UC Davis
2015 Student Awards
Outstanding Senior Awards
Community Service and Civic Engagement Awards
Student Leadership Awards

Wednesday, May 27, 2015
UC Davis
Conference Center Ballrooms
PROGRAM

Welcome
Milton Lang
Associate Vice Chancellor
Student Affairs

Outstanding Senior Awards
Carolyn Thomas
Vice Provost and Dean
Undergraduate Education

Helen Frasier
Assistant Vice Provost and Chief of Staff
Undergraduate Education

Center for Student Involvement
Leadership Awards
Anne Myler
Director
Center for Student Involvement

Principles of Community Awards
Naftali Moed
Student Assistant to the Chancellor

Community Service and Civic Engagement Awards
Marcie Kirk-Holland
Director
Internship and Career Center

Student Affairs Awards
Sheri Atkinson
Executive Director
Community Resource and Retention Centers
Outstanding Senior Award Recipients

(See list of students beginning on page 6)

In recognition of a graduating senior from each major who has made an outstanding contribution to his or her learning environment through active academic engagement, whether through involvement in a research group or creative production, significant contributions to classroom discussion, leadership in student groups committed to the advancement of learning, or other intellectual pursuits with faculty and fellow students.

Global Engagement Award

Engineers Without Borders at UC Davis

In recognition of a registered student organization that demonstrates a commitment to exposing UC Davis students to global perspectives, promoting cross-cultural awareness, and exploring intersections of identity between domestic and international communities.

The Balanced Leaders Award

Pi Kappa Phi

In recognition of a registered student organization that best develops members’ skills to support time management, academic commitments, and social engagement. The organization’s leaders aspire to achieve academic goals while also maintaining co-curricular involvement and personal wellness.

Advancing Academic and Career Goals Award

Biomedical Engineering Society

In recognition of a registered student organization that successfully promotes academic achievement and provides opportunities for a diverse range of students to explore new areas of interest and develop academic and/or professional qualifications for future success.

Organizational Improvement Award

Armenian Students Association

In recognition of the registered student organization that has taken significant steps in order to improve its overall effectiveness from one year to the next. Areas of improvement may include: member academic success, membership recruitment and retention, budget management, program planning, and leadership while fulfilling the mission and goals of their organization.

Inspirational Aggies Award

Pakistani Student Association at UC Davis

In recognition of the registered student organization that demonstrates a commitment to creating and sustaining a healthy campus climate at UC Davis through programs, activities and/or initiatives that promote a campus climate of inclusion and respect.

Kaplan Excellence in Student Collaboration Award

Vietnamese Cancer Awareness Research and Education Society

In recognition of a registered Center for Student Involvement undergraduate, graduate, or professional student organization that demonstrates a collaborative and inclusive approach to their projects and a commitment to utilizing diverse frameworks in developing their contributions to education.
Adams Award for Leadership in a Student Organization
Vinay Nittur
In recognition of individual leadership and accomplishment within registered student organizations, the individual effectively directed or influenced the student organization, campus and/or wider community. The award is in honor of Ted Adams, former director of the UC Davis Student Programs and Activities Center, who wished to recognize student leaders.

Principles of Community Week Grant Competition Awards
 VN CARES, Davis Political Review, Wild Campus, and SickSpits Spoken
In recognition of registered student organizations that are committed to fostering the Principles of Community at UC Davis and that seek to implement activities or programs that exemplify and promote the Principles of Community throughout the student community. The award is presented by the Office of Campus Community Relations in partnership with the Student Assistant to the Chancellor.

Community Service and Civic Engagement Award (First Year)
Ching Chen
In recognition of the individual who has given dedicated service to others that is substantial in breadth, quality and time commitment. The honoree's service has resulted in a substantive and positive community impact. The honoree not only excels in the areas of leadership and scholarship, but also applies individual abilities in innovative ways to improve the lives of others, and has demonstrated a commitment to equity and inclusion.

