



## International Scholars Newsletter

Each quarter, our team will share immigration updates, tips, and event information for the international scholar community.

### International Scholar Spotlight



**Pamella Aline de Almeida, *Junior Specialist and Visiting Scholar in the Physics Department, currently working as an Experimental Research Assistant in Professor Dr. Jonathan Richardson's laboratory at LIGO***

*Tell us a little bit about your background (before coming to UCR).*

I hold an Undergraduate Degree in Science-Physics from the Brazilian Teaching Education Program for High School, obtained at the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). I also have a Postgraduate Degree in the Theory of Relativity, obtained at the same institution (UNIFESP). While in Brazil, I taught high school Physics and conducted research in Physics teaching. I have some articles published in Physics magazines for education, and in the last two years, I have started doing research in gravitational waves. Last year, I visited CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research) to learn more about particle physics, as part of a special program for Portuguese language teachers. I was selected along with 19 other teachers from different regions of Brazil. It was an excellent program. Before going to the university to obtain my degree in Physics, I had the opportunity to study mechatronics. Since then, I was in touch with science for real. Before that I was a kid with a lot of curiosity about nature and exploring everything around me.

*Why did you choose UCR to conduct your research and how has your experience been?*

I chose UCR because of Dr. Barry Barish. He, together with Dr. Kip Thorne and Dr. Rainer Weiss, were the first Nobel laureates to prove the existence of gravitational waves in LIGO. I was recommended by my professor in Brazil, Dr. Nadja Magalhães, for this experience, and Dr. Barry Barish was very open to receiving me here. He recommended Dr. Jonathan Richardson's laboratory for my research experience.

Another important factor in my decision to come to UCR was the university's good reputation within the University of California community. Furthermore, Dr. Jonathan Richardson was very open to having me here. I am learning so much with him and the group. So far my experience here has had a few challenges, but I am grateful. I am working a lot and learning many new things, and this experience has been really great. I really appreciate this journey here, and I hope to have more opportunities to keep working with Dr. Richardson and do research at LIGO.

*What are some of your favorite memories at UCR/Riverside?*

My favorite memories here are having coffee with international scholars and attending parties with them. I also enjoy looking at the mountains around UCR in the morning and after work; I feel happy just by looking at them.

*What have been some challenges that you have faced since coming to UCR?*

The first couple of days here were challenging because of the differences between Brazilian and American cultures. At first, it was difficult to talk to people and to understand all the processes involved in obtaining the necessary documents. Finding a place to stay was also very stressful, and managing work and the beginning of my research was difficult. However, everything worked out in the end. Cultural differences are the most challenging aspect for me. While it isn't easy to make friends and understand new people around here, it can also be a little complicated at times. The International Students and Scholars department with special support from Makbule Koksai and Amparo Rios makes this part better. I am grateful for their effort and support.

---

## **Thank You to our Spring Meet and Greet Speakers!**



**Dr. Syed Adeel Zafar,  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Botany & Plant  
Sciences**



**Dr. Mitchell Masterson, Postdoctoral  
Scholar, Molecular, Cell & Systems Bio  
Department**



**Dr. Boris Baer,**  
*Department of  
Entomology & Center for  
Integrative Bee Research*



**Dr. Barbara Baer-Imhoof,**  
*Department of  
Entomology & Center for  
Integrative Bee Research*



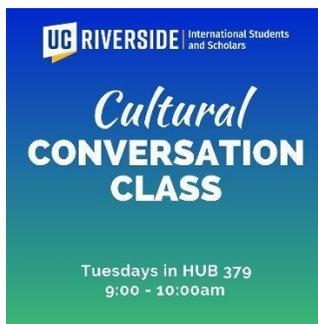
**Dr. René Riedel,**  
*Chemistry department*

We would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Syed Adeel Zafar, Dr. Mitchell Masterson, Dr. Boris Baer, Dr. Barbara Baer-Imhoof, and Dr. René Riedel. Thank you for taking the time to share your experience and research! If you would like to share your research in an upcoming Meet & Greet, please email us at [internationalscholars@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalscholars@ucr.edu).

