



# 2017 UC DAVIS OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

**Monday, May 15, 2017 | 6:00 p.m.**

*UC Davis Conference Center*



## PROGRAM

Welcome

Outstanding Senior Awards

Center for Student Involvement  
Leadership Awards

Principles of Community Awards

Community Service and  
Civic Engagement Awards

Student Affairs Awards

Closing

Reception

## **Outstanding Senior Awards**

*See list of students beginning on Page 7*

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.

## **Advancing Academic and Career Goals Award**

*Chicano and Latino Engineers and Scientists 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.

## **Balanced Leaders Award**

*National Alliance on Mental Illness*

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**

*Medical Explorers*

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**

*MEDLIFE 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.

## **Inspirational Aggies Award**

### *Association for Women in Mathematics*

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**

### *Davis Women in Business*

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**

### *Shah Steiner*

In recognition of individual leadership and accomplishment within registered student organizations. 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.

## **Principles of Community Week Grant Competition Award**

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.

### **Platinum**

*Bayanihan Clinic*

### **Gold**

*Afghan Student Association*

### **Silver**

*Davis Women in Business*

### **Bronze**

*Colleges Against Cancer*

## **Community Service and Civic Engagement Award**

In recognition of dedicated service to others that is substantial in breadth, quality, and time commitment. The honorees' service has resulted in 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. Their service has impacted campus, local, national and/or international communities.

### **First Year**

*Nina Quach*

### **Undergraduate Students**

*Funke Aderonmu*

*Ryan Borden*

*Murtaza Khan*

### **Graduate Student**

*Marsha Alisudjana*

### **Student Organization**

*Clinica Tepati*

## **Margarita Robinson Student Leadership Award**

*Connor Grant*

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.

## **Student Promoting Advocacy and Redefining Community Award**

*Laura Galvez*

In recognition of a rising student activist who has displayed a passion for engagement across multiple communities. The SPARC Award is presented annually by the Campus Community Centers.

## **Social Justice and Inclusion Award**

*Tori-Ann Porter*

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 has served as a change agent and made a tangible impact on campus community promoting equity and inclusion.

## **Veloyce Glenn Winslow Jr. Award**

*Raumin Neville*

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.

## **Mary Jeanne Gilhooly Award**

*Jessica Jones*

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. 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 Awards

### Yashodora Abeykoon

#### *Genetics and Genomics*

Yash's research in the lab of Dr. Celina Juliano helped to identify a set of genes involved in stem-cells in Hydra. She presented her data at the 2017 National Collegiate Research Conference (NCRC) at Harvard University, where she was able to interact with her peer researchers as well as senior investigators. In addition to her work in the lab, Yash has maintained an impressive 3.9 GPA since arriving in the US from her native Sri Lanka. Yash also finds time to work with students, including underprivileged children in the Sri Lanka Model United Nations. Yash is clearly a scholar and a humanitarian, and is well deserving of this honor.

### Tyler Anderson

#### *Applied Physics*

Tyler's academic performance in the physics department has been stellar. But he stands out further for his many personal contributions to the physics community, mainly through his involvement with the Physics Club. Tyler is a leader within the group, during a time when the Physics Club is exceptionally well-organized and effective. He has efficiently led one of the most important charges of the group, providing free tutoring for undergraduate physics students, and also taken a leading role in other outreach efforts. He is an asset to the department and university.

### Kimya Baradaran

#### *Exercise Biology*

Possessing a wonderful combination of enthusiasm and curiosity, Kimya has had an exemplary four years at UC Davis. Maintaining superb grades while completing the University Honors Program, Kimya still managed to find time to conduct multiple research projects and internships here and at the medical center. Faculty and staff have found Kimya to be both diligent and inquisitive, and she has always been a pleasure to work with. After graduation, Kimya plans to explore a career in sports medicine.

### Jacqueline Booker

#### *Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior*

Graduating with highest honors, Jacqueline attributes her success to not only personal discipline, but the enrichment of her many extracurricular activities. She has found personal growth in both the intellectual stimulation of the lab and the creative stimulation of years performing with the UC Davis Concert Band. It's an impressive record of accomplishments, but what makes Jacqueline truly outstanding is the warmth and empathy she's brought to each of them. Whether through her impressive research or her role as a TA, she has found great joy in giving back to her community.

## **Keatyn Bucknam**

### *Animal Biology*

Keatyn is among the most gifted and hardworking of undergraduates, with strong interests in systematics, evolution and biological research at a deeply conceptual level. Following graduation she intends to do a PhD, ultimately becoming a member of the academic community. Her record is stellar: a 4.0 GPA, two referred publications, field research experience in the American tropics, aptitudes in laboratory techniques such as SDS-PAGE, IR spectroscopy, gas chromatography and PCR. She is SCUBA Certified, possessing a strong desire to do her doctorate in Marine biology and coastal ecology. Keatyn combines high productivity, hard work, and academic excellence with a delightful personality.

## **Michael Carter**

### *Communication*

Michael has gone beyond the academic challenges placed in front of him and has shown extraordinary intellectual leadership. In addition to maintaining an outstanding GPA, he developed an honors thesis and a conference paper examining how the use of new communication technologies influences people's self and identity. Michael's volunteer work and community involvement is also exceptional. He has spent much time working with teenagers at risk, and this experience has informed his interests in central topics, such as technology, adolescents, and identity. Michael represents the best of what UC Davis stands for: world-class academic performance, research creativity, and compassion.

