

Nov 2024

International  
Scholars

# Monthly Newsletter



## Happy (almost) November and Happy Halloween!

Thank you so much for Dr. Marcello Maniglia for speaking about their journey at the Meet & Greet on September 25th!

And thank you so much for all who attended.

**Before our next Meet & Greet on October 30th, learn about our next speaker, Dr. Jadeliza Ferrater, on page 2!**



## Upcoming ISS Events

### Scholar Coffee Hours

What: Meet to chat with other scholars – bring your own beverage and make some friends!

When: Fridays 11:00AM - Noon

Where: Outside of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

### Meet & Greet

Where: HUB 265

When: November 20th, Noon – 1pm

Please come meet our new scholars! As always, we will provide lunch ☺



## What is Thanksgiving?

American Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated on **the last Thursday of November**. Typical Thanksgiving foods include fowl (birds), such as duck or chicken. The most famous of these is, of course, Turkey! **This flightless bird is native to North America.**

Other popular Thanksgiving foods include potatoes and pies, such as pumpkin or apple pie. These days, some of the most popular Thanksgiving events include the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, in the morning, lunches, dinners, and parties with friends, family, and coworkers, and a Thanksgiving Day football game in the afternoon/evening.

**“Black Friday”** is the day after Thanksgiving and is one of the busiest days of the year in the United States for shopping and transportation. Stores will open early in the morning and offer limited-time deals on desirable holiday gift items such as electronics and toys. Historically, newspapers would have advertisements from big retailers for their best and most sought-after deals. Recently, people will mostly check websites for listings of Black Friday deals. If you wish to participate in Black Friday shopping, know that it will be very busy, and very crowded, and a lot of standing and walking will be required. Please wear **comfortable clothing and shoes**. If that doesn't sound like your cup of tea, you can always enjoy the online deals from the comfort of your home!

## Check this out!

Please fill out the feedback form on the ISS activities:  
<https://forms.gle/H2ciS3T4sqbHqrTK6>



## This Month's Spotlight

### Dr. Jedeliza Ferrater Assistant Project Scientist



We interviewed Dr. Jedeliza Ferrater, who will be speaking at the International Scholars Meet & Greet on October 30th! Follow her story below.

#### Please tell us a little bit about your background (before coming to UCR).

I was a molecular entomology researcher at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, before I was awarded the Global Rice Science Scholarship (GRISS). This scholarship, funded by institutions including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia, enabled me to pursue a PhD in Entomology in the Netherlands. One year before completing my doctorate, I transitioned to a leadership role at a Dutch-owned vegetable company based in Asia. There, I led the entomology research program, focusing on developing pest-resistant varieties. My responsibilities included annual trips to the Netherlands even after the PhD, where I collaborated with Dutch universities and private agricultural innovation companies. These partnerships facilitated the transfer of advanced technologies from the Netherlands research to Asian vegetable farming systems. My work at the vegetable company extended beyond research to include farmer extension activities and field work. During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, when travel restrictions were in place, I adapted by transforming these activities into a Facebook Live program. This innovative approach caught the attention of Grow Asia Singapore and the Ministry for Primary Industries New Zealand, who subsequently invited me to serve as a resource speaker and consultant for their pest management strategies.

#### Please briefly describe your role at UCR.

In September 2020, I joined UCR Entomology tasked on developing an innovative pest control method for the Asian citrus psyllid, a significant threat to the citrus industry. This insect is the vector for a highly destructive bacterial disease that has devastated Florida's citrus production. My primary task was to optimize the Sterile Insect Technique for controlling this pest. This research, funded by the US Department of Agriculture, aimed to contribute to California's efforts in implementing sustainable and less chemical-intensive pest control strategies. The goal was to prevent the citrus industry in California from facing the same devastating losses experienced in Florida. Over the past few years, I conducted extensive laboratory and greenhouse experiments to refine this technique. The culmination of this work was recently published in the Journal of Economic Entomology in May 2024. Following this publication, the research gained broader recognition when it was featured in the Entomology Today magazine, published by the Entomological Society of America, in June 2024.

