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? Musseling up against marine heatwaves
UC SANTA BARBARA ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION & MARINE BIOLOGY

After the talks, cast your vote for audience favorite at ucal.us/gsvote

* Cash awards generously provided by Thermo Fisher Scientific.
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.

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 nonprofit, 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 Graduate-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.

Alan Sachs is chief scientific officer of Thermo Fisher Scientific. Dr. Sachs leads efforts to maximize 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.
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.

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.