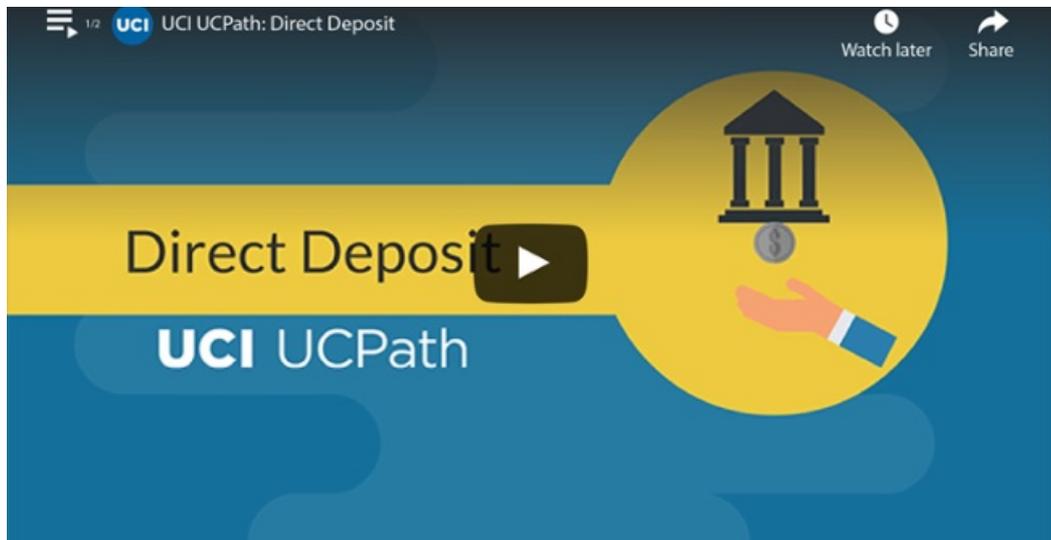
## DFA Support Services: Information Technology



The establishment of DFA IT Services will bring world-class information technology (IT) projects to life. This expands DFA's organizational capability for IT project portfolio implementation and project management excellence. Aligning with DFA values of **change** and **innovation**, and looking at our **internal processes** (a perspective of the balanced scorecard), these technology efforts brings DFA closer to our vision of being world-class campus partners.

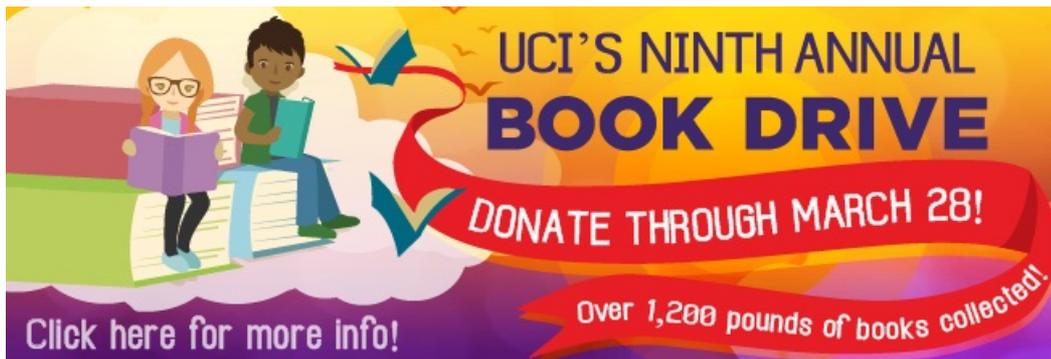
Led by Director Pejman Khoshkhoo, DFA IT Services will collaborate with DFA departments to identify their highest priority projects. DFA IT Services, in partnership with OIT, will coordinate the implementation of those selected projects based on the overall needs of the department, DFA, and available resources and funding. Please stay tuned for further details about goals and progress towards implementation of these new DFA IT portfolio and project management services.

## UCI UCPATH: Direct Deposit



*Click the image above to view UCI UCPATH video on Direct Deposit.*

Don't yet have direct deposit set up for your paycheck? Click on the video above for important information. Once UCPATH is live, paychecks and earning statements (SurePay) will not be available for distribution at UCI (e.g., pick-up at central payroll or department offices). All paper paychecks will be mailed to employees' home addresses on pay day, which may take two to four days to arrive. Employees will also need to log into UCPATH's online system to print pay statements.



## Traffic Signal Construction



*Bison Avenue & Health Sciences (left) and East Peltason Drive & Engineering Service (right).*

Construction of a traffic signal on East Peltason Drive at Engineering Service Road began this week. This traffic signal, along with the construction of a traffic signal on Bison Avenue at Health Sciences Road, will be synchronized with existing UCI traffic signals, thereby reducing stops and delays.

For added convenience, the Engineering Service Road will be widened to improve egress from the Anteatr Parking Structure by providing dedicated right and left-hand turn lanes when exiting toward East Peltason

Drive. Additionally, this project will result in safer crossings for pedestrians and cyclists in the area. Once the installation of the new traffic signal is complete, the pedestrian activated crosswalk to engineering gateway will be decommissioned and removed.

When necessary, traffic directors and detour signage will be present to facilitate traffic flow. Please use caution during temporary detours and partial closures as this work impacts pedestrian and vehicle pathways. As the contractors continue to provide details regarding this project, we will offer news updates on our [website](#).

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## Scout Night



*Officer Green, Community Engagement Officer, introduces Officer Farley and Officer Akingbemi.*

Being a Cub Scout is a unique experience for young boys to get more responsibility and learn some great scouting skills to prepare them for life. They learn invaluable skills about being prepared, being helpful, and serving others. Following the laws and values of the organization, they prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices in their lifetime. The phrase, "I promise to do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people and to obey the law of the pack," is a mantra all scouts uphold throughout their time in the scouts.

