



2019 UC DAVIS OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

Monday, May 13, 2019 | 5:00 p.m.

Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts



PROGRAM

Welcome

Principles of Community Awards

Center for Student Involvement
Leadership Awards

Community Service and
Civic Engagement Awards

Student Affairs Awards

Performance by *The Lounge Lizards*

Outstanding Senior Awards

University Medal

Closing

Reception

Principles of Community Awards

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 Advisors to the Chancellor.

Platinum

Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic

Gold

Bakuhatsu Taiko Dan

Silver

Society of Women Engineers

Bronze

The Belfry

Advancing Academic and Career Goals Award

Computer Science for Kids

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.

Balanced Leaders Award

Project RISHI

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

Excellence in Student Collaboration Award

Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc. Lambda Xi Chapter

In recognition of a registered 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.

Global Engagement Award

Other Collective

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.

Inspirational Aggies Award

IGNITE at UC Davis

In recognition of a 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 an inclusive and respectful community.

Organizational Improvement Award

Black Law Student Association

In recognition of a 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.

Adams Award for Leadership in a Student Organization

Anna Kirillova

In recognition of individual leadership and accomplishment within registered student organizations. In honor of Ted Adams, former director of the UC Davis Student Programs and Activities Center, the Adams Award is presented annually by the Center for Student Involvement to a leader of a registered student organization who has effectively directed or influenced the student organization, campus, and/or wider community.

Community Service and Civic Engagement Awards

In recognition of 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 abilities in innovative ways to improve the lives of others, and demonstrated a commitment to equity and inclusion. Their service impacted campus, local, national, and/or international communities.

Undergraduate Students

Wai Lone Jonathan Ho

Tara Shahrvin

Kelly Sheffield

Graduate Student

Daphne Carlson

Student Organization

Colleges Against Cancer

Student Promoting Advocacy and Redefining Community (SPARC) Award

Destiny Padilla

In recognition of a rising student activist that has displayed a passion for engagement across multiple communities. The SPARC Award is presented annually by the Community Resource and Retention Centers, in homage to a rising student leader that has displayed advocacy for one or more communities.

Margarita Robinson Student Leadership Award

Annie Wang

In recognition of a junior student 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

William Sampson

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

Mary Jeanne Gilhooly Award

Nitika Mummidivarapu

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

Veloyce Glenn Winslow Jr. Award

Raudel Carrillo Rodriguez

In recognition of a 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.

Outstanding Senior Awards

See list of students beginning on Page 8

In recognition of a graduating senior from each major who made significant contributions to the dynamic intellectual life at UC Davis. Students' selections are based on outstanding contributions to their learning environment through active academic engagement by way of 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.

University Medal

Julianne Cravotto

In recognition of a graduating senior for excellence in undergraduate studies, outstanding community service, and the promise of future scholarship and contributions to society. The University Medal is the highest university award given to a student completing undergraduate work.

Outstanding Senior Awards

Anika Agrawal

Environmental Toxicology

Anika Agrawal is a University Honors Program student with a 4.0 UC Davis GPA. She received the Provost's Undergraduate Fellowship (2019) and the UC Davis Regents Scholarship (2017-19). Anika pursued research in aquatic toxicology at the Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center, at the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, and is currently pursuing an honors thesis with Dr. Gary Cherr at the Bodega Marine Laboratory. Anika has tutored students in chemistry and physics at the Academic Assistance Tutoring Center. She is the president of both the ETOX Club and the Sick Spits, Spoken Word Poetry Club, and is a member of S.E.E.D.S.

Greta Anders

Italian

Greta has consistently distinguished herself as a student, scholar, and leader in our departmental community. A triple major in Italian, anthropology, and linguistics with a stellar academic record, Greta demonstrated exceptional research skills and intellectual independence. She completed an ambitious honors thesis on contemporary African Italian writing in the context of global migration. Moreover, she generously served as an undergraduate Italian tutor and peer advisor. As co-president of the Italian students' club C.I.A.O., Greta organized very engaging events, such as the meaning of Italian-ness in collaboration with the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art.

Taylor Begin

Philosophy

Through her exemplary academic achievements, leadership, and contributions to the philosophy department's learning environment, Taylor Begin is amply deserving of the Outstanding Senior Award. A double major in philosophy and sociology, Taylor maintained an outstanding GPA and ranks among the top graduating seniors in philosophy. She is a core member of three groups in the department: the Philosophy Club, u-POW (group for women in philosophy), and the local chapter of Minorities and Philosophy. She provides essential contributions to each group as well as coordination between the groups. Taylor also was a founding member of the department's Syllabus Diversity Initiative.

Helen Capewell

Biochemical Engineering

It is a pleasure to recognize Helen Capewell. Helen has taken advantage of her time at UC Davis by getting involved in a variety of ways, including conducting research, studying abroad, and participating in an internship

with The Clorox Company. Perhaps her most notable contribution is her willingness to mentor her peers and mentor young women in their pursuit of learning about STEM fields. Helen demonstrates her passions for both helping others learn and learning herself as she consistently performs well academically and has maintained a nearly perfect GPA. The department looks forward to seeing Helen's future successes!

Joleen Cheah

Biological Sciences (B.S.)

Joleen has carried out extensive independent research aimed at understanding how cells sense mechanical cues. She received the Beckman Scholar Award, the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, published a first author paper, and presented her work at international meetings. Joleen is known for effectively communicating her research to both scientists and non-scientists. She placed in the Research Rockstar Video Competition and was a UC Davis Undergraduate Research Ambassador. She also represented UC Davis at the Pacific Rim Universities Undergraduate Leaders Program. Joleen will graduate with one of the highest GPAs in her major and plans to pursue a PhD in the biomedical sciences.