## **Trevor Chan**

### *Applied Mathematics*

Trevor is a double major who has accomplished quite a bit in terms of research and campus engagements. His research includes an algorithm for scheduling teaching staff. He worked with the Center for Educational Effectiveness on an integer programming model that would detect when the course schedule proposed by departments did not feasibly allow for on-time graduation.

## **Karmtej Cheema**

### *History*

Karmtej has been a dedicated leader in the history department. He served as the president of the history honors society, Phi Alpha Theta, for the past year. During his tenure as president, he has organized many events such as film viewings and academic talks with faculty, study halls, and other socials. Not only has Karmtej served as a leader in history but has also maintained an excellent academic record.



### **Lee Cheung**

#### *Nutrition Science*

Lee has been an outstanding student and is graduating first in her major. While at UC Davis, she was a microbiology tutor and a volunteer at various community events including the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. As a Patient Advocate at the Paul Hom Asian Clinic, she served patients who lacked adequate healthcare due to cultural, linguistic, or economic barriers.

### **Carlene Chow**

#### *Civil Engineering*

Carlene is a remarkable student, and is strongly committed to structural engineering both in and out of the classroom. She served as captain and project manager on the ASCE Steel Bridge team, teaching design and fabrication skills to her peers, while emphasizing the value of teamwork and collaboration. Carlene is a member of several engineering professional and honor societies, and also participated on Seismic Design team. In summer 2016, Carlene worked as a junior specialist with the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley.

### **Carolina Raquel Conte**

#### *Italian*

Carolina is a double major in Italian and Food Science and Technology with a stellar academic record in both majors. During her Quarter Abroad experience in Florence, Carolina generously participated in volunteering activities and was an exemplary group leader and student. She has been deeply involved in both her departmental communities through the C.I.A.O. Club and the Food Tech Club, of which she is the current treasurer. Carolina is an extraordinary student and young scholar, a role model for her peers, an ideal UC Davis ambassador to the world, and truly an outstanding senior.

### **Michael Craig**

#### *East Asian Studies*

Michael is an outstanding student in the field of East Asian Studies. He consistently receives high grades and is noted for his participation in East Asian Studies Department. Faculty across disciplines noted his outstanding performance and engagement in their courses.

### **Marcelle D'Almeida**

#### *Natural Sciences*

Marcelle is an exemplary student in the Natural Sciences major. Her strong academic record, with several A+ grades in upper division science courses, sets a high bar for fellow students. Marcelle is an engaged participant in her courses and is an astounding example of mastering both the depth and breadth for which the Natural Science major is designed.

## Naji Dmeiri

### *Computer Science and Engineering*

Naji is an amazing student that excels in every one of his endeavors. His success in his coursework is a result of his discipline and classroom engagement. He is an Honors student majoring in Computer Science and Engineering, and a recipient of the UC Davis Regents Scholarship. During the past year, Naji has also been an outstanding student conducting research in the areas of Programming Languages and Software Engineering under the supervision of Professors Cindy Rubio Gonzalez and Premkumar Devanbu. His contributions have been critically important to the project.

## Tiffany Do

### *Asian American Studies*

ASA faculty and staff have found Tiffany to be exceptionally intelligent, diligent, thoughtful, mature, personable, and socially committed. In the classroom, Tiffany stands out as a remarkable young scholar, who always approaches her studies with energy, diligence, thoughtfulness, and intellectual curiosity, manifested in an astute and mature level of thinking. Also impressive is how Tiffany has applied her curricular knowledge from her classes to her multiple commitments to community work. We believe this constitutes a form of engaged scholarship that contributes to the development of informed, socially aware, and civic-minded students, exemplified by Tiffany.

## Tiffany Do

### *Human Development*

Tiffany's stellar academic achievements and service to community make her shine. In addition to her extensive volunteer off-campus activities mentoring and tutoring marginalized and under-served youth and adults, she has also provided much needed support, leadership and community-building to various on-campus programs including the University Honors Program, the Asian American Center on Disparities Research and the Asian American Association at UC Davis. Tiffany's deep commitment of service to both the on- and off-campus communities is what many Human Development students strive for.

## Sophie Ellerby

### *Anthropology (Bachelor of Arts)*

Sophie has been a boon to the Anthropology department not only as a student, but as a peer advisor and a researcher. Her instructors unanimously praise her facility to work subtly with social theory as well as empirical questions. She readily transforms her learning into new questions and new problems – a mark of intellectual maturity. She is also completing an honor's thesis with Dr. Tim Choy that combines archival and original ethnographic field research within environmental anthropology and science and technology studies. She will present her results at the Undergraduate Research Conference. In addition, Sophie demonstrates her enthusiasm for the major to all students she interacts with as a peer advisor.

## **Edie Espejo**

### *Statistics*

Edie has the unique gift of blending excellent academic achievements with brilliant leadership skills. She is the current President of the Statistics Club of UC Davis, a group which has been very active in promoting undergraduate learning in statistics. She was also the driving force behind the flagship event of “iidata,” the highly successful student-run data science convention, which entered its second year in 2017. Her enthusiasm for modern statistical developments can also be seen through her participation in several undergraduate research programs, including the Research Training Group. Edie has been an admirable ambassador to the program and her passion will continue to inspire others.

## **Scout Faller**

### *Gender Sexuality and Women’s Studies*

Scout is an innovative thinker and a compelling and talented artist. The Gender Sexuality and Women’s Studies program recognizes Scout as an extraordinarily creative scholar who combines a commitment to feminist activism and a record of academic excellence. Scout made significant contributions to UC Davis through the establishment of a queer arts collective on campus.

