



**UCI BioSci**

**UNDERGRADUATE  
HONORS  
CONVOCATION**

**2023**

**JUNE 16, 2023 | 9:00 AM | UCI STUDENT CENTER**

# Program

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

Frank M. LaFerla, PhD  
Dean and Distinguished Professor

## Undergraduate Honors Convocation Speaker

Raju Metherate, PhD  
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education

## Procession of Students

## Closing Remarks

Frank M. LaFerla, PhD  
Dean and Distinguished Professor

## Reception

# Undergraduate Honors Convocation Awards

## Dean's Award for Excellence in Research

**Maria Farias De Albuquerque**

**Vicky Lam**

**Uyen-Vy Le**

**Cuiwen Zhou**

*These awards are given to students who demonstrated outstanding work in the Excellence in Research program as selected by the Honors Committee.*

## Robert Ernst Prize in Biological Sciences

**Ellie Civello**

**Lana Gross**

**Vanessa Lau**

**Julie Loritsch**

**Carmen Ramirez Alonso**

**Sophia Tran**

**Christian Umemura**

*Dr. Robert Ernst received a PhD in Biological Sciences in 1979 after retirement from a career in organic chemistry. He was fascinated by orchids and their physiology, and he grew orchids for many years, combining this interest with his academic knowledge. Since 1983, the Robert Ernst Prizes have been given for outstanding research in the area of plant biology and in biological sciences.*

## Excellence in Research Poster Award

**Eric Cho**

**Christopher Karma**

**Alena Nguyen**

**Erfan Zolfaghari**

*As part of the Excellence in Research program, students submitted posters which summarized their work in visual form. The Poster Awards recognize students for their exceptional posters.*

## Howard Schneiderman Prize

**Elizabeth Donalson**

*The Howard A. Schneiderman Prize was established in support of excellence in research to commemorate Dr. Howard A. Schneiderman, member of the National Academy of Sciences and third dean of the UCI School of Biological Sciences. The prize is used to recognize both outstanding research projects in the Excellence in Research Program and outstanding posters.*

## Jayne Unzelman Scholarship Award

**Steven Gong**

**Mariah Hernandez**

**Jonathan Lee**

*Jayne Unzelman, a graduate student in Developmental and Cell Biology, received the Edward A. Steinhaus Award for outstanding teaching assistant for the 1971-1972 academic year. She received her PhD posthumously in June 1973. The scholarship in her name is awarded to students with high academic achievement who have served the School and the community.*



# Edward Mittleman Memorial Scholarship

## Artin Melkomians

*A scholarship in memory of Mrs. William D. Redfield's first husband, Edward Mittleman, and son, Dr. David C. Redfield, a specialist in infectious diseases who graduated from UCI in 1970.*

# Larry Mehlman Endowed Memorial Scholarship

## Celine Crooks

## Aarij Gora

*Established to honor the memory of Laurence J. Mehlman, an outstanding undergraduate of biology at UCI. Laurence was a member of the Biological Sciences Honor Society, graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the UCI School of Biological Sciences and was accepted to the UCLA School of Medicine, entering the class of 1974. He was highly regarded as a person of great dedication and personal magnetism. The award recipients have demonstrated outstanding achievement in scholarship and community, school or campus service.*

# Kyle Farol Memorial Award

## Brandon Cove

*To honor the memory of Kyle Farol, this award is presented to an outstanding undergraduate in the School of Biological Sciences who has dedicated their time as a volunteer in a clinical setting.*

## Dr. William F. Holcomb Scholarship

**Aya Fattah**

*The William F. Holcomb Scholarship was established to support an undergraduate student conducting research in the area of biomedical, marine biology and/or other related studies.*

## Robert H. Avnet Memorial Scholarship

**Aidan Gelston**

**Kristina Mendoza**

*In memory of Robert H. Avnet, this scholarship was established by Lillian Marks to assist students interested in becoming physicians. The recipients must be majors in the School of Biological Sciences, accepted to, or have an excellent chance of being accepted to medical school or other health professional schools, and have financial need.*

