



2022
**GRAD
SLAM**



**FINAL COMPETITION
& CELEBRATORY RECEPTION**

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 | 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center

HOSTS

Susan L Ettner

Dean of Graduate Education, GRADUATE DIVISION
Professor, DEPT. OF MEDICINE, DIVISION OF GENERAL
INTERNAL MEDICINE AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH
Professor, DEPT. OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Kristen McKinney

Chief of Staff / Chief Financial Officer, GRADUATE DIVISION

Musibau Francis Jimoh

President, UCLA GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
Doctoral Student, MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

SCHEDULE

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

GUEST ARRIVAL
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

WELCOME BY DEAN SUSAN L. ETTNER
3-MINUTE FINALIST PRESENTATIONS
INTERMISSION
AUDIENCE CHOICE VOTING
VIP JUDGING PANEL TABULATIONS
AWARDS CEREMONY

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

CELEBRATORY RECEPTION

MEET OUR JUDGES

Jerome Greenberg

Clinical Professor of Medicine, DAVID GEFFEN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Alumni, BIOLOGY ('78)

Monroe Gorden

Vice Chancellor, STUDENT AFFAIRS
Alumni, POLITICAL SCIENCE ('93)

Marissa López

Associate Dean, GRADUATE DIVISION
Professor of English and Chicana/o Studies,
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Charlie Steinmetz

President, STEINMETZ FOUNDATION
Alumni, ANDERSON SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT ('77)

Kelly Wahl

Interim Assistant Dean, UCLA SUMMER SESSIONS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

JEROME & RANDI GREENBERG
CHARLIE STEINMETZ
STARTUP UCLA
UCLA STORE

PRESENTATION ORDER



Toni Boltz

Can a Drop of Blood Predict Your Risk for Mental Illness?

HUMAN GENETICS



Brandon Tsai

Breaking the Rules to Fight Cancer

HUMAN GENETICS



Kshitija Shah

Zero Waste (Water Treatment)!

CIVIL ENGINEERING



Shruti Indiresan

*Wetlands and Wildfires:
How Microbes Maintain Balance*

CIVIL ENGINEERING



Mary Jo Madda

*The Science Behind Bad
PowerPoints: Why No One
Remembers What You Said*

EDUCATION



Elizabeth Burnette

*What E.Coli Endotoxin Can Tell Us
About Addiction*

NEUROSCIENCE



Briley Lewis

*Finding Planets in a Forest
of Speckles*

ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS



Paul Vander

*Suspended Animation as Medicine –
Science or Fiction?*

MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND

INTEGRATIVE PHYSIOLOGY



Judah Van Zandt

*Finding the Connection Between
Close-In Small Planets and
Distant Giants*

ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS



Kelsi Rutledge

*The Fluid Dynamics of Smell:
A Stingray's Perspective*

BIOLOGY

