



UCR Honors Vision Talk

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My Academic Background

- UCR Alumni '96 (B.S. Environmental Engineering; B.S. Chemistry)
 - UCR Honors Program Participant (1991-1992, Honors Director, Dr. Kathleen Harris)
 - Biology 005A student (from Assistant(!) Professor Richard Cardullo, Fall,1991)
 - UCR Learning Center Tutor (1992-1996)
 - Undergraduate Researcher (1992-1996, Chemistry (Professor Gary Scott); CE-CERT (Norbeck/Carter/Fitz)
- Caltech Grad School '01 (Ph.D. Environmental Engineering Science; minor in Chemical Engineering)
- Rejoined UCR in Jan '01 as Assistant Professor of Chemical and Environmental Engineering. Currently Professor and Chair of CEE.

My Research Background

- Manage the Atmospheric Processes Laboratory at CE-CERT
 - 46 PhD students (39 completed, 7 current)
 - ~150 undergraduate researchers
- Research focus areas
 - Secondary pollutant formation (ozone and fine PM using World's largest indoor atmospheric chemistry chamber)
 - In-use emissions (small engines; trucks; trains, planes (and automobiles); stationary sources (back-up generators; power plants); large marine engines...
 - Community based air quality (work with school districts, parents, students...)
 - Health impacts (active collaborations with School of Medicine/BREATHE)

My UCR Honors Program Background

- Asked by Dr. Cardullo to join UCR Honors program as Faculty Fellow (2016) when we were over in Olmstead Hall.
 - Taught 8 freshman ignition seminars
 - Lectured in HNPG 150 (when they had guest lecturers)
 - Taught 15 sections of HNPG 151
 - Mentored a number of Honors Capstone projects over the years
 - Worked closely with UHP director on senior design vs Capstone projects, participated in admissions,

University Honors Program

- **Mission:**

- 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.

- **Vision:**

- 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:**

- Cultivating a Culture of Contribution
- Promoting Creativity and Innovation
- Celebrating Diversity and Global Citizenship

*copy-paste from UHP website

Strengths and Achievements of UHP

- A community of scholars (~900)
 - Learning community (Honors Student Community; Living-Learning Community; Community/Faculty Engagement; Counseling)
 - Honors courses (ignition seminars (016,017,018); 002W; 149-150-198H-199H)
 - RLST012H/ETST012H; HIST010W-015W-020W
 - Honor versions of preexisting courses (e.g., Chem08H series)
 - Capstone
 - Incredible staff
 - Honors Audeamus (since 2007(!) – “Let Us Dare”)
 - Honors Ambassadors
 - UCR recruiting
 - Study Abroad, Scholarships,...

Potential Challenges/Improvements

- Excellent program that I have been proud to participate in for a number of years
 - Maintain the excellent support/advising staff (challenge)
 - Formation of an Honors College – currently dependent on engaged faculty members (faculty fellows) from other colleges, which leads to potential COI between departments/colleges and faculty fellows (improvement)
 - Continue to grow connections and understanding of University Honors with existing UCR faculty (especially for ignition seminars and capstone mentoring) – this is a program to create engagement/innovation/scholarship in diverse setting (challenge)
 - Need to increase engagement of faculty/students outside of the classroom (miss our days in Olmstead Hall) (improvement)

My (?) Vision for University Honors Program

- First, and foremost, build upon what has been established for this program over the last 30+ years
 - CREATING A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS
 - Stand by our three pillars
- Take UHP to its next natural step – to become an Honors College – foundation has been laid
 - Serving high performing students who want a greater challenge
 - Robust interdisciplinary courses including focus on leadership, research, and community engagement
 - While we are at it, engagement, engagement, engagement.....
- Work with staff and faculty fellows to identify challenges and opportunities
 - Capstone vs. Senior Design (engineering challenge)
 - Nurture students creativity (why I love HNPG150)
 - Increase student engagement outside the classroom (and of course within)
- Continue evolution of UHP to support our high-achieving students
 - Continue to develop courses/options for our students to be challenged to become the leaders of the next generation

My (?) Vision for University Honors Program

- Keys to success – attract top talent (Students, Staff, and Faculty) and foster a thriving community of scholars
 - Build upon what we already have – success breeds success
 - Listen to current students, staff, and faculty fellows – always more opportunities to build community, engagement, creativity, ...
 - Increase awareness of role of UHP within the University mission
 - Attract both 4 year and transfer students (e.g., UCR hosting)
 - Ensure that prospective students understand benefits of University Honors
 - Engagement
 - Enrichment
 - Scholarship (Research/Creative endeavors)
 - Leadership

My (?) Vision for University Honors Program

- Overarching goals

- Create an Honors College

- We have been moving towards this goal for a number of years and I would like to see us achieve this goal

- Grow awareness of University Honors across campus as a way to include more faculty in the mission

- Ostensibly, having our incredible UCR faculty engage with our incredible Honors students on their Capstone Project
 - Continue to grow campus support for University Honors – we currently engage many of our top UCR students in this program – we must do the same with our UCR faculty
 - Educate our UCR faculty on the benefits University Honors brings to their departments/colleges/UCR as a whole (recruitment of top students who will be in their majors too)

- Accessibility

- This is always a challenge. We want to continue to engage our top students while maintaining student diversity within the program. The intimate nature of the Honors setting (community of scholars) benefits from the smaller size – smart growth of the program (enabled by campus support) will increase accessibility of Honors.
 - Must also make clear that UCR Honors welcomes and supports students who wants to push themselves academically and who is willing to dedicate the time and energy required to be a truly engaged learner and scholar

Thank you for your attention!