



**Annual Report**  
2023-2024



# ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

## MISSION

Dedicated to inclusive excellence and the exploration of interdisciplinary and global perspectives within the Titan community who share a love of learning and engagement.

## PROGRAM VALUES


**Intellectual Curiosity** – Foster intellectual curiosity and promote a commitment to inclusion among highly motivated, socially aware, and academically engaged students.

**Global Engagement** – Create global citizens who engage with their local and global communities with the belief that we can all make a difference.

**Interdisciplinary Curriculum** – Provide an interdisciplinary curricular experience that allows students to critically evaluate complex social issues.

**Social Justice** – Embody CSUF's Guiding Principles of Social Justice within our mission, vision, and programming.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 About the University Honors Program
  - 04 Message from the Director
  - 05 Top Benefits to Honors
  - 05 Degree Requirements
  - 06 Honors by the Numbers
  - 07 Honors Student Profile: Brian Saprosantos
  - 08 Honors Faculty
  - 10 Honors Faculty Profile: Dr. Hannah Carbajal
  - 11 Honors Assistant Director: Becca Calvillo
  - 12 Honors Experiences
  - 13 Study Abroad
  - 14 Senior Honors Conference
  - 16 Honors SHP Mentors
- 



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am thrilled to share the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the University Honors program with our community. As Director, our program has several noted achievements over the past year.

The University Honors program cultivates a passion for intellectual curiosity, lifelong learning, and personal development. Our students are not just gifted scholars who excel in the classroom, they also want to be changemakers in their communities. I am also deeply indebted to the faculty who serve as instructors for our classes and mentors to our student projects. Their commitment to our students empowers them to push beyond their comfort zones and achieve greatness.

In Fall 2023, we launched our Upper Division Pathway in the University Honors program. This pathway now allows advanced current students and transfer students the opportunity to participate in the Honors curriculum. The Upper Division pathways allows for students to complete Honors program requirements in as little as 2 years. 48 students began this pathway in the Fall and we are excited to see how their experiences and engagement transform not just their experiences as students, but also our Honors community.

We have also added two new staff members to our Center. Lila Rodriguez is our new Administrative Support Coordinator. Lila is finishing her Bachelor's Degree in History. We also added to our staff with our new Assistant Director, Becca Calvillo, who will serve as our lead advisor for students on the Four Year Core pathway and also lead our co-curricular programming in the Center. You'll learn more about Becca later in this report.

I invite you to explore this Annual Report, which serves as a testament to the incredible achievements of our community. As we reflect on the milestones achieved this year, we are excited for what the future holds for our students and the program as a whole.

With profound gratitude,

**Dr. Stacy Mallicoat, Director  
University Honors Program**

## TOP BENEFITS TO HONORS



Small Seminar Class Sizes



Interdisciplinary Learning



Community Engagement, Service Learning, and Study Abroad



Specialized Advising



Academic and Social Activities



Priority Registration

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students in the Four-Year Core Pathway complete **24** units in Honors:

**15** units of Honors GE Seminars

At least **3** units at the Upper Division level

Students in the Upper Division Pathway complete **24** units in Honors:

**9** units of Honors Upper Division GE Seminars

In addition, all students in Honors complete the following:

