Vision Seminar: University Honors





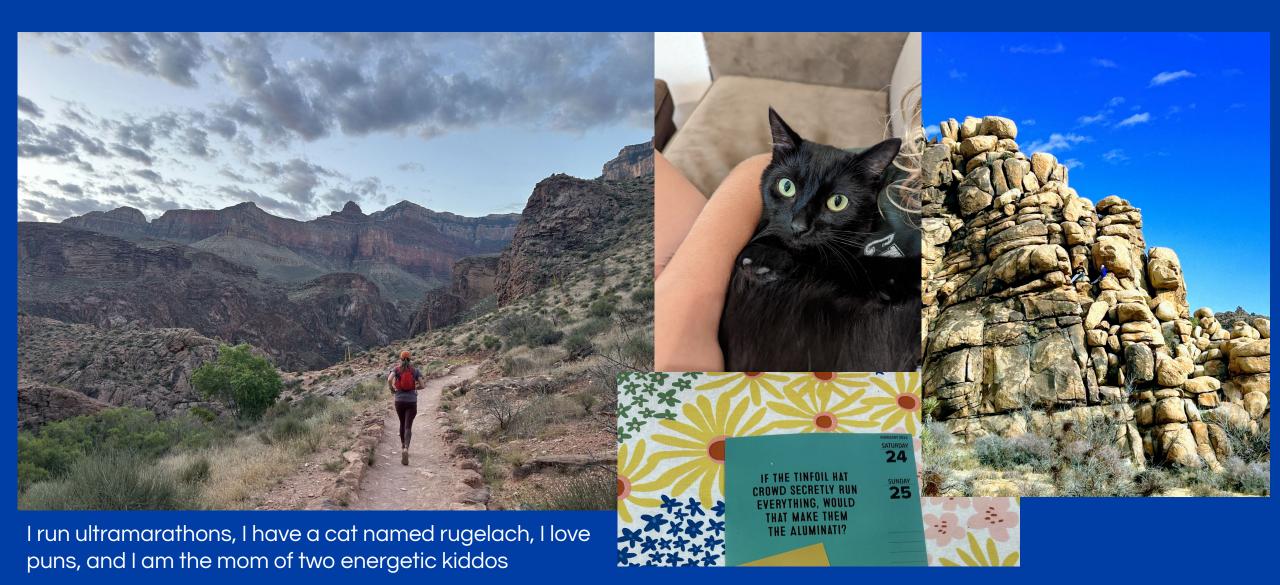
Alejandra Dubcovsky (she/her) is a professor of history at the University of California, Riverside. BA and PhD from UC Berkeley, and a Masters in Library and Information Science from San Jose State. First book: *Informed Power: Communication in the Early American South* (HUP 2016), won the 2016 Michael V. R. Thomason Book Award from the Gulf South Historical Association. Second book, Talking Back: *Native Women and the Making of the Early South* (YUP 2023) the Mary Nickliss Prize from the Organization of American Historians (2024), the Rembert Patrick Award from the Florida Historical Society, William L. Proctor Award from the Historic St. Augustine Research Institute, and the Emory Elliott Book Award from Center of Ideas and Society.

Two collaborative language recovery and reclamation projects. One called *Ticha* which works with community members and a team of linguists and historians in Oaxaca focused on Colonial Valley Zapotec, and just received an 180,000\$ grant from the National Historical Publications & Records Commission. The other, which received the New Directions Mellon Fellowship (\$231,000), to collaborate with linguist Aaron Broadwell at UF, work with archival materials, and Native communities to learn the Timucua language. This collaborative and public facing work can be seen: https://hebuano.com/

Also part of a collaborative grant with UNAM called "Mujeres en los márgenes: Relaciones de género y poder en Iberoamérica" funded by Programa de Apoyos a Proyectos de Investigación e Innovación Tecnológica.









University Honors Program

The Program

UCR Honors (since 1998), current enrollment 900+ and Growing!

Mission of University Honors

"University Honors engages a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff in the creation of global citizens through high-impact experiences that emphasize original scholarship, contribution, creativity, and innovation."

The honors program provides opportunities for measurably broader, deeper, and more complex learning-centered and learner-directed experiences for its students. Honor students and faculty are carefully selected and form a multi-disciplinary cohort dedicated to achieving exceptional learning and personal standards by promoting scholarship, engagement, diversity, and experience learning.

UCR's 2030 goals:

- II. Invest in the success of the people who teach, do research, work, learn at UCR and live in the area. Get the most out of your UC Experience!
 - Improve undergrad student success and experience
- III. Expand the visibility and scope of influence of UCR locally, nationally, and globally.





2019-2020 Annual Report of Honors Program, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N26ErMH5Rp88jRwRAeVjQgh FPZiCoQ1U/view



The UC Riverside University Honors Program can be a strong recruitment and retention tool for the university, especially because the University has a large number of first-generation California students. The Honors Program can provide a strong liberal arts education for students with high academic potential and provide them unique opportunities for intensive interdisciplinary and disciplinary education. The University certainly can make use of its Honors Program to promote quality learning campus-wide, not merely as one more access to a college degree. In addition, an Honors Program can provide a stronger intellectual climate on campus.