#### How did you get into entomology?

My entry into the field of entomology was an unexpected twist of fate—or perhaps divine intervention. It all began when I accompanied a friend to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for her job application. While waiting, I was encouraged to fill out a paper resume, despite my initial hesitation. At the time, I was already employed as a plant pathologist and microbiologist. The very next day, to my surprise, I received a call for an interview. The interviewer was a newly-hired American entomologist from UC Berkeley. She saw potential in my background and offered me a position as a molecular entomology researcher. This serendipitous opportunity marked a significant turning point in my career. Accepting this role not only shifted my professional focus but also opened doors to international exposure. It became the launching pad for my global scientific journey, allowing me to present my rice entomology research at conferences and symposiums in China, Vietnam, South Korea, and the US. This chance encounter at IRRI set me on an unexpected but rewarding path, demonstrating how unplanned moments can lead to transformative career changes and exciting new adventures in the world of science.

#### What have been some challenges that you have faced since coming to the US?

The timing of my arrival during the COVID-19 pandemic presented unexpected challenges. I came to a UCR campus that resembled a ghost town, with strict social distancing measures in place. The usual warmth of a new academic environment was notably absent - there was no welcome party, nor any in-person orientation to familiarize me with the campus, its facilities, or the surrounding communities. Despite these obstacles, the International Student and Scholars (ISS) office proved invaluable, particularly Ms. Makbule. Though our interactions were limited to online platforms, their efficient assistance made my document processing and arrival logistics surprisingly manageable.

#### What are some of your favorite memories at UCR?

My fondest memories at UCR revolve around engaging and interacting with colleagues. These experiences span from within my own Entomology department to the broader community gatherings and parties organized by the International Student and Scholars (ISS) office. These social interactions provided welcome breaks from work, introducing fun and camaraderie into my academic life. Such moments of connection not only brightened my stay but also offered beneficial respites for mental well-being, as research suggests these social breaks are crucial for cognitive health.

Next month, we will be interviewing Dr. Elia Scudiero, an Associate Professional Researcher in the Environmental Sciences Department, for the November Meet & Greet!





### Cultural Conversation Class!

If you or your spouse is interested in participating in the Cultural Conversation Class to help improve your English and to meet new friends. Thank you to those who came to our last class and helped us make it successful!

**Where:** HUB 367

**When:** Every Tuesday, Beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>, 9-10 AM

Our instructor is Candace Jorgensen, who has experience living in other cultures, which adds depth to her teaching the Cultural Conversation Class for international scholars and their families. She also holds a master's degree in education with emphasis on teaching English to speakers of other languages.



### What to do This Month in Riverside

#### 2024 Encuentro de Música Oaxaqueña en UCR: Raices y Ramas

When: November 1-2

Where: UCR

Academic presentations by Indigenous Oaxacan practitioners and scholars on musical traditions from across the geographical contexts of Oaxaca, México, California, and North Carolina, a master class featuring a new composition by Mixteco composer Ruben Luengas of Pasatono Orchestra, recording sessions showcasing contemporary compositions by women Oaxacan composers and traditional Oaxacan funeral music, etc!

[REGISTER HERE: https://boomingbandas.com/](https://boomingbandas.com/)

#### Riverside Day of the Dead

There will be face painting, food vendors, and crafts at the annual Day of the Dead celebration!

When: Sat Nov 2 - 1pm-10pm & Sun Nov 3 - 11am-7pm

Where: Market St. between University Ave & 14th St

<https://www.instagram.com/RiversideDayoftheDead/>

#### Trivia Night at the Barn Stable

We have cool prizes for our trivia champions! From gift cards to free meals, the rewards are as enticing as the questions.

When: Every Tuesday 5:30-7:30pm

Where: The Stable (at The Barn)

<https://events.ucr.edu/event/trivia-night-at-the-barn-stable>

#### Art in the Gardens

Come spend a pleasant day strolling through Alder Canyon, where California artists and craftspersons are showcased representing a variety of media including ceramics, jewelry, mosaics, metal work, fiber arts, wood, and photography.

When: November 2, 10am-3pm

Where: UCR Botanical Gardens

<https://shorturl.at/xvj4A>

### Information for International Scholars

As the holiday season approaches, it is important to keep in mind that the university will be closed on certain days in November and December.

November: The UCR campus will be closed 11/11/2024, 11/28-29/2024.

December: The UCR campus will be closed 12/23/2024– 01/01/2025.

Please consider campus holidays and closures when planning to visit or make requests of the ISS office.

Additionally, if you have plans to travel during the holiday season, please remember what is required to reenter the United States, and ensure that you have them available before you leave. Should you find yourself without them during the holiday season, it will be difficult for the ISS office to assist you.

**You must present the following at the U.S. port-of-entry (airport or land border):**

- 1) Current passport valid for at least 6 months after the reentry date
- 2) Valid U.S. visa
- 3) Valid DS-2019 with return authorization signature (travel endorsement).