Kyle Chickering

Applied Mathematics

Kyle transferred to UC Davis in fall 2017, and despite only taking computer science, physics, and math courses since entering UC Davis, he has maintained excellent grades. Kyle engaged in research with math faculty, using mathematical modeling and analysis to identify the mechanisms underlying aberrant electrical behavior in the brain, which is thought to be a trigger for epileptic seizures. Further, Kyle is very involved in the math community and the department's outreach efforts. He is an active member of the undergraduate Math Club, and a core volunteer for the UC Davis Math Circle Outreach Program for NorCal high school and middle school students.

Tara Choat

Anthropology (B.S.)

Tara has had a superb academic career at UC Davis. She achieved the highest GPA of students graduating with a Bachelor of Science in evolutionary anthropology. She also created an exceptional project for the University Honors Program in the context of ANT 156B, "Advanced Human Osteology". Her project was a workbook for elementary school children about human osteology and forensic anthropology, which was filled with fun, informative, and accurate activities, including a pretend forensic case to solve using knowledge gained earlier in the workbook. In sum, the Department of Anthropology is delighted to have Tara receive this award.

Julia Cohen

Animal Biology

Quiet intensity of purpose, extraordinary intellectual gifts, academic excellence and a wonderfully blended perspective characterize Julia Cohen. From Ukraine, she seamlessly became Yankee, particularly in work ethic, bringing culturally-blended uniquely-appropriate solutions to contingency and research problems. Julia was already accepted to Veterinary School here at UC Davis. She will be a highly creative veterinarian and is a joy to recommend for any award.

Leslie Lynn “Lulu” Conner

International Agricultural Development

Leslie Lynn “Lulu” Conner demonstrated leadership beyond the international agricultural development department. She is a leader and champion of Camp Kesem (<https://campkesem.org/ucdavis/>), a program for children who have a parent with cancer. Knowing the unique needs of young people who have their lives uprooted by the illness of a parent, Lulu is a champion for this program by raising money, getting student volunteers, and developing programs. In addition, Lulu works at global affairs where she is a link between the students and programs at global affairs.

Arielle A. Corbin

American Studies

Arielle’s academic achievements are impressive, but what stands out most are her intellectual curiosity, motivation, and astute contributions to class discussions. She also is an exceptional campus leader, including at the Student Recruitment and Retention Center. Arielle is deeply committed to improving retention for underrepresented students. She is completing an honors thesis on the relationships between racial underrepresentation, retention, and mental health.

Cassidy Craford

Sustainable Environmental Design

Cassidy Craford demonstrated exceptional leadership and initiative as a sustainable environmental design major. While also minoring in Jewish studies and professional writing, Cassidy took on research positions in environmental design and education, and served as a peer advisor for Study Abroad. She also spent a year at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev as part of their Sustainable Development and Environment Exchange Program. As part of a team of three students, her outstanding work for a new production facility for the UC Davis Student Farm was featured as a design exhibit for the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities Conference.

Matthew L. Craig

Communication

Matthew Craig is an outstanding student with strong research and leadership skills. He excels academically with a 3.669 GPA. He also did outstanding work as a lab research assistant for Dr. Peña. Matthew developed an honors thesis project investigating to what degree people are willing to hurt an intelligent agent. Matthew's work looks toward understanding how people interact with synthetic characters. He presented his work at the 2019 Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities Conference. Matthew's leadership skills also are present in his campus involvement with UC Davis Mock Trial, assistant director for Picnic Day, and as Model UN President.

Julianne Cravotto

Political Science

Julianne Cravotto is one of the most outstanding students in the history of the political science department. With a nearly flawless academic record, Julianne also worked tirelessly outside of the classroom. She spent countless hours registering American voters, traveled to Northern Ireland to learn about Irish Republican Army conflict resolution, volunteered in the office of former California Governor Jerry Brown, and served as the UC Davis delegate at the Student Conference on U.S. Affairs hosted by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. After graduation, she plans to work on public policy, especially the problem of sustainable solutions for the California housing crisis.

Keaton Crow

Viticulture and Enology

Keaton Crow has been a valuable student in the UC Davis Viticulture and Enology program. He served as project winemaker in the UC Davis Winery, producing over 30 research wines for a project designed to establish market viability of grapevines resistant to diseases such as powdery mildew and Pierce's disease. Keaton held the role of head winemaker for the Davis Enology Viticulture Organization (DEVO). Keaton is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 DEVO International Internship Award, allowing him the opportunity to work a harvest abroad. Keaton took advantage of every opportunity and made an outstanding impact on the program.

Blaze Cubanski

Mechanical Engineering

Blaze Cubanski is an extraordinarily bright engineer who demonstrated initiative, dedication, and creativity in his academic and personal pursuits. With a genuine desire to learn, a commitment to foster collaboration, and an immense respect for his fellow students, Blaze spent countless hours helping other

students achieve their best through tutoring, serving as a residential advisor, and as project lead on the Formula SAE team for two years. Blaze not only is a stellar student, but also is a truly remarkable researcher, team player, and leader.

Tina Curiel-Allen

Chicana/Chicano Studies

In addition to being a high achieving Chicana/o studies scholar, Tina Curiel-Allen is the co-founder of Beyond the Stats at UC Davis, a student organization for formerly incarcerated and system impacted students. She is the main writer and editor of the Beyond the Stats zine. Tina's work also was published in multiple outlets, including Teen Vogue. Additionally, she used her passion and experience as a community organizer, activist, and abolitionist to organize and co-lead an academic seminar through the Chicana/o studies department, which focused on the power of personal narratives and liberatory education.

Maxime Dassonville

Aerospace Science and Engineering

Maxime Dassonville's achievements go beyond GPA and grades. Unafraid of challenges, Maxime approaches difficult courses and assignments as opportunities to learn and apply new knowledge in academic, research, and personal projects. Working in Dr. Seongkyu Lee's lab, Maxime performed research on helicopter aerodynamics and took ownership of various projects, including software installation and coding tutorials that are utilized by fellow lab members. Embracing group work, team learning, and creativity, Maxime has proven to be an effective scholar, researcher, and engineer.