## Dr. M. Marlene Godoy Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Movement Sciences

**Sean Gonzales**

**Leslie Sanchez**

*The Dr. M. Marlene Godoy Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Movement Sciences supports undergraduate research training in movement physiology, biomechanics, exercise sciences or a related field.*

## Brian Atwood Scholarship

**Jacob Liu**

**Hassan Shaikh**

*Established in 2007, the Brian Atwood Scholarship is awarded to two junior Biological Sciences majors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in both scholarship and service to the UCI community.*

## Carol and James McGaugh Award

**Julie Loritsch**

*In memory of Carol McGaugh and to honor Dr. James McGaugh, this award was established in 2018 by daughter Janice McGaugh Morrow and son-in-law William Morrow. The award recognizes a hard-working student with a strong moral character, integrity, and who has demonstrated potential for making a difference in neuroscience.*

## Carol Becker McGaugh Award

**Vicky Lam**

*The Carol Becker McGaugh Award was established in 2003 by Carol Joyce Becker McGaugh and Dr. James McGaugh. Selected by a committee appointed by the Director of the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and memory, the award recognizes juniors who conduct outstanding research in the area of the neurobiology of learning and memory. This award is presented to a student who excels in both scholarship and research and will support the student in completing research during the subsequent academic year.*

## James Tait and Judy Goodrich Award for Excellence in Neurobiology Award

**Fiona Vo**

*This award was established in 2018 by James Tait Goodrich, M.D., PhD and Mrs. Judy L. Goodrich to honor long-time mentor and friend, Dr. James McGaugh. The award recognizes an undergraduate student completing their junior year and is for outstanding achievement in neurobiology.*

## Biological Sciences Outstanding Scholar

**Emily Ma**  
**Maria Yacoub**

**Hongmei Wu**  
**Yae Eun Yoon**

*This recognition is given to students who demonstrated exemplary academic performance, as well as service to UCI and the community at large.*



## Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Scholars

**Xinyue Yang**

**Ziqing "Kayla" Yin**

## Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Awardees

**Hailin Liang**

**Yang Liu**

**Bonnie Yu**

**Zhuoyang "Oceanus" Zhang**

*The Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Scholarships were established by Dr. Ng and Mrs. Ng, their son Lester Ng, and his wife Vani Ng. Lester is an alumnus of UCI Biological Sciences, and the family wishes to award students who display excellence in academics and research, and are active in the International Students Program in the School of Biological Sciences.*

## Gale "Morrie" Granger Award

**Cuiwen Zhou**

*This award was established to support undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in the School of Biological Sciences pursuing a degree in Biological Sciences with an immunology emphasis.*

## Honors in Biological Sciences



|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Parmis Abdoli            | Jordan Jessen         |
| Alan Bao                 | Dennis Jing           |
| Meenakshi Chandrasekaran | Christopher Karma     |
| Rendell Chang            | Joanne Kim            |
| Karina Chavez            | Vanessa Lau           |
| Eric Cho                 | Anh Le                |
| Ellie Civello            | Allyson Lee           |
| Brandon Cove             | Miranda Lopez         |
| Celine Crooks            | Emily Ma              |
| Moises Esquivias         | Dylan Mai             |
| Marissa Fukunaga         | Derek Maranan         |
| Mahi Gandhi              | Katherine McCarthy    |
| Megan Garcia             | Brian McNeely         |
| Sandy Gearges            | Shreyas Melanahalli   |
| Samantha Getze           | Negar Mojgani         |
| Steven Gong              | Marianna Movsisyan    |
| Aarij Gora               | Theresa Nguyen        |
| Frances Goyokpin         | Sarah Park            |
| Lana Gross               | Maihan Phan           |
| Samy Haidar              | Cindy Phung           |
| Mariah Hernandez         | Andy Pin              |
| Tara Hosseini            | Carmen Ramirez Alonso |
| Ruth Hwang               | Anya Ramsamooj        |