Community Service and Civic Engagement Award (Undergraduate)
Alyssa Kramer, Hanane Omari and Sam Alavi
In recognition of undergraduate students who have given dedicated service to others that is substantial in breadth, quality and time commitment. The honorees' service has resulted in a substantive and positive community impact. The honorees not only excel in the areas of leadership and scholarship, but also apply their individual abilities in innovative ways to improve the lives of others. The students' service has impacted the campus, local, national and/or international communities.

Community Service and Civic Engagement Award (Graduate)
Carolina Tavarez
In recognition of a graduate student who has given dedicated service to others that is substantial in breadth, quality and time commitment. The honoree's service has resulted in a substantive and positive community impact. The honoree not only excels in the areas of leadership and scholarship, but also applies individual abilities in innovative ways to improve the lives of others. The student's service has impacted the campus, local, national and/or international communities.
Community Service and Civic Engagement Award (Student Organization)

Mercer Clinic

In recognition of a student organization known for giving dedicated service that is substantial in breadth, quality and time commitment. The organization’s service has resulted in a positive impact on the campus, local, national and/or international communities and has touched the lives of many people.

Student Promoting Advocacy and Redefining Community Award

Azha Fayyaz

In recognition of a rising student activist who has displayed a passion for engagement across multiple communities. The award is presented annually by the Campus Community Centers in homage to a rising student leader who has displayed advocacy for one or more communities.

Margarita Robinson Student Leadership Award

Shalvi Prasad

In recognition of a junior students for outstanding service and leadership through involvement in recognized student groups and activities. Established in 1982, this award serves as a memorial to Margarita Robinson who was house mother at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity for 30 years and a founder of the Prytanean Honor Society at UC Davis.

Social Justice and Inclusion Award

Kriti Garg

In recognition of the graduating student of any gender who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to social justice in the areas of leadership, scholarship, and service. The honored student has served as a change agent and made a tangible impact on campus community promoting equity and inclusion.

Veloyce Glenn Winslow, Jr. Award

Hiep Ma

In recognition of the graduating man believed to be the most outstanding in the areas of leadership, scholarship, integrity and service in the campus community. This award was established in 1966 to memorialize the achievements of Veloyce Glenn Winslow, Jr., who died while serving as vice president of the student body at UC Davis.

Mary Jeanne Gilhooly Award

Tara Storm

In recognition of the graduating woman believed to be the most outstanding in the areas of leadership, scholarship, integrity and service in the campus community. The award was established in 1942 to memorialize the achievements of Mary Jeanne Gilhooly, recognized as an “unofficial goodwill ambassador to every prospective Aggie.”
Outstanding Senior Award Recipients

Jacob Adams
Linguistics
Jacob Adams is profoundly committed to all matters linguistic. He is able to make wonderful connections between different research domains of the discipline, and is as interested in the structural aspects of language use as the social. He has assumed leadership roles by running the Linguistics Club, and recently has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Linguistics at UMass.

Clairise Anderson
Agricultural and Environmental Education
Clairise enthusiastically volunteers and comes through for various activities for the Agricultural and Environmental major. She has helped with all FFA functions on or off campus - promoting the success of AEE students to high school students and college students alike.

Corinne Beach
Communication
Corinne has been involved in the Communication Department in numerous capacities and is an outstanding departmental citizen. She engenders a sense of community among the students in her classes and is supportive and encouraging as a peer advisor. Her engagement with Communication as a discipline also led her to complete an Honors thesis in which she conducted original research into the emerging entertainment phenomenon of video game spectatorship.

Zachary Bess
Environmental Science and Management
Zach stands out in his overall enthusiasm for his subject and academic excellence, and forward-looking approach to tackling environmental problems. Since Spring 2014 he has been in an internship studying fish ecology in Wildlife, Fish, & Conservation Biology. Working with Dr. Jim Hobbs, he has shown himself to be highly proficient in microchemical analysis of fish otoliths to look at migration history. He is set to lead a field crew this summer looking at the success of salt pond restoration in South San Francisco Bay.