Joshua Davis

Landscape Architecture

Joshua Davis is an exceptional academic student and a leader in the landscape architecture major. His leadership is evidenced by his ongoing mentorship of his peers. He freely shares his knowledge with his classmates and also served as a mentor in lower-division courses. Joshua also advocates for his class by sharing issues, concerns, and curriculum feedback with the faculty. Joshua's work as a designer is exceptional. His projects are frequently used by faculty to demonstrate successful design solutions and expectations to other students. His design talents, academic ability, and strong communication skills will ensure his success in the profession.

Dylan John Dekalb

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Dylan is a stellar student and leader. He is truly curious about the material in his courses and elevates the level of discourse in the class by asking insightful

questions. Dylan helps others by sharing his study methods and by being an active participant in online course forums, answering a myriad of questions with care and precision. Dylan is a long-time volunteer at the Paul Hom Asian Clinic and maintained a stellar >3.9 GPA at UC Davis. His success in the classroom coupled with his unselfish willingness to help others both in and out of the classroom highlight his outstanding qualifications for this award.

Maria Delgadillo

Theatre and Dance

One shouldn't be fooled by Maria Delgadillo's quiet presence. She is a hardworking and talented theatrical collaborator with a strong and thoughtful stage presence who takes initiative to help bring inspired work to the stage. Maria also held many behind the scenes roles with the creative team including a costume designer, make-up artist, dependable crew member, and a trusted employee in the costume shop. She is a stellar student in the scholarly, creative, and technical classes, and is an excellent citizen and leader in the department. Maria qualifies for honors and is currently completing her honors project in costume design.

Jeske Ymke Dioquino

Physics (B.S.)

Jeske Dioquino stands out as an exceptional student within a particularly strong cohort of graduating physics majors this year. Active in the Physics Club for several years, Jeske was chosen by her peers to serve as their president. Jeske now leads the clubs efforts in undergraduate tutoring, new demonstration development, and preparations for the annual Picnic Day show. After completing her honors thesis in physics, Jeske will be attending graduate school at a top-tier university in the fall.

Elisabeth Doody

Plant Sciences

Elisabeth is an exemplary student with a strong drive for success. She served as a peer advisor for three years in plant sciences. Her service was incredibly valuable to both the students and the staff. During winter quarter 2019, Elisabeth traveled to Germany where she completed an internship with a plant intellectual property association. She is a strong advocate for engagement and is deeply involved in the leadership of the Plant Sciences Club, the Cycling Club, and the Field Hockey Club. In addition to her outstanding record of campus engagement, Elisabeth was the recipient of the prestigious California Cotton Alliance Scholarship for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Evan Dumas

Biotechnology

Evan Dumas made exceptional academic contributions within the Biotechnology Program. During his junior and senior year, Evan completed research with the USDA Plant Virus Lab led by Dr. Mysore Sudarshana, and the Soil Microbial Ecology Lab led by Dr. Kate Scow. Evan also presented a poster at the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities Conference in 2018 and completed an oral presentation in 2019. In addition to his strong achievements in academics, Evan served as president for the Food Recovery Network on campus and also served as a Hiking Coordinator with the Davis Hiking Club for two years.

Alexandria Kaitlyn Falcon

Cell Biology

Alexandria transitioned from an engineering major to cell biology to be engaged in problems related to human health and genetics. She maintained a 3.94 GPA and joined Dr. Paul Hagerman's lab. Alexandria brings an impressive level of intellect to both the classroom and the lab, which resulted in her development of an independent research proposal on trinucleotide diseases. She is an incredibly interactive student, thinking at all levels and always eager to help her fellow students and lab mates. Her goal of bridging engineering with molecular genetics demonstrates her unique view on her studies and speaks to her outstanding qualifications for this award.

Nicholas Michael Falk

Atmospheric Science

Nicholas Falk is emphatically selected as outstanding senior for atmospheric science. Evident at once, Nicholas is an exemplary, industrious, and exceedingly brilliant student. He is by far the most active participant in the classroom, asking relevant and probing questions, which makes teaching a joy. Nicholas has outperformed all of the best students--most of whom went on to top graduate programs in atmospheric science and environmental engineering. Nicholas truly is a phenomenal student.

Hannah Feiner

Spanish

In addition to her 4.0 GPA, Hannah Feiner's honors thesis includes archival research she did while studying abroad in Mexico City. It is original, entirely independent research that will contribute to scholarship on constructions of mental illness in Mexico in the early 20th century. The final product promises to be publishable in a scholarly journal. Hannah has been an active departmental citizen and an outstanding student.

Bruno Ferenc Segedin

Linguistics

Bruno is an outstanding linguistics scholar. His grades are exemplary, reflecting his work ethic and intelligence. Bruno is dedicated to exploring complex questions by conducting advanced laboratory linguistics research. For example, his thesis used cutting-edge experimental techniques to examine how linguistic factors influence sound change. Bruno also contributes to research projects in the UC Davis Phonetics Lab examining how our speech changes when we talk to devices such as Apple's Siri. Bruno presented multiple papers at major linguistics conferences. He displays enormous intellectual creativity and a brilliant intuition for interesting and insightful scholarly questions.

Ahad Firoz

Plant Biology

Ahad Firoz has a perfect academic record, with a 4.0 GPA. He founded a service club on campus, One Heartbeat, and currently serves as the president. The club's mission is "...to educate our community about cardiopulmonary arrest, a fatal, yet readily reversible event if treated in a timely manner through the use of hands-only CPR," (<https://aggielife.ucdavis.edu/organization/oneheartbeat>). In addition, Ahad performed research for the last two quarters in Professor Steven Theg's cell biology lab, researching the unexplored role of membrane energization in the structure of membrane proteins.

