

50th Anniversary



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LAUDS & LAURELS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
PASÉA HOTEL
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 50th anniversary of our annual UCI Alumni Association Lauds & Laurels award celebration.

As we celebrate the inspiring accomplishments of our fellow Anteaters being deservedly recognized this evening, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past year.

Together we have faced one of the fiercest challenges of our lifetimes. We had no idea that virtually every aspect of how we live, work, and play would be upset, and that COVID-19 would take such a prolonged toll on our lives. UCI has risen magnificently to these challenges and proven that the foundation of our success is our people. Together we have accomplished innovative and transformative work during an extraordinarily trying time. I am proud of our Anteater community – and especially the alumni and university members being recognized this evening.

Over the past fifty years, we have celebrated more than 800 alumni and community members, excelling in literature, arts, technology, education, scientific innovation, medical advancement, social change, legal justice, and much more. Each year the Lauds & Laurels selection committee has an extremely difficult time selecting award recipients for each category as there are many exceptional members of our Anteater family who are making meaningful contributions to and changing the world around us.

Tonight we celebrate those who have risen to the top and embody what it means to be a graduate of UCI. Heartfelt congratulations and thank you from all fellow Anteaters for making us proud.

May this evening inspire our strong sense of community into the brilliant days ahead.

Zotfully yours,

Melissa Beck, MBA '12
President, UCI Alumni Association



LAUDS & LAURELS
OUTSTANDING
FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

JOHANNA SHAPIRO, PH.D. OUTSTANDING FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

An old folk riddle asks, "What is truer than the truth?" According to Johanna Shapiro, the answer is, "a good story." That's where, she explains, "a deeper truth can be found." Not unlike the idea of finding truth somewhere in the middle of any two people's account of the same incident, finding the missing link that connects a patient's story with known science requires more mindful patient-doctor communication.

As a narratologist and professor emeritus in the School of Medicine's Department of Family Medicine where she also directs the Medical Humanities & Arts Program, Johanna's contributions are so extensive, she's defined as being the medical humanities. In fact, she single-handedly created and nurtured the medical humanities curriculum within the School of Medicine.

She is recognized not simply for these reasons, or because of her 159 published, peer-reviewed manuscripts or NIH research grant – or because she innovatively uses literature, art, theatre and film to prompt deep reflection and help convey the importance of empathetic listening – or even because she plays Folk guitar and sings. Oh no, Johanna Shapiro is also recognized for being, "an exquisite pearl of a person," "ever kind," "generous and empathetic" - the kind of person who serves selflessly and tirelessly, who tenaciously follows through on her convictions, who is not deterred by roadblocks, and who loves her students.

So perhaps there is something else truer than the truth. Perhaps it's found in truths spawned by the initial truth itself – the ever-so-critical foundational truth. If so, Johanna Shapiro's teachings, research and service will provide for more fruitful, empathetic conversations and better health outcomes for generations to come. That's the exponential truth!

CHEERS FOR: Being a lifetime Ant eater, writing poetry, prayerful moments and chocolate chip cookies!