Hannah Bright
English
Hannah is a deep, broad and entirely original thinker and a compassionate and courageous writer. In class she is uber-engaged, generous, reliable, self-examining, always ready to move to the next level of inquiry. She is extremely focused, self-motivated and self-possessed -- without being arrogant or self-interested. It’s not so much that she is ambitious - and she IS ambitious - it is more that she is always firing on all cylinders, always scanning for possibilities, intellectual, artistic, altruistic - she is the kind of young person who might really change the world.

Liam Burke
Military Science (Political Science – Public Service)
At UC Davis, Liam has been heavily involved in student life and government. He served as the Vice Chair of the Academic Affairs Commission, and has been chief of staff to two ASUCD Senators. In his sophomore year, he won a seat on the ASUCD Senate and also served as the President pro tempore of the Senate. He worked as the Clearinghouse Intern for Governor Jerry Brown's Office of Planning and Research in 2012 and as a Civic Intern for...
Congressman John Garamendi, 2014-2015. He joined the Army ROTC program as a sophomore and was selected to the position of the Cadet Battalion Commander, overseeing the Army ROTC programs at UC Davis and Sacramento State University. He will commission in June as a Military Intelligence Officer.

Shadd Cabalatungan  
Sociology  
Shadd is a remarkable pre-med student with a desire to combine medicine with an awareness of the socioeconomic aspects of patient care involving racial and geographic health disparities and ethical patient issues. In addition to a strong GPA, he has won numerous awards including the John and Lyn Lofland Undergraduate Research Award for his Sociology honors thesis, “The Consequences of Alcohol Consumption for Drinking and Non-Drinking Students.” He volunteers as a primary care clinic intern delivering services to underserved populations and as an Imani Health Education Outreach Program Counselor. He has been an academic tutor at UC Davis for both Sociology and Biological Sciences.

Ryan Cannon  
Political Science  
Ryan wrote an excellent Senior Honors Thesis in Political Science titled “No Other Gods Before Me: The Supreme Court, Public Opinion, and the Ten Commandments.” The thesis was based on a thoughtful and sophisticated analysis of the relationship between Supreme Court decisions and public opinion. He also was invited to present his research at an undergraduate research conference at Harvard University last fall. He will attend UC San Diego Law School in the fall.

Hilary Chan  
Biochemical Engineering  
Hilary is extremely bright and motivated, but is also a caring and compassionate engineer who helps her fellow students. She is not afraid to take on leadership roles and extend herself in service. She has been excellent in her undergraduate research. She presented at the Undergraduate Research Conference and submitted a paper for a journal publication as a first author.

Pei-Si “Peggy” Chao  
Art History  
Peggy has provided a strong right hand in Art History’s undergraduate advising. She has provided peerless performance in the major at every level and has completed the Departmental Honors program. She is exemplary in academic achievement and in departmental service.

Sheny Christabella  
Food Science  
In her two years as a food science student, Sheny has been heavily involved in department activities. As a peer adviser and an active member of the student organization, Food Tech Club, she is always willing to help out with events and showcase the department. In addition to her extra- and co-curricular pursuits, she has maintained an excellent academic record in a rigorous science curriculum.

Yun Seok Chung  
Computer Engineering  
Yun Seok has the highest GPA of all graduating Computer Engineers. He completed the Physics Honors series and has earned an A+ in two very difficult upper-division courses, EEC 116 and 180A.
Jonathan Earl
Electrical Engineering
Jonathan is intelligent, motivated, and mature. He has a 4.0 GPA which is very difficult to achieve in Engineering. In addition to his academic achievements, he's a member of the University Jazz Band. Overall, he ranks as the best undergraduate ever in his classes.

Megan Freeman
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Meghan has an outstanding record at UC Davis, both in academics and also in service to the community. She exemplifies the sort of student we hope to attract to the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems major at UC Davis: she is a systems thinker, she is adept at using data in experimentation and science-based inquiry, and she is committed to civic engagement to link her knowledge with action to effect positive change in the world.

Aimee Fung
East Asian Studies
Aimee is an active member of the student community. Not only has she been a Global Ambassador for SISS, but she is also a peer advisor for the East Asian Studies, Economics, and History Advising Center. She is a triple major and has kept a strong academic record at UC Davis. She is a motivated, friendly, hardworking, and giving student.

