

# WITH U • FOR U

## DFA Employee Newsletter



A message from  
Chief Financial Officer &  
Vice Chancellor, Mary Lou D. Ortiz

*\*Managers/Supervisors: Please share this email with DFA campus temporary and contract employees. For those who do not have regular access to emails/laptops/PCs, please print and share this email accordingly.*

Dear DFA employees,

I hope your year is off to a wonderful start and that you feel recharged from the winter break. As we approach the end of January, I want to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding work of 2022. In December, DFA's senior leadership group gathered to reflect on 2022's accomplishments and I am pleased to share the video with all of you. These accomplishments focus on the top achievements for each department, which would not be possible without the hard work each of you put forward every day in supporting our campus—thank you! Please click on the image below to watch the video.



Some of you may have noticed that we did not have a town hall this month. We are changing the cadence of our town halls from quarterly to three times a year—March, June/July, and October. Our virtual town hall is scheduled for [March 16](#) and department representatives will send out calendar invites with Zoom information. This change is based on feedback we received from surveys as well as staff suggestions. The goal is to maintain staff engagement while optimizing work time. I will share more

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### Featured Events

**February 21 | 3-5 p.m.**  
[PSAC Community Roundtable \(Hybrid Event\)](#)

**March 16 | 10-11 a.m.**  
[DFA Town Hall \(Virtual Event\)](#)

**2023 Offerings**  
[Lean Six Sigma: White Belt Training](#)

[Project Management Fundamentals Training](#)

information during our [virtual town hall in March](#).

Moving forward, we will share quarterly results for the [Employee Recognition Program](#) through email. [Congratulations to the nominees](#) who were recognized during the timeframe of Oct.-Dec. 2022.

Please feel free to share your comments and suggestions by sending an email to [WithUForU@uci.edu](mailto:WithUForU@uci.edu).

Sincerely,

**Mary Lou D. Ortiz**

Chief Financial Officer & Vice Chancellor  
Division of Finance and Administration



### [DFA Balanced Scorecard Strategy](#)

*The Division of Finance and Administration (DFA) serves all UCI students, faculty, staff, and visitors. We are **With U • For U**—working alongside you, in support of you—as planning partners, problem solvers, and solution providers. We maintain a safe and attractive physical environment, offer professional services and support, and are committed to diversity and inclusive excellence.*

<b>MISSION</b> Advance UCI's Brilliant Future	<b>VISION</b> World-Class Campus Partners	<b>VALUES</b> Health & Safety • Diversity & Inclusion • Integrity • Teamwork • Change & Innovation
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## Learning & Growth Resources for 2023

Start off the new year by setting your professional development goals for 2023. Review the [learning and growth resources](#) for ideas, inspiration, and support.

If you are new to DFA or haven't had a chance to complete your Lean Six Sigma White Belt training, [review the 2023 offerings](#) and [sign up on UCLC](#). If you have a process improvement project in mind and are a process owner, talk to your supervisor and consider applying for the [Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt training](#) which is offered twice a year.

DFA is also offering new [Project Management Fundamentals](#) training which features project management basics and best practices, suitable for project sponsors, project managers, and team members across the division. Search "project management fundamentals" on [UCLC and register](#).

Email [WithUForU@uci.edu](mailto:WithUForU@uci.edu) for questions and assistance.

*Article provided by the Office of the CFO & Vice Chancellor*



## Giving Back: Clash of Cans Recap

UCI Transportation is proud to announce that through partnerships across campus departments and UCI Health, we have donated over 600 pounds of food to the [UCI Basic Needs Center](#), formerly known as the UCI FRESH Hub, during the [Clash of the Cans](#) food drive. \$6,080.93 in monetary contributions were also donated, allowing the Basic Needs Center to stock its pantry with essential supplies and support the continuous efforts committed to securing the basic needs of our student community. Thank you to all our DFA partners who participated and your continued support in the fight against hunger!

