

October 2025

Monthly Newsletter



Happy September!

Thank you so much for Dr. Po Hu and Dr. Min Zhang for speaking about their journey at the Meet & Greet on August 27th!

And thank you so much for all who attended.

Ahead of our Meet & Greet on September 17th, learn about our speakers 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



September Meet & Greet

Where: HUB 265

When: October 29th, 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. Jia Chen

Associate Professor of Teaching,
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering



We asked some questions to Dr. Jia Chen who will be speaking at the International Scholars Meet & Greet on September 17th! Follow Dr. Chen's story below.

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

I was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, specializing in data science, machine learning, and signal processing. I earned my Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington and completed my postdoctoral training at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

2. Please briefly describe your role at UCR.

I am currently an associate professor of teaching in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. My major responsibilities in this position include teaching 6 courses per academic year, (co-)supervising both graduate and undergraduate students in research, and serving the department, college, university, and the research communities as well as (co-)organizing outreach activities.

3. How did you get into your field?

My Ph.D. and postdoctoral advisors, along with close collaborators (including faculty and students), made a significant impact on my research perspective. They guided me every step of the way. Entering the signal processing field as a Ph.D. student, I learned the essential components of completing a research project from my advisor. Empowered by a postdoctoral fellowship, my research interests expanded from signal processing into data science and machine learning. After becoming a faculty member, many great opportunities arose through multidisciplinary projects, thanks to collaborations with experts in other domains and the invaluable support from my wonderful students.

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

Some letters/words from my students are very heart warming, which are definitely precious memories in my life. Most of the time, I observed my mood being enlightened through teaching that I truly enjoy. Hearing students getting internships/full time job offers or being admitted to new programs always makes my day.

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

Welcome to UCR! Embrace the process of each class and research project; the skills you build will prove invaluable to your future work.



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: Student Services Building 2nd Floor, Conference Room

When: Every Tuesday, 9-10am

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



Riverside Music and Arts Festival

The music lineup kicks off with the Riverside Concert Band, followed by Badsoma, Auditory Cortex, and The Good Daze, with the legendary Voodoo Glow Skulls headlining the evening.

When: September 27, 2025 2-9pm

Where: White Park, Downtown Riverside

<https://riversideartscouncil.com/riv-art-%26-music-fest>



Moon Festival

Join us for an evening of storytelling by Barbara Wong, performances by Southern Wind Lion Dance, Chinese calligraphy demonstrations by Riverside's Hua Xia Chinese School, mah-jongg games, and a fun craft for all ages.

When: October 6, 2025 6-8pm

Where: Heritage House, 8193 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/moon-festival-tickets-1568278205329?aff=oddtcreator>



Riverside Book Festival

Join Inlandia and collaborators for the first-ever Riverside Book Festival! Celebrate all bookish things at this one-of-a-kind festival.

When: October 11, 11am-

Where: Riverside Public Library, 3900 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside CA 92501

<https://riversidebookfestival.org/>



48th Annual Mission Inn Run

Races include the 5K, 10K, and ½ Marathon with a dedicated 5K Walk (perfect for kids and pups!). Everyone, from competitors to casual strollers, is invited to join us!

When: October 19, 2025

Where: Downtown Riverside

<https://www.missioninnrun.org/>

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.