



**UC Irvine**

Charlie Dunlop School of  
Biological Sciences

**UNDERGRADUATE  
HONORS  
CONVOCATION**

**2025**

**JUNE 15, 2025 | 9:00 AM | UCI STUDENT CENTER**

# Program

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Frank LaFerla, PhD**

Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Dean and  
Distinguished Professor

## Undergraduate Honors Convocation Speaker

**Raju Metherate, PhD**

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education

## Procession of Students

## Closing Remarks

**Frank LaFerla, PhD**

Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Dean and  
Distinguished Professor

## Reception

# Undergraduate Honors Convocation Awards

## Dean's Award for Excellence in Research

**Daniel Izrailevsky**

**Hanh Nguyen**

**Elise Nguyen**

**Jimmy Tadros**

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

## Excellence in Research Dean's Poster Award

**Brinda Devireddy**

**Ngoc Bao Nguyen**

**Freddy Gonzalez**

**Adalmina Sarkar**

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

## Robert Ernst Prize in Biological Sciences

**Isabella Buenaventura**

**Anjali Madisetti**

**Nolee Bugarin**

**Lauren Nishitani**

**Alivia Dougherty**

**Carmen Ott**

**Angel Lai**

*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.*

## Howard Schneiderman Prize

**Veonna Bolisay**

**Tara Jennings**

*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.*



## Honors in Biological Sciences

John Arriola  
Agnes Biju  
Veonna Bolisay  
Isabella Buenaventura  
Khang Bui  
Ayisha Bushra  
Alexandria Cantos  
Antonia Cheong  
Cecilia Chiou  
Tiffany Chu  
Timothy Chu  
Sebastien Colobong  
Brandon Dang  
Briana De Jesus  
Katelyn Diune  
Atrin Dizehchi  
Farimah Fanaei  
Gabriel Gadia  
Diya Garg  
Jocelyn Ha  
Tyler Huang  
Krystal Huynh  
Matthew Huynh  
Matthew Ibrahim  
Daniel Izrailevsky  
Tara Jennings

Vanessa Johnson  
Varleen Kaur  
Jeremy Kim  
Lauren Kim  
Yeojin Kim  
Isa Kitagawa  
Genie Kostalnick  
Danica Kwan  
Lauren Lau  
Nicole Lav  
Esther Lee  
Ryan Lee  
Nicholas Lew  
Junyi Li  
Renee Lotfy  
Aisha Malik  
Caleb Martinez  
Minas Minasyan  
Jazmyn Mulford  
Andrew Nasr  
Anh Nguyen  
Anton Nguyen  
Bryan Nguyen  
Katelyn Nguyen  
Madison Nguyen  
Ngoc Nguyen

## Honors in Biological Sciences

(Continued)

Ngoc-Han Nguyen  
Seraphina Nguyen  
Sydney Nguyen  
Vananh Nguyen  
Matthew Noh  
William Oertel  
Carmen Ott  
Mina Palaniappan  
Arjun Panchagatti  
Andrea Pasaboc  
Krutik Patel  
Anamika Paul  
Rosalyn Pham  
Shannon Phan  
Helia Rahimian  
Shiraz Rezaei  
Ryan Salehi  
Hasan Salim  
Anushka Singhal

Stephanie Sison  
Jimmy Tadros  
Tessa Than  
Primrose Thavornthon  
Emily Tjon  
Vivian Tran  
Davina Trinh  
Shireen Turner  
Ethan Vien  
Ngan Vo  
Sizhe Wang  
Yoav Weber  
Gretchen Wu  
Sarah Yamamoto  
Laura Yontz  
Brian Yu  
Ally Yuen  
Junan Zhu

## Honors in Neurobiology

Nolee Bugarin  
Anthony Chau  
Izzah Kamran  
Alicia Lin

Katie O'gara  
Neeraj Thiagarajan

## Brian Atwood Scholarship

**Amanda Fang**

**Ritwik Kumar**

*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.*

## Robert H. Avnet Memorial Scholarship

**Anh Nguyen**

**VanAnh Nguyen**

*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

**Connor Coscolluela**

**Justin Quan**

*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.*

# Kyle Farol Memorial Award

## **Michelle Zheng**

*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 Endowed Scholarship

## **Luna Witchey**

*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.*

# Carol Becker McGaugh Award

## **Freddy Gonzalez**

## **Lauren Nishitani**

## **Nicholas Lew**

*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.*



## Carol and James McGaugh Award

**Alan Mai**

**Hannah Vu**

**Cindy Pham**

*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.*

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

**Amanda Fang**

**Donya Mohammadi**

**Déja Lee**

*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.*

## Friends of the CNLM

**Alexis Madrid**

**Athena Nguyen**

*These awards are funded by annual contributions from the Friends of the CNLM. The purpose of the awards is to provide financial assistance to students while they perform research in CNLM laboratories over the summer. Awards will be based primarily on evidence of excellence in undergraduate laboratory research and*