Cyrus Ghaffari
Exercise Biology
Cyrus has demonstrated excellent academic achievement and leadership qualities, earning A+ grades in diverse courses such as calculus, physics, human anatomy, introductory biology, psychology, and human movement. Cyrus has made outstanding contributions to the academic environment as demonstrated by his laboratory research, his mentorship of other students in their pursuit of research, his involvement as an athletic trainer intern, and his volunteer service the past two years at the Shifa Community Clinic which provides medical services to underserved populations in Sacramento.

Erin Grant
Animal Science and Management
Erin Grant is a great mentor and leader for other students. She is involved with Chamber Music on campus along with being an undergraduate TA for PLS 21.

Yue Shen Gu
Statistics
As a double major in Statistics and Economics with a cumulative GPA of 3.905, the quality of Yue Shen's academic achievements is beyond doubt. He also obtained hands-on research experience through the NSF funded Research Training Grant, working on the visualization and contrasting of social networks over time. In addition to his academic accomplishments, Yue Shen has an exceedingly well-rounded personality; his future should be bright.

Rachael Horoschak
Animal Science
Rachael has the highest GPA of our graduating ANS seniors this year. In addition to this she has participated as an undergraduate TA for NUT 115 - going above and beyond what is required for her in that position.
Justine Hwang
Managerial Economics

Justine is a extraordinary student. During her student career at UC Davis, she took 36 courses for a letter grade. She received 26 A+ grades and ten A grades. She has been on the CAES Dean’s Honor List for nine consecutive quarters. She has demonstrated a keen interest in helping other students, and has worked at the Student Disability Center for two years. She has been a very organized note taker in Math courses, a private tutor in Managerial Economics courses and an undergraduate researcher. She combines her outstanding academic ability with the most pleasant personality, showing humbleness and tranquility.

Alma Monsivais Iglesias
Spanish

Alma has excelled in both of her majors, Spanish and Design, completing an honors thesis for her Spanish major and placing on the Dean’s Honors List each quarter since Winter Quarter 2014. She also contributes to her community by volunteering in different educational and service centers in the Napa area where she lives. She is very intelligent, mature, responsible, multi-lingual and multi-cultural.

Emily Iskin
Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Emily is a unique student based on her academic accomplishments, professional experiences, extracurricular activities, and engaging personality. Her grade point average at the end of the winter 2015 quarter stands at 3.97. She spent the summer of 2014 as an NSF REU undergraduate research fellow in oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. She presented a scientific paper she wrote to analyze and catalog the research at the American Geophysical Union’s Fall Meeting 2014 Meeting in San Francisco.

Jarada Karem
Philosophy

Karem is our most outstanding student by far this year, with a 3.970 GPA in the major, including completion of the honors program and four grades of A+. He has contributed to undergraduate education in the department by serving as an undergraduate Teaching Assistant.

Timothy Kontje
Film Studies

Since the day Tim arrived at UC Davis, his passion for film has been evident. In addition to maintaining an outstanding GPA, he has immersed himself in the study of film, mentored other students as a peer adviser, served as a leader of the FilmFest club and is the producer of the annual UC Davis film festival. He has been an exceptional student in the Film Studies program.

Andrea Lanter
Sociology-Organizational Studies

Andrea is a thoughtful and dedicated student. In addition to her achievement in the classroom and having one of the highest GPAs in her major, she is involved in the community through her employment with a non-profit organization that helps prevent child abuse. She also serves as a peer advisor for the Sociology department and has been an academic tutor to UC Davis student-athletes. She is an incredibly bright student who accepts challenges, demonstrates leadership and approaches life and school with aplomb.
Michelle Lee
French
Michelle has inspired the departmental faculty with her astonishing intelligence and level of insight, as well as her drive for independent thinking. Her work on her senior honors thesis, which is devoted to women warriors in medieval romance, shows the promise of a pathbreaking scholar in the making.

Norleen Lowrans
Earth and Planetary Sciences
Norleen is a delightful young woman with a native intelligence and an indefatigable work ethic. Her quiet demeanor and humble personality mask an innate curiosity and strong desire to understand our planet.