## **Valerie Fates**

### *Animal Science*

Valerie is the strongest student in the department’s graduating class as well as one of the brightest, hardest-working, most reliable, and well-rounded students at UC Davis. In classes, she consistently earned excellent grades while graciously helping others wherever she could. In research, she worked in four different laboratories, is already published, and is expected to be an author on two more papers. Outside of classes, she coordinated undergraduate volunteers for the Knight’s Landing One Health Clinic providing monthly preventative veterinary care to economically underserved communities. Also as a Regents Scholar, she contributed to the university through recruiting and community service.

## **Janelle Ferreira**

### *Managerial Economics*

Janelle has shown exemplary performance in the Managerial Economics program by achieving a 4.0 major GPA and earning the highest grades, notably 9 A+ grades, overall in the major. Throughout her four years at UC Davis, Janelle has been a very active participant in the classroom and sets the example for positive student engagement by answering questions and facilitating discussion among peers. For the past two summers, Janelle interned at Deloitte, one of the big four accounting firms. Upon graduation, she will be attending Santa Clara University’s Certificate of Advanced Accounting Proficiency program and has secured employment with Deloitte’s Audit Department in San Jose.

### **Dylan Finch**

#### *Electrical Engineering*

The department has had the pleasure of working with Dylan Finch while he has been developing a very efficient and high throughput MPEG-2 Layer III audio codec on a 1000-processor chip that was designed by my group. In addition to being exceptionally self-motivated and proficient in learning and applying new topics, he is also humble regarding his achievements and a joy to work with. His academic achievements are yet another indication of his abilities, and I look forward to hearing of his no-doubt-great accomplishments to come in his future career.

### **Amber Flores**

#### *Plant Biology*

Amber is an excellent student who has been working in Professor Neelima Sinha's research lab for a little over one year. Within a quarter she began to challenge Professor Sinha with questions about her research project, read the primary literature, and develop and modify protocols to improve data gathering. Soon after that she began to function as a mentor to fellow students in lab, helping them learn techniques and gather data. She trained herself in data analysis, made significant research findings that will lead to authorship in a paper, and devised her own research project to look at phenotypic plasticity under stress conditions.

### **Keiko Fong**

#### *Biochemical Engineering*

Keiko has contributed to an active educational environment through her high academic standards and her contributions to the student body. Keiko has been involved in the University Honors Program along with the Chemical Engineering Honors program by maintaining excellent grades and contributing to research which investigated the synthesis of porous gels for encapsulating biomolecules. Additionally, Keiko shows her diverse range of interests having held positions of member, Vice President and President of the Na Keiki 'O Hawai'i, the Polynesian club on campus.

### **Ali Fox**

#### *Linguistics*

Ali has been an outstanding student in every way, getting consistent A's in all his classes. All those in the department who were fortunate enough to have him in a class found him to be most insightful, perceptive, and thoughtful. His responses in class, whether in speech or writing, were detailed, analytic, and sharp. We have no doubt at all that he will shine—no matter what he seeks to do next!

### **Carley Fredrickson**

#### *Atmospheric Science*

Carley's academic performance is stellar, and her 3.991 GPA underestimates her academic prowess. She has earned numerous kudos as a Regents Scholar, University Honors Program scholar, and a member of the CA&ES Dean's List every quarter. Carley also has as strong background in community service,

having been an active volunteer and leader in the St. James Church Newman Choir, the Hillel House Challah for Hunger campaign, and the Girl Scouts.

### **Jonathan Gonzalez**

#### *French*

Faculty in the Department of French and Italian describe Jonathan as an “engaged” and “daring” thinker who did “outstanding work” in challenging upper division seminars. He is also praised for his broad intellectual interests and overall engagement with the Department. Jonathan volunteered as a French tutor and spent many hours working with his fellow students to help them understand finer points of grammar and vocabulary.

### **Jasmine Gunkel**

#### *Philosophy*

Jasmine is a stellar student who demonstrated leadership throughout her undergraduate career in Philosophy at UC Davis. She won the departmental contest for best undergraduate student essay two years in a row. She wrote an excellent senior thesis on the inconsistency of our ethical behaviors toward animals that was rigorous, and novel. She has been admitted to graduate school at more than a half dozen top programs. She served as President of the Undergraduate Philosophy Club for two years and assisted a faculty member in organizing our annual Spring Conference. She is active in the Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy group and the Minorities and Philosophy group.

### **Garrett Hagwood**

#### *Music*

In a field such as music, where intense specialization is the norm, Garret distinguishes himself by playing two instruments (violin and saxophone), by mastering both classical and jazz, and by composing. He has been an exemplary citizen of the Music Department, having served as a peer adviser. His versatility extends beyond music: Garrett also took all the prerequisites for medical school and has done volunteer work in Clínica Tepati, a student-run clinic. His communitarian spirit, conscientiousness, and kind demeanor will serve him in whatever career he chooses.

### **Nathan Hatch**

#### *Hydrology*

Nathan has been a role model and exemplary student for the Hydrology major at UC Davis. Since joining, he has actively taken leadership in establishing a new student chapter of the American Water Works Association on campus by serving as treasurer (2014) and ultimately president (2015). He has worked as research station assistant at the UC Davis Campbell Tract, where he was instrumental to maintaining the meteorological stations and the world-famous large lysimeters. He has been active as player and treasurer of the UC Davis Men’s Ultimate Club Team. Nathan has a bright future as hydrologist who will bridge science and policy through curiosity, infectious enthusiasm, and a solid work ethic.

