Dear CTSA Students, Family, and Friends,

We in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts are delighted to welcome you to the continuation of UCI’s 50th Anniversary celebration, and to the 2015-16 season of outstanding performances, concerts, exhibitions, and special events. Since UCI’s founding 50 years ago, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts has been a distinctive and vibrant part of the regional, national, and international arts scene, at the cutting edge of arts production, scholarship, and research.

In 2013-14, we began our Golden Anniversary celebration by recalling some of our most notable founding faculty members: the Dance department’s first chair, Eugene Loring, through our staging of his “Billy the Kid,” early Art department faculty member Ed Moses, and Music’s founding chair, Professor Emeritus H. Colin Slim. This year we’re continuing this recognition with a “Commemorative Star” tribute to founding Drama chair and Claire Trevor Professor Dr. Robert Cohen, and special presentations for several other CTSA faculty and students who have risen to the highest levels of artistic and academic achievement.

We will begin the celebration through our participation in the campuswide Festival of Discovery, UCI’s 50th Anniversary Celebration. The Festival is a day-long event in Aldrich Park; UCI’s “Bright Past, Brilliant Future” will be on display as students, faculty, and staff show how we are impacting the world around us. There will be food trucks, bands, family-friendly activities, performances, and much more. For more Festival information, visit www.festivalofdiscovery.uci.edu.

We hope you will have come to the New Swan Shakespeare Theatre’s third season in the park, which featured Shakespeare’s Macbeth and Much Ado About Nothing. Both productions continued the New Swan’s remarkable work, presenting the highest-level productions in the magical ambiance of a night in the park.

In the upcoming 2015-16 season, CTSA will offer more than 200 events from which to choose, including:

- **Art**: our three CTSA galleries will be presenting diverse presentations of professional and student art, including exhibitions curated by faculty members Rhea Anastas and Juli Carson who, along with Art professor Daniel Joseph Martinez, will mount “A Performativé Trigger: Radicals of Irvine,” a tribute to UCI MFA recipient Chris Burden, who recently passed away.

- **Dance**: the Dance department’s three main dance concerts begin with “New Slate,” presenting new work by our MFA choreographers, in the fall; “Dance Visions,” our faculty-choreographed presentation, in February in the Irvine Barclay Theatre, and “Physical Graffiti,” undergraduate choreography, in the spring.

- **Drama**: the Drama season’s theme this year is “Care, Cure, and Corruption”; Drama’s six mainstage productions, ranging from well-known musicals such as Man of La Mancha and Evita,
to new plays such as _These Shining Lives_ and _Claybourne Park_, to the great classics _An Enemy of the People_ and _Woyzeck_, all explore aspects of this contemporary theme.

- **Music:** In addition to its three orchestra concerts in the IBT, Music will explore the traditional through “Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Music for Plucked Strings” by the Schneiderman-Yamaya Duo and “The Fortepiano in Vienna: Chamber Music by Mozart and Beethoven” with Cecilia Sun. The Anteater Choir Fest will take place in Smith Hall in January 2016.

- **Beall Center for Art + Technology and xMPL:** Our experimental performance and exhibition spaces will be very active during the year, beginning with the Beall Center’s “Objects of Wonder” exhibition opening at the beginning of October.

These are just some of the many exciting arts experiences CTSA will offer this year. You’ll find a fuller listing and exploration of CTSA events on our website. And our alumni/ae continue to populate Broadway and regional theatre, internationally recognized dance companies, and musical ensembles, and to receive critical acclaim for their exhibitions and performances in major art venues and publications.

We very much hope you will visit us often this year, we thank you in advance for your support, and we eagerly look forward to seeing you on campus many times in 2015-16. And incidentally, please join us at our November 6th CTSA Open House for a behind-the-scenes glimpse of our faculty and students at work.

Regards,

Stephen Barker, Ph.D.