Michelle Frees

Genetics and Genomics

Michelle has been working in the lab of Dr. Sean Burgess since fall 2017 where Michelle made substantial contributions to understanding aneuploidy in Zebrafish meiosis. Michelle is incredibly productive in the lab and works at the level of an advanced graduate student. Michelle also excelled academically (GPA>3.9) even while engaging in community outreach through her work at the UC Davis Academic Assistance and Tutoring Center and at Mathnasium, tutoring college and elementary level students in chemistry, biology, math, and physics. Michelle's success in the classroom, lab, and her engagement in the community highlight her outstanding qualifications for this award.

Jordana Fuchs-Chesney

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Jordana Fuchs-Chesney has distinguished herself among the exceptional group of undergraduate students in the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (SA&FS) Program. She is an outstanding student, particularly in her mastery of the centrality of social justice and inclusion in food systems thinking. Equally important, she demonstrates sincere respect in interactions with those who have differing opinions and beliefs. Jordana exemplifies the

aspirations that SA&FS students are grounded in sound science and that each graduate will work to promote open expression of individuality and diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, and respect.

Carissa Garrity

Animal Science and Management

Carissa is a current resident at the UC Davis Beef Barn and a past resident of the UC Davis Swine Facility with numerous responsibilities, including the care of many faculty members' research animals. She also is a research assistant in the Mienaltowski Laboratory working on three projects, two for which she will merit authorship responsibilities in the studies. Carissa was an Aggie Ambassador for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and represented the college and the Department of Animal Science twice at the annual Agricultural Leadership Conference.

Tommy Giang

Computer Engineering

Tommy is an outstanding computer engineering student. He has been on the Dean's Honors List eight times while at UC Davis, and has one of the highest GPAs in the degree program.

David Gonzalez Silva

Art Studio

David consistently excelled in the program, especially in sculpture where he produced outstanding and ambitious works. David integrates his passions and interests in entomology and other subjects into his artwork, creating moments of wonder for viewers. In his senior year, David has served as the gallery preparator for the Basement Gallery, a student run gallery that schedules exhibitions featuring student work. In this role, he actively supports his fellow students offering encouragement as they prepare for exhibitions, positively contributing to their development and the culture of the program.

Kaitlyn Goudy

East Asian Studies

Kaitlyn Goudy is an excellent, serious, and engaged student. She possesses incredible academic talents and achieved an academic performance at the highest level, in both her major of East Asian studies and in overall GPA. Kaitlyn also is an engaged student leader and assistant. She is serving as a peer advisor for the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. The East Asian studies faculty are very impressed with Kaitlyn.

Erin Hisey

Animal Science

Erin is an University Honors Program student and is finishing a honors thesis in equine genetics research. Her research has resulted in one paper published and another paper, which was recently presented at an international meeting. She also is the primary contact on two international multi-center collaborations. In addition, Erin volunteers at Horse Day, works as a foaling assistant for over 100 foals, and is an employee at the NICU at the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital equine wards. She is an outstanding student and very deserving of this award.

Anne Holt

Marine and Coastal Science

Anne Holt is a standout student, and has been since she arrived on campus. She excelled in her classes and participated in a significant amount of undergraduate research. Anne helped start the Marine Science Club and has been an advocate for outreach in the marine sciences.

Hannah Eve Houts

Microbiology (B.S.)

Hannah Houts works as a student researcher in the Zivkovic Laboratory studying the impact of diet's affects on the adult gut microbiome. Dr. Zivkovic states, "Hannah regularly exceeds my expectations for an undergraduate. She has proven herself to be indispensable, intelligent, productive, and proactive; a truly exceptional and excellent student who deserves to be recognized for her achievements and leadership." Hannah also is the public outreach officer for the UC Davis Associated Students of Management Club. Her extreme ambition and genuine passion about her achievements has gained her significant success, including her acceptance as a graduate student for fall 2019.

Mira Huang

Music

Mira Huang is an extraordinary student, double majoring in music and psychology. She maintained a 4.0 GPA and was nominated for the UC Davis Dean's Honors List. Mira won numerous awards and scholarships for her academic and musical achievement, including being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She has performed as a soloist with the UC Davis Symphony and the UC Davis Chamber Singers. Her performances on stage and in the classroom are awe-inspiring. Mira is always dedicated to helping her peers--as a resident advisor on campus, and as a music department peer advisor.

Danielle Kinkel

Geology (B.S.)

Danielle does very well in her geology classes while also excelling in upper division physics courses. She was a field assistant and completed a related senior thesis. Danielle was a resource to other students in the major, helping them and providing informal tutoring in a challenging major course, Igneous Petrology.

Lucille Knowles

Biological Systems Engineering

Lucille's academic achievement and dedication to every aspect of the department make her an outstanding senior. As president of SOBE and ASABE Robotics Team, she keeps students in the major socially connected and academically engaged. Lucille also is involved in STEM for Girls, a program dedicated to motivating young girls to pursue STEM studies and providing them role models. When Lucille is not dedicating her time to others, she is diligently working in the lab toward her integrated master's degree, while also balancing her senior design project and regular course work. Lucille's presence in the department undoubtedly will have a lasting positive impact on students for years to come.

Igor Kotsyubuk

Civil Engineering

Igor is a brilliant, mature, dedicated student (17 A+, 3.95 GPA) who is an excellent role model in classes and as an UC Davis ambassador via his off-campus internships. Since his first year, the faculty have been positively impressed by his sincere interest for learning, his curiosity about problems and solutions that exceed what is required by normal coursework, and his dedication to his studies in spite of working outside the university. He often is observed helping his fellow students by explaining difficult, mathematically rigorous material. In addition to his exceptional grades and internships, he generously contributes to his community via outreach activities.