## Honors in Biological Sciences

(Continued)

*Kashvi Ranjan*

*Rhaviel Rivera*

*Anahita Sadrossadat*

*Jocelyn Sagahon-Ramirez*

*Sara Samrari*

*Melanie Santamaria Roman*

*Arnav Singh*

*Marlaine Soliman*

*Elaine Tran*

*Sophia Tran*

*Christian Umemura*

*Arriya Uong*

*Justin Vien*

*Christine Vu*

*Thao Vu*

*Tianhong Wang*

*Hongmei Wu*

*Warren Yin*

*Betty Ying*

*Zhuoyang "Oceanus" Zhang*

## Honors in Neurobiology

*Mehr Bawa*

*Maria Farias De Albuquerque*

*Aya Fattah*

*Erick Ho*

*Remal Kaur*

*Nicholas Krohn*

*Christine Lee*

*Kimiya Mansour*

## Latin Honors - Cum Laude

*Arthur Atthaphol Ajjimanont*

*Sarah M. Azmy*

*Nare Badalyan*

*Alan Quy Khoa Bao*

*Huiyi Bao*

*Mehr Kaur Bawa*

*Kavya Kala Bhaskaran*

*Serena Bhaskerrao*

*Jacklin Pearl Chang*

*Rendell Chang*

*Hsiu-An Cheng*

*Kyle Cody Chi*

Sherry Ying Chiu  
Megan Jun Chow  
Brennan Michael Chuang  
Ellie Rose Civello  
Christine N. Doan  
Saba Emamifar  
Farah Eihab Eskender  
Aya Fattah  
Anakin Paul Fenton  
Cara Marie Fong  
Brandon Justin Galero  
Mahi Milan Gandhi  
Megan Angelica Garcia  
Samantha Ky Getze  
Steven Gong  
Akshita Gorantla  
Mike Yitao Guo  
Samy Haidar  
Nicholas Nghia Han  
Mariah Christine Hernandez  
Phuong Minh Huu Ho  
Manuel Joseph Holguin  
Calvin Huang  
Yeagyeong Hwang  
Ko Eun Jeon  
Jordan Hattan Jessen

Amjad Kanj Y. Basha Zada  
Christopher Karma  
Remal Kaur  
Daisy Hannah Minju Kim  
Joanne Sun Ah Kim  
Samantha Vianne Kim  
Nicholas Adam Krohn  
Alvin Le  
Ngoc Hong Diep Le  
Jonathan Jinho Lee  
Madeline Jihee Lee  
Rhayne Lee  
Sean Seiyoon Lee  
Jonas Li  
Kyle Qixin Li  
Derrick Chengruei Lin  
Jackie Lu  
Jackie Lu  
Jenny Chien Liu  
Kimiya Mansour  
Matthew D. Martinez  
Jineen T. Mashayekh  
Katherine Mar McCarthy  
Armand Minasian  
Kaley Mitchell  
Negar Mojgani



## Latin Honors - Cum Laude

### (Continued)

Chandni Harish Nadasia  
Farnoush Nasouri  
Catherine Cat Trinh Ngo  
Drew Van Ngo  
Andre Kien Nguyen  
Andrew Thien Nguyen  
Mary Hong-An Nguyen  
Tam Minh Nguyen  
Theresa Thu Nguyen  
Vidisha Pravinbhai Patel  
Paige Ashley Petersen  
Johnny Uy Pham  
Kylee Gi Pham  
Maihan Phan  
Andy Prosvey Pin  
Aanan Ramanathan  
Carmen Ramirez Alonso  
Shannon Noguera Raymundo  
Farnaz Rezwana  
Bita Sadrossadat  
Arturo Salazar  
Vanessa Saldivar  
Melanie Ming Sam