### **Elise Hickman**

#### *Environmental Toxicology*

Elise participated in the University Honors Program, made the Deans Honor List 2013-17, was awarded a Regents Scholarship, and the Provost's Award for Outstanding Out-of-State Students. She excelled in Honors Research in the Department of Environmental Toxicology, and participated in the University of Washington Environmental Health Research Experience Program. Her campus leadership includes being a calculus tutor at the Student Academic Success Center, a TA for a Cycling Class, and an officer for the UC Davis Club Cycling Team. Elise will graduate summa cum laude and then begin a PhD in toxicology at UNC Chapel Hill Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program.

### **Erin Hsu**

#### *Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry*

Erin is an intelligent, inquisitive, diligent, and resourceful student who cares deeply about horticulture and intends to pursue it professionally. Her outstanding academic record and fifteen scholarship awards are testament to her scholastic excellence. In addition to establishing a superb academic record, Erin is participating in the University Honors Program. She will present her research on methods of improving the in vitro propagation of disease-resistant walnut tree rootstocks at the Undergraduate Research Conference this Spring. Despite her exceptional achievements, Erin is humble and generous. She truly embodies all of the qualities of an outstanding student.

### **Eavan Huth**

#### *English*

Eavan exemplifies what the English Department values most in our majors, both inside and outside of the classroom. She is participating this year in the departmental honors program. She has held leadership positions in various organizations, advisory boards, and councils. She worked as a Community Organizer at the Women's Resources and Research Center. Finally, in an accomplishment which brings together both her interest in literature and her commitment to social justice and equality, she held a key organizational role as facilitator for successive productions of OurStories, a creative space for folks to heal from gendered violence through the creative act of performance.

### **Tyler Jackson**

#### *International Agricultural Development*

Faculty describe Tyler as a student who epitomizes everything a scholar and a citizen should be. Not only has he maintained a near perfect academic record in a diversity of academic disciplines, he has done so while serving as the mainstay of the IAD Peer Advising unit and while contributing to a number of innovative rural community research activities both locally and in Tanzania. Tyler exhibits a quiet excellence and dedication to his fellow man, that all who work with him admire greatly.

## **Xueer Jiang**

### *Microbiology*

Xueer is a charismatic and an extremely motivated student with great initiative and many talents. She has a 4.0 GPA in the depth subject for the Microbiology major and a 3.985 GPA overall. Besides excelling in academics, she also finds time in her packed schedule to give back within the UC Davis and City of Davis community. Xueer volunteers with the Putah Creek Council, “Fix Our Feral Clinic,” St. Martin’s Church, SPCA Thrift Store, and tutors peers in Physics 7B and 7C. Xueer is also an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Bo Liu’s lab. Dr. Liu raves, “Xueer Jiang has been a wonderful member in our laboratory.”

## **Kyle Johnson**

### *Mathematics*

Kyle is a leader in his research project: he knows, or quickly learns, in which direction to look for interesting problems, figures out the best techniques to use, and where there are connections to existing literature. He is outstanding in computational aspects, utilizing several computer languages as they become useful. He is, in short, already a complete modern scientist.

## **Jessica Jones**

### *Community and Regional Development*

In addition to her high level of academic excellence, Jessica has shown a true commitment to the values that underscore the Community and Regional Development major. She has served as the Student Engagement Coordinator for the Center for Regional Change where she’s worked tirelessly to engage students in applied research in and around Davis on issues related to social and environmental justice. She shows a deep passion and unwavering commitment to service through her own advocacy and applied research addressing issues of socioeconomic inequality in Sonoma County, the City of Santa Rosa, and throughout California.

## **Emily Kaar**

### *Mathematical Analytics and Operations Research*

Emily is a clever, detail-oriented thinker. She gives thorough prepared presentations concerning basic topological concepts. She has been active in research and served her community as a Resident Assistant, Regent Scholar and participates fully in the Math Club.

## **Alexander Keyser**

### *Political Science*

Alexander is a high-achieving student who is regarded by faculty as a wonderful presence in class discussions. He also is an active participant in Aggies for Humanity, the premier humanitarian student organization at UC Davis. Alexander is also involved in ASUCD, exemplifying his commitment to the Principles of Community held by all UC Davis students, staff, and faculty.

## Ria Khanna

### *Chemical Engineering*

Ria has demonstrated her ability to apply concepts introduced in her major classes through her outstanding GPA and her relevant experiences outside of the classroom. In addition to frequently being on the Dean's List, Ria has also participated in undergraduate research, performing molecular simulations to model the behavior of semiconducting polymer molecules. Ria also applied her knowledge during her internship at the Starbucks Coffee Company headquarters in Seattle, working in Research and Development.

## Maisie Kise

### *American Studies*

Maisie is an exemplary student in the American Studies Department whose acute curiosity has prompted original research and impressive writing on an array of topics, including the environmental justice implications of the Salton Sea and an analysis of contemporary dystopian fiction by women of color (the latter has been recommended for a departmental writing prize). Moreover, Maisie's out of classroom experience is equally impressive, having partnered with the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water to develop a film project that focuses on people's relationships with water. Lastly, Maisie has also held leadership roles with the Women's Resources and Research Center and Third Space Art Collective.

