



VIBES AND STUFF

Graduate Student Affairs Newsletter

Did you know....

This year R'Pantry has come up with a new way to provide accessible meal support for all UCR students. R'Pantry has partnered with Everytable to provide **2 free Everytable meals to students per week** (one meal per day). Everytable menus rotate monthly and include pescatarian, vegetarian and vegan options!

The SOE Graduate Student Affairs Office will be sending out quarterly newsletters as part of our ongoing efforts to foster community among scholars and faculty. These newsletters will be sent out at the start of each quarter.

If you have any specific topics you'd like to see featured in our next newsletter, please feel free to reach out to graduate student assistant Nicole Colchete at: ncolc001@ucr.edu.

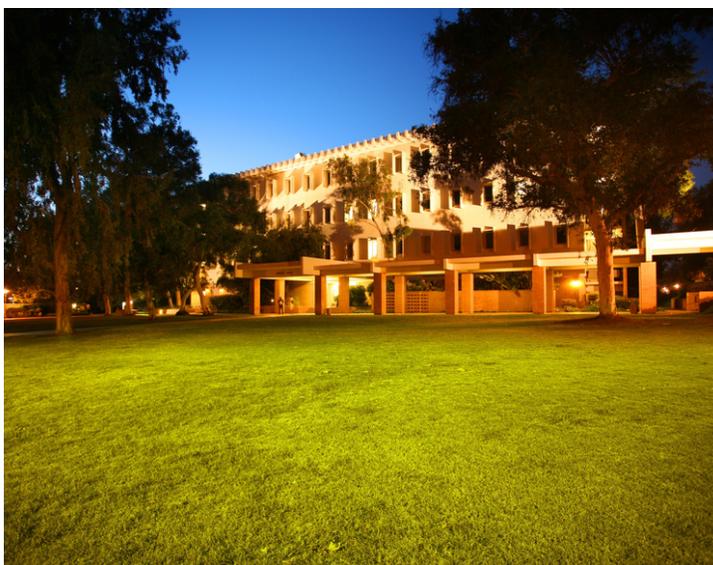


Everytable meal distributions are available at Costo Hall 110:

Mondays and Tuesdays 11 AM–2 PM
 Wednesdays 11 AM– 1 PM

Bring your student ID to pick up a free healthy and delicious meal!

Find the monthly menu and schedule [here](#).



Upcoming SOE Events

Graduate Student Workshop: Identifying and Working Towards your Research Agenda: Lessons from Conducting Dissertation Research

In this workshop designed for graduate students, Dr. Deborah Southern will guide students on how to identify and develop their research agenda.

May 14th at 11 AM in Sproul 1224

[RSVP here](#)

SOE End of the Year Event: This year's end of the year celebration will be at Placita Restaurant from 5:30 PM-8:00 PM. Come celebrate your progress with fellow graduate students, Dean Spencer, and SOE faculty! This is a free event. Come hungry – Mexican food and drinks are included at the event!

[RSVP to attend the end of year event](#)



Social Events Off Campus

Back to the Grind coffee shop has a variety of weekly social events that are a great way to connect with the greater Riverside community and other graduate students in the area. The weekly events include open mic nights, UCR science nights, jazz nights, and more! Find the full schedule of events [here](#).

Commencement 2024

UCR's 70th Commencement ceremony will take place in June! Come celebrate undergraduate students, classmates and colleagues' achievements at either the hooding ceremony, commencement ceremony, or both. The schedule for graduation is below:

Graduate Division Hooding Ceremony

June 1st at 9:00 AM

All Ph.D. degree and M.F.A. degree candidates

Location: *Student Recreation Center*

Commencement

June 17th at 9:00 AM

Bachelor's, Master's, and Teacher Credential candidates

Location: *Toyota Arena*

Find more information [here](#).

Student Spotlight: Arneshia Bryant-Horn



Arneshia is a third-year PhD student in the educational psychology who studies the intersection of sports and STEM education. Specifically, her work focuses on improving STEM career awareness among student athletes through meaningful experiences with professional sports teams.

Q: What inspired you to pursue this particular area of education research?

A: I was inspired by my younger family members that played Division I sports and are struggling with their identity because they never considered any career outside of being a professional athlete.

Q: What are the broader implications of your work for education and beyond?