Hiep “Patrick” Ma
Human Development
Patrick certainly stands out amongst his peers by displaying exceptional academics, service and kindness towards others, and exemplary character. In addition to his scholastic achievements, he is an active member of numerous committees, campaigns, and advocacy groups that render aid and support to at-risk youth and adults. Through his work, motivational speaking engagements and interviews, he encourages others to seek help for their own unique struggles similar to those he experienced. He has overcome many obstacles throughout his life and yet he remains a positive force for change in so many lives.

Benjamin MacDonald
Materials Science and Engineering
Benjamin has been an asset to the materials science program. In addition to his excellent academic merits, he has also been involved in undergraduate research and has substantially contributed to the Material Advantage Student Chapter. He is a hard worker and cares about his fellow students. There is no doubt that he will continue to accomplish great things.

Tracy Manuel
Design
Tracy embodies the creative energy, critical thinking, commitment to community, and rigorous research that characterize Design in the 21st century. As a scholar in the University Honors Program, and as one of two students currently completing the Honors Project Option in the department, she has combined scholarly research with creative activity that blends her talents as an artist and designer. The resulting work, a creative and intellectual investigation of Instagram photography, is the basis for her Honors thesis and conference papers for UC Davis and Stanford. In addition to her success in bringing together her peers for collaborative work in the department and student projects for the campus’s “Art in Public Places” initiative, she is a well-rounded creator who has worked professionally as a solo singer-songwriter and a collaborating musician.

Victoria Marcus
International Relations
Victoria wrote an outstanding honors thesis in International Relations. Her work compared the economic development policies of Singapore and Hong Kong. Her thesis was carefully researched and extremely well written. She also complemented her research with experience studying abroad in Hong Kong. She will be joining Franklin Templeton Investments in July.
Marcos Martinez
Anthropology
Marcos is an intern in Dr. Jelmer Eerken’s archaeometry lab and the UC Davis Anthropology Museum. For his honors thesis project, he analyzed human teeth to understand life history and age of weaning for practices by prehistoric Ohlone peoples in the San Francisco Bay Area. He was honored to present his results to the Society for California Archaeology. He is active in the Anthropology Club and serves as the undergraduate representative for the campus-wide Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act committee.

Gweneth McKinley
Mathematics
Gwen currently serves as the Peer Adviser in the Department of Mathematics, offering friendly and informative advising to her fellow students. In addition, she is engaged in undergraduate research with Professor Anne Schilling, and serves as the student chair of the Ambassadors of MPS (AMPS) undergraduate student group.

Chung Yu “Wilson” Ng
Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
Wilson’s academic standing at UC Davis is excellent, and although he is deeply committed to pursuing a career in dentistry, it is his dedication to his fellow undergraduates that is most striking. Through his roles as a peer adviser and biochemistry tutor, he has spent much of his undergraduate career assisting his colleagues in chasing dreams of their own. He has also served as the vice president of the American Society of Microbiology (UC Davis chapter) and is currently the vice president of the Pre-Dental Society at UC Davis. In his spare time, he enjoys making music with his friends in the “Liquid Hotplates” a cappella group.

Connie Nguyen
Computer Science
Connie is very talented and hardworking, and has been doing an excellent job as a research assistant. She is co-authored of one top-tier (ICSE) publication and is working on the next one. She is an excellent student and maintains a top academic record in addition to her other accomplishments.

Kathryn O’Neill
Community and Regional Development
Kathy possesses a unique combination of qualities rarely found among undergraduate students. She has an inquisitive and critical eye, writes very well, closely connects her scholarly concerns with social reality outside the classroom, and actively pursues her academic interests. Her interest in socioeconomic inequality, racialization, and public policy in the United States has led to her pursuing a very demanding, tailored reading course as she prepares to graduate.