## Paige Klugherz

### *Art Studio*

Paige is an excellent student of the highest caliber of artists in her graduating cohort of undergraduate students. She specializes in sculpture and painting. Her work has been featured in the de Young Museum of San Francisco and the Pence Gallery in Davis.

## Ryan Kopa

### *Materials Science and Engineering*

Ryan's passion for collective learning and development has not only helped him achieve personal academic success, but has also led to the academic success of others. Ryan's involvement in Tau Beta Pi has allowed him to volunteer as a tutor and help his peers succeed in their studies. Ryan has also been a part of the Materials Science and Engineering Honors Program where he works alongside faculty and graduate students to further develop his understanding of this field of study. He has then taken that knowledge to help his fellow undergraduates find research positions as well.

## Srujan Kopperapu

### *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*

Srujan is an outstanding scholar and researcher who has never shied away from a challenge. In addition to doing research in Dr. Neil Hunter's lab, Srujan has maintained a stellar GPA, and he has done so in remarkable fashion. In Winter 2016, Srujan took 23 units that included some of the most challenging classes in his major and received an astounding five A+'s and one A. He has consistently done this quarter after quarter, and has



chosen to take the most challenging math and physics courses. Combined with his commitment to research, Srujan's academic achievements make him stand out as one truly deserving of this honor.

### **Philo Kwan**

#### *Geology*

Philo is a consistently excellent and engaged geology student. He shows depth of insight in his coursework, and he collaborates well with his peers. Philo has initiated a senior research project to study poorly understood active faulting in the northern Coast Ranges using high-resolution topography data, which he will complete over the summer.

### **Michelle Lee**

#### *Design*

Michelle is outstanding both academically and in her service to the department. A winner of the department's Ola Lorens Memorial Travel Scholarship, she participated in the Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design (SOFA) Fair in Chicago, presented at the International Symposium on Electronic Art in Hong Kong, showed her work at the Natsoulas Gallery in Davis, and is working on an installation at the Crocker Museum in Sacramento. She was a tutor within the department's design courses. By the end of her undergraduate career she had enrolled in seminars alongside graduate students. Yet still she found time to serve as treasurer to the PIXEL undergraduate society, and to support fellow students and faculty as an assistant in the department's Computer Lab.

### **Goldwayne Leh**

#### *Computer Engineering*

Goldwayne is the top graduating Computer Engineer for Spring 2017. He is graduating as a double major with Electrical Engineering and is part of the Integrated Master's Degree program which will allow him to complete his M.S. in one additional year. During his undergraduate career Goldwayne participated in a two-week research internship in Taiwan and was a member of EE-Emerge, IEEE and the Davis Computer Science Club. In addition to his academic achievements he has interned at Hewlett-Packard and will intern with Amazon in summer 2017.

### **Un Leong**

#### *Economics*

Un is an exceptional economics major. Not only does she excel in economics but she is committed to helping others in the field. She has served as a department peer tutor and is currently serving in a pilot program as one of the first undergraduate teaching assistants. On top of her duties as a tutor and TA, she also devotes time as the Community Director of the Economics Club. She is a shining example of an active leader within the major and department.

## Colin Lewis

### *Textiles and Clothing*

Colin is a motivated and talented student. He has achieved academically with a high GPA in the Textiles and Clothing major. He will succeed with any and all future endeavors.

## Elisa Magallanes

### *Spanish*

Elisa Magallanes is a Spanish and Chicano Studies major with a minor in Education as well as an Honors student and McNair Fellow. She has been awarded the 2016 Chicano Poet, Francisco X. Alarcón Award for her work as tutor and mentor in the Spanish for Heritage Speakers Program.

## Andriana Malhi

### *Religious Studies*

Andriana is a trailblazer who has built bridges between diverse cultures on campus, both inside and outside the classroom. Under her leadership as the first female president of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, the group has begun to work closely with the Muslim Student Association and other groups to break stereotypes and promote justice and dialogue in an intellectually vibrant community. Her work on an innovative group project—which used digital methods to analyze female-narrated Islamic traditions—embodies her commitment to collaboration and challenging preconceptions. Her intellectual audacity both challenge others and invite them into meaningful dialogue.

## Deniss Martinez

### *Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity*

Deniss is a natural scholar, teacher, mentor, and leader. In addition to being an excellent student in the EEB major, Deniss has been extraordinarily engaged in making UC Davis and the Davis community a better place, through her example as well as through her active efforts to promote positive change. She has also been active in the Women's Resources and Research Center, the AB540 and Undocumented Student Center, and SPEAK, the student organization supporting undocumented students. She has also been a research intern in the labs of Drs. Sharon Strauss and Dave Rizzo. Deniss will be joining the Graduate Group in Ecology as a PhD student in the Potter and Middleton labs next fall.

## Erin McGinnis

### *Computer Science*

Erin is an incredibly intelligent and hardworking student. She worked as a research assistant for an NSF project on analysis of graphs created by fMRI imaging. Her work with small-world graph properties was crucial in receiving grant funding from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for her lab. The departmental faculty note that she often stands out in her class due to the quality of her work and the questions she asks during lecture. Other top students often remark about her incredible veracity and intellectual power.

### **Rachel Muradian**

#### ***Mechanical Engineering***

Rachel is one of the most talented students the MAE faculty have encountered. Just as important as her scholastic excellence, Rachel has demonstrated determination to improve lives of people. She has worked on developing a new prosthetic control system for amputees and worked with NASA Ames Research Center on a new small-spacecraft hardware testbed. She undertook a senior design project to improve sanitation systems in Cambodia that resulted in a fellowship to implement her team's design there. Upon graduation, Rachel has obtained a well-deserved position with a world leader in prosthetics to continue her pursuit of engineered systems that directly help people.