*Article provided by the UCI Transportation & Distribution Services*



## Giving Back: Toy Drive Recap

In 2022, UCI Police Department hosted their annual Toy Drive, a community engagement initiative that provides gifts to children ages 14 and under at UCI Health and other local children's organizations. This is a collaborative effort with UCI Police Department, UCI Athletics, and UCI Health.



### UCI Santa Ana and Anaheim Family Health Clinics

Community Engagement Officer Akingbemi and Officer Vasquez visited the UCI Santa Ana and Anaheim Family Health Clinics (FHC). Officer Vasquez dressed up as Santa Claus and delivered over 100 hundred toys to children and their families. FHC staff was so appreciative that they took photos with Santa to memorialize the occasion.



### UCI Medical Center

Assistant Chief Cooper, Sergeant Zheng, Corporal Bessolo, Detective Brophy, Officer Kemper, Officer Akingbemi, Officer Vasquez, PSO Ramos, PSO Garcia, Administrative Specialist Agramont, and UCI Athletics' Peter the Anteater visited the UCI Medical Center for the 2022 Annual Toy Drive. Over 200 toys were collected and donated to families of children in the NICU and visiting in the Douglas Hospital lobby.



### Beckman Laser Clinic

Sergeant Bolano, Sergeant Henderson, Community Engagement Officer Akingbemi, Officer Vasquez, and Officer Kolschfski delivered toys to the pediatric patients at the Beckman Laser Clinic. Officer Vasquez dressed as Santa and the staff was very appreciative of our presence.

*Article provided by the UCI Police Department*



### DFA Employee Portal – Portal Access

DFA has its own brand that is consistent with our mission, vision, and values. A unified divisional brand helps define and reinforce who we are: *planning partners, problem solvers, and solution providers.*

DFA is part of UCI, and thus carries the personality of the UCI brand. Likewise, DFA is comprised of different departments who carry the personality of DFA and UCI.

The [DFA Employee Portal](#) is a SharePoint site (requires approval and access with UCI credentials) that contains:

- DFA Brand Workbook & Quick Reference Guide
- DFA template library (e.g., agenda, email, letterhead, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Divisional wordmarks
- DFA brand guidelines, resources, FAQs, and much more!



### Become a 2023 UCI Wellness Ambassador

UCI Wellness Ambassadors are volunteers at all UCI locations (including virtual) that help create a culture of whole-person wellness within the workplace by promoting employee participation and engagement in Wellness programs, services, and events. If you have enthusiasm and passion for wellness, join our 2023 UCI Wellness Ambassador team and play an important role in creating a supportive culture of wellness.

Sign up [here](#) to become a 2023 UCI Wellness Ambassador.

Questions?

Contact Lira Islam, [lirai1@uci.edu](mailto:lirai1@uci.edu).



### UCI UCPATH – Did You Know...?

Did you know the UCI UCPATH team supports campus and Health staff, academics, and students, UCI's Employee Experience Center (EEC), the UCPATH Center, and UCOP? We provide services and support

for projects, training, and continuous improvement efforts for the UCPATH system and local business processes. We also troubleshoot issues to enable Payroll and other areas.

Examples of achievements include:

- Completing six Lean Six Sigma projects to improve UCPATH and system support areas, such as payroll, finance, and human resource transaction processing.
- Closing UCPATH tickets opened by UCI users; we also support issues reported to the team - 100 tickets a month.
- Testing improvements to UCPATH chat and automated help functions when employees call UCPATH for certain questions.
- Providing data analysis, technical, and project management support for UCPATH Roadmap projects.
- Holding bi-weekly Training Tips calls with 100+ attendees each session.
- Supporting UCPATH transactors through our [website](#), transactor virtual drop-in center, monthly e-newsletters, and the UCI UCPATH mailbox.

*Article provided by UCI UCPATH*



## Campus Construction Updates

Design and Construction Services (DCS) is currently overseeing five campus projects to support the growth of new programs and our expanding population. Below is a summary of each project.