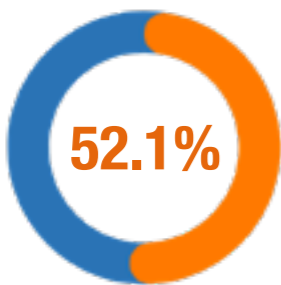
**4** units of Honors Colloquiums

**5** units of Senior Honors Project

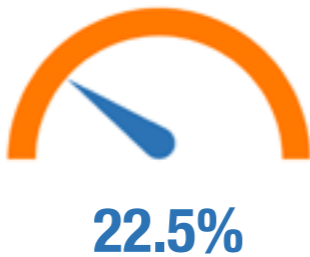
# HONORS BY THE NUMBERS

## Student Populations in Honors

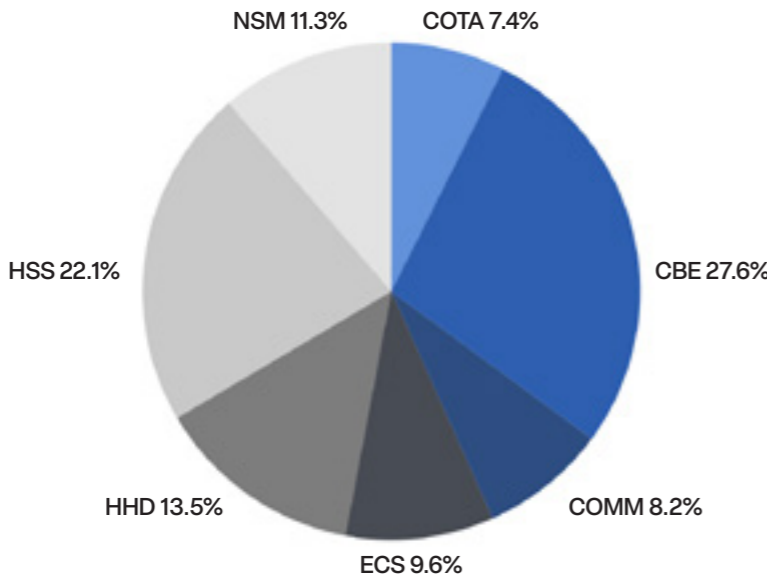
URM Students



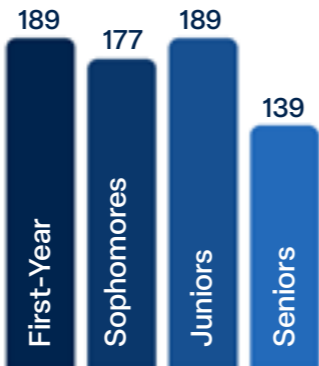
First-Gen Students



## COLLEGE REPRESENTATION



**694**  
Students Enrolled  
in Honors



## HONORS STUDENT PROFILE BRIAN SAPROSANTOS

My name is Brian Saprosantos, and I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in psychology and earned a minor in Human Services. At California State University, Fullerton, I participated heavily in the Department of Psychology. During Spring 2022, I served as a Teaching Assistant for PSYC 202: Research Methods in Psychology where I led weekly office hours and provided tutoring to students. Under the guidance of Dr. Russell Espinoza, I participated as a Research Assistant in his research lab during the 2022-2023 academic year. This was where my passion for psychology and law began because I started conducting research on juror bias. Specifically, I learned more about how certain identities can

be treated differently when they are defendants in a court of law.

### What did you like the most about the University Honors Program?

Completing the Senior Honors Project (SHP) was my favorite part of the University Honors Program. Because of this requirement, I was able to work closely with my mentor, Dr. Espinoza, who provided guidance and expertise on juror bias research. As an established jury consultant, he helped me develop my project from start to finish. The SHP also allowed me to grow my presenting skills as an undergraduate researcher by giving me the opportunity to present at conferences like the

Summer Undergraduate Research Academy (SUREA) Conference and Student and Creative Activities and Research (SCAR) Day. Therefore, without the SHP, I would not have been able to grow my skills within the field of academia.

### Tell us about your project and how it relates to your future goals?

For my project, I examined juror bias in the legal system using the theory of aversive racism. Aversive racism is a contemporary, implicit form of racial prejudice that occurs when people use nonracial factors to explain their prejudice against racial minorities. For my study, I wanted to examine this bias with Filipino immigrant defendants because Asian Americans are underrepresented in this research field, even though they are one of the fastest-growing populations in the U.S. Post-undergrad, I plan to pursue a career in Forensic Psychology where I can continue doing work on reducing biases within the United States Justice System.

