

April 2024

UC RIVERSIDE
CHANCELLOR'S
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
CRF Spring 2024 Newsletter
University of California, Riverside

Center for Undergraduate Research and Engaged Learning
Division of Undergraduate Education

A Successful Winter Quarter Completed



Winter 2024 was productive as the CRFs continued to coordinate activities in support of undergraduate research. They hosted mentorship and leadership events, as well as mentored and supported student engagement in undergraduate research opportunities at UC Riverside.

engage.ucr.edu/research/chancellor_fellowship

Winter 2024 CRF Events

Mentorship



Mastering Interviews

Feb. 27TH @ 11-12 PM

STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING 2201

JOIN US FOR TIPS, ADVICE, AND FEEDBACK TO SUCCEED IN INTERVIEWS FOR JOBS, INTERSHIPS, GRADUATE SCHOOL, AND ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES!

For Any Questions, Contact: ugr@ucr.edu



This workshop focused on helping students better understand how to tackle interviews, giving them tips and tricks as well as having them partner up and practice interview skill with one another.

Leadership



Demystifying STUDY ABROAD

Feb 13th @ 11-12 PM

Location: Student Services Building 2201

Come learn from experienced students how to leverage study abroad to enhance your education and prepare for post graduation programs and funding!



This event highlighted the range of study abroad opportunities available to students. Panelists included three past students who shared their experiences and advice as well as resources for study abroad programs.

EARNING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
A FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

MONDAY JAN. 29TH 4-5 PM

Location: Student Services Building 2201

ROBERT MCKEE Bioengineering
JACK EICHLER Chemistry

Join us to learn from experienced professors about the best tips for asking and obtaining letters of rec!

THE CHANCELLOR'S RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS:
Making a Positive Impression: Developing your Self-Narrative & Elevator Pitch

February 29th, 10-11 am

1127 Hinderaker Hall

Join us to develop your elevator pitch and story! We will cover:

- How to pitch yourself as a qualified candidate (for graduate school, a job interview, award opportunity, and networking opportunities)
- How to develop your personal story/narrative
- Understanding what should be included

THE WINDING ROAD TO MEDICAL SCHOOL PANEL

MARCH 1ST, 2-3:30PM @ LS 104 MED ED H

DR. VICTOR CHANCELLOR, MD, M.P.H.
DR. EMMA CHANCELLOR, MD, M.P.H.
ARTURO CHAVEZ FELLOW STUDENT

LEARN ABOUT A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
DIFFERENT TRACKS INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL
TIPS ON HOW TO BUILD A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION
OVERVIEW OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Questions: ugr@ucr.edu

The CRFs are passionate about sharing resources and advice. Their dedication resulted in 10 total workshops during winter quarter, an increase from last quarter!

UCR Chancellor's Research Fellows and ASUCR Alumni Relations Present:
Grad Student Roundtable Event

Location: HUB 221 (ASUCR Senate Chambers)

JAN 23 2024 1PM-2PM

Join us to learn from R⁺ incredible alumni! Learn about the grad student journey!

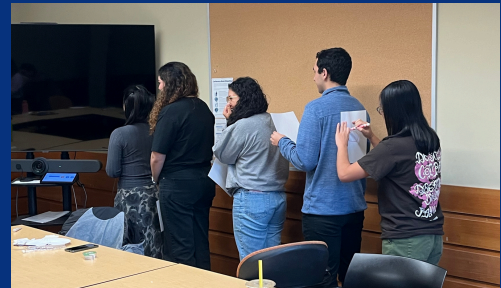
Winter 2024 CRF Events

Networking



Thank you to Nobel Laureate, Dr. Richard Schrock for meeting with the CRFs and speaking about his journey in science and how he succeeded as a alumni of UC Riverside.

Socializing



The CRFs and Mentees took some time to relax and have fun, doing teambuilding exercises and social activities.