## Laurence J. Mehlman Endowed Memorial Scholarship Award

**Grant Lai**

**Sydney Nguyen**

*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.*

## Edward Mittleman Memorial Scholarship

**Jacob Matityahu**

*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.*

## Gale “Morrie” Granger Award

**Simon Li**

*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.*

## Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Scholarship Award

**Jessie Yuxin Chen**

**Areej Shaikh**

**Saasha Gajjaer**

**Janice Zhang**

**Maxim Pachnev**

*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.*



## Jayne Unzelman Scholarship Award

**Varleen Kaur**

**Helia Rahimian**

**Jazmyn Mulford**

*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.*

## Biological Sciences Outstanding Scholar

**Farimah Fanaei**

**Diya Garg**

**Gabriel Gadia**

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



## Latin Honors - Cum Laude

<i>Kristine Acero</i>	<i>Starling Gerard</i>
<i>Mehrad Aflatouni</i>	<i>Viktor Gevirtzman</i>
<i>Yusuf Ahmed</i>	<i>Darya Ghaffari</i>
<i>Adebayo Akinwale</i>	<i>Matin Ghalambor</i>
<i>Sameen Andar</i>	<i>Alexander Ginther</i>
<i>Nanour Arakelian</i>	<i>Grace Mariel Gomez</i>
<i>Hanna Atif</i>	<i>Chloe Herrick</i>
<i>Aldrei Barroga</i>	<i>Andrew Ho</i>
<i>Harman Bath</i>	<i>Lauren Hoofard</i>
<i>Michael Belardi</i>	<i>Niyousha Houshyar</i>
<i>Daniel Bernal</i>	<i>Owen Hsieh</i>
<i>Ria Bhakta</i>	<i>Mia Tra Huynh</i>
<i>Zoya Brewer</i>	<i>Mohamad Ibrahim</i>
<i>Khang Bui</i>	<i>Shady Ibrahim</i>
<i>Mario Camacho</i>	<i>Naila Iniguez</i>
<i>Kai Cao</i>	<i>Josh Jung</i>
<i>Avisa Charmchi</i>	<i>Abigail Kim</i>
<i>Yaowei Chen</i>	<i>Lauren Kim</i>
<i>Dora Cheng</i>	<i>Yejin Kim</i>
<i>Caitlin Cheung</i>	<i>Keaton Knowles</i>
<i>Chloe Elizabeth Cho</i>	<i>Stack Knowles</i>
<i>Alexander Chopra</i>	<i>Kavin Krishnam</i>
<i>Briana De Jesus</i>	<i>Cassidy Kuo-Grzegorzczak</i>
<i>Cassidy Doan</i>	<i>Minh Le</i>
<i>Zachary Dong</i>	<i>Ryan Le</i>
<i>Kathy Duong</i>	<i>Hannah Lee</i>
<i>Cameron Eslamian</i>	<i>Jae Lee</i>
<i>Kristen Fong</i>	<i>Nicholas Lee</i>
<i>Diya Garg</i>	<i>Faith Luu</i>
<i>Erica Gee</i>	<i>Albert L</i>