### What advice do you have for students?

Get involved and make those connections! During your time as an undergraduate, networking with other students, faculty/staff, speakers, etc. can help you get one foot ahead when you begin searching for careers in the future. Meeting one person can expand your opportunities in ways you would never expect, so imagine the possibilities when you interact with many others while at CSUF. I never would have thought that research and law would be of any interest to me until I met my mentor! So, go out there, be authentic, and trust the process.

# HONORS FACULTY

During the 23-24 academic year, the University Honors program offered 67 classes with 30 faculty. Thank you to our Honors faculty for their passion and commitment to our students:



Darcy Anderson



Michelle  
Arsneault



Nicole Bonuso



Hannah Carbajal



Sapna Chopra



Dana Cloud



Jeanine Congalton



Taylor Cruz



Kevin Cummins



Heather Denyer



Guadalupe Diaz  
Lara



Joshua DiPaolo



Claudia  
Evans-Zepeda



David Hall



Shayna La Scala



Maria Malagon



Craig McConnell



Trisha Miller



Chelsea Reynolds



Marley Rosner



Elaine Rutkowski



Sharon Selnick



Parvin  
Shahrestani



Traci Shoblom



Paulo Simoes



Jeanette Solano



Chethan Srikant



Andrea Stein



Atul Teckchandani



Devon  
Thacker Thomas



Isaiah Thompson



Saul Tobias



Hui Xie



# HONORS FACULTY PROFILE

## DR. HANNAH CARBAJAL

Dr. Carbajal has been teaching in the University Honors program since 2016. She currently teaches HONR 100: Introduction to University Honors colloquium, HONR 101A: Critical Thinking, and HONR 101B: Oral Communication. She also teaches an upper division course on called That's Offense: Consuming Stand-Up Comedy in the Age of Cancel Culture, which stems from her experiences doing open-mic stand-up comedy, improv, and sketch comedy in Los Angeles.

Growing up, both of Dr. Carbajal's parents were public school teachers who instilled in her a love of learning. She always had an interest in other languages and discovered an appreciation for literature when she was an undergraduate student. After she graduated with her bachelor's degree, she enrolled in a dual-Master's program at Bowling Green State University that allowed her to spend time in France and Spain. She completed her Ph.D. in Hispanic Literatures with a minor in French and Francophone Studies at Indiana University.

Dr. Carbajal says that she loves teaching in Honors and is so grateful to get to work with CSUF Honors students - "they come to class with an openness to share of themselves and listen to teach other". Her favorite memory has been linked to her class on Comedy and Cancel Culture, which focuses on the cultural contents in which comedy is produced. During this class, students also practice close readings of performances and discuss how the public carries ethical responsibilities as consumers of entertainment - "The first semester it was offered, a controversial social media personality came to CSUF and was performing in the quad. We moved our class outside so that we could all participate in the spectacle. The discussion in our following session was interesting since this performance tied into many of the course themes. We all were provoked, offended, and amused."

When asked what advice she has to offer for students in the Honors program, she shared the following:

"I want students to eliminate the word "lazy" from their vocabularies. Many have full class-loads, work, commute, maintain friendships and care for families. Then, when they find themselves procrastinating, they accuse themselves of being "lazy," when really, their minds and bodies are demanding they take time for themselves. So, along with allowing grace for themselves, I recommend keeping open lines of communication with their professors. Ask professors at the beginning of the semester what their policies are on mental health days and extensions for assignments, and touch base throughout the course."



# HONORS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

## BECCA CALVILLO

We are excited to introduce you to Becca Calvillo, Assistant Director for the University Honors program. Becca has been a member of the Titan community for the past five years where she worked in the Office of Housing and Residential Engagement as a Community Coordinator and Assistant Director for Administration and Conference Services. Becca received her Master's degree from the University of Southern California in Postsecondary Administration Student Affairs, where she also worked with students in their Honors College. She is originally from Chicago and received a Bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Classical Civilization from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Becca serves as the advisor for all students in the Four-Year Honors pathway and leads orientations for the new incoming students each fall. Becca also spearheads several of our center initiatives, including working with our Honors Student Advisory Committee and hosting our co-curricular programming in the Honors Center.