---

## Upcoming ISS Events

### Cultural Conversation Class

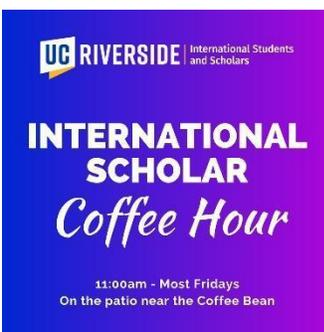


Please join us for our weekly in-person Cultural Conversation Class! Candace Jorgensen leads this incredible class. Open to scholars and dependents.

- **Date: Tuesdays**
- **Time: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**
- **Location: HUB - Room 379**
- Conversation topics change each week. We'd love to

see you at class on Tuesday!

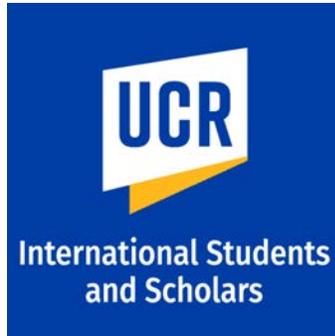
### Scholar Coffee Hour



The Scholar Coffee Hour is a chance for you to socialize and meet scholars from across the university. Bring your own beverage and make new friends! You can also purchase beverages from the Coffee Bean. Cookies will be provided by the ISS team.

- **Date: Most Fridays**
- **Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- **Location: Outside of Coffee Bean**

## Monthly Meet and Greet



Mark your calendar now for our next Meet & Greet event with special guest speaker is Dr. Brice Bantegnie from the UCR Department of Philosophy.

- **Date:** **Wednesday, June 28, 2023**
- **Time:** **12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**
- **Location:** **HUB - Room 268**
- Lunch will be provided. Please join us!

---

## Upcoming Holidays

### **Memorial Day - Monday, May 29 (UCR Closed)**

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

### **Juneteenth - Monday, June 19 (UCR Closed)**

Celebrated on the 19th of June, Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Texas learned they were free. This news was delivered two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became law. Juneteenth has been marked with reverence and celebration by Black American communities long before its recent attainment of national recognition. Juneteenth offers a distinct occasion to acknowledge the linkages that connect our past to our present, while offering signposts for the future.

### **Fourth of July - Tuesday, July 4 (UCR Closed)**

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

---

## Things To Do

### Riverside Artswalk



The Riverside Artswalk is a monthly community event that celebrates the diversity of arts and culture in Riverside and the Inland Empire. Visit over 22 downtown locations, including museums, galleries and studios, presenting an eclectic mix of visual and performing arts.

**When:** 1st Thursday of month, (June 1, July 6, August 3), 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Artists On Main, On Main St. located between 5th and 10th streets, Downtown Riverside

Free! [Learn more here.](#)

### Summer Concert in the Park



The City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is hosting weekly Summer Concerts at Fairmount Park. Enjoy live entertainment, food vendors, a beer garden, and fun activities!

**When:** Nightly on Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., from July 6 to August 3.

**Location:** Fairmount Park, 2601 Fairmount Blvd., Riverside CA, 92501

Free! [Learn more here.](#)

### International Food Festival



IE International Food Festival in Downtown Riverside is the biggest food festival Riverside has ever seen! The festival will cover 4 city blocks on Mission Inn Dr from Orange St to Lime St. Live Music, Street performers, Food Demos, Train and Fun zone! Cuisine will include international food, food trucks, vegan food, BBQ, fine dining, dessert, beer & wine, and more.

**When:** July 29 - July 30, 11:00 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Location:** Downtown Riverside on Mission Inn Dr from

Orange Street to Lime Street.