### **Donald Nguyen**

#### ***Global Disease Biology***

Don is a model Global Disease Biology citizen who is very engaged with course work, instructors, advisors, and fellow students in the major. In recognition of his work ethic and the passion that he brings to the program, he was named GDB student of the month of March 2017. His faculty mentors describe him as an outstanding student who has demonstrated impressive skills of scientific reasoning and problem-solving. When asked about Don, many will without hesitation mention his unlimited levels of energy and enthusiasm.

### **Shaun O'Malley**

#### ***Sociology - Organizational Studies***

Shaun is an enthusiastic and motivated student with an outstanding GPA. He will graduate with highest honors based on his stand out senior thesis on how California's historic correctional reform, Public Safety Realignment, has played out in three counties. He conducted interviews with public officials, carried out extensive archival research to reconstruct the pathways each county took in the aftermath of the reform, and synthesized quantitative data voting, budget, and crime statistics. Shaun is a thoughtful mentor to those with whom he works as a certified addiction counselor and plans to continue making an impact in the social services field.

### **Heba Omholt**

#### ***Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning***

Alongside her exceptional academic performance—3.7 GPA in EPAP courses—Heba 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. Her exemplary work ethic, passion for the environment, and strong intellect make her a model to other students.

### **Katherine Perkins**

#### *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems*

Kat is one of the most dedicated and brightest undergraduates at UC Davis. She is deeply involved in the housing cooperative communities. Kat has been a leader and key player in her housing cooperative during the transition of the UC Davis Tri-Cooperatives from the management under Student Housing to management under the Solar Community Housing Association. Kat is very involved in the national association of student cooperatives, taking a leadership role in organizing their upcoming West Coast conference.

### **Sarah Potter**

#### *Pharmaceutical Chemistry*

Sarah is a highly-motivated student who is very involved in the department. She has maintained an extremely rigorous course load including graduate coursework and has earned a GPA of 3.981. Sarah has been involved in undergraduate research for three years in the Department of Chemistry. She is also currently serving as a Chemistry Department Peer Advisor. In this position, she is able to help students navigate their courses and become more involved. Sarah will be attending graduate school next year to obtain a PhD in Chemical Biology and study therapeutic development for neurodegenerative diseases.

### **Erin Rixin**

#### *Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology*

Erin demonstrated outstanding academic achievement as an undergraduate, by maintaining both a high UC Davis and major GPA. She is committed to the WFCB department, serving as an excellent peer advisor and as an undergraduate TA for WFC 110L (Lab in Biology and Conservation of Wild Mammals). Additionally, Erin shows campus leadership as the CA&ES student representative for the Undergraduate Majors and Courses committee.

### **Jorge Rodriguez**

#### *Plant Sciences*

Jorge is a highly motivated, hard-working student who juggles multiple jobs while maintaining a high GPA. He has extensive experience working for his family's company and conducting research on the use of manure for compost. He is extraordinarily insightful in making connections between his education and his work, applying what he learns in classes and from research to serving clientele by improving agricultural practices both economically and environmentally. He is a kind-hearted individual who always has a positive attitude, loves to learn, and is committed to making the world a better place.

### **Sarah Rotondo**

#### *Clinical Nutrition*

Sarah entered UC Davis with a determination to perform her best and to seek out experiential opportunities. Over the years she has had varying internships and jobs. She tutored, worked in the community providing nutrition education, and assisted in various research projects from elephant

welfare, human nutrition, to global health. Her most challenging and rewarding experience was providing wound care for patients at the Firefighters Burn Institute Regional Burn Center. Sarah's devotion and determination has resulted in her achievement of a nearly perfect grade point average and acceptance into medical school which she will begin this fall.

### **Lauren Salinero**

#### *Biotechnology*

Lauren has a perfect academic record, participates in cutting edge research, and tirelessly contributes to the betterment of others. Her research uses advanced sequencing technologies to characterize bacteria associated with feeding tubes used in neonatal intensive care units; this research has the potential to minimize neonates' exposure to harmful microbes. Lauren obtained a highly competitive grant to provide guitars to disabled American Veterans, to whom she gives weekly lessons. Lauren Salinero is the type of student we can all look up to; a combination of academic excellence, scientific integrity, and a commitment to make the world a better place.

### **Sabrina Sanchez**

#### *Chicana/o Studies*

Sabrina's departmental and campus contributions extend beyond the leadership positions she held at the Student Recruitment and Retention Center, the Cross Cultural Center and the Department of Chicana/o Studies as both a peer advisor and community relations intern. She has served both the UC Davis campus and Chicano/Latino community with integrity, intelligence, and great character while still being able to demonstrate outstanding academic performance. She has shown a passion and a commitment to work that fosters social justice, community and student engagement.

### **Danielle Sawyer**

#### *Cell Biology*

Danielle joined Professor Rick McKenney's lab this year, and has brought her can-do attitude to research on the molecular motor protein, kinesin. She has created new genetic alleles of the kinesin gene to allow the lab to study these novel proteins and analyze their biochemical properties. In addition to contributing to the research in the lab, Danielle has single handedly created a lab Wiki page for protocols and procedures, thereby providing a more productive learning environment for everyone involved. It is this independent spirit and her inquisitive nature in the lab that has singled her out for this honor.