Kelila Krantz

International Relations

Kelila Krantz graduates from the international relations major with a nearly perfect GPA. In addition, she has conducted research at the National Center for Sustainable Transportation and has been involved in many different campus related initiatives around the improvement of student life and the broader community, including serving on the Arts and Lectures Administrative Committee, leading campus tours for prospective students, and acting as a coordinator for garden-based experiential programs at the Student Farm. After graduation, Kelila plans to pursue a career in international environmental governance.

Grace Kumetat

Community and Regional Development

Grace Kumetat is a delight to work with. She embodies all of the ideals of the Community and Regional Development Program. Grace has a keen eye for detail, is a critical thinker, and, above all, she enables meaningful change in communities through her hard work on community building and intentionally building equity into policy.

Gabriella Lahti

Materials Science and Engineering

Materials science and engineering is pleased to select Gabriella as this year's outstanding senior. Her impressive academic performance paired with her curiosity for learning has made her a positive asset to the department. Gabriella has taken on demanding roles with the robotics team, in her research lab, and in the Material Advantage Student Chapter. She is a reliable and dedicated leader who demonstrates a passion for learning and helping others learn. Gabriella's willingness to engage in insightful discussions with faculty and peers, in addition to her ambition to have leadership roles, will leave a lasting impact on the department.

Promise F. Lee

Nutrition

Promise excelled in her nutrition studies, assisted in research, and demonstrated a commitment to public service and building student community. She volunteered in multiple student-run health clinics that focused on care for underserved communities. Promise acted as a patient advocate and a health educator focusing on preventative care and disease management through nutrition education. She tutored students in various science subjects and built student community as a student ministry leader. Promise also assisted in nutritional research and was a study author of a clinical research on the care provided at student-run clinics.

Ye Li

Comparative Literature

Ye Li enthusiastically served as an active and devoted peer advisor, making wonderful contributions to the Department of Comparative Literature. Throughout her service, she was a strong advocate for the program, taking part in various department recruitment events, visiting classrooms, and working on social media. She was one of the most engaged students; a spark plug for classroom discussion, she was always eager to dive deeply into textual analysis. Her strong desire to pursue further knowledge in this field of study led Ye's decision to return from China to attend UC Davis in fall as a comparative literature graduate student.

Genesis Lozano

Agricultural and Environmental Education

Outstanding senior Genesis Lozano engaged as an active Aggie Ambassador for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to build a sense of community, share Aggie Pride, and encourage others to attend UC Davis. A true emissary for UC Davis! Genesis was a leader in Ag Science Field Day and championed AgriScience Fair competition. Genesis enriched life at UC Davis.

Joseph Melkonian

Economics

The Department of Economics is extremely honored to award Joseph Melkonian as an Outstanding Senior. Joseph has reached the highest level of academic achievement earning an economics major GPA of 4.00 while challenging himself with the most rigorous and technical courses. In addition, Joseph participated in the undergraduate honors thesis where he wrote a paper titled, "Determinants of Remittances," which he presented in the department and at the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Conference. Joseph's leadership extended to his participation in the Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Program where he trained alongside the department's graduate students.

Emily Meyers

Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity (B.S.)

Emily Meyers' stellar academic performance, extensive independent research, and commitment to science education and outreach led to this award. Emily earned fellowships from the Provost (PUF) and the Bodega Marine Laboratory to support her research examining how predators and algal blooms control the abundance of native and invasive amphipods in Bodega Bay. She did field work in the dark and fog, painstakingly counted and identified thousands of tiny crustaceans, and is now preparing her honors thesis for publication. In addition to being an accomplished researcher, she worked extensively in public school classrooms and is minoring in education.

Odette Moran Lopez

Anthropology (A.B.)

Odette has excelled in various upper division courses within the anthropology major. Odette stood out for their creative and sophisticated writing, their intellectual curiosity, and their research skills--the latter evidenced by their very promising honors thesis research. Odette's thesis examines toxicity in the strawberry fields of California using an array of interdisciplinary techniques, including ethnography, photography, and poetry. The aim is to provide a heterogeneously textured narrative that can be read and seen by those Odette writes about and with.

Lauren Murvihill

Political Science -- Public Service

Lauren Murvihill graduates with a nearly flawless GPA. In addition, she was active outside of the classroom. She served as a research assistant for a professor in the political science department and also in the UC Davis Phonetics Lab within the linguistics department. She is the vice chair of the Environmental Policy and Planning Commission of ASUCD, where she leads a group of commissioners who write environmental legislation and resolutions, and does outreach events to teach environmentalism on campus and in the city. Lauren plans to become a lawyer focusing on environmental law and justice.

Maya Nagaraj

Classical Civilization

Maya made an impression on all the faculty who had the pleasure of working with her. She excelled in the study of literature, poetry, politics, and ancient science, and consistently produced insightful and rigorously articulated arguments. Her skills also shined in the study of Latin, for which she served as a departmental tutor for first-year students. Her other meaningful contributions include acting as a reader, volunteering for departmental service, and helping the student culture thrive. She was an exemplary student and citizen in the program.

Kelly Neal

Environmental Science and Management

Kelly Neal demonstrates outstanding involvement and leadership in a number of ways. Within the department, she undertook independent, rigorous research involving sophisticated quantitative analysis of land cover surrounding thirty lakes, which is crucial to understanding the drivers of lake food webs. Her high degree of intellectual engagement in the project earned her co-authorship on an upcoming manuscript. Beyond the department, she regularly volunteers for activities that support the Center for Watershed Science, including an internship and participation in the Trans Tahoe Relay as part of a team supporting “Women for Water Research”.