National Collegiate Honors Council
 External Review Report (2014)



Program Structure

A multi-year learning community with a challenging and diverse curriculum, fosters interdisciplinary perspectives, helps develop student-faculty interaction, prepares undergraduates for research, creative activity, or experiential learning (or a combination), and culminates in a capstone project and presentation.

Points of Entry
Incoming First-Year, Rising Second-Year, Rising
Third-Year, Incoming Transfer Students.
Qualifications: High Scholarship Record, Leadership,
Community Involvement, and interest in research or
creative activity.

Courses & Experiences

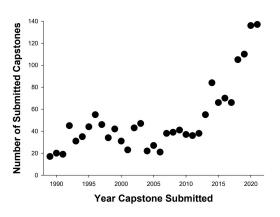
Courses: Ignition Seminars, "H" Courses (HIST015H), HNPG 002W - Principles of Civic Engagement, HNPG 149 - Introduction to the Honors Capstone, HNPG 150 - Research and Creative Activity Across the Disciplines (proposal), HNPG 198 and 199 Capstone.

Community: Meeting with Honor Ambassadors, Honors Counselors, Meetings with Faculty, Meetings with cohort.

Capstone

Capstone demonstrates evidence of originality, creativity, and innovation. Capstone demonstrates evidence of superior academic merit & has supporting evidence and body of knowledge. The methodology and approaches appropriate for topic and discipline. It explains it conclusions and implications.

Honors Capstone Projects Completed





Captones Completed by Years, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YS-BzJ1_fPflDZiUZ7YQRGAYKbcRTRWS/view



Collaborate & Lead

Operations

Collaborate with Administrative
Director, Assistant Director,
counselors, office manager,
Honors faculty, Honors faculty in
living-learning communities in the
UCR residence halls. Work closely
with the Vice Provost and Dean of
Undergraduate Education,
Academic Senate, International
Affairs, Residential Life,
department chairs, faculty, and
other stakeholders.



Classes & Curriculum

Teach courses, including HNPG 2W, HNPG 149, HNPG 150, HNPG 198H, and HNPG 199H. Review and update curricular requirements to ensure not only a stimulating curriculum, but also compliance. Monitor requirements for admission, retention, and graduation within University Honors. Promote goal of four-year graduation and increase percentage of students who complete capstone projects.



Budgets & Planning

Coordinate with the
Administrative Director of
University Honors to manage
annual budgets, support
professional development, and
provide visibility of the
programs to campus partners
and upper administration. Lead
the evaluation and data
management of University
Honors. Identify and lead grant
opportunities in support of
University Honors & the
Division of Undergraduate
Education.



STUDENTS

Develop a dynamic and interdisciplinary program that promotes high-impact practices. Encourage students to get the most from their UCR experience by actively participating and collaborating as informed members of local and global communities. Help students develop the confidence to make independent decisions and challenge themselves as they achieve their personal, academic, and/or career goals.

Vision Statement for University Honors Program

Vision of University Honors

"University Honors will be nationally recognized as a model college that produces graduates who are highly sought for premier opportunities and who continue to develop as lifelong learners, engaged citizens, and future leaders."

Three Pillars of Excellence: creativity & innovation, diversity & global citizenship, engagement & servingness.

Student-Focused & Student Success

You Belong! Affirm students' place, contributions, and engagements in UCR's diverse learning community of peers, faculty, and staff. They are the foundation of our community and the future of higher education.

Preparedness: Provide support both in and beyond the classroom, so students can develop the confidence to make independent decisions and challenge themselves, as they achieve their personal, academic, and/or career goals.

Independence: Scaffold so students can students create and present an original capstone project under the guidance of a faculty-mentor. This high-impact, educational experiences will prepare them for graduate school, professional study, and careers in the public, private, or non-profit sectors.

Succeed: Students will not just engage with, but also *produce* scholarship. Through this process, they identify, constructively discuss, and critically evaluate approaches to solve academic and societal challenges. Students are ready to contribute and collaborate as informed members of local and global communities.



How do you see the program evolving to meet the changing

needs of high-achieving students?

Foster Different Modes of Learning

- Research and Creative Scholarship "Learning in Depth"
- Diverse & Exploratory Curricula
 "Breadth, Multi- & Interdisciplinary learning"
 & "Learning by Practice"
- Service Learning and Leadership "Learning to be an active Global Citizen"
- Community "Growing, thinking, and Learning Together."







How can the program continue to attract top talent and foster a thriving community of scholars?

Engage & Connect

Increase the visibility of the Program

- Within the Program: Ambassador Program, Media Team, Audeamus
- Within UCR: Highlander Day to department presentations
- Beyond UCR: Conferences, fellowships, and leadership throughout the Inland empire and beyond

Increase Accessibility and Sustainability

Learn & Adapt

Gather, evaluate and manage data: Collaborate and Work: VPDUE, CUREL, XCITE, Library, Student Life, Academic Senate, Residential Life, International Affairs NCHC Program Reviews

Promote & Celebrate

Recognize and Validate



Overarching goals:

Encourage Students
Care for Students
Help Students Succeed

Work, Collaborate, and Learn from UCR Students