A: I think that the broader implications would be to decrease the amount of STEM jobs that are unfulfilled. I want these student-athletes to believe in themselves and see themselves in STEM positions. This could potentially combat the identity crisis they often experience and mental health issues they may experience such as depression. Many college athletes struggle with their identity and mental health when they are not drafted to play at the professional level. It is always good to have options that you can leverage.

Q: How does your research fit into the SOE's broader equity-focused mission?

A: My study is aimed at low-income, under-represented youth. This allows students who need resources the most to have access to them. There are some student-athletes that live within a city their whole life and cannot afford to attend camps/events that professional sports teams host. In my study, I am removing those barriers of finances and transportation to help student-athletes live out their dreams of interacting with some of their favorite professional sports teams and players.

Q: What are your professional goals?

A: My professional goal is to be a college professor. I want to teach others and have an impact on their development as critical thinkers. I find myself always wanting to mingle with students and be involved in their thought-provoking conversations. I love when students have "a-ha" moments and you can physically see them making a connection in their brains. I think I am best suited to teach cognitive science in education classes or classes about human development.

Q: What impact on education do you hope to make throughout your career?

A: I hope to impact low income underrepresented students. I identify as a low-income underrepresented first generation student myself. I think that you have to be the difference that you want to see. It is the responsibility of those who come before to make the road easier for those who are to follow. I want to make it so that all students, regardless of their background or SES status have the opportunity to pursue higher education with fewer obstacles than I faced.

Arneshia's research underscores the importance of exposure and representation for student athletes in achieving equity, which bridges an existing gap in education research. Arneshia would like to give a shout out to Dr. Anthony Muro Villa and Dr. Marsha Ing for their unwavering support, along with her partner De'andre and her sons, Devin and Ayden, for their love and encouragement.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Marsha Ing



Dr. Marsha Ing serves as an associate professor of educational psychology in the SOE. Dr. Ing is a quantitative researcher who aims to develop equitable assessment tools that can be used to break the historical patterns of bias in measurement and assessment. Below find Dr. Ing's personal narrative of her academic journey and the invaluable advice she has for graduate students:

Q: What inspired you to pursue this particular area of education research?

A: Probably everyone says this about their particular area of education research but measurement and assessment are fundamental. I had (and continue to have) really great mentors and colleagues who inspired me to think together with others who were different from me in terms of methodological orientations. I grew interested in how methods could have a huge impact on the nature and quality of the research. There is great value in collaborating with others to foster a deep appreciation for the full range of methods within the field of education research.

Q: What are the key findings of your work that you would like to highlight and what are some areas of uncertainty or unanswered questions that your research has raised?

A: One unanswered question is how to support people to design and use measures that are appropriate for their intended purposes. There is research on how to do this, but it is difficult to put it into practice because it requires ongoing collaborations among researchers and practitioners.

Q: How does your research contribute to addressing broader scientific questions or societal challenges within education?

*A: An ongoing challenge in education is using measures in ways that are appropriate. I am the corresponding author on a manuscript that was just accepted that describes this challenge for measures that are used in elementary mathematics. The work we did for this manuscript is part of a larger **project** that considers validity issues for measures used in mathematics education. Current policies and practices rely on findings from measures that lack sufficient validity evidence. Yikes right? So this research contributes to this broader issue and makes recommendations to support mathematics education researchers to continue to take steps to improve validity evidence in the design and use of measures.*

Q: What advice would you give to graduate students aspiring to pursue a career in academia as research or teaching faculty?

A: Be open to different ways of thinking as you develop your expertise in a particular area. For example, most graduate students learn about measurement through reading articles that are in their particular field of study. That's certainly one way to gain knowledge about measurement. But consider how others think about measurement. For example, from reading articles in your particular field, you might get the sense that you need to do factor analysis to show that your measure is valid. Consider that there are other fields of study that have long called for improvements to current practices. What you read about in articles in your particular area may not be what is the most current thinking in other areas. Instead, read more broadly and talk to folks who are outside of your field to learn more about how others think about measurement and assessment. You might come to realize that your success in academia as research or teaching faculty will require you to intellectually engage beyond your field of study to succeed.

While Dr. Ing does not currently have any funding for graduate students, she is currently working on grant proposals that address measurement challenges in mathematics education. If you're interested in learning about the grant writing process and gaining hands-on experience in grant writing, reach out to Dr. Ing at marshai@ucr.edu to offer your assistance as a volunteer.