Taruna Neelakantan

Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Although Taruna will be completing her degree as a third-year student, she became one of the department's most prolific students. She was awarded the NBOCCE Science Grant (2018); PUF Award (2018); Outstanding Performance in Chemistry (2017 and 2018); nominated for Goldwater Scholarship (2018); and nominated for the University Medal (2019). She presented at conferences, served as a campus tutor, mentored first-year students, and was a learning assistant in organic chemistry. Taruna served in two lab groups: Berben Lab in chemistry and Vorobyov Lab in pharmacology,

where she will earn highest honors. Taruna's committed to Columbia University to pursue her PhD.

Jacob Newman

Environmental Engineering

Jacob is an extraordinary campus citizen, excelling in classes (21 A+, 3.94 GPA), and always going beyond expectations. He also generously and competently served as an officer for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Water Works Association (AWWA), Chi Epsilon, and Challah for Hunger chapters. Jacob led a research project to implement Arduino-controlled water quality sensors in woodchip bioreactors, which he then extended into a classroom setting. He also led a team producing a children's book on the Clean Air Act, which was entertaining, aesthetically pleasing, and full of accessible information. Jacob's intellect, practicality, leadership, and kindness demonstrate traits hoped for in a student, engineer, and global citizen.

Minh Nguyen

Chemical Physics

Minh Nguyen is among the most accomplished students in the Department of Chemistry. He received the NBOCCHE Science Grant (2018); the PUF Award (2018); Outstanding Performance in Chemical Physics (2015, 2016 and 2017); the John W. and Ernestine L. Heinrich Scholarship (2017); and the McNair Scholarship (2017-present). Minh conducted honors research under Dr. Lee-Ping Wang, and had his work presented at conferences and published in the Royal Society in Chemistry (2018). Minh was a project manager with the American Chemical Society (ACS) Chemistry Club and served as a tutor with the Academic Assistance and Tutoring Center. He begins his PhD studies at UCLA in fall 2019.

Elizabeth Robin Nojima

Food Science

Elizabeth is a standout student who exemplifies this award on every level. Her intellectual capacity is phenomenal, and she has tremendous academic dedication. She is the top undergraduate student in the program with a UC Davis 4.00 GPA. Elizabeth is extremely inquisitive, and consistently worked to gain a higher-level understanding of all aspects of food science as evidenced by her many internships (e.g., microbiology lab, sensory lab, Pilot Plant). Elizabeth is a positive, inclusive, and dedicated student who always takes time to help her peers. She is well deserving of this distinction, and represents outstanding achievement by a UC Davis graduate.

Adnan Perwez

Religious Studies

A triple major in religious studies, political science, and history, Adnan Perwez thinks deeply about how religion shapes individual and collective identity and decisions. He is equally committed both to the scholarly study of religious and political ideas over time, and to work on the ground in the pursuit of justice in today's society. A leader in the Department of Religious Studies, Adnan will be pursuing graduate studies in classical Islamic thought while continuing his anti-racist activism and organizing for a more just, equal society.

Aakash Prabhu

Computer Science and Engineering

Aakash has been a leader in the department for several years who not only excelled in his studies, but also was closely involved with the teaching mission of the department. He ran the independent, student-organized tutoring program for the department for years, worked as a research intern for over two years, served as a teaching assistant for multiple courses, helped develop curriculum, and even was a guest lecturer for one of the upper-division classes. Aakash is passionate about teaching and learning and has a bright future in the computer science academic field.

Gabriella Quattrone

Japanese

Gabriella is a double major in Japanese and computer science, who has greatly contributed to the Japanese program in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. She was an enthusiastic student of Japanese language, literature and culture, who took many courses in the program. In spring 2017, she attended Kyoto Seika University through UC Davis Quarter Abroad. Despite her busy schedule, she also helped run Kaiwa Hour, a weekly event in which students get together to practice speaking Japanese. The department also is very appreciative that Gabriella generously stepped in to serve as peer advisor during spring 2018.

Huck Rees

Geology (A.B.)

Huck Rees has been a hard-working member of the geology major. With an additional major in history and minor in geographic information systems, he is completing an interdisciplinary senior honors thesis. He is dedicated and inquisitive, and a natural leader among students.

Olivia Rockeman

Managerial Economics

Olivia Rockeman is a scholastically high achieving student who was chosen to participate in the Agricultural and Resource Economics senior

honors thesis program. In her research, she explored whether the media created a ‘gluten free’ trend, increasing demand for these products. Olivia’s extracurricular activities included working for “The California Aggie” as a reporter, copy chief, and then managing editor. Her summers were spent volunteering as a counselor for Camp Kesem, a free camp for children whose parents struggle with cancer. Finally, Olivia worked as a student assistant at the Graduate School of Management, and most recently as a research assistant in the political science department.

William Sampson

Native American Studies

William is an excellent student and a dynamic campus leader. He thrived as peer advisor for Native American studies (NAS), which involves supporting students in the NAS major and advising them on course selection. He also flourished as Director of American Indian Recruitment and Retention, which includes off-campus outreach to create a pipeline for Native students in higher education. He currently is working as an advocate for all undergraduates as a Student Advisor to the Chancellor (SAC). The department has the utmost faith in William’s continued success, impactful service, and thoughtful leadership.

Danielle Schwartz

History

Danielle is a caring, competent, and engaged student. As a double major in history and anthropology she maintained a 3.915 GPA and is completing an honors thesis. She demonstrated notable leadership as a peer advisor for the Economics, History, and East Asian Studies Advising Center and as a peer mentor in the First-Year Aggie Connections Program. Her empathy and compassion for others make her a true asset to the advising team.

Tonie Scroggin

Mathematics (B.S.)

