

UCI Campuswide Honors Collegium

Honors Student Profiles

Alex is a fourth-year double major in Biomedical Engineering with a Premedical concentration and Classics from Irvine, California. He credits the wide-ranging Campuswide Honors curriculum with inspiring him to pursue a second major in Classics.

Building and energizing the honors community, Alex has been active in the Campuswide Honors Student Council, working his way up from a first-year representative to a Social Chair to the current President. He endeavors to build and strengthen the honors community through his work with prospective students as an Honors Ambassador.

“The Campuswide Honors community has encouraged me to expand my horizons and to proactively take steps to broaden my educational experience. I believe that interacting with driven peers as well as attending interdisciplinary seminars have been key elements in inspiring me to pursue a second major in Classics in addition to my Biomedical Engineering major.”

In preparation for applying to medical school, Alex has participated as a surgery-shadowing fellow in Rome and has conducted research on oxymetazoline as an adjunct for pulsed-dye laser treatment for cutaneous vascular diseases that has been published in *Lasers in Surgery and Medicine*. Alex is excited to start a new research project for his honors thesis that seeks to examine how different countries use portrayals of the Roman Empire in opera to construct their national identity and history. After graduation, he plans to obtain an M.D. to become a professor of medicine.

“Campuswide Honors has given me a fantastic learning community made of students who love learning. This program has really helped me shake up my normal major-specific curriculum in inspiring and actionable ways.”

Elijah is a fourth-year Drama and Education Sciences double major with a minor in Urban Studies, who was originally born in the Philippines and grew up in the Bay Area. He has pursued academic excellence as both a Campuswide Honors student and an Honors candidate in the Dramatic Literature, History, and Theory program as well as holding membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Having trained in the esteemed UCI Drama clown program, Elijah is an official, professional clown. He has performed as a member of Theatre Woks, an Asian Pacific Islander student theatre group; most recently acting in scenes of *M. Butterfly* for the award-winning

playwright, David Henry Hwang. A star on stage and a leader on campus, Elijah works for the UCI LGBT Resource Center and participates in the Queer & Asian club. As a Queer Philipinx, he takes enormous pride in fostering a brave space and advocating for intersectional justice for the LGBTQ+ community at UCI. Elijah seeks to earn a Ph.D. in Drama to explore theatre creation and pedagogy, ultimately working in the theatre both on and off the stage.

Erik is a third-year Physics and Mathematics double major from Modesto, California. He has relished the opportunity to study widely, taking courses in Art History, Biology, and Urban Planning & Public Policy.

Always looking for ways to mentor and help fellow students, Erik has served as a lead assistant for an introductory waves and optics course and a peer tutor for mathematical methods in physics.

Erik has been a fixture of the honors community: currently an Academic Chair on the Campuswide Honors Student Council, he plans events that promote academic and professional success. When he's not taking physics courses, he is taking fencing and tennis classes at the Anteater Recreation Center. Erik looks forward to conducting research in plasma science and fusion energy for his honors senior thesis and in his future Ph.D. studies.

“Campuswide Honors has allowed me to take interdisciplinary courses that challenged me to critically think and apply what I learn into various areas of my life. At the same time, it has allowed me to meet some of my closest friends who constantly inspire me on a daily basis. The Campuswide Honors staff have been welcoming and supportive throughout my journey here at UCI.”

“Being in Campuswide Honors has provided me with manifold opportunities to learn about the world around me, a community that allowed me to thrive in an academic setting radically different from high school, and the inspiration to achieve more than I would have otherwise.”

Isabelle is a third-year Psychology & Social Behavior and Social Ecology double major. As an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Fellow, she is investigating the effects of mood-tracking applications in the TEAM lab.

Isabelle is driven to make a difference in the UCI campus and in her community. As the Associated Students of UCI Mental Health Commissioner and a Peer Health Educator for the Center for Student Wellness and Health Promotion, she creates and oversees initiatives such as the annual Reclaim Mental Health Conference and the Behind Happy Faces community mental health curriculum.