### **Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences and Sue & Bill Gross Nursing and Health Sciences Hall** *Completed*

This project consists of a new 5-story building for the Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences and a 4-story building for the Sue & Bill Gross Nursing and Health Sciences Hall. The buildings are connected by a common space to encourage interdisciplinary connection and include a 200-seat auditorium, as well as numerous exterior spaces for meditation and learning.



### **Verano Unit 8 Graduate Housing**

*Completed*

The project consists of five residential towers, a community center to serve the entire Verano community, an 824-stall parking structure and a maintenance and operations hub. The residential towers range from 5-7 floors and consists of a mix of studio, 2-bedroom, and 4-bedroom units for a total of 1,055 beds.



### **Joe C. Wen and Family Center for Advanced Care**

*Completion Date: November 2023*

This project will be the first building completed at the new health center. This 5-story structure will house pediatrics, autism, primary and specialty care, adult primary and breast cancer clinics, as well as a rehabilitation center and urgent care. A 749-stall parking structure is also a part of this project.



### **UCI Medical Center Irvine**

*Completion Date: October 31, 2023 and October 22, 2025*

This project will complete the new Health Center with the creation of the new UC Irvine Medical Center, Irvine. It will consist of a 144-bed hospital including an emergency department, inpatient bed services, operating rooms, imaging, support services, and shell space for future buildout. An ambulatory surgery center will also be built consisting of outpatient surgery and procedure rooms, imaging services, infusion facilities, a pharmacy, and support services. A central utility plant and an approximately 1,400 space parking structure will also be built to serve the complex.



### **Falling Leaves Foundation Medical Innovation Building**

*Completion Date: April 2025*

This project will provide state-of-the-art research space to advance UCI's preeminence in conducting basic, translational and clinical research. The facility will include laboratories and related laboratory support spaces, along with research cores that include a vivarium, office space, scholarly activity, and interactive space. All programmatic spaces will be arranged and designed in order to support cross-disciplinary collaboration while enhancing research synergies.



### **Mesa Court Housing Expansion**

*Completion Date: August 2025*

This project will provide up to 400 beds for undergraduate students in quadruple occupancy rooms. As an expansion of the Mesa Court Community, the project will also include common areas distributed throughout the building, including study areas (interior and exterior), collective hubs with kitchens, and laundry facilities.



### **Sustainability Corner: 5 Easy Sustainable Actions for the New Year**

- 1. Purchase staple clothing items.**  
Purchase clothes that bring you joy, won't go out of fashion, are good quality material, or can be worn with different outfit styles. By being more intentional with the clothes you buy, you will help reduce the amount of clothes that would otherwise end up in the landfill (or go left unpurchased at second-hand stores).
- 2. Reduce food waste.** Plan meals for the week ahead to help refrain from purchasing food that may go left wasted (and inventory your fridge and pantry beforehand). Start composting at home and in the office. As of 2022, all cities in California are required to provide organic waste collection services to all residents. Visit [OC Waste & Recycling](#) to learn more.
- 3. Recycle your electronic waste items.**  
Request free pick-up of office surplus property or e-waste through Peter's Exchange using the [Surplus Pickup Request form](#). For your personal e-waste items (at home), take them to the designated [Orange County Household Hazardous Waste collection sites](#).
- 4. Green your workspace and home by integrating plants.** [Studies](#) show that introducing plants to the workplace lowered tension and anxiety levels by 37 percent, and reduced fatigue and stress by 38 percent. A [NASA study](#) also revealed that indoor plants can reduce air pollutants by 87 percent within a 24-hour timeframe. Find a list of recommended indoor plants [here](#).
- 5. Request digital receipts and copies.**  
When provided as an option, select the



### **Diversity & Inclusion: Conversation Engagements Coming Soon**

As announced during [DFA's Diversity & Inclusion virtual symposium](#) held last November, D&I Conversation Engagements are on track to roll out this year.

As a reminder, [conversation engagements](#) are intended to provide information and practical guidance for team leaders, managers, and supervisors to engage their staff, teams, and departments in conversations on diversity and inclusion topics.

“email or text receipt” option over printing paper receipts at stores. When working, consider electronically saving documents over printing.