Tonie is, by far, the most active and enthusiastic student the math department has seen in years. She is an active leader of the Math Club and regularly attends seminars. She initiated and recruited for a reading group with faculty and five students to study manifolds. Tonie is amazingly hardworking and passionate about math, and shares her enthusiasm with students and faculty alike. In addition to being a top student in various classes, Tonie consistently serves as a mentor for other students in the department. Tonie will start a PhD in math at UC Davis this fall, and already is exploring areas in which she will specialize.

Crystal Shao

Chinese

Crystal Shao has a strong commitment to Chinese cultural, literary, and linguistic studies with an almost perfect 3.95 major GPA. Crystal not only is enthusiastic about Chinese literature and culture, but she consistently demonstrated critical skills and a rich understanding of how China and its cultural products play a role in a broader global context. Crystal's attention and careful notetaking are an inspiration to her classmates. Last year, Crystal made time in her busy schedule to co-direct the Chinese Drama Club at UC Davis production of a 1940s play. Crystal is planning to attend graduate school to pursue a career in fashion communication in the UK with a focus on the Chinese market.

Mason Shelnutt

Science and Technology Studies

Mason Shelnutt is an outstanding scholar of science, technology, and society. He has pursued a double major in science and technology studies (STS) and in anthropology, with a minor in education. As a student in the STS program, he has excelled in his coursework and his research. In addition, he is active in community service, with extensive contributions both on- and off-campus. He is an academic tutor with Tutoring Rocks, and facilitates an after school club for high school students, co-sponsored by Yolo Farm to Fork and Empower Yolo, that focuses on sustainable agriculture and environmental health. Mason exemplifies the convergence of innovative scholarship and social engagement.

Rokaya Shenasa

Design

As president of PIXEL Design Club, Rokaya Shenasa is a dynamic leader who also demonstrates the maturity to choose when to lead and when to work in a supportive role. This sets her apart in a system that rewards accolades and high-profile recognition, but undervalues the supportive roles that are critical to making any substantive endeavor possible. Rokaya designed for SOFA Chicago CONNECT, judged and designed for SacHacks Hackathon, and redesigned branding for Imagine America. Through her consistent creativity, work ethic, empathy, and generosity she represents the kind of designer and citizen that is needed today. Rokaya embodies the intellectual, creative, and community spirit of UC Davis.

Paige Snelgrove

Psychology (A.B.)

Paige Snelgrove is a star research assistant (RA) in both of the labs she is a part of, so much so that she was asked by both of her principal investigators to manage their labs. Paige accepted both positions and now supervises over 50 RAs. Paige also is completing an honors thesis with Professor Vazire

and presented preliminary results from her project at a national conference in 2018. Paige has a perfect 4.0 GPA, was president of the Undergraduate Psychology Association, and taught herself the basics of R (programming language). Paige is truly outstanding.

Natalie Stucka

Biomedical Engineering

Natalie's qualities are broad and deep. She picks up a wide-range of material very quickly and is extremely focused and detail-oriented. She applied these skills both to her academics as well as to other roles including department peer advisor, department assistant, and her leadership roles in RSS and Tau Beta Pi. Natalie's community contributions make her an asset to biomedical engineering and UC Davis.

Karina Targos

Chemistry (B.S.)

"Karina has already demonstrated a superior level of academic performance at this stage, and she will certainly continue as a superstar in her PhD program (fall 2019)," notes Dr. Annaliese Franz. Karina was awarded the Beckman Scholarship (2018); Bellettini Memorial Book Award (2018); Hal and Carol Sconyers Scholarship (2017); and the Anne Noel Fazio Memorial Scholarship (2017). She was a learning assistant with FYS-CURE and a peer mentor with the chemistry mentor program. Karina will be earning highest honors for her research, and is awaiting publication from American Chemical Society Catalysis, Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, and the Journal of Chemical Education.

Janah May Tecson Oclaman

Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior

Janah excelled in her studies, leadership, and outreach. Janah was the vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, led the SMiLE program that gave free STEM workshops to low-income middle schools, and spearheaded the chapter's Hunger Awareness Campaign. These projects helped Phi Theta Kappa win four international team awards, and Janah win three individual awards. Janah co-wrote about the current global actions to address world hunger and won the International Case Study Challenge. She re-established the UC Davis Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science and created the Paintings for Cause (PAC) and Bridging Minds (BriM) Project. BriM seeks to provide support for low-income high school and middle school students.

Emily Templin

Human Development

Emily Templin is a human development major and a biological sciences

minor with commitment to research and service. In her internship, Emily asked to be paired with the most behaviorally difficult students. She operated from a strengths-based approach that all students can be successful. With her independent and collaborative research, she examined the benefits of positive school climate and the risks when teens feel they don't have sufficient financial resources. Emily's service brought together students of various faiths to identify common causes supported by all religions, such as issues of social justice. Emily truly creates a community of inclusion in all her endeavors.

Russell Thomas

Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

Russell Thomas is a double major in gender, sexuality & women's studies and American studies. Russell demonstrated their exemplary leadership and scholarship in the department through their position as an academic community counselor and research on queer and trans studies. Russell was heavily involved with the campus community through the pre-health ambassador network, advocacy internship with Helping Individual People Survive (HIP), health education and promotion, and involvement as the gender and sexuality committee head for the Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic. Russell's involvement and outstanding academic performance is a testament to their future success in graduate school.

Angel Truong

Asian American Studies

Angel represents a generation of students leading the charge in critical thought, research, analysis, and application. She contributed toward the program's student centric focus enhancement and continues to excel in her academics. Angel receives high praise from both faculty and staff as a student researcher and volunteer. The department congratulates Angel on her successes and is proud to award her as outstanding senior because she more than deserves this title.

Gisselle Valencia

French

Gisselle Valencia progressed from the second quarter of the introductory language sequence to producing stellar work in upper-division seminars conducted entirely in French. A double major in French and English, she holds an overall 3.9 GPA and a 3.96 GPA in French. Faculty commend Gisselle's insightful, carefully argued papers, and the outstanding work she produced in a wide-range of subjects, from linguistics to civilization to literature in periods ranging from the medieval to the present day. Gisselle studied abroad at the University of Bordeaux and applied to serve as an English language assistant in the French government's TAPIF program.