Highlights - Awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Awardee



Rayyan Ayoub

4th year majoring in Bioengineering

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Joshua Morgan,
Bioengineering

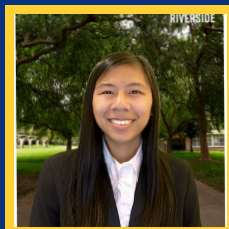
Project:

The Effects of Senescent Cell-Derived Matrix on Naive Fibroblasts

Award Description:

The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program is to help ensure the quality, vitality, and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States. A goal of the program is to broaden participation of the full spectrum of diverse talents in STEM. The five-year fellowship provides three years of financial support, including an annual stipend of \$37,000.

Hays Capstone Project Fellowship Awardee



Emily Bomortino

4th year majoring in Bioengineering

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Victor Rodgers,
Bioengineering

Project:

Delivery of Neuregulin-1 Through an Osmotic Transport Device

Award Description:

Honors students in good standing, making exemplary progress in HNPG199H, and who are in their last year of University Honors.

Award Purpose: To assist outstanding Honors students with the cost of their education as they complete their Honors capstone project.

2024 ArrowHeart Scholarship Awardee



Chloe Georgiou

4th year majoring in Computer Science and Engineering

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Marek Chrobak,
Computer Science and Engineering

Project:

Protocols for Multi-Party Asset Swaps

Award Description:

The ArrowHeart Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Organization established to give back to the communities they serve. The funds raised by the Foundation are used to benefit the people and programs in these areas—including students with higher education goals! Awarded students have a passion for helping others and giving back to their communities. They demonstrate responsibility, reliability, integrity, and special achievements.

Social Justice Honors Capstone Scholarship Awardee



Marcos Reyes

4th year majoring in Neuroscience

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Ann Cheney,
Social Medicine,
Population & Public Health

Project:

Improving Vulnerable Patients' Trust in Healthcare in LatinX and Indigenous Mexican Farm Working Communities in the Eastern Coachella Valley

Award Description:

Honors students in good standing, making exemplary progress in HNPG199H, and are working on a capstone project that addresses societal inequities and promotes social justice.

Award Purpose: To assist outstanding Honors students who are working on social justice projects with the cost of their education as they complete their Honors capstone project.

Congratulations to the CRFs who spent time and effort applying to graduate and professional schools, post-graduate awards, fellowships, and jobs. We can't wait to post the results in our final newsletter!

Highlights - Presentations & Publications

Computer Science Publication Contributor



Chloe Georgiou

4th year majoring in
Computer Science and
Engineering

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Marek Chrobak,
Computer Science and
Engineering

Project:
Protocols for Multi-
Party Asset Swaps

Publication Title:
"On HTLC-Based
Protocols for Multi-
Party Cross-Chain
Swaps"
Journal of Data
Structures and
Algorithms, arXiv

Chemical Education Publication Contributor



Angie Lopez

3rd year majoring in
Chemistry

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Jack Eichler,
Chemistry

Project: Three-
Dimensional Learning
Strategies in Organic
Chemistry Courses

Publication Title:
"Using Flipped
Classroom Modules
to Facilitate Higher
Order Learning in
Undergraduate
Organic Chemistry"
Journal of Chemical
Education, ACS

Western Psychological Association (WPA) Conference Presenter



Dora Nguyen

3rd year majoring in
Psychology

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Kalina J.
Michalska,
Psychology

Project:
Effect of Maternal
Overcontrol on Child
Irritability and
Anxiety in Latina Girls

Presentation Title:
"Enhancing Self-
Esteem: The Impact
of a Public Speaking
Course on Body
Dissatisfaction in
College Students"

National Concurrence on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Presenter



Alyssa Fundal

4th year majoring in
Environmental
Sciences & Psychology

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Ye Li, Management

Project:
Evaluating the Effectiveness
of Social Responsibility-
Based Poster Messaging at
Demotivating Food Waste
Behaviors in UCR
Residential Dining Halls

Presentation Title:
"Evaluating the
Effectiveness of Social-
Norm Based Messaging and
Dynamic Feedback on
Reducing Food Waste in
University Dining Halls"

**Congratulations to the CRFs for sharing their research
outcomes through conferences & publications!**

Angie Lopez, Incoming Senior CRF

Project: Three-Dimensional Learning Strategies in Organic Chemistry Courses

- **3rd year** majoring in Chemistry
- **Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Jack Eichler, Chemistry



How has the CRF helped you grow?

