

## **UCCS-Honors Program Portfolios on *Gray Matters and Complex Systems Study***

Gray Matters can be modeled as networks of connections providing multi-scale presence, awareness, behavior, and complexity. In such *gray* networks, the same input does not always lead to the same output due to miniscule variations which sometimes cannot be detected as they are dependent on initial conditions based on space and/or time, or some other parameters. The behavior of nearly identical systems can differ significantly depending upon time and location, challenging our standard predictive models.

Honors Program curriculum is dedicated to the study of Gray Matters and Complex Systems. Examples of such systems can be found in nature everywhere from humans to animals, mountains to seas, and many and all kinds of systems including interactive-computing, the stock-market and amazon jungles, Arts, Humanities (TheatreWorks™), as well as computational framing of presence, consciousness, aging, and many others. Any system which changes its behavior in time and space, has connections which can vary, and is not simple, are worthy of Gray Matters, and framing of Gray Matters with Complex Systems principles is the present focus of the UCCS Honors Program.

Our students come from all degree programs at UCCS. Incoming freshmen can qualify for the UCCS Honors Program Scholarship by applying before a set deadline to the UCCS Office of Financial Aid. Well-qualified applicants are selected for an on-site interview.

Students selected for the UCCS Honors Program will complete two courses and a portfolio, along with designated courses by their Junior or Senior year. They will also enjoy a wide-variety of curricular and extra-curricular benefits. Honors Program students attend a specially curated film-series, participate in team-building and community-building volunteering excursions, and make use of an Honors Program lounge in the Kraemer Family Library. UCCS Honors Program graduation ceremonies are held in November and April, celebrating those students who complete the UCCS Honors Program requirements.

The centerpiece of our focus is the Honors Program portfolio (ID 4950), which must be completed by all students. The following Faculty and Staff are among the Honors Program Portfolio Mentors, and available to our students to mentor and guide a student towards a successful completion of their portfolio (ID4950). Drs. Sackett, Kuzma and Semwal are Honors Program Advisors and serve students throughout their study with the UCCS Honors Program. More details of our program can be found at UCCS Honors Program website (google us).

1. Dr. SK Semwal, Director UCCS Honors Program [www.cs.uccs.edu/~semwal](http://www.cs.uccs.edu/~semwal)
2. Dr. Robert Sackett <https://www.uccs.edu/history/rob-sackett>
3. Dr. Joseph Kuzma <https://www.uccs.edu/philosophy/staff/kuzma>
4. Dean Martin Garnar <https://www.uccs.edu/library/info/directory/martin-garnar>
5. Dr. Liesl Eberhart <https://www.uccs.edu/comm/teaching-faculty/liesl-eberhardt>
6. Ms. Connie Blackmann <https://www.uccs.edu/honors/honors-faculty/blackmann-ma-connie>
7. Ms. Carol Pina <https://www.uccs.edu/staff/leadership/Carol-Pina> (*not accepting students at this time*).
8. Dr. Leilani Feliciano [https://www.uccs.edu/psych/leilani\\_feliciano](https://www.uccs.edu/psych/leilani_feliciano)

9. Ms. Caitlin Lowans <http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=32088>
10. Dr. Max Schulman <https://www.uccs.edu/vapa/index/theatre/faculty/shulman>
11. Dr. Sara Qualls [https://www.uccs.edu/psych/sara\\_qualls-x92848](https://www.uccs.edu/psych/sara_qualls-x92848)
12. Mr. Jesse Perez <https://www.uccs.edu/mosaic/people/staff/jesse-perez>
13. Dr. Nanna Meyer <https://www.uccs.edu/diningservices/team/administration/nanna-meyer-phd-rd-cssd-facsm>
14. Dr. Deborah Pina-Thomas [https://www.uccs.edu/johnsonbethel/people/card\\_nsgfaculty/pina-thomas\\_deborah](https://www.uccs.edu/johnsonbethel/people/card_nsgfaculty/pina-thomas_deborah)
15. Dr. David Weiss <https://www.uccs.edu/chemistry/staff/david-weiss-phd>
16. Dr. Allen Schoffstall <https://www.uccs.edu/amschoff/>
17. Dr. Corey Drieth [https://www.uccs.edu/vapa/index/visual\\_art/faculty/drieth](https://www.uccs.edu/vapa/index/visual_art/faculty/drieth)
18. Dr. Paul Harvey <https://www.uccs.edu/history/paul-harvey>
19. Dr. Dorothea Olkowski <https://www.uccs.edu/philosophy/staff/olkowski> (*not accepting students at this time*).
20. Dr. Tre Wentling <https://www.uccs.edu/knapsack/institute-faculty/tre-wentling-phd>
21. Dr. Michelle Neely [https://www.uccs.edu/english/faculty\\_staff/faculty-staff-directory-i-p/michelle\\_neely](https://www.uccs.edu/english/faculty_staff/faculty-staff-directory-i-p/michelle_neely) (not accepting students at this time)

UCCS Library Liaison: Ms. Mary Rupp <https://www.uccs.edu/library/info/directory/mary-rupp>

UCCS Advancement: Ms. Anna Parish <https://www.uccs.edu/advancement/staff/anna-parrish>