With 11 years' experience in Student Affairs, and 7 years' experience working with Honors students, Becca advises students through a lens of support, holistic development, equity, and access.

# HONORS EXPERIENCES

Throughout the year, honors students had the opportunity to participate in a number of different activities.

## Honors Student Advisory Council

Our students hosted several events, including a game night, finals study nights, bowling at the TSU, and a resume workshop.

## Social Justice

In February, the Honors program hosted our Social Justice Speakers Series with Justin Brooks, Professor of Law at University of San Diego and author of the book “You Might Go to Prison Even If You Are Innocent”. His book highlights his three decades of experience working on cases of wrongful conviction. Joining him was one of his exonerated clients, Kimberly Long, who spent 7 years and 3 months in California State Prison for a murder that she did not commit.


## Peer Mentoring


Students in the HONR 200 colloquium class serve as peer mentors in the HONR 100 colloquium. This allows new students to become connected with the honors program and the campus as a whole. It also gives mentors the opportunity to develop their leadership and networking skills.


University Honors Program Presents:

SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SPEAKER SERIES

YOU MIGHT GO TO PRISON, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE INNOCENT  
JUSTIN BROOKS


Justin Brooks  
PROFESSOR IN PRACTICE,  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO  
AUTHOR: YOU MIGHT GO TO PRISON, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE INNOCENT


Kimberly Long  
EXONEREE



JOIN US  
DATE: FEBRUARY 28TH  
TIME: 11:30 AM  
LOCATION: PLN 130

## Student Professional Presentations

Over the past year, several of our Honors students presented at professional conferences, including the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, and the Western Regional Honors Council Conference.

# SUMMER 2024 TO SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA STUDY ABROAD

During the month of June, our Honors students traveled to Sydney, Australia for a study abroad experience on Indigenous culture, justice, and gender-based violence. Led by UHP Director Dr. Stacy Mallicoat, nine CSUF students were joined by 16 students and Dr. Denise Paquette-Boots from the University of Texas-Dallas As part of this four-week experience, students met with a number of non-profit leaders and community and justice officials to explore how issues of culture and violence impact the legal and social experiences of Aboriginal communities. The city was our classroom as we also toured spaces such as the Sydney Opera House, the New South Wales Legislature, and the Blue Mountains. Of course, no trip to the land down under is complete without time with koalas and kangaroos.

We learned about the effects of colonization and gentrification on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. Students had the opportunity to explore how policies such as the Stolen Generations and the loss of land rights have led to intergenerational trauma and the loss of culture for indigenous families. We also learned about the rising issues of gender based violence and how policies and the justice system are responding to these issues.

We also had the opportunity to give back to the local community by volunteering with two local organizations. At Kids Giving Back, we prepared meals for over 150 individuals who are food-insecure. We also spent time with Thread Together, who works with clothing manufacturers throughout Australia to prevent the dumping of fast fashion and excess stock into landfills. During our day, we sorted through pallets of new clothing, and prepared it for delivery to local schools and organizations that serve survivors of domestic violence, people who have lost their homes from fires and floods as a result of climate change, and others in need. This program was supported by funding from the ASI Instructionally-Related Activities fee and Consolidated Course Fees, as well as support from the Center for Internships and Community Engagement and our generous donors.

12

13

# SENIOR HONORS CONFERENCE

Each fall and spring semester, students share poster presentations from their senior honors projects to the campus community. During the 23-24 academic year, 51 students presented their work.



