To be adopted:

The Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer of the Riverside Division is pleased to nominate Professor Stanley Stewart as Faculty Research Lecturer for 2000. From the beginning of his career (he joined UCR in 1961), Stanley Stewart has made research the cornerstone of his University activities. In becoming a widely and highly respected scholar of English Renaissance literature, he has from the outset placed a heavy stress and reliance on archival research which demands constant use of and access to major research libraries such as the Huntington Library and the British Museum.

His extended use of manuscript materials and other primary materials not easily available to students of the Renaissance has resulted in at least four books of lasting significance and importance to scholarship in Renaissance literature. This characteristic of his research was clearly established in the first of these, The Enclosed Garden: The Tradition and the Image in Seventeenth-Century Poetry (1966). Wedding first-hand historical information to close readings of Marvell's canon, it established the primacy of the topic of the enclosed garden for not only Marvell but for many other Renaissance writers who saw its connection to an allegorization of the Song of Songs. Because of this original thesis and its heavily documented implications for other fields, his first book has continued to be cited by scholars in other fields such as art history and iconography and religious history. It was and is a seminal contribution to the history of ideas.

Subsequent studies of other and quite different Renaissance poets and prose writers confirmed his claim to a leading position among critics and scholars of his generation. Books devoted to George Herbert (1986), Thomas Traherne (1970), and, more recently, Ben Jonson (1995) have established Professor Stewart as a tough-minded, highly knowledgeable scholar who frames arguments based on copiously researched evidence. The Herbert book argued for his reliance on his Anglican heritage and in so doing endeavored to correct a prevailing scholarly over-emphasis on Herbert's Protestant and Puritan intellectual associations. This argument was accorded wide respect even by those who sought to place Herbert in other, dissenting traditions.

A similar role was occupied by his book on Thomas Traherne which addressed, among others, the issue of the kind or genre of prose Traherne was endeavoring to write in his Centuries of Meditations. Rooting his argument in his deep and profound knowledge in the writings and thought of the period, he provided a sensitive and sophisticated interpretation which saw Traherne not so much as an idiosyncratic mystic as a writer firmly and consciously embedded in the religious traditions of his time. Once again, he broke new scholarly ground by almost single-handedly moving Traherne from a minor status in the period to a position closer to the center of seventeenth-century literary culture. It is no exaggeration to say that his The Expanded Voice is more than partly responsible for encouraging a significant amount of new research on a figure as
dissimilar from Herbert as is possible to imagine. That he was able to do so testifies to his range as a scholar and his flexibility as a literary critic.

In one of his recent book-length contribution to Renaissance studies, he has capped his career with a work that is not only stimulative to others but that is historically definitive. His study of Ben Jonson, the most admired and knowledgeable writer of his age, entirely reverses a hitherto unchallenged dictum of literary history. After strenuous archival research on two continents, he was able to unearth a manuscript in the possession of a member of the Getty family. It consisted of Jonson's marginalia on works by Edmund Spenser, the great epic and romance poet of the sixteenth century. What this manuscript established was Jonson's intimate familiarity with Spenser's work and his understanding of what sort of poetry Spenser was endeavoring to create. This is an epochal discovery since heretofore historians have assumed that Jonson apparently dismissed Spenser as one who "in affecting the ancients, writ no language" and now the truth is established as directly contrary.

Stanley Stewart has also made distinctive contributions in at least four other areas. A novel published by a major firm (Random House) and other pieces of short fiction establish his interest in and capacity to produce creative writing. Countless reviews and articles for non-specialist publications covering issues from educational philosophy to contemporary films testify to his ability to communicate his scholarly insights and positions to the general public. And then there are his contributions to the profession in general and the encouraging and expediting of the scholarship of others. These include editorial, annual omnibus reviewing, and administrative activities. He is presently the dean of Jonson scholarship, serving as co-founder of the impressive new journal, The Ben Jonson Journal: Literary Contexts in the Age of Elizabeth, James, and Charles. Recently he has signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to edit a collection of original essays on Jonson by experts in America and Great Britain. He also serves on the editorial board of the John Donne Journal, the journal of record on the author and his time.

More recently, Professor Stewart has addressed issues of critical theory and the connections between philosophy and literature. This has been the outgrowth of his awareness and questioning of the increased attention the humanities have given to theory as a distinct area of intellectual inquiry. In other words, he has viewed the issue as part of a crucial shift in the area of literary study which needs to be taken seriously. To prepare for such an extension he sometime ago began to participate in both informal and organized study of the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, certainly the most brilliant and influential of late modern philosophers. Out of this sustained immersion in Wittgenstein's thinking particularly that of Philosophical Investigations and related works rather than the earlier Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, Professor Stewart has come to question increasingly the validity of much current literary theory. He feels that a good deal of current literary criticism and theory cannot tolerate the standards of evidence usually applied to philosophical questions.
The first book to focus on philosophy and literature and their interrelations was *Nietzsche's Case: Philosophy As/And Literature* (1993). It was co-authored with two other UCR professors, Bernd Magnus and Jean-Pierre Mileur, and was probably the first book to have been initiated and supported by the Humanities Research Initiative founded by President David P. Gardner with a view to encouraging collaborative scholarship in areas where it had not been practiced prior to this. The intellectual interplay developed by its authors between works by such authors as Nietzsche, Browning, Spenser, Lawrence, Carlyle, Blake, Milton, Derrida, Fish, Rorty, Shakespeare strikingly demonstrates both the range of ideas explored and the truly collaborative nature of the book.

Professor Stewart's most recent book fuses completely his two major interests--Renaissance literature and modern philosophical thinking--by being essentially a profoundly reflective instance of meta-criticism. It is also an example of his continuing productivity and intellectual development at a time when many careers are marking time if not suffering actively from inanition. Entitled "Renaissance" Talk (1997), it challenges some of the dominant orthodoxies of the present moment by addressing the assumptions and implications of major recent theorists of Renaissance writers such as Spenser, Shakespeare, Donne, and others as revealed by specific statements they have made in print.

At a time in his career when a scholar of his distinction can afford to rest on his laurels, Stanley Stewart continues to produce work of originality and distinction. In so doing, and as a graduate and undergraduate product of UCLA and a faculty member at UCR for nearly forty years, he fully represents what the University of California has always stood for in the world of learning. One of the marks of his dedication to the ideals of the profession is that his research has always informed his teaching, and the Academic Senate has recognized this by previously awarding him the Distinguished Teaching Award. He will now be one of the few faculty members honored by his colleagues for distinction in both teaching and research.

The Committee appreciates the efforts of Professor John Ganim, Chair of the Department of English, toward preparing this vignette.

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