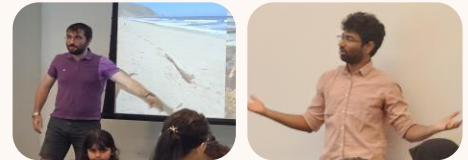




Happy September! Thank you so much to Dr. Marko Princevac, the Vice Provost of International Affairs, for speaking at the Meet & Greet on July 31st! He walked us through his journey conducting research around the world during his mechanical engineering career. Thank you for everyone who joined the event.

Before our next Meet & Greet on August 28th, learn about our next speakers, Dr. Milan Milanovic, and his wife Stephanie Holz, on Page 2!

We'd also like to thank Professor Vishwanath Saragadam of the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department for speaking at the Meet & Greet in May, and Dr. Zisimos Toumasatos of the Mechanical Engineering Department for the June Meet & Greet!



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: September 25th, Noon – 1pm

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

International Scholars Picnic

When: October 4, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Where: Hinderaker Lawn

We'll have hamburgers, games, and activities for everyone to enjoy throughout the day. Please RSVP through the link:

<https://forms.gle/LBbh1etXZE1xfNFJ6>



Check this out!

Please fill out the feedback form on the ISS activities:

<https://forms.gle/H2ciS3T4sqbHqrTK6>



This Month's Spotlight

Dr. Milan Milenovic

Post-doctorate Researcher in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology



We interviewed Dr. Milan Milenovic, who will be speaking at the International Scholars Meet & Greet on August 28th! Follow his story below.

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

I was born and raised in Serbia (Yugoslavia at the time) where I lived until I finished my bachelor's degree. Having a strong interest in biology and specifically plants, I studied crop protection at the Faculty of Agriculture in the University of Belgrade. Midway through the studies, I applied for an exchange program with the University of Minnesota which marked my first international experience. I loved the experience of spending a year in a multicultural environment and exploring new places and cultures. I finished my bachelor's in Serbia but wanted more, both in terms of science and traveling. I enrolled in a double degree master's program at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark and University of Catania, Italy, an incredible program which culminated with a 6-month master research project in Tanzania. A year of freelancing later, I moved to Luxembourg to pursue a doctoral degree. My constant pursuit of experiences and knowledge eventually brought me back to the US where my scientific journey began—this time to the warm state of California.

Please briefly describe your role at UCR.

I am a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, in the team of Prof. Howard Judelson. I work on a plant pathogen *Phytophthora infestans*, a fungal-like microorganism that causes late blight disease, primarily important in potato and tomato production. My project focuses on the effect of ploidy level on the biology of the organism, and the genetic basis of the mating types.

How did you get into molecular biology?

I was always intrigued with how life works at the tiniest scale. Following my master studies, I decided to pursue a PhD with a project that had a strong molecular biology component to it. I liked that part of the project the most, so decided to double down on it and apply for a postdoc position which would further expand my knowledge in molecular biology and bioinformatics. Today, a year later I see that it was the right choice!

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

Even with prior international experiences under my belt, adapting to a new culture, work environment, and settling down is a challenge. In particular, 10 years ago when I studied in the US as an undergraduate everything was simpler and handled by World Learning, my sponsoring organization at the time. This time around, my wife and I were on our own to navigate the murky waters of visa paperwork, postdoc contract paperwork, health insurance paperwork, car paperwork, paperwork, paperwork. All relatively simple when looked individually, but taken together, quite overwhelming. However, with the great support of the international office, my PI, colleagues and friends, everything went very well.

What are some of your favorite memories at UCR?

International scholar coffee hour every Friday and all the amazing people from all over the world that I met there!

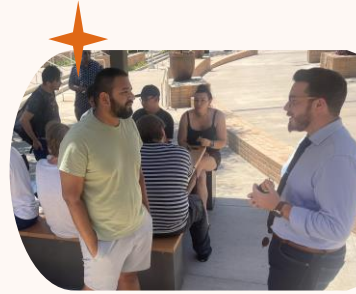


Cultural Conversation Class!

If you or your spouse is interested in participating in the Cultural Conversation Class to help improve your English and to meet new friends - our next class is on September 10th.

Where: HUB 379

When: Every Tuesday, Beginning September 10th, 9-10 AM



What to do This Month in Riverside

Summer Grad Time

When: September 4th, 11:30am-1pm

Where: HUB 269

A space for graduate students to learn about campus resources, eat some food, do some de-stressing activities and go for a group walk around the campus. Food, massages, and games provided! In collaboration with the Well, Chicano Student Programs, Asian Pacific Student Programs, Grad Division and the Cultural Events Fund.

GradSuccess Stargazing Night

When: September 9th, midnight – 9:30am

Where: UCR Bell Tower

Grad students, postdocs, and their families are invited to enjoy a night under the stars and look at objects in the night sky! You can also learn to “star hop” to navigate from one object to the other. There will be light refreshments and an art table for children. Bring a camping chair, and bring a jacket, too, in case it gets chilly in the evening.

ScotSurplus

When: September 3rd, 17th, 8am – 1pm

Where: ScotSurplus, UCR Corporation Yard

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.

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 our international scholar advisor at makbule.koksals@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 advisor so that she can advise you on the steps and the visa implications of ending your program early.