## DFA Employee Recognition Program

Every day is an opportunity for colleagues 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)
- **TEAM** (Together Everyone Achieves More)

Submit your online [nomination!](#) [Click here](#) to view a list of past nominees.

## DFA EMPLOYEE PROFILES



**Kirsten Gyorgy**  
**Service Desk Representative, Facilities Management**

I have been with UCI for four years and in my current position of the last year and one month. I aid faculty, students, and staff for all facilities issues and emergencies.

**What is one accomplishment at work that you are most proud? Why?** Everyday is something new, so there is always a new obstacle to accomplish. I am proud everyday for solving difficult questions about projects, access, entrapments, etc. We are all a team at Facilities Management and that is what makes me proud as a whole.

**What do you like most about UCI/department?** My Service Desk team (Jocelyn and Ramiro) have made a huge impact on my daily work. We work well together and will tackle any hurdle that comes to our desk. We are a solid team and I would not be able to perform my job as well as I can without them.

**Who is one colleague that deserves praise and recognition? Why?** Renee Mihalovich. She provides a lot of support to us as our supervisor, as she coordinates all the events that occur on campus. She is firsthand aware of the major projects and issues that occur across UCI campus. She is positive, intelligent and deserves this recognition for going above and beyond with customers and staff.

**Favorite travel spot?** Hawaii! Surfs up.

**Before your time at UCI, what was your most interesting or oddest job?** Ruby's Diner, fountain server for four years.

**If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?** Sunscreen, a kitten, and gallons of water.



**Jennie Wung**  
**Assistant Director, Safety Service, Environmental Health & Safety**

I have been with UCI and in my current position for two months. I oversee the Occupational Safety, Industrial Hygiene, and Public Health programs.

**What do you like most about UCI/department?** Every single UCI colleague that I have encountered will take time from their busy day to help me resolve an issue or take time to look for information that I am looking for. I feel incredibly fortunate to work in such a supportive environment!

**What piece of advice would you give to a new employee?** There are many opportunities for professional growth and mentorship in any workplace if you want it. Be open to new learning opportunities in the workplace and be bold in seeking out mentors.

**Favorite travel spot?** Italy.

**If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?** Firestarter, knife, and a satellite phone to call for help.



**Patti Cooper**  
**Executive Assistant to the Assistant Vice Chancellor,  
DFA Support Services & Budget Office**

I have been at UCI for four years and in my current position for the last two months. I manage calendars, route DocuSigns, and make check deposits.

**What do you like most about UCI/department?** How friendly and helpful everyone is to me.

**After a long day at work, what do you look forward to the most?** On most weeknights, I enjoy cooking and having a glass wine.

**Favorite travel spot?** Anywhere with good skiing. Mammoth, Lake Tahoe, Utah....

**People would be surprised if they knew:** If I wasn't married, I would definitely be a crazy cat lady with about 20 cats. I love cats and would adopt homeless cats. Unfortunately, my husband will not allow me to get any more than our 1 cat.

## DFA NEW HIRES

DFA new hires hired between November 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

### **Accounting & Fiscal Services:**

- Judy Mach
- Su Chen

### **Budget Office:**

- Brian Varela

### **Design & Construction Services:**

- Abel Saldana
- Viola Teoxon

### **Environmental Health & Safety:**

- Jennie Wung
- Gregory Hungerford
- Michael Ohanlon
- Robert Barta

### **Facilities Management:**

- Jalen Juarez
- Jeffrey Gade
- Jonathan Lilley
- Juan Rizo
- Maria Flores
- Maria Orellana
- May Geng
- Olga Gutierrez
- Salvador Orellana

### **Police Department:**

- Allen Panganiban
- David Pescina
- Helen Schultz
- Kenton Tran
- Jared Powell
- Jeffrey Sanchez
- Guadalupe Cruz
- Martin Romo
- Mohamed Abdelwahab
- Natalie Suarez
- Richard Eidhuber

### **Transportation & Distribution Services:**

- Brett Easley

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

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