



**GRAD**

**SLAM**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Friday, May 7, 2021

[gradslam.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://gradslam.universityofcalifornia.edu)

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

### WELCOME

**Theresa Maldonado**  
Vice President  
Research and Innovation  
University of California

### UC GRAD SLAM COMPETITION

**Dr. Michael V. Drake**  
President  
University of California

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF UC GRAD SLAM WINNERS\*

**Michael T. Brown**  
Provost and Executive Vice  
President for Academic Affairs  
University of California

## PRESENTATION ORDER

### Adélaïde Bernard

*Hungry unicorns: How antennas in your neurons control appetite*

UC BERKELEY **METABOLIC BIOLOGY**

### Eric Johns

*Erasing Tangos*

UC RIVERSIDE **MUSIC**

### Shayna Bennett

*A new tool to fight invasive species*

UC MERCED **APPLIED MATHEMATICS**

### Tori Klein

*Using zombie insects to find a cure for cancer*

UC SANTA CRUZ **CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

### An-Chieh Feng

*99% useless?*

UCLA **MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

### Leslie Heid

*Quantifying DNA methylation pseudotime to rewrite a cell's fate*

UC IRVINE **MATHEMATICAL, COMPUTATIONAL & SYSTEMS BIOLOGY**

### Haleh Yazdi

*Why can't we all be friends? Complexities of childhood prejudice*

UC SAN DIEGO **PSYCHOLOGY**

### Anthony Venida

*The picky eater*

UCSF **BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

### Amelia Munson

*Fact or fiction: What doesn't kill you makes you stronger*

UC DAVIS **ANIMAL BEHAVIOR**

### Logan Kozal

*Hot dads and super moms? Mussel-ing up against marine heatwaves*

UC SANTA BARBARA **ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION & MARINE BIOLOGY**

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After the talks, cast your vote for audience favorite at [ucal.us/gsvote](http://ucal.us/gsvote)

\* Cash awards generously provided by Thermo Fisher Scientific.

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**GRAD SLAM** IS A RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS DESIGNED TO MAKE THEIR WORK, ITS PURPOSE AND ITS VALUE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. IN THIS TOURNAMENT-STYLE COMPETITION, GRADUATE STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR ABILITY TO PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH IN THREE MINUTES IN A WAY THAT ENLIGHTENS AND ENTERTAINS A GENERAL AUDIENCE. THE UC-WIDE GRAD SLAM FEATURES WINNERS FROM EACH OF UC'S 10 CAMPUSES COMPETING FOR THE SYSTEMWIDE PRIZE.

#### MEET OUR JUDGES

##### Cecilia Estolano



is the current vice chair of the UC Board of Regents. She is CEO and founder of Estolano

Advisors, an urban planning and public policy firm, and CEO of Better World Group, an environmental policy and advocacy firm. She has worked directly with public, private, institutional and nonprofit clients to plan, finance, design, implement and operate policy-driven programs and projects that promote sustainable solutions tailored for each community. She has taught at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design, and has served on the Board since 2018.



##### Alan Sachs

is chief scientific officer of Thermo Fisher Scientific. Dr. Sachs leads efforts to max-

imize growth through investments in research and development that help customers accelerate life sciences research, solve complex analytical challenges, improve patient diagnostics and increase laboratory productivity. Prior to working at Thermo Fisher, Sachs was vice president of exploratory and translational sciences at Merck Research Laboratories. He has also served as an associate professor of molecular and cell biology at UC Berkeley.



##### Katie Ferrick

is the senior director of community development, sustainability, and workplace

programs at LinkedIn. She has volunteered on local political campaigns, served as a caseworker and as deputy district director for U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier. She was also appointed to two terms on the Menlo Park Planning Commission.

In 2014 she started at LinkedIn, developing strategies to enable the company to expand in San Francisco, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Dublin, Ireland. She created LinkedIn's local government relations program and launched the company's environmental sustainability program. Katie's job is to ensure that LinkedIn makes a positive impact in local communities where it operates.



##### Marcia Parker

is publisher and chief operating officer at CalMatters, a non-profit, nonpartisan

newsroom committed to explaining California policy and politics. Before joining CalMatters in 2017, Marcia was editorial director for Patch's West Coast local news sites, CIR's California Watch site launch manager, and assistant dean at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. She is on the boards of the Institute for Nonprofit News and the Emma Bowen Foundation, serves on the Stanford Knight Journalism Fellowships selection committee, and has taught at Northwestern University's San Francisco campus and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.



##### Alexander Taite,

the director of Chorus Eclectic and the San Francisco Boys Chorus Gradu-

ate-level Chorale, is a resident and native of Oakland, California. Taite sings with the San Francisco Opera Chorus and has been a producer, musical director, vocalist, and vocal percussionist for local rap/hip-hop group Laced Out Crew. Prior to that, he served in the vocal faculty at Oakland School for the Arts teaching theory and conducting choirs. In 2014, he placed third in the inaugural James Toland Vocal Arts competition and in 2016 took Audience Favorite. He was a finalist in the East Bay Opera League scholarship competition in 2015.

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## ABOUT UC GRADUATE STUDIES

The University of California offers outstanding graduate programs across a wide spectrum of fields with more than 735 degree offerings. UC enrolls nearly 60,000 graduate students (master's, Ph.D. and professional school students) across its 10 campuses. Alumni of UC graduate programs are responsible for hundreds of inventions, startups, published research and groundbreaking discoveries every year.

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## ADVOCATE FOR UC!

The University of California creates public benefits for California, our nation and the world. The UC Advocacy Network works with government officials and policymakers in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to highlight the impact of UC's contributions. We need your help to spread the word.

Thousands of higher education advocates are already making their voices heard. Together, our letters, emails, phone calls and actions will help shape policies that will ultimately move UC — and California — onward. Please lend your voice to support UC. Together, we are making a difference.

**Please go to [ucal.us/ucan](http://ucal.us/ucan).**

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