Bhoomi Vasishtha

Computer Science

During her time at UC Davis, Bhoomi served as an orientation leader, departmental peer advisor, and executive council member for the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). Bhoomi's leadership and organizational skills were clearly evident among her SWE peers, as they unanimously voted to have her serve as president after her first year as a council member. It was astonishing to witness how Bhoomi continues to give back to the department and to her fellow students, all while tackling the extremely rigorous coursework of the computer science major. She undoubtedly exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding senior at UC Davis.

Tessa Grace Walker

Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Tessa worked as the sole assistant for the "Middle Ages in the Wider World" conference in April 2018. They were in charge of producing all materials and folders, served as greeter and logistical staff, and attended all conference sessions. Tessa's poise, competence, and knowledge of the field persuaded several attendees to assume they were an advanced graduate student. Moreover, Tessa was proactive in promoting the Medieval & Early Modern Studies Program to other undergraduate students. Tessa deserves recognition for both their academic performance and their leadership in an academic field that they plan to continue in upon graduation.

Megan West

English

Megan West had tremendous academic success at UC Davis. She completed the University Honors Program, two majors, two honors theses for each major, and two minors. Megan presented her research at both the 2017 MURALS Conference and the 2018 Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Conference. Megan won the 2018 Best Undergraduate Critical Honors Thesis award in English. Moreover, she demonstrated commitment to making a positive impact on the university community by serving as senior editor of The REVIAL Zine, working as a health education & promotion volunteer and as a peer advisor for sociology, and contributed her time and effort to Empower Yolo and the WRRC.

Alex Williams

Chemical Engineering

Alex Williams's diversity of experiences and record of academic excellence made him an ideal recipient for this award. Alex participated in the University Honors Program while taking advantage of study abroad opportunities, being selected for an internship with Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and taking on the demanding role of President of the Regents Scholars

Society. Alex has provided direct assistance to students as a tutor for two upper-division courses. The department is grateful for the positive impact Alex has made and is excited to see how he continues to use his knowledge and ambition to impact those around him.

Lynette Williams

Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology

Lynette began working at the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology in 2015, and made significant contributions to research and teaching within wildlife, fish, and conservation biology (WFCB). She is passionate about specimen based teaching and prepared 350 voucher specimens for research and teaching. She participated in classroom enrichment and was an undergraduate teaching assistant for two courses—“The Biology and Conservation of Wild Birds Lab” and “The Natural History of California Vertebrates Lab.” Through museum-based outreach at public events, she exemplified the exceptional students in the WFCB department. Lynette’s departmental contributions are coupled with an excellent major GPA.

Clarissa Wong

Clinical Nutrition

Clarissa is a Regent’s Scholar in clinical nutrition and a minor in psychology. She is involved in various aspects of nutrition. She currently works at the Student Health and Wellness Center teaching cooking classes and contributing to campus public health campaigns. Clarissa also dedicated time to volunteer at a Women, Infants, and Children Center, helping low-income mothers and families access nutritious food and counseling. She demonstrates leadership as vice president of the Student Nutrition Association. Upon graduation, Clarissa will pursue a combined master’s degree in public health at UCLA with the Veteran’s Affairs Greater Los Angeles Dietetic Internship.

Lauren Ashley Wong

Sociology

Lauren is a hard worker, strong writer, creative thinker, and an exceptional sociology student. She dedicated much of her UC Davis career to helping other students succeed in their academic paths. Lauren was a sociology peer advisor, a writing tutor, a research trainer, and an undergraduate teaching assistant in criminology. She was an invited member to Professor Smith’s research lab on police violence. Lauren also assisted with grant and manuscript preparation. She ran workshops on writing for sociology and how to talk with professors. Lauren graduated a quarter early and is pursuing a career path in academic advising and mentorship.

Claire Youngerman

Cinema and Digital Media

Claire consistently excelled in the program, especially in experimental film where she produced several outstanding and ambitious works. Claire brings both artistry and technical skill to her work in film production. An excellent filmmaker, she also is supportive of the work of her fellow students, contributing to a culture of collaboration among the talented group of developing young filmmakers. Claire's artistry was included in "Collaborative Stages: Student Theater and New Dance Works Festival" in 2018; the movement study conducted by theatre and dance graduate student, Lena Polzonetti, which explored relationality and identity.

Biying Zhang

Statistics (B.S.)

Biying Zhang's academic performance and range of scholarly experience and achievements are undeniably impressive. Biying is the highest achieving student in the Department of Statistics. She achieved a 4.00 GPA in her major and is currently participating in the department's highly competitive Research Training Group. Biying surely has a bright future ahead of her.

Zihao Zhu

Mathematical Analytics and Operations Research

Zihao contributes to the department's learning environment through interdisciplinary research. In consultation with faculty and two graduate students, Zihao was able to implement an algorithm that would dramatically improve sampling in the DNA topology simulations. He presented his findings at research group meetings, the Biology and Mathematics in the Bay Area event, and the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Conference. He is working on a senior thesis and a research publication. Zihao's work and attitude are excellent. The faculty hope to hire him as a research assistant after he graduates, as he prepares for graduate school.

Yueming Zhuo

Electrical Engineering

Yueming Zhuo is a double major in both electrical and mechanical engineering, and his academic talents, motivation, and hard work have resulted in an exceptional 3.95 GPA. Although a double major, Yueming is ahead of the recommended schedule for graduation. He also has taken two graduate courses in electrical engineering and has performed near the top of the class in both MOS Circuit Design and Data Conversion Techniques. He always asks excellent questions and is engaged in the classroom and beyond.