**Juanita Abundio**

Complicated Systemic Barriers: The Experiences of Immigrant Groups Across Education, Health Care, and the Labor Force

**Miah Alamillo**  
Sub Rosa

**Abigail Anastasi**  
Understanding the Role of Phosphorylation in RNA Binding Protein Function

**Arianna Ascencio**  
The Effects of Caffeinated Pre-Workout on Heart Rate and Blood Pressure Post-Workout: A Systematic Review

**Joseph Avila**  
A Doorway into the Words We Cannot Say

**Perla Ayala**  
Cultural Variation in Children's Development of Executive Function

**Jamielene Ella Balancio**  
A Literature Review on Burnout within the Asian Demographic

**Evelyn Berrum**  
The Cloud of Conflict: Improving Emotional Regulation in Children Through Children's Literature

**Michael Butorac**  
Bottom Feeders: Beyond the Tank

**Sydney Carroll**  
COVETOUS: Building a Concept Art Portfolio

**Jillian Devine**  
The Domestic in the Public: Women's roles in the Public Sphere in Classical Athens from Greek Tragedy

**Lea Emanuelli**  
Art and Faith: Documenting the Purposes of Art from a Contemporary Christian Perspective

**Gabriella Estrada**  
Viva San Agustin

**Nayeli Flores**  
The Pilgrim's Progress: A Relatable and Timeless Journey for the Church of Christ

**Angela Foanene**  
Exercise and Academic Performance in College Students

**Elizabeth Grossman**  
Best Practices in Gender-Affirming Voice Adjustment Therapy

**Abigail Guzman**  
The Relationship Between Personal Types and Coping Style

**Heather Haas**  
Understanding How Post-Translational Acetylation Affects the Function of RNA Binding Proteins

**Ari Haban**  
Skull Bunny!

**Joshua Hambric**  
A Tale Between Worlds: Telling A Story Across Multiple Mediums

**Donna Jalai**  
Behavioral Analysis of Rocky Intertidal Aggregating Anemone in Response to Human and Non-human Debris

**Lauryn Jarvis**  
Is the "Fitness Party" Really Fun For All?: An Examination of the Gender Non-Conforming Individuals Experience in Zumba

**Azucena Jimenez Martinez**  
Developing a Machine Learning Model to Identify Students At-Risk

**Jina Koh**  
Exploring Kindness and Empathy in an Original Children's Book

**Harrison Lee**  
Steelblade Waltz

**Valerie Madrid**  
Advertising and Humor in the Modern Generation

**Emily Mattson**  
An Enemy of the People  
A Reflection of Society's Past, Present, and Future

**Rachael Meninno**  
Insurance and Income Status and Mental Health Utilization among College Students

**Ava Parson**  
Motivations and an Athlete's Long-Term Commitment to a Sport

**Isabel Perez Martinez**  
Remembering My Roots: Exploring Guatemala's Cultural Identity in Southern California

**Madeline Phantumabamrung**  
Look Good, Feel Good, Play Good: How Division I Athletes Negotiate Gendered Expectations in Women's Sports

**Jacinta Philip**  
Born for This: Building a Brand Identity Senior Honors Project

**Gabriel Ramirez**  
Understanding Personal Finance for Students & Lifelong Success

**Adrian Remigio**  
What Makes or Breaks Fieldwork? Measuring Factors which Influence Student Experience and Pedagogical Effectiveness

**Marianna Rios**  
Politics of The Hood: An Analysis of Hip-Hop Lyricism

**Scarlett Rodgers**  
Resilient Beginnings: Empowering Adults Through Trauma-Informed Resources, An Artist's Contribution

**Natalya Rowe**  
The Rise of the Ideal Urban City Model: Amsterdam, Netherlands and the Evolution of Sephardic Jewish Urban Design in the Golden Age

**Clare Saavedra**  
Independent Living Programs: Voice of Youth in Service

**Brian Saporantos**  
Using Aversive Racism to Explain Juror Bias Against Filipino Defendants

**Abby Sheehan**  
Made In China: Dancing Through the Transracial Adoption Experience

**Ashley Silva**  
The Relationship Between Immunity and Aging in D. melanogaster

**Natalie Smith**  
Utilization of CRISPR-Cas as a Genome Editing Tool to Encode the Notch1-mNeonGreen Fusion Protein in Mammalian Cells