Dr. Ing's dedication to her students and her commitment to advancing education equity through her scholarship is evident to those who work with her. If you have ever had the pleasure of collaborating with Dr. Ing, you've witnessed her remarkable work ethic, efficiency, and unwavering advocacy for her students.

CAREER CENTER RESOURCES

The Career Center is not just for undergraduates – there are many graduate student resources available to Master’s and PhD students. Sign up for a career counseling appointment [here](#).

For example, through the Career Center students can access [MyIDP](#), which stands for “my individual development plan”. It is a web-based career planning and goal setting tool tailored specifically to meet the needs of graduate students.

MyIDP helps graduate students explore career possibilities, set career goals, and develop a personalized plan to achieve those goals.



To provide graduate students with this support, MyIDP provides assessments to help students identify their skills, interests, and values. Potential career paths are then suggested based on the results of the assessments.

MyIDP also offers other resources for career development, including articles, videos, and tips from professionals in various fields.



Employment Opportunities

Looking for employment for Spring 2024 and/or Summer 2024? Make sure to check out Handshake, which is an online employment website designed to connect students with employers for jobs, external fellowships, and internship opportunities. On Handshake, you can create profiles showcasing your skills, experiences, and career interests to market yourself to potential employers.

UCR consistently posts GSA positions, GSR-ships, TA-ships, associate teaching positions, and other employment opportunities on Handshake.

Log into your Handshake account using your UCR credentials [here](#).



Resources Highlight

GradSuccess will be hosting two wellness events this quarter.

A Stress Relief Fair will be held on Wednesday, April 24th in the physics courtyard from 3:00 PM-5:00 PM. This event will have food, massages, therapy pets, and other activities designed to help you relax.

In collaboration with CARE, GradSuccess will be hosting a “Plant Care as Self-Care” event. This event is scheduled for May 1st. Find updates about this event and other wellness events through GradSuccess’ [padlet](#).

Find more resources through The Well [here](#).

Upcoming Deadlines

Written Exam Deadline: April 1st

Apply to Advance to Candidacy: April 1st

Apply to Graduate: April 8th

Thesis/ Dissertation Format Review

Deadline: May 31st

Analytical Report Deadline: June 12th

Final Deadline: June 14th by noon

For more information, go to UCR’s deadline and procedures page [here](#).

Program Milestones

Written Exam Dates: May 17th–20th, 2024. Find more information about the exam [here](#).

Oral Exam Committee Nominations: Two weeks prior to the scheduled exam. The nominations must be completed through R’Grad via R’Web.

Tip: Since the oral exam dates must be scheduled with committee members, using a [doodle poll](#) to make the process quick and efficient.

Brown Bag Session

Dr. Soojin Park previously hosted the writing cafes and is now offering a Brown Bag session, so if you’re looking for community around research, join us!

April 18th – 12–2pm in 1224 Sproul Hall

May 9th – 12–2pm in 1224 Sproul Hall

June 6th – 12–2pm in 1224 Sproul Hall

RSVP for the brown bag [here](#).



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to the following Graduate Student Presenters at this year's AERA Conference:

*Anna Acha – Samia Alkam – Alondra Carter – Edwin Rivera
Castellanos – Eric Davidson – Emily Dech – Re’Nyqua
Farrington – Dresden June Frazier – Katria Ly – Corinna Ott
Nathaly Martinez – Tori Porter – Ariana Romero
Pablo Saldana – Briana Savage – Xinyao Zheng*

Find more information about student and faculty AERA 2024 presentations [here](#).

If you are attending this year's AERA conference, don't miss the University of California reception on Friday, April 12th from 7:00 PM–9:00 PM at the downtown Sheraton on the mezzanine level.



Congratulations to Tori Porter for receiving the Dr. D-L Stewart Research Award which recognizes the completion of or ongoing research on LGBTQ+ issues, especially research that supports, engages, and lifts up QTBIPOC people and increases their life chances in post-secondary spaces.



If you would like to share an accomplishment to be featured in the next SOE newsletter, **fill out this form**.



Past Events

GSA's Grad Social at Getaway Cafe (pictured above)

Educational Psychology Talk and Qualitative Workshop with guest speaker from Vanderbilt University, Dr. Melissa Gesalfi

GSA's Grad Bash at the Getaway Cafe (pictured above)

SOE Scholars Network Graduate Student Academic Publishing Panel

Winter quarter graduate student SOE happy hour with Dean Spencer and faculty at The Barn