Being a CRF has been the most impactful experience during my time here at UCR due to the growth that I have made as a researcher, student, and person. Being selected as a CRF served as a reminder that I'm capable of doing research at a degree of excellence. This new realization led to my eagerness to agree to different opportunities that I wouldn't have previously considered.

For example, with the encouragement of Gladis, I applied to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship. During my writing sessions, I was able to reflect on my journey as a student and make plans to continue as a researcher which helped me feel more confident moving forward. Something that I was able to discuss with Jennifer and Gladis was that my lack of confidence in pursuing research never stemmed from the belief that I didn't have the skills necessary, but because I had not been encouraged to pursue research since it is very uncommon to see Latinas as STEM researchers. With support from Jennifer, Gladis, and other CRFs I gained the confidence to identify as a scientist and a chemistry researcher. My newfound sense of confidence was critical to my Goldwater interview, which led to being nominated as a Goldwater representative for UCR and would have not been possible without the CRF.

Attending the workshops hosted by the CRFs and meeting with inspiring faculty also helped me become a more well-rounded person. I have gained better insight on how to handle situations. For example, when Dr. Louie Rodriguez mentioned how his identity as a Latino shaped his role as a Vice Provost, I felt like I could relate to my role as a Latina scientist. Overall, being a CRF has contributed the most to the growth I have made over this past year.

Dora Nguyen, Incoming Senior CRF

Project: Effect of Maternal Overcontrol on Child Irritability and Anxiety in Latina Girls

- **3rd year** majoring in Psychology
- **Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Kalina J. Michalska, Psychology



How has the CRF helped you grow?

Becoming a Chancellor's Research Fellow has allowed me to foster tremendous growth in both my professional and personal life. This fellowship has given me the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse disciplines who share a common passion for research. Engaging with this community has allowed us to share our stories of struggles and success, and foster a collaborative environment to create new ideas and solve problems.

Throughout this journey, I have specifically seen the most growth in communication skills and willingness to ask for help. I have come to realize that like with most things, research is not a simple journey. There are many obstacles that come along, such as navigating IRB approval, recruiting participants, and managing project funds. However, I recognized that communication is a crucial key to success and that I should not fear disappointing others or feeling like a burden. Through the Chancellor's Research Fellowship, I have recognized the importance of communicating both the highs and lows of my journey to celebrate accomplishments and gain insight on how to solve problems.

This realization became particularly evident during my quarter abroad in the fall, where I had to balance my desire to explore a foreign country with my academic commitments on top of the keeping track of different time zones. I admit that my absence, among other factors, contributed to the slower progression of my project. However, my eagerness to advance the project allowed me to actively seek assistance from my faculty mentor, graduate students in the lab, and peers through the use of Slack, email, and Zoom meetings. This approach has allowed me to foster growth in communication and highlight the idea that seeking help is not a sign of weakness or failure. Instead, it is a courageous opportunity for continuous learning and growth.

CRF UCR Experience Highlights

Favorite Building or Place on Campus?



Student Success Center

HUB Lawn

Orbach Library

Chemical Sciences
Building

Student Rec Center

Winston Chung Hall



Old UCR School of Business
Building

Multidisciplinary Research Building

Materials Science & Engineering

Lawn between Watkins Hall and
Rivera Library

Best Food in Riverside?

Juju Bar

Sushi Times



East Coast Bagels

Back to the Grind

The Barn

Georgie's
Mediterranean
Cuisine

Hibachi-San

Sushi R91

Pho Ha #7



El Patron

Hong Kong Express

The Old Spaghetti
Factory

CRF UCR Experience Highlights

Favorite Riverside Landmark or Spot?