**Victoria Stegall**  
Cultural Competency Among ABA Practitioners in Orange County, CA

**Zhi Tan**  
Socioeconomic Factors that Affect Low-Income College Students' Mental Health

**Kathy Thien**  
The Evolutionary Relationship Between Microbial Abundance and Development Rate of Drosophila Melanogaster Populations

**Sachi Uppal**  
Effects of Aromatherapy on Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting: A Systematic Review

**Krishna Marie Uy**  
Identifying Amino Acids That Regulate Shuttling Between the Nucleus and Cytoplasm in an RNA-Binding Domain of the PTBP1 Protein

**Valentina Valentine Nassi**  
How Social Media Affects College Students Psychological, Physical, and Social Well-Being

**Eva Vides Montoya**  
Flowing with the Beat: The Effects of Music on Flow-State in the Workplace

**Hua-Mei Yu**  
Asian American Representation in ABC's "Fresh Off the Boat" (2015-2020)

**Chelsea Zenteno**  
The Mexican American Eldest Daughter Experience (MAEDE)



# HONORS SHP MENTORS

Each fall and spring semester, students share poster presentations from their senior honors projects to the campus community. During the 23-24 academic year, 51 students presented their work.

- Lucia Alcala**  
 Psychology

**Pablo Alvarez**  
 Women and Gender Studies

**Eddy Alvarez**  
 Chicana and Chicano Studies

**Darcy Anderson**  
 University Honors

**Kathy Baur**  
 Visual Art: Entertainment Art and Animation

**Ella Ben-Hagai**  
 Psychology

**Melinda Blackman**  
 Psychology

**Marlin Blaine**  
 English, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics

**Rebecca Bodan**  
 Nursing

**Scott Bolman**  
 Theater and Dance

**Janet Bregar**  
 Religious Studies

**Julie Brice**  
 Kinesiology

**Jennifer Burnaford**  
 Biology

**Hannah Carbajal**  
 University Honors

**Jennifer Carlson**  
 Biology

**Erik Carpenter**  
 Visual Arts; Game Art, Animation, and Immersive Media

**Barbara Cherry**  
 Psychology

**Kathryn Congalton**  
 Human Communications

**Pablo Costa**  
 Kinesiology

**Juan De Jesus Escalante**  
 Visual Arts

**Barbra Erickson**  
 Anthropology

**Russell Espinoza**  
 Psychology

**Gary Germo**  
 Human Services

**Mikel Hogan**  
 Human Services

**Melanie Horn Mallers**  
 Human Services

**Jidong Huang**  
 Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Virginia Isava**  
 Geology

**Jeffrey Jolley**  
 Finance

**Kristi Kanel**  
 Human Services

**Carrie Lane**  
 American Studies

**Jin Woo Lee**  
 Mechanical Engineering

**Alison Miyamoto**  
 Biology

**Niroshika Monerawila Keppetipola**  
 Chemistry and Biochemistry

**James O'Connor**  
 History

**Natasha Popowich**  
 African American Studies

**Valerie Poynor**  
 Mathematics

- Irena Praitis**  
 English, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics

**Adrian Rodriguez**  
 Human Services

**Frank Russell**  
 Communications

**Tabashir Sadegh-Nobari**  
 Public Health

**Mojgan Sami**  
 Public Health

**Angeles Sancho-Velazquez**  
 Liberal Studies

**Parvin Shahrestani**  
 Biology

**Paulo Simoes**  
 University Honors

**Christopher Slogar**  
 Art History

**Kathleen Thomas**  
 Kinesiology

**Jessica Vega-Centeno**  
 Communications

**Elise Wang**  
 English, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics

**Laura Watson**  
 Psychology

**Susie Woo**  
 American Studies

**Sasha Zeedyk**  
 Child and Adolescent Studies



## University Honors Program

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 Fullerton, CA 92831

## STAY CONNECTED

- FULLERTON.EDU/HONORS**
- @CSUFHONORS**
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- UNIVHONORS@FULLERTON.EDU**