As part of their learning adventure, Pack 631 had the opportunity to visit the UCI Police Department to learn about how our officers serve the UCI community. They were given a private tour by Officer Green where they visited dispatch, report writing, the holding cells, and finally a tour of the police vehicle. Officer Farley and Officer Akingbemi showed them the tools that an officer carries on his/her belt while explaining how each one is applied and when it is used.

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## Save the Bees



Both European and Africanized bees are crucial pollinators in landscapes and food productions, including crops that we eat as well as the crops that livestock eat. UCI partners with the Bee Emergency Response

Team to develop a responsible honeybee management program. UCI campus technicians are equipped and trained to safely remove and relocate bees. UCI's Pest Manager, within Facilities Management, is licensed by the State of California, and the Bee Emergency Response Team has over 40 years of experience in beekeeping.

The campus goal is to save the bees by placing them into a beehive and relocating them to orchards for pollination and urban beekeeper's yards. UCI was among the first to adopt a policy of saving bees as often as possible.

Since 2001, UCI placed containers in trees throughout the campus which contain a pheromone that is very favorable to bee swarms searching for a new home. Technicians assess the new hives' aggressiveness and safety factor with concern for student's faculty and staff, and make a decision to leave the bees for as long as we possible or relocate beehives to pollinate off campus.



Every day is an opportunity for colleagues, co-workers, and managers/supervisors to recognize the great work of our people in the following categories: **CARE** (Customer Appreciation Repeatedly Expressed), **IDEA** (Innovate Discover Encourage Achieve), **SAFE** (Safety Award for Excellence), and **TEAM** (Together Everyone Achieves More).

Submit your online nomination in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

## EMPLOYEE PROFILES



### **Patrick Ko, Senior Strategic Buyer, Procurement Services**

I am the senior buyer responsible for sourcing/acquisition of IT commodities (hardware, software, audio/visual, etc.), and I have worked at UCI for 5 months. Some of my responsibilities also include vendor management, price negotiations, compliance, competitive bidding through the RFQ/RFP process, and collaborating with departments and internal stakeholders.

**What surprised you most about working in your department or UCI?** In Procurement Services, I was very surprised how diverse the department is. As a result, I believe it has created an environment that fosters new ideas, creativity, innovation, engagement, and collaboration. I find a mutual respect for all cultures and backgrounds.

**What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?** What I enjoy most about my job is being able to engage with the UCI community. Procurement Services is one of the few departments that offer the opportunity to work with the entire campus. In addition, I enjoy the opportunities, where available, to cut costs or find savings. Any dollar saved can be used to further improve the college experience for our students.

**How has UCI/department helped you in your career development?** My department has always encouraged me to participate in training at the local and national levels. I've been given opportunities/projects to learn on the job, but I've also been provided the resources to help me succeed.

**Favorite travel spot?** Maui.

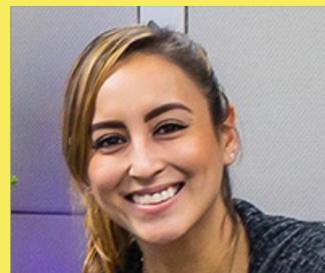
**Before your time at UCI, what was your most interesting or oddest job?** I used to be a Property/Casualty Adjuster for an insurance company. On average, I would manage 150 claims at a time. Here I learned the art of negotiation, conflict resolution, and stress eating.

**Motto or Personal Mantra:** True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.

### **Vanessa R. Lopez, Interim Manager of Document Management and Passport Services, Transportation and Distribution Services**

I began my career at UCI as a student assistant in 2009. After graduating in 2012, I began working as a fulltime staff member. I am the Interim Manager of Document Management and Passport Services. I work to ensure that the department's customer services standards are met and to fulfill process improvement goals.

**What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?** I enjoy the customer service aspect of my job and working with other people. If I'm



able to make a customer's day a little bit better and easier, I'm happy to do it.



**How has UCI/department helped you in your career development?** Most of my professional career has been at UCI, which has allowed me to have some incredible supervisors. For my first job in the Financial Aid department, I had a boss who constantly encouraged my professional development through her mentorship and guidance. Now as my career develops further, I feel that same support under Gwendolyne Castro.

**Who is one colleague that deserves praise and recognition? Why?** Peter Do. He puts so much of his energy into his job to ensure efficiency and exceptional customer care. He is incredibly dependable and comes to the office every day with a strong work ethic and positive attitude.

**Favorite travel spot?** Hawaii.

**If you were stuck on an island what three things would you bring?** Swiss army knife, waterproof blanket, and a Heritage survival seed vault.

**If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?** Living my best life, the best I can, one day at a time.



**Chanta Warren, Admin Assistant, Facilities Management**

I am the Administrative Assistant in the Lock Shop unit in Facilities Management. I have been with the university and Facilities Management for 17 years.

**What are 3 words to describe your department?** Three words to describe my department/shop would be unique, different and entertaining.

**Who is one colleague that deserves praise and recognition? Why?**

One colleague I think deserves praise and recognition would be Jake Leyerle (carpenter 4). Jake is very knowledgeable with the computer and inputting the information we needed. Jake is also a quick learner and willing to help anywhere he can.

**Before your time at UCI, what was your most interesting or oddest job?** Before I worked at UCI I worked at Disneyland for 5 years as a merchandise hostess, mainly in the stroller shop.

**Favorite travel spot?** I would have to say my favorite travel spot so far has been New York.

**UCI** Division of Finance and Administration |  With U • For U

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