Alina Ortiz
Chicana/o Studies
Alina is a McNair Scholar who also serves as one of the Peer advisors for the Department of Chicana/o Studies. She is extremely passionate about connecting students to resources, promoting research opportunities, and advocating for graduate school amongst the Chicana/o Latina/o community. She is also actively involved in Hermanas Unidas, a student organization.
Kirsten Pearsons
Environmental Toxicology
Kirsten is one of our brightest and most highly motivated students in the Environmental Toxicology major, with an Entomology Minor. She has achieved a stellar academic record and successfully completing two years with the University Honors Program and is a Jastro Scholar. She has dedicated herself to service as a student leader both as the ETX Club President and as an Academic Peer Adviser on our departmental advising team. She also has undergraduate research interests in the environmental-agricultural arena through internships in a variety of labs and conservatories.

Justin Phan
Women and Gender Studies
Justin is distinguished among his peers by his dedication to intellectual work. He has shown a deep commitment and generosity to the student community and has given his time, thought, and creativity to many initiatives in Women and Gender Studies and Hart Hall. He will attend graduate school in the fall.

Michael Redding
Italian
Michael’s academic achievement in the Italian major is defined by his decision to write an Honors Thesis. Written in Italian, the thesis traces the development of the detective novel genre as an evolving commentary about the rapidly changing profile of the Italian society in the last fifty years, with particular attention to issues of migration, issues, and gender. While studying with UC Davis Quarter Abroad Program in Florence, Italy and in Madrid, Spain in 2013-14, he was an intern with Ars and Fides, a renowned non-profit association that fosters appreciation of Florentine sacred art among tourists from all over the world. Michael offered free art tours of the Florentine Cathedral in English, Spanish and Italian. Since his return from Europe, he has been a tutor of Italian. In addition, he has been an extremely active member of the Italian student club C.I.A.O. (Club Italiano Americano Organizzato) and has consistently collaborated with Peer Advisers and Italian faculty in the organization of cultural events.

Samuel Reisman
Plant Biology
One of the best students seen in Plant Biology 111 in many years. He has been president of the Botany Club. Overall, he is a terrific student.

Cori Satkowski
Chemical Engineering
Cori is an outstanding student in Chemical Engineering. In addition to her excellent scholastic achievements, she tutors within the department, is a department peer advisor, participates in research with departmental faculty, and is also graduating as part of the Chemical Engineering and Materials Science honors program.
Aaron Silman
Physics
No student surpasses Aaron’s combination of academic achievement and service. Each year he has multiplied his service via the Physics Club, and his leadership culminated this year in the presidency of the Club, which he served enthusiastically. His superb work has involved outreach, recruitment, tutoring, and improving collaboration with other departments. He has balanced his volunteer work with a formidable academic course load and, beginning in just his sophomore year, an impressive research project in the fields of radiation hardening and single-molecule electronic devices.

Harsev Singh
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Harsev has an outstanding academic record, and the department faculty view him as enthusiastic, meticulous and committed to learning as well as growing and working with members of the campus community. He is a dedicated leader of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), serving first as Co-Captain and Project Manager of the Environmental Project Competition. This academic year he was the organization’s president, which included the unique responsibility of planning and overseeing the 2015 ASCE Mid-Pacific Student Conference, a two-day event with more than 700 student participants from 15 universities. He has interned with Union Pacific and Caltrans and will work for Chevron this coming summer, before starting graduate studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Daniel Staechelin
German
Alongside his outstanding academic performance—3.9 GPA in German major courses, overall GPA of 3.8, and a senior thesis awarded highest honors—Daniel has been a pivotal motivating force in the German undergraduate program. He has served this year as Peer Advisor in German, as organizer and President of the German Club, and as Co-organizer of the weekly German Table. In addition, he is the UC Davis contributor to the online European cultural journal Cafebabel and is heavily involved in translation activities.

Young Suh
Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology
In addition to her stellar academic record, Young’s contribution to a diverse range of department research and activities is unparalleled. The recipient of many accolades, including the Provost’s Undergraduate Fellowship for her independent research on wood duck nesting behavior and the Lloyd W. Swift scholarship, she is enthusiastic about learning and intensely curious. Her exemplary work ethic, demonstrated leadership, and strong intellect make her a model to other students, and ensures her success in a continued career in academia.

