

Monthly Newsletter



Happy July!

Thank you so much for Jun Wang for speaking about their journey at the Meet & Greet on June 25th! And thank you so much for all who attended.

Ahead of our Meet & Greet on July 30th, learn about our speaker, Dr. Claudineia Pereira Costa, 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 11AM - Noon

Where: Outside of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

August Meet & Greet

Where: HUB 265

When: August 27th, Noon – 1pm

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

Check this out!

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



This Month's Spotlight

Dr. Claudineia Pereira Costa

Assistant Project Scientist, Department of Entomology



We asked some questions to Dr. Claudineia Pereira Costa who will be speaking at the International Scholars Meet & Greet on July 30th! Follow her story below.

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

I'm from Brazil and was the first in my family to go to college. I studied biology at the University of São Paulo and just fell in love with research, so I kept going with a Master's in Entomology and a Ph.D. in Genetics. The coolest part about my graduate work was getting to travel around Latin America for research. And then I got this amazing opportunity to spend time as a visiting scholar in Toronto, Canada. That trip completely changed my perspective. I discovered I love exploring new places and meeting people from different cultures. Now, travel is my favorite hobby, and it's given me such a broader view of how science connects us all. After finishing my Ph.D., I was excited to experience research outside Brazil, so I started applying for postdoc positions in diverse countries, until I got my position at UCR.

2. Please briefly describe your role at UCR.

As a molecular and field biologist, I have focused on understanding the genetic and ecological mechanisms that drive behavioral adaptations in bees. Through my postdoctoral work, and now, as a project scientist at UC Riverside, under Dr. Hollis Woodard, I examine the molecular basis of social behaviors in bumble bees, particularly how gene expression in the brain influences brood care behaviors. This research has implications for understanding how bees respond to environmental stressors, a theme central to your department's focus on conservation and ecology.

3. How did you get into your field?

If someone asks me when I decided to become a scientist, that's a tricky question because I've wanted to work in science since I was young. I'm from the generation that grew up watching TV when Dolly the cloned sheep was. I remember being fascinated by it, and I knew that I wanted to work in molecular biology. So when I started my undergrad, I was on a mission to find a molecular biology lab. But when I was in my second year, I took my first embryology class and discovered what would become one of my favorite topics in science. I was completely captivated by how life develops and grows. Surprisingly, my professors didn't use typical lab rats or fruit flies. Instead, they used bees. Then, since my second year as an undergrad, I've been working on integrating behavioral and genetic approaches, using bees as my model system to answer research questions.

4. What are some of your favorite memories at UCR?

My favorite memories are all the times I spend with my friends. Since I've been here, I've met so many great people. Some of them have become really close friends. I love our barbecues, happy hours at the Gateway, Friendsgiving dinners, and weekend trips. These moments make me really happy and help me get through the tough times. Spending time with good friends just makes everything better. These friendships are the best part of being here.

5. Do you have any advice for incoming international scholars?

This is a great professional opportunity with good networking and career development. But remember to take care of your mental health too. Being far from family and friends is hard, but you'll get to experience new things and meet your community here. Just remember to take care of yourself throughout the process.

The July Meet & Greet will be at HUB 265!



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: ON BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

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



Stargazing Night (Grad Success Event)

Grad students, postdocs, and their families are invited to enjoy a night under the stars and look at objects in the night sky!

When: August 4, 8pm-10pm

Where: UCR Bell Tower



Movies in the Park: Kung Fu Panda

Bring the family and enjoy a movie under the stars! Join us at dusk for a fun, free outdoor screening on a cool summer evening. Pack a blanket, some snacks, and relax as we enjoy a classic film together in the great outdoors.

When: August 8, at dusk

Where: Orange Terrace Park – 20010 Orange Terrace Pkwy

<https://www.riversideca.gov/calendar/event/movies-park-1?date=Friday%2C%20August%201%2C%202025>



Twilight Tour at UCR Botanic Gardens

These tours are a nice opportunity to enjoy the Gardens in the cool of early evening as the sun is setting and wildlife is beginning to stir. Light refreshments will be served following the tour to add to your enjoyment.

When: August 16, 6pm-8pm

Where: UCR Botanic Gardens

<https://shorturl.at/V6bU0>



Women's Soccer vs. UTEP

Be part of the 2025 home opener as your Highlanders take on University of Texas at El Paso at the UC Riverside Soccer Stadium!

When: August 21, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Where: UC Riverside Soccer Stadium

<https://events.ucr.edu/event/womens-soccer-vs-utep>

Frequently Asked Questions

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 our international scholar's office at 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 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 advisors so that they can advise you on the steps and the visa implications of ending your program early.