The Mountain
behind Pentland

Sycamore
Highlands Park



The Mission Inn



The Botanical
Gardens

Tio's Tacos

Mount Roubidoux

The Bell Tower

Downtown Riverside

California Citrus
State Historic Park

Fun experience you have had at UCR?

- Randomly walking to lab and seeing donkeys on the other side of the road eating grass.
- Got stung by a bee for the first time in my life while watching the solar eclipse on campus!
- Trying out dragon boat.
- Walking into the wrong lab section on the first day of Fall quarter after the pandemic.
- A professor overheard my friends and I talking stressfully after his midterm, and he chimed in too.
- Someone fell asleep during the final and was snoring.
- Burning electrical boards in EE lab.
- The professor for one class had to bring his kid to class since child care wasn't open late enough. His kid educated us on Godzilla and had us rate his drawings during class breaks.
- Getting followed by donkeys in my neighborhood.
- Scootering to lot 30 with 5 different bags with my friend trying to not fall (lunch bag, gym clothes, lab clothes, actual backpack, my friend's birthday gift).

CRF UCR Experience Highlights

Favorite class you have taken at UCR?



CS 178A/B with Dr. Salloum

CBNS 126 - Learning and Memory

BIEN 138 - Wound Repair

BCH 100H - Biochemistry

HIST 030 - Global History of the Greeks

BPSC 031 - Spring Wildflowers

BIEN 136 - Tissue Engineering

CS 100 - Software Construction

CBNS 116 - Human Neuroanatomy:
Structure-Function Relationships

BIEN 167 - Medical Diagnostics

BCH 185 and 188 - Epigenetic in Development and
Disease and Fundamentals of Genomic Technologies

Advice you would give to your first year self?

- Take the first step.
- Look for opportunities early. I missed a lot of opportunities because I found out about them too late.
- Don't be afraid of rejection. Rejection results in learning experiences and opportunities for growth.
- Branch out and get involved!
- Be bold and make your dreams a reality. When you look back, it will all be worth it :)
- You are so much more than you think. Don't be scared of taking the opportunities that come your way. You can truly do anything you set your mind to.
- Don't rush and don't be the one rejecting yourself from an opportunity.
- Get involved early on!!!
- Failure is a necessary step to success.
- Get out and attend more campus events and workshops and meet more people!
- Relax a little, get more involved in fun activities, and enjoy the campus and college life more.
- Get started on minor requirements early!
- Don't be shy to network and get to know more members in all the clubs and organizations you join. This will help you connect with more individuals on campus who share similar interests as you and find mentors who can guide you starting from your first quarter of college. Finding mentors who are already far along in their career journey and whose career interests and goals align with yours is so important and helpful!

Upcoming Spring CRF Events

Mentorship Committee



- **Public Speaking Series III: How to Present at a Symposium**

April 22nd @ 11 am-12 pm in SSB 2201

Are you presenting at the Symposium? Come learn tips on presenting and engaging with your audience.

- **Highs and Lows of Undergraduate Research**

May 16th @ 12-1 pm in SSB 2201

Learn how undergraduates succeeded in research and what they learned from the highs and lows of their experience.

We hope to see you there!



Leadership Committee

- **Journey of Resiliency: UCR Latinas Growing Professionally through International Experiences**

April 15th @ 11 am - 12 pm in Humanities 1500

Come learn how two UCR students are using their undergraduate experiences to pursue international opportunities.

- **Cancel Culture, Conversation, and Civility: PBK Panel**

April 17th @ 2-3 pm in Honors 381M Skye Hall

A panel led by Boston College Law Professor discussing how cancel culture is impacting conversations & civility.

- **Establishment and Free Exercise in Public Schools: Kennedy V. Bremerton**

April 18th @ 9:30 am in Student Success Center 335

Learn about the legal case of a football coach who led a prayer before each game. Is this appropriate for a public school?

- **The Impact of AI on Higher Education: Professor Panel**

May 15th @ 2-3 pm XCITE, 1st Floor Rivera Library

A faculty panel discussing their perspectives on the use of AI in education.

Thank you from the newsletter editing team.