### **Ryan Schemrich**

#### *Entomology*

Ryan explored and refined his long-standing interest in the diversity and adaptations of insects by pursuing research in the laboratory of Dr. Louie Yang. There, Ryan studied the effects of nutrient flux on insect food webs, and aspects of interactions between Monarch butterflies and their milkweed host plants. Ryan developed excellent research skills that he will use to pursue graduate study of Entomology in the future.

## **Breanna Schenkuizen**

### *Comparative Literature*

Breanna's enthusiasm for learning is infectious. She has excelled in her own coursework and her grades reflect this achievement. In class Breanna is a spark-plug, modeling active engagement and through her example encourages participation from other students. She has challenged herself to undertake honors in the major, completing a thesis on adaptations of Greek mythology in contemporary Young Adult fiction. In addition, Breanna has been tireless in her work as peer advisor for Comparative Literature, constantly finding opportunities to recruit students into the ranks of the department's close-knit undergraduate cohort.

## **Mason Schmidt**

### *International Relations*

Mason has had his independent research on displaced persons in Uganda published in *Human Rights: Making the Case*. He has also presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research on Queer Politics in Southeast Europe. Mason has participated in the UC Davis Honors Program since his freshman year and is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Mason interned in Governor Jerry Brown's office as well as the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland. He has won numerous awards not only for his academic accomplishments but also for his community service such as the UC Davis Extraordinary Student Award which honors 10 students from UC Davis each year for outstanding leadership and service.

## **Valentín Sierra**

### *Native American Studies*

Valentín is a first-generation college student of Native American (Yoeme and Cheyenne) and Chicano descent. A highly creative and original indigenous queer feminist scholar, Val's research and community service priorities are intertwined with his dedication to equity in higher education. His numerous awards and fellowships are a testament to his ambitions, resourcefulness, and intellectual curiosity. In Fall 2017, Val begins his PhD in Education at University of Toronto, where he will continue to pursue his creative and interdisciplinary research interests that will advance the broad field of Native American and Indigenous Studies forward in truly innovative ways.

## **Madison Snider**

### *Marine and Coastal Science*

Madison is a leader amongst Marine and Coastal Sciences students, with active participation in all aspects of the major, and very strong academic work particularly in her upper division science courses. Madison has taken full advantage of opportunities at UC Davis, including working in research labs and participating in the UC Natural Reserve System curriculum.

### **Danielle Steinberg**

#### *Anthropology (Bachelor of Science)*

Danielle has been active within the department and is conducting innovative research. She has held three positions in the Primatology Club: Activities/Outreach Coordinator, Vice President, and now serves as President. She also is completing a honor's thesis with Dr. Lynne Isbell which included traveling to Rwanda to conduct fieldwork comparing play behavior between olive baboons and vervet monkeys in relation to presumed predation risk. She developed her complicated study independently, demonstrating she has a creative, scientific mind and a firm grasp of primate behavior and evolutionary theory. She presented the results of her work at the annual Undergraduate Research Conference in April.

### **Indica Sur**

#### *Classical Civilization*

Indica simultaneously fulfilled major requirements in Classics and in Neurology, Physiology and Behavior. She universally impressed her Classics instructors with her critical insight, dedicated discipline, cheery love of learning, and Latin language skills. She contributed greatly to the Classics program, serving as an officer in both UC Davis' undergraduate Classical Studies Association and its local chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, a national organization for Classics undergraduates. Many Latin students will warmly remember her as an inspiring instructor when she was the official Latin tutor in her final year as an undergraduate.

### **Savannah Tobin**

#### *Biological Sciences*

Savannah has the highest GPA in her major (4.0), and her record includes numerous A+ grades. She is known for her dependability, dedication, critical thinking ability, and true passion for learning that goes beyond the goals of the classroom. In particular, Savannah's performance in the Physics 7 series was phenomenal, and she was cited three quarters in a row for her exceptional contributions to the interactive learning environment in her Physics discussion labs. Finally, Savannah has achieved this academic excellence while also engaging in other activities such as laboratory research and serving as a council member for the 2016 Zika Public Awareness Symposium.

### **Liann Tucker**

#### *Sociology*

Excelling in the department, Liann is a leader among her peers. She will graduate with highest honors, based on her excellent GPA and high caliber honors thesis, her second project of this level. In one of the department's research labs, Liann is the go-to person for disseminating information, coordinating lab members, and volunteering for complex tasks. She has earned the respect of students and they seek her out for advice. Liann also initiated an honors theses work group for her peers. She is approachable, earnest, and invested in learning. Liann has been accepted to three PhD programs in Sociology and one in Criminology.

### **Hannah Van Duzer**

#### ***Animal Science and Management***

Hannah is intelligent, highly motivated, and energetic. Her academic record is very good, and she excels in her extracurricular activities. Hannah is an avid supporter of agriculture with a career goal of becoming an ag teacher. Hannah has made significant contributions to the outreach activities associated with the College and the Department of Animal Science through Aggie Ambassadors, Livestock Judging Team, Young Cattlemen's Association, and more. In recognition of Hannah's outstanding contribution to supporting ag, she was awarded the 2016-17 Undergraduate Scholarship by the California Chapter of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists.

### **Caitlin Vanderveen**

#### ***Theatre and Dance***

Caitlin has been exceptionally committed to the study of dance and demonstrated leadership in dance productions within the department and off-campus. She was one of two UC Davis Theatre and Dance majors to perform works at the Bay Area College Dance Festival at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center in Berkeley. There she demonstrated an exceptional command of composition not only in practice, but in her ability to analyze and articulate compositional theory.

