

2018 I-SURF — UROP Ambassadors

Will Conley



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Hello I-SURF fellows! My name is William, and I will be your Resident Advisor (RA) for the 2018 I-SURF Program. This June I graduated from UCI with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, and I will continue here in the Fall for a Master's Degree in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics. I was introduced to UROP through research for my senior thesis and liked the team so much I joined as a Volunteer Team Leader for the 2018 UCI Undergraduate Research Symposium, where I both presented my project and helped others prepare and present theirs. I have travelled to five countries outside of the United States and studied abroad for a semester in Rome, Italy. I know what it feels like to live in a country where one does not speak the native language or know the native culture, and the challenges associated with adjusting to that. I have come to cherish my experiences abroad, however, and want to make sure all of you feel welcome and happy living in, studying in, and experiencing California and the United States. With your hard work, enthusiasm, and engagement with the program, we will all make this the best I-SURF cohort UCI has put together. *Hoo-ya!*

Grazielle Valentim Figueredo



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My name is Grazielle Figueredo and I began my UCI journey in the summer of 2016, and graduated in Sociology and Gender and Sexuality Studies in June, 2018. During my time at UCI I have cultivated my leadership skills as the president for the Sociology Student Association, mentoring students on their academic and professional needs, which created rewarding results for club members, departments, and positive impact in the community. I have also worked at the Office of Inclusive Excellence, collaborating with different projects and initiatives, and promoting the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion around our campus and community. At UROP, I have been a Team Leader and a volunteer, helping the office to promote and provide students with research opportunities. Finally, I have been part of the Sociology Honors Program, conducted a comparative analysis of au pairs and foreign live-in nannies to learn how dynamics with employing families, individual socio-demographics, and institutional factors affect the experiences of au pairs and immigrant live-in nannies in the United States, and was awarded the Robin Williams best empirical research paper in Sociology.

Molly Gray



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Molly Gray was born in the San Francisco Bay Area and grew up in Santa Barbara County. She graduated from UCI last month with BFA degrees in dance performance and dance choreography. Molly graduated with distinction and was awarded for Excellence in Dance Choreography and received the Donald McKayle Scholarship. During her time at UCI, Molly served as an executive board member for the non-profit Bare Bone's Dance Theater for three years and was a board member for UCI's branch of Movement Exchange from 2015–2016. Molly performed in more than twenty dance shows at UC Irvine and had her choreography featured in six different productions. She has also performed professionally with three different dance collectives across southern California. Molly was a member of the late legendary choreographer Donald McKayle's Etude Ensemble at UCI, and had the opportunity to perform one of Mr. McKayle's solo works at the Etude Repertory Concert in 2017. Molly was awarded two research grants from SURP: one to study the effects that dance can have on at-risk youth, for which she traveled to Panama and taught at multiple orphanages in 2015, and one to study dance education methods in pre-professional training programs in San Francisco. This past year Molly was awarded a research grant from UROP to study the effects of integrating vulnerability into a contemporary dance practice, a project that she worked on for more than a year and presented in June for her BFA thesis. This fall Molly will be moving to New York City to attend a dance training program with the Peridance Contemporary Dance Company.

Stephanie Palmer



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I was born and raised in Orange County, CA and am a transfer student to UCI. My passion for research began at Fullerton College, where I was selected to work with Dr. Diana Kyle to study the effect of an ethnic sounding name on a professors' perception of a failing student. I studied the association of racial stereotypes held by teachers and this relation to self-fulfilling prophecies and student success in a potentially hostile environment. This research was Fullerton College's first student-led research project to be selected to present at a national convention, the Association for Psychological Science Convention in Chicago, Illinois, in 2016. Upon transferring to UCI, I took this research one step further and I am working in Dr. Sarah Pressman's Stress, Emotion, and Physical Health Lab, specifically researching how one's personality and emotions can alter the way one reacts to stress, which has been shown to be associated with physical and mental health outcomes.