This past summer, Isabelle broadened the scope of her impact to the international level. She volunteered at a women's empowerment farm in Nepal, and she participated in the Association of Pacific Rim Universities' Leadership Program at the University of Oregon, collaborating with students from around the world to develop workable solutions to local community issues. Isabelle hopes to obtain a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology or a Masters in Human Resources upon graduation.

Jacob is a fourth-year computer science major specializing in intelligent systems. Thanks in large part to his participation in Campuswide Honors, he holds UCI undergraduate research fellowships for two interdisciplinary projects.

Working with a professor of Cognitive Sciences, Jacob builds computational models of human visual perception and problem solving. For his Campuswide Honors thesis under the guidance of a

professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science, he creates computer simulations to investigate key philosophical questions about evolution, language, and the mind. Jacob's research on human problem solving has been presented at the Society for Mathematical Psychology and the Annual Interdisciplinary Conference in Cognitive Sciences.

"The Campuswide Honors curriculum—specifically Social Science Core—was entirely responsible for introducing me to the existence of the realm of academic inquiry in which I hope to earn a Ph.D. That's pretty significant."

Over the course of two summers, Jacob has completed software engineering projects for a San Diego computer vision start-up. He is actively involved on campus, representing honors students in the annual Campuswide Honors trivia bowl and teaching theology for a Christian fellowship student organization. Jacob will pursue a Ph.D. in philosophy in order to continue his research on the human mind.

Joseph is a third-year Political Science and Philosophy double major from Clovis, CA. The Honors Social Science Core track counts among his favorite UCI courses because they challenged him to critically analyze the tough questions about the world and our place in it. Joseph is eager to begin his honors research on the bedrock of ethical, scientific, and economic values that inform political and legal action.

"Campuswide Honors promotes a culture of excellence that encourages students to explore their academic, professional, and recreational interests to the fullest. As a Campuswide Honors student, I have been able to push myself and experience all that UCI has to offer. I will continue to live by these ideals wherever my future takes me."

Joseph has made taking action the core of his extracurricular involvements. As a Peer Tutor for the UCI Center for Excellence in Writing and Communication, he helps fellow students understand and articulate the power of their ideas in all kinds of writing assignments. Last summer as a part of the UCDC Internship Program, Joseph worked on cases in antitrust, consumer

protection, and information privacy law for the Federal Trade Commission. He will be spending this summer interning at a law firm in London where he will advocate for clients battling homelessness or mental health issues. Joseph plans to attend law school and pursue a career as an attorney.

Karyssa is a third-year Psychology major with a minor in Management originally from Folsom, California. Research is her passion. As a first-year honors student, Karyssa conducted research on vision and cognitive science with Professor Donald Hoffman. She then joined the Hierarchical Cognitive Modeling Lab where she now oversees two groups of students working on projects on undergraduate coping and burnout.

Her honors thesis focuses on bias and scale in student evaluations of teaching at UCI. Her many research projects have been awarded five grants from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program and Summer Undergraduate Research Program at UCI.

Karyssa helps her fellow students achieve academic excellence as the Research Coordinator for the Students for Industrial Organizational Psychology club and as an Academic Chair for the Campuswide Honors Student Council. Additionally, she works as a Human Resource Intern at JNR Incorporated. Karyssa plans to pursue research by obtaining a Ph.D. in Industrial Organizational Psychology.

“Campuswide Honors has introduced me to incredible people who have created a supportive environment where I’ve learned it’s okay to ask for help. With the help and support of Campuswide Honors, I got my start in developmental psychology research, which is the career that I now want to pursue.”

Katherine is a third-year Cognitive Sciences major from the Bay Area. Earlier this year, she spent a quarter studying psychology abroad at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. She was excited to return to UCI because she is conducting innovative research in Professor Nadia Chernyak’s Development of Social Cognition Lab.

Her research examines how children’s understanding of the concept of zero affects their sharing and fairness behavior. She will present her work on numerical cognition this spring at the UCI Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium.

A proud Campuswide Honors and Cognitive Sciences Honors student, Katherine is an active peer mentor, helping first-year honors students acclimate to and succeed at UCI. Working on the Associated Students of UCI Health Commission, she plans events and develop resources promoting mental health awareness. Katherine hopes to bring together her research and involvement experiences in her future career in working with children.

