



TOX QUARTERLY

The Official Publication of UCR Mini-ETOX GSA



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Student Researchers United-UAW Wins Recognition by UC!

On December 8th, the UC system agreed to drop objections to Student Researchers United-UAW and recognize graduate student researchers, trainees, and fellows as employees. This was done in response to the 10,622 SRs who voted in favor of Strike Authorization vote if recognition of SRU-UAW was continued to be ignored. Though the UC recognizes SRs to unionize, the SRU-UAW now moves to the next step of the process: negotiating a contract to outline benefits and protections with UC.

The agreement to recognize graduate student researchers as employees can be found here:

<https://studentresearchersunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SRUrecognition.pdf> .

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Fidel Rivas is the Graduate Student Services Advisor of the Environmental Toxicology Graduate Program

UCR ETOX Staff Spotlight: Fidel Rivas

by Alexa Canchola

Fidel Rivas is the current Graduate Student Services Advisor for the Environmental Toxicology, Biophysics and Plant Biology graduate programs Fidel received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from UC Santa Cruz in 2008. Before accepting the position at UCR, Fidel worked at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Anaheim since 2016 as the Assistant Director of Admissions.

We had the opportunity to sit down for a Q&A Session with Mr. Rivas:

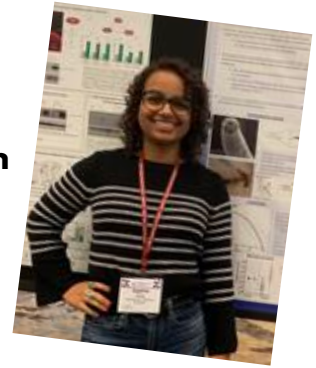
- 1. What drew you to this position at UCR and how are you enjoying Riverside so far?**
My goal was to go back into the UC system and work with student in a role that would allow me to develop long term relationships with them and see them accomplish their academic goals. In the few weeks I have been at UCR I have learned the different ways in which my role will interact with students, and I am truly looking forward to working with current and future graduate students.
- 2. As the new ETOX student services advisor, how will you work to serve graduate students?**
I will continue to learn about the different policies and forms in which I can provide the utmost service to graduate students and their needs.
- 3. What do you like to do outside of work for fun?**
Outside of work I enjoy running, hiking and I am also a collector (mostly Funko).
- 4. Do you have any message that you would like to share with the ETOX students?**
I love to get to know people, their stories, and their goals. Feel free to approach me as a friend and colleague with any needs that can be resolved through GSAC.
- 5. Finally, what days/times are you available? What is the best way to reach you if a student needs help?**
Currently, I am available M-F 9AM-4PM and best way to contact me is through email or stopping by the GSAC office.

Please join us in welcoming Fidel to UCR and the ETOX program!



Graduate Student News and Updates

Congratulations to Dr. Sophia Parks for defending her thesis titled: "The Roles of Parasitic Nematode Effectors on Host Immunity and Lipid Signaling" on Nov. 23rd, 2021!



General GSA Updates:

1. UCR GSA is having a **logo contest** ending on **February 1st, 2022!!** Submit your idea for a new GSA logo to publicity.gsa@ucr.edu and maybe win \$\$\$ if yours is picked! Details can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejeG4631XXIF4T8nvEvRXWW2GJdfQsbaCFva9_vveKpib8Tg/viewform

2. **Grad Slam 2022 is coming!** Preliminary and semi-final rounds will be held online via YouTube, while Finals are expected to be held in person on March 3rd, 2022! Submit your preliminary round submission by **January 24th, 2022!** Check out the details on when, where, and upcoming workshops here:

<https://gsrc.ucr.edu/grad-slam-2022>

3. The ETOX mini-GSA is currently looking for students to fill the roles of: 1st year representative, social event coordinator, newsletter coordinator, and outreach coordinator! Please contact **Alexa Canchola** (acanc007@ucr.edu) if you are interested in participating in the ETOX GSA!

Volunteer for the Inland Empire Science Olympiad!

The Inland Empire Science Olympiad 2020 is calling for volunteer at the event on scheduled for sometime early 2022. The organizers are looking for volunteers to help prep materials and/or judge events online for each division (elementary, middle, and high school levels).

Please contact **Nathan Sy** (nsy001@ucr.edu) for details!

Environmental Toxicology in the News!

1. **Hypercholesterolemia: Study Reveals Plastics' Potential Risk Factor to Developing High Cholesterol, Cardiovascular Disease:** <https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/34859/20211204/study-reveals-plastics-potential-risk-factor-developing-high-cholesterol-cardiovascular.html>

2. **Study links high cholesterol, cardiovascular disease to plastics:**

<https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2021/11/30/study-links-high-cholesterol-cardiovascular-disease-plastics>

3. **Madeline Vera-Colon was featured on the Society of Birth Defects Research and Prevention webpage:** <https://birthdefectsresearch.org/member-profiles/Colon-M.asp>



Graduate Student & Faculty Publications

Chen, J.Y.; **Canchola, A***; **Lin, Y.-H***. Carbonyl Composition and Electrophilicity in Vaping Emissions of Flavored and Unflavored E-Liquids. *Toxics* (2021), 9, 345.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/toxics9120345>

Jiang W, Chen L, **Zheng S***. Global reprogramming of apoptosis-related genes during brain development. *Cells*. 2021 Oct 27;10(11):2901.

Omaiye, E.E*, Luo, W., McWhirter, K., Pankow, J., and **Talbot, P.** (2021) Flavor chemicals, synthetic coolants, and pulegone in popular mint and menthol flavored e-cigarettes. *Tob Control* 0, 1–7.

Omaiye, E.E., Williams, M., Bozhilov, K.N., and **Talbot, P***. (2021) Design features and elemental/metal analysis of the atomizers in pod-style electronic cigarettes. *PLOS ONE*.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0248127>

Parks SC*, Nguyen S, Nasrolahi S, Bhat C, Juncaj D, Lu D, et al. (2021) Parasitic nematode fatty acid- and retinol-binding proteins compromise host immunity by interfering with host lipid signaling pathways. *PLoS Pathog* 17(10): e1010027. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1010027>

Pozuelos, G.L., Jacob, P III., Schick, S.F., **Omaiye, E.E***, **Talbot, P***. (2021) Adhesion and Removal of Thirdhand Smoke from Indoor Fabrics: A Method for Rapid Assessment and Identification of Chemical Repositories. *IJERPH*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18073592>

Sui Y., Meng Z., Chen J., Liu H., **Hernandez R.***, Gonzales M. B., Gwag T., Morris A. J., and Zhou C. (2021) Effects of Dicyclohexyl Phthalate Exposure on PXR Activation and Lipid Homeostasis in Mice. *Environ. Health Perspec.* 129 (12) <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP9262>

Wiegand, J.; Cheng, V.; Reddam, A.; **Avila-Barnard, S***; **Volz, D***. Triphenyl phosphate-induced pericardial edema is associated with elevated epidermal ionocytes within zebrafish embryos (2022). *Environ. Toxicol. Pharm.* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.etap.2021.103776>

Graduate Student & Faculty Grants and Awards

1. **Esther Omaiye** was recently awarded the **University of California's President's Dissertation Year Fellowship Award!** <https://insideucr.ucr.edu/awards/2021/05/06/doctoral-student-receives-dissertation-fellowship>

2. **Dr. Sika Zheng** has received an R01 from National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke from 12/01/2021 to 11/30/2026!

Have any news for our **Winter 2022 Edition**? Please email Alexa Canchola (acanc007@ucr.edu) and share any ENTX-related news/events!!

Happy Holidays!