## Latin Honors - Cum Laude

Leone Manaloto

Farris Munawar

Maryam Nabihah

Sean Narkhede

Andrew Nasr

Bryan Nguyen

Jolie Nguyen

Karen Nguyen

Katelyn Nguyen

Marilyn Nguyen

Miachanel Nguyen

Seraphina Nguyen

Sydney Nguyen

Vananh Nguyen

Ryan Nguyen

Natalia Opel

Jasmine Pan

Arjun Panchagatti

Andrea Pasaboc

Arnav Patel

Kirti Patel

Krutik Patel

Swena Patel

Anamika Paul

Chris Paylaga

Grace Peterson

Rosalyn Pham

Thao Pham

Ethan Phelps

Cassidy Prestwood

Eesa Quraishi

Helia Rahimian

Shiraz Rezaei

Carmen Rodriguez

Samantha Rone

Saylob Safi

Nelly Mokammel Safi

Hasan Salim

Joia Sivan Capocchi

Nikole Su

Dylan Thai

Pawanjot Toor

Brian Tran

Britney Tran

Lan Tran

Richie Truong

Katelyn Tseng

An-Vi Van

Aidan Van Opdorp

Madison Vo

Melina Vom Saal

Yihan Wang

Katelyn Won

Gretchen Wu

Sarah Yamamoto

Kenji Yogi

Olivia Yoshii

Brian Yu

Grace Yue

Felice Zheng

# Latin Honors - Magna Cum Laude

Samir Ali

Beshoy Barsoum

Isabella Buenaventura

Daniel Chairunas

Cecilia Chiou

Timothy Chu

David Comandante

Jacob Compton

Andrew Diep

Caitlyn Do

Charmaine Eclevia

Penelope El

Tyler Escarcega

Farimah Fanaei

Avrena Ghatas

Mary Ghattes

Neha Gujjula

Wesley Han

Kayla Huynh

Ashley Ibrahim

Daniel Izrailevsky

Savannah Jaeger

Zakary Jefferis

Izzah Kamran

Musab Kazmi

Tyler Koster

Grant Lai

Evelyn Le

Jessica Le

Nina Le

Olivia Le

Junyi Li

Alicia Lin

Renee Lotfy

Andrew Luu

Kevin Ma

Michael Mgerian

Donya Mohammadi

Truong Ngo

Amy Nguyen

Anton Nguyen

Catherine Nguyen

Gavin Nguyen

Ngoc-Han Nguyen

Tin Nguyen

William Oertel

Nicholas Peterson

Serena Phelps

Niyati Reddy

Siana Scheidegger

Harel Sims

David Stenzel

Aaron Tavari

Tessa Than

Primrose Thavornthon

Emily Tjon

Sergio Torrico Jr.

Hoang Tran

## Latin Honors - Magna Cum Laude (Continued)

Alyson Tsai  
Regine Ulangca  
Kevin Vu  
Rushika Weerackoon  
Victor Wen  
Prescott Wiryadinata  
Benjamin Yee  
Dengxin Yu  
Katherine Yu  
Junan Zhu  
Sergio Torrico Jr.  
Hoang Tran  
Alyson Tsai  
Regine Ulangca  
Kevin Vu  
Rushika Weerackoon  
Victor Wen  
Prescott Wiryadinata  
Benjamin Yee  
Dengxin Yu  
Katherine Yu  
Junan Zhu

## Latin Honors - Summa Cum Laude

Ava Ahanchi  
Alizeh Ahmedani  
Nika Balalaei Someh Saraei  
Danae Bosch  
Elionel Botello-Cornejo  
Danielle Chow  
Atrin Dizehchi  
Rabi Elkhoury  
Gabriel Gadia  
Kenny Ho  
Jeffrey Hoang  
Matthew Ibrahim  
Vanessa Johnson  
Donna Kim  
Angel Lai  
Sophia Laurel  
Esther Lee  
Josh Moore  
Alisina Moshtari Doust  
Michelina Nguyen  
Trina Nguyen  
Matthew Noh  
Alireza Oladaskari  
Christopher Panelli  
Minh Pham  
Anshiqbal Singh  
Jimmy Tadros  
Catalina Thomas  
Lily Tran-Phung  
Ethan Vien

The Latin Honors distinction for Spring and Summer graduates will be finalized after the final term grades are posted.





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# Give the gift of discovery.

Heartfelt appreciation to those who have  
generously supported our school:

Dr. M. Marlene Godoy Endowed Fund

Avnet Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Larry Mehlman Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Edward Mittleman Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Atwood Family Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Scholarship

Robert Ernst Plant Biology Endowed Award

Kyle Farol Memorial Endowed Undergraduate Student Award

Gale "Morrie" Granger Endowed Fund

Dr. William F. Holcomb Scholarship

Carol Becker McGaugh Award

Carol and James McGaugh Award

The James Tait Goodrich Award for Excellence in Neurobiology in

Honor of James McGaugh

Friends of the Center for Neurobiology, Learning and Memory

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

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