Elaine Sweidler
Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning
Elaine, a double major in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning and Economics, possesses a sharp curiosity-driven intellect that she uses to constantly challenge herself and others around her. She has energetically pursued opportunities outside of the classroom to both further her education and make a difference in the community. Throughout all her activities, she demonstrates a deep commitment to working toward a more sustainable future.
Kristin Taylor
Sustainable Environmental Design
As the first recipient of the Outstanding Senior Award from the Sustainable Environmental Design major, Kristin’s exceptional overall GPA of 3.988, and 4.0 in the major will be difficult for any students in the future to match. She is committed to making a difference in the world, in her case by figuring out sustainable development strategies for rural and urbanizing communities within California. As a student she has already been seeking to achieve that goal through her volunteer efforts in the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento. Here, she has been working with community gardeners and farmers to improve food access for disadvantaged residents. Kristin is a hard-working, personable, and down-to-earth individual who will have an ongoing role in influencing change and improving conditions in many communities.

Joy Thiessen
Theatre and Dance
Joy has been very active in the department community as Peer Advisor and has taken an active role in driving dance as a track for students to form as a collective. She has an excellent academic record and has consistently been a strong performer in the classroom and in the studio.

Hong Truong
Biomedical Engineering
Rose is a passionate, resourceful, entrepreneurial spirit. From her self-initiated, Global Health-oriented Senior Design project, to her implementation of the first Biomedical Engineering (BME) Make-a-thon, and her commitment to mentorship, outreach and fundraising, Rose has contributed enormously to both the BME department and the BME students.

Noa Ver
Technocultural Studies
Noa hit the ground running when she arrived at UC Davis to pursue her degree in Technocultural Studies. She has excelled in all areas of TCS, exemplifying the integration of theory and practice that TCS is based upon. In particular, she has excelled at the sound art and electronics practice that seized her imagination here at UC Davis. She has been an exemplary and enthusiastic student of TCS.

Joanna Watterson
Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior
Joanna has performed exceptionally well in the courses in the NPB major, while simultaneously participating in a variety of activities. She has served as a licensed Emergency Medical Technician, completed the University Honors Program, worked to revolutionize science education with iAMSTEM, and volunteered with several programs related to children with developmental disabilities. She has also excelled in a long term (two year) research project in the Segal lab, using cutting edge molecular genetic approaches to study neurodevelopment disorders, an area in which she will focus her career as a pediatric neurologist.
Marina Weiner
Art Studio
Marina is a deliberate and determined artist. From the outset, her exuberance and creativity were apparent, as was her work ethic in the pursuit of her ideas. Being led by her curiosity and ambition, relying on her knowledge and understanding of her materials, she will work in series, exploring an idea or group of tangential ideas at once. All of her work combines painting and sculptural materials in a by-need methodology that allows the work to reveal itself thoughtfully, intuitively and sometimes explosively. She is not intimidated by what she does not yet know, but will pursue her task regardless of obstacles. She is tenacious, often times intractable, untamed and exuberant. She infuses the entire studio with energy and it is a privilege to work with her.

Elvis Wong
Landscape Architecture
Elvis always goes above and beyond what is required and consistently produces excellent work. He is professional, mature, and a hard worker. His classmates look to him for leadership in design studios and team projects.

John Yeh
Music
John is one of the most versatile musicians in the department, and he has been very active in many of the departmental ensembles. He studied cello and harpsichord, played cello and organ in the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, harpsichord in the Baroque ensemble, sang with the University Chorus, and performed for other students’ compositions and solo recitals. He came into the program with terrific skills as a musician and has embraced every opportunity to excel in the program. The Music department’s faculty has often noted that his enthusiasm for all things musical motivates his fellow students to achieve as well.

Brenda Zarate
Textiles and Clothing
Brenda's academic achievement is truly outstanding. She has a superb GPA and has amassed 14 A+'s in a variety of subject matter areas from anthropology, economics, mathematics to textiles. She has volunteered in children’s art and managing second hand clothing, as well as in departmental events. She is bilingual, fluent in English and Spanish.