**Cost:** General admission is free! [Learn more here.](#)

## California Citrus State Historic Park



Greeted by an old-fashioned roadside fruit stand, the “big orange,” the [California Citrus State Historic Park](#) dedicates over half of 250 acres to what was once the universal symbol of California’s role in agriculture – the citrus grove. The park recaptures the complexities of the time when “Citrus was King,” exploring the significance of the citrus industry in Southern California.

**Park Hours:** April through September, the park is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Location:** 9400 Dufferin Avenue Riverside, CA 92504

**Cost:** \$7 Parking fees are required (bring exact change); [Learn more here](#) or call (951)780-6223

## MetroLink \$10 All-day Weekends



Plan a day of exploration on any Saturday or Sunday and pay only \$10 for your all-day transportation on [Metrolink](#). Your MetroLink pass also offers [free connections](#) to many destinations, including in Los Angeles. New to Metrolink? [Learn how to ride here!](#)

## ScotSurplus Sale



[ScotSurplus](#) is home to an eclectic assortment of used (but still useable) furniture, electronics, office supplies, clothing, books, bikes, lab supplies, and much more — collected from departments from every corner of the university.

**When:** June 6 & 20, July 18, August 1 & 15, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Corporation Yard, 3401 Watkins Dr., Riverside CA 92507, Located directly behind Lot 23.

## Take a tour of the famous Mission Inn



Did you know the city of Riverside was named for its proximity to the Santa Ana River? Learn more about Riverside’s history and the landmark Mission Inn in downtown Riverside. [The Mission Inn Foundation](#) offers daily walking tours led by trained docents on the art, artifacts, architecture, and history of the Mission Inn. Experience over 120 years of history within the grand rooms of the Mission Inn.

**When:** Weekdays - 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.; Weekends - 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Mission Inn Museum and Museum Store (3696 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501)

Tickets are \$15-\$20. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

---

## International Scholar Event Highlights





**Thank you for connecting with us this spring! ❤️**

It has been a joy to meet with you at various events this spring. Thank you for joining us at the Cultural Conversation Class, the weekly Coffee Hour, and the Scholar Meet and Greet. We look forward to seeing you at our next events.

---

## **FAQs for International Scholars**

**I need to leave the U.S. and ISS has not signed my DS-2019 document! Is that OK?**

Please know that you do not need a travel signature on your DS-2019 document to either remain in or to depart the U.S. You do need a valid travel signature to return to the U.S. in J-1 status. A valid travel signature must be no more than twelve months old on the date that you return to the U.S.

If you are departing the U.S. soon and know that your travel signature will expire by the time you expect to return to the U.S., please contact an international scholar advisor at [internationalscholars@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalscholars@ucr.edu). If your DS-2019 is going to expire soon, please consult with your department to extend your stay and then contact our scholar advisor.

**What will happen if I end my UCR appointment early and/or I depart the United States and do not intend to return to the U.S. for my J program?**

If you are a scholar and you depart the U.S. early (more than 15 days before your DS-2019 end date) and you do not intend to return to the U.S. for the remainder of your J program, please discuss this with your faculty sponsor. Please also email our advisor so that she can advise you on the steps and the visa implications of ending your program early.

Follow International Students and Scholars on [Instagram](#) to stay updated with our office and campus resources and events. You can keep up with International Affairs on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

---

## Contact Our Staff

Thank you for being a part of the UCR International Scholar community. The best way to contact our staff is by email.

**General email:** [internationalscholars@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalscholars@ucr.edu)

Makbule Koksal - International Scholar Advisor:

[makbule.koksal@ucr.edu](mailto:makbule.koksal@ucr.edu)

Amparo Rios - International Scholar Advisor:

[amparo.rios@ucr.edu](mailto:amparo.rios@ucr.edu)

Michael Schmelzle - Director: [michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu](mailto:michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu)

For Zoom meetings, please set up an appointment via email.

You can also call the general ISS phone number, (951) 827 - 4113. Our office is open Monday - Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



**International Students  
and Scholars**