### **Holly Vickery**

#### ***Chemical Biology***

Holly is an exceptional student pursuing an individual major in Chemical Biology. Not only did she excel in her community college coursework, but she has thrived at UC Davis and earned a 4.0 GPA. Holly is currently serving as a Chemistry Department Peer Advisor where she plans departmental outreach events, assists students with academic plans, and works with the chemistry faculty to improve the student experience. She has also participated in undergraduate research for two years studying DNA base excision repair, and she plans to attend graduate school in 2018 after taking a year off to gain additional research experience.

### **Vivian Vuong**

#### ***Biological Systems Engineering***

Vivian has served in leadership roles in the student branches of the Society of Biological Engineers (as President) and the American Society of Biological and Agricultural Engineers. She has also served as an undergraduate researcher in the BAE Sensing and Instrumentation Laboratory, contributing to the development of a mechatronic system for the non-chemical control of weeds and pests. For this work, she was awarded first place in the Undergraduate Project Poster Competition at the ASABE Annual International Meeting in 2016.



## **Maggie Wang**

### *Biomedical Engineering*

Maggie is a consummate professional. She is an amazing multi-tasker, who not only excels in her coursework but also finds time for her imaging research and her volunteer work at the Willow Clinic where she is in charge of supplies and training for this UC Davis student-run medical clinic serving the homeless. She also serves on the department Undergraduate Committee. Yet as busy as she is, she always responds promptly, in depth, and very professionally to all emails. It is truly a joy working with Maggie.

## **Kathryn Watanabe**

### *Japanese*

Katie is a double-major in Japanese and International Relations. She has an excellent GPA with no fewer than eleven A+ grades on her transcript. During her senior year, she served as the Peer Advisor for the Japanese major. She volunteered as a JCHIP intern at an orphanage in Japan over one summer, and spent another summer as a leadership intern in Washington, D.C. For both of these programs, she took the lead in outreach efforts upon her return. Her honor's thesis focuses on works by a Japanese woman writer and her influences under the U.S. Occupation.

## **Jamie Wright**

### *Environmental Science and Management*

“Dedicated” and “persistent” describe Jamie, a top student in the ESM major. Jamie fulfilled all the major requirements with distinction, including being on the CA&ES Dean's List every quarter since becoming an Aggie in 2013, and received several scholarships: Luther and Marie Davis, Steindler Agricultural and Environmental, H.J. Heinz, LAWR Opportunity Fund, and Beeghly-Merritt. Jamie developed research with graduate students in the Soils and Biogeochemistry graduate group working in Dr. William Horwath's lab, where she reinforced her goal of pursuing graduate studies. Not surprisingly, Jamie has just been accepted as a Ph.D. student at the University of Oregon.

## **Valerie Wuerz**

### *German*

Valerie's classroom responses in her current upper-division German course are frequent, perceptive, and sophisticated, and her German language skills surpass those of all her peers. She typically transcends the boundaries of course assignments. Outside the classroom, she has served several times as the German Peer Advisor and the Coordinator of the German Club. Perhaps most strikingly, she aided Professor Carlee Arnett in the collection and analysis of linguistic data and demonstrated such theoretical expertise that she received an undergraduate grant to attend a conference in Iceland where she and Professor Arnett presented their work.

## **Anwei Yu**

### *Chinese*

Anwei has been an exemplary and standout student. He is a triple major in International Relations, Chinese, and Japanese. This is an ambitious program as Chinese and Japanese are ranked by the State Department as two of the most difficult languages in the world. Very few students are willing to take on such a challenge. Even more rare for a college student is the level of engagement in, and commitment to, the campus community Anwei has shown. He has been a dedicated advocate for the department by serving as Academic Peer Advisor for both Chinese and Japanese and by organizing major outreach events.

## **Zhichao Zhang**

### *Food Science and Technology*

Zhichao is a Food Science major with a minor in Nutritional Science. He has maintained a 3.88 GPA while being highly involved in the community and the department. He's an extraordinary student with a bright future ahead of him. He joined Dr. Ameer Taha's lab to study the role of linoleic acid, an abundant fatty acid in the diet, on brain signaling. He is also investigating the early stage of lipid oxidation on French fries. Zhichao has taken roles in Food Science Undergraduate Teaching Committee, Institute of Food Technologists, Food Tech Club, Student Alumni Association, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

## **Dragomira Zheleva**

### *Viticulture and Enology*

Draga is solid academically with the top GPA of all current undergraduates in the VEN program. In addition to excelling academically, Draga is very active in the Davis Enology & Viticulture Organization as the current Treasurer as well as Vineyard Manager. She has organized field trips, volunteered for cooking duties and non-glamorous tasks at student events. She is helping to organize the major fundraiser, the Winkler Dinner, that raises funds to support international internships of students in the program. The excellence of Draga's service matches her academic record.

## **Adam Zufall**

### *Aerospace Science and Engineering*

Adam has not only demonstrated scholastic excellence, but he also expressed great passion for robotics and space technologies through his involvement with campus research, outreach initiatives, and student design groups. His research contributions include designing a data acquisition system for a 5-axis milling machine and creating robotic parts via additive manufacturing. Adam also spread that passion to middle and high school students through his participation in the annual UC Davis C-STEM Day Competition. As president of the Space and Satellite Systems Club, Adam collaborated to solve dynamic engineering problems and spearheaded an effort to create a new space technologies competition.