Seyedamirhossein Shoaee Moafi  
Arnav Anurag Singh  
Claire Elizabeth Stewart  
Amanda D. Su  
Ashley Nicole Sue  
Jillian Kiyomi Takemura  
Deavin Francis Tendean  
Myra Rose Thai  
Dustin F. Tran  
Sophia Phuong Tran  
Trish Ngoc-Tram Tran  
Cristian Varela  
David Manuel Villaseñor  
Thao Nhu Vu  
Christina Alysa Vuong  
Hans Christian Atticus Westenburg  
Elizabeth Lixian Wiriadinata  
Hongmei Wu  
Sage Catherine Wu  
Isoo Yoon  
Paul Armen Zakarian  
Hanzhi Zhang  
Sebastian Zolog

## Latin Honors - Magna Cum Laude

*Parmis Abdoli*

*Arham Nadeem Aijaz*

*Abigail L. Buckle*

*Ryan Daniel Chapin*

*Celine Heather-Ann Crooks*

*Neeyaz Cyrus*

*Jimmy Viet Dinh*

*Amin Adam Eghbalian*

*Sandy Nader Adly Gearges*

*Aidan Arthur Gelston*

*Aarij Asghar Gora*

*Katherine Hanna*

*Yedam Hong*

*Michael Hernandez Iguban*

*Hannah Xiao Fan Jian*

*Yuanqi Jing*

*Jack Riddick Kennaday*

*Mark Thomas Kim*

*Puja Vrinda Kulkarni*

*Taylor Minh Le*

*Vy Hoang Thao Le*

*Jonathan Gabriel Lopez*

*Breanna Lujan*

*Sophia Jenruh Ma*

*Dina Mir Babaei*

*Shabnam Moghareh Dehkordi*

*J. Isaac Mora*

*Halyma V. Nguyen*

*Nathan Duc-Minh Nguyen*

*Nhat Minh Nguyen*

*Truc Thi Anh Nguyen*

*Hina Parag Patel*

*Keith Kamlesh Ray*

*Alejandra Jakeline Reyes*

*Wendy Situ*

*Adolfo Torres*

*Natalie Kathryn Tran*

*Joshua Matthew Valenzuela*

*Adriana Patricia Villarruel*

*Steven Thien Vu*

*Angelina Tzu-Han Wang*

*Tianhong Wang*

*Erik George Wilfley*

## Latin Honors - Summa Cum Laude

*John Anthony Abdelmalek  
Mohammed Faris Abouchaleh  
Eliad Amini  
Hajar Bariami  
Meenakshi Chandrasekaran  
Brandon Jacob Cove  
Khuong Trong Dinh  
Jaycee August Fahrner  
Tiana Mai-Thy Ha  
Solomon Hsu  
Jonard Pening Ingal  
Diana Donya Janinejad  
Hashem Kalthoum  
Ryan Weiyuan Lee*

*Henry Lin  
Michelle Ly  
Brian Garrett McNeely  
Farnaz Nabavi Larijani  
Angelique Luna Nguyen  
Anya Ramsamooj  
Anahita Sadrossadat  
Joshua Nolan Sargeant  
Craig Alexander Sutkin  
Justin Vien  
Warren Yin  
Nikki Young  
Zaki Fares Zeidan*

# Give the gift of discovery.

Heartfelt appreciation to those who have  
generously supported our school:

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Monica Daley, PhD

Kyle Farol

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Dr. M. Marlene Godoy

Gale "Morrie" & Barbara Granger

Douglas & Kimberly Granger

Steven Granger & Elizabeth Thomas

William Holcomb

Carol & James McGaugh

Larry Mehlman

Raju Metherate, PhD

Edward Mittleman

Janice & William Morrow

Dr. Lionel & Fay Ng

Lester & Vani Ng

David Redfield

Craig Walsh, PhD

Marcelo Wood, PhD

Mike Yassa, PhD

**To learn how you can help further our mission of  
education and research excellence, please contact:**

**Denise Khaw**

**Director of Development**

**dkhaw@uci.edu | 949.824.2734**