Lizzie is a fourth-year Social Policy and Public Service major specializing in Governance with a minor in Spanish. She has made public service the focus of her studies and her activities.

Studying abroad in Spain for six months, she explored service in an international context. Lizzie has investigated the effect of maltreatment on child cognitive development as a researcher in the Child Development lab. She has used her honors research to get out in the field, examining the transition from homelessness while working as an intern at a permanent supportive housing community in Anaheim.

“The Campuswide Honors curriculum has challenged me intellectually and pushed me out of my comfort zone. I can confidently say that my honors classes were the most rewarding classes I have taken at UCI.”

Her academic interests have informed her work in policy: Lizzie has interned for a number of legislators at their district offices and at the California State Capital, and she is currently working on a state race campaign. Upon graduation, Lizzie will pursue a career in legislation and social policy.

“Through its rich academic and research opportunities, Campuswide Honors has enabled me to refine my interests in medicine. I have been inspired to pursue a lifelong inquiry into how different environments, whether natural or social, shape human health.”

Marvin is a fourth-year Human Biology major with a minor in the Medical Humanities from La Mirada, California. Drawn toward its challenging, extensive curriculum, Marvin applied to and was accepted into Campuswide Honors after his first quarter at UCI. He credits the depth and breadth of the honors curriculum with instilling in him a hunger for interdisciplinary learning that has come to shape and enrich his college experience, often sharing his experiences as an Honors Ambassador.

Marvin’s current research project examines the structural barriers to occupational exhaustion in the medical community. He strives to impart his expertise and experiences to other Campuswide Honors students as a Humanities Core tutor and as a Sustainable Societies learning assistant. In seeking to understand how medical and social structures can collaborate to promote human health and wellness, Marvin will pursue a M.D./Ph.D medical anthropology program.

Mary is a third-year Business Administration, Informatics, and Sociology triple major. She is a highly involved student who has emerged as a committed leader at UCI. As the President of Women in Leadership, Mary leads a team of 16 board members and interns to plan weekly events for over 60 undergraduate members. As the Associated Students of UCI Programming Funding Commissioner, she manages a fund of \$130,000 available to more than 600 on-campus organizations.

“Campuswide Honors has challenged me to become a passionate advocate for higher education and personal growth. The honors education and its environment of motivated and diverse students helped mold me into a well-rounded student and pushed me to excel.”

In addition, she currently serves as the Merage School of Business Undergraduate Student Association’s Vice President of Academic Affairs and as a Student Alumni Association representative. It is through these leadership experiences that Mary has been able to develop a portfolio of professional skills that has allowed her to so effectively contribute to the UCI community. After graduation, Mary hopes to pursue career in real estate or finance.

“With Campuswide Honors I have found with a community of peers and faculty who provide me with support in all my academic and personal endeavors. Coming into such a large school such as UCI, I was scared that I would not belong, but Campuswide Honors has not only helped me discover my place but also pushed me to go above and beyond as an individual.”

Sauntharya is a third-year Psychological Sciences and Criminology double major with a minor in Digital Information Systems from the Bay Area.

As a Campuswide Honors student at UCI, Sauntharya has taken every opportunity to examine the many facets of the law. With an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Grant, she studies the effects of jury notetaking on trial verdicts under the mentorship of Professors Jillian Kenchel and Elizabeth Loftus.

Sauntharya has sought to cultivate a similar passion for the law in others as a leading teaching assistant for the UCI Saturday Academy of Law and as a Human Relations Chief of the Pre-Law Society. Working to provide the kind of mentorship that has allowed her to thrive at UCI, she works as a Peer Academic Advisor for the School of Social Ecology, a Student Ambassador for Campuswide Honors and as a Senior Student Ambassador for the Anteater Network.

In addition, she advocates for the UCI student community by participating in the UCI Deconstructive Diversity Initiative Cohort and as a volunteer with the Associated Students of UCI’s legal clinic commission. Sauntharya is excited to attend law school upon graduation and work at the intersection of law and technology.