

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As a land grant institution, UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, South Channel Islands).

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our generous donors, hardworking staff and above all, brilliant and articulate students who made Grad Slam 2023 such a success! Thank you so much to all who contributed.

**Susan L. Ettner**

DEAN, DIVISION OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

## HOSTS

**Marissa López**, Associate Dean, Division of Graduate Education; Professor, English and Chicana/o Studies  
**Kristen McKinney**, Chief of Staff/Chief Financial Officer, Division of Graduate Education  
**Noor Nakhaei**, President, UCLA Graduate Students Association; Doctoral Student, Computer Science

## DIVISION OF GRADUATE EDUCATION GRAD SLAM TEAM

**Araceli Barriga**, Operations Specialist  
**Peter Clowes**, System Network Administrator  
**Ivy Ebuén**, Director, Operations & External Relations  
**Francesca Gacho**, Coordinator, Postdoctoral Scholar & Graduate Student Professional Development  
**Courtney Guevara**, Events & Engagement Specialist  
**Vania Sciolini**, Marketing & Communications Lead  
**Christopher Sosa**, Events & Engagement Specialist

## WORKSHOP TRAINERS, COACHES AND FACILITATORS

**Elizabeth Burnett, Ph.D.**, Neuroscience (2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 2022)  
**David Fuller**, Training Consultant, UCLA Campus Human Resources  
**Francesca Gacho, Ph.D.**, Coordinator, Postdoctoral Scholar & Graduate Student Professional Development  
**Mengwei Ko, Ph.D.**, Biochemistry, Molecular, and Structural Biology (Audience Choice, 2019)  
**Joey Lao, MS.**, Engineering Management (3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 2018)  
**Leslie Rith-Najarian, Ph.D.**, Psychology (1<sup>st</sup> Place & UC-Wide Champion, 2017)  
**Kelsi Rutledge, Ph.D.**, Biology (1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2022)  
**Marissa Stevens, Ph.D.**, Assistant Director, UCLA Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World (1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2018)  
**Paul Vander, Ph.D.**, Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology (Audience Choice, 2022)  
**Courtney Young, Ph.D.**, CEO, MyoGene Bio (3<sup>rd</sup> Place & Audience Choice, 2016)

## JUDGES

**Clinton Bench**, Director, Fleet & Transit, UCLA Events and Transportation  
**Nicole Bramstedt**, Alumna, Public Policy ('01); Senior Legislative Counsel, New York City Council  
**Robert Buswell**, Emeritus Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures/Center for Buddhist Studies  
**Thomas J. Bye**, Alumna, Linguistics ('76)  
**Dana Cairns Watson**, Continuing Lecturer, Writing Programs  
**Marie Clémot**, Postdoctoral Scholar, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology  
**Abdallah Daboussi**, Senior Transportation Planner, UCLA Events and Transportation  
**Lynn Dines**, Alumna, Psychobiology ('78)  
**Seth Dorfman**, Assistant Researcher, UCLA Physics and Astronomy  
**Ross Fenimore**, Senior Fellowship Officer, Division of Graduate Education  
**Leon Ferder**, Librarian Emeritus  
**Tim Fosbury**, Alumna, English ('22); Senior Fellowship Officer, Division of Graduate Education;  
**Yolanda Gorman**, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor  
**Jerome Greenberg**, Alumna, Biology ('78); Clinical Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine  
**Randi Greenberg**, Emeritus Staff, Women & Philanthropy at UCLA  
**Tanya Gupta**, Postdoctoral Scholar, Psychiatry  
**Karen Ito**, Alumna, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences ('78)  
**Andrew James-McClure**, Alumna Education ('06); Associate Director, Bruin Resource Center; Alumna, Education ('06)  
**Robert Kaplan**, Friend of the Division of Graduate Education  
**Daniel Kaufman**, Professor, Molecular and Medical Pharmacology  
**Deborah Kazenelson Deane**, Alumna, Planning and Health Policy ('88); Executive Director, Communications, Acadia Pharma

**Jenny Lee**, Alumna, Higher Education ('21); Case Manager, Division of Graduate Education  
**Daniel Low**, Friend of the Division of Graduate Education  
**Sonia Luna**, Senior Executive Director, California NanoSystems Institute  
**Renate Lux**, Associate Dean, Division of Graduate Education  
**Kyle McJunkin**, Assistant Dean, Academic Program, Public Health; Alumna, Higher Education and Organizational Change ('10)  
**Pamela Miller**, Alumna, Nursing ('09); Senior Nurse Scientist, Center for Nursing Excellence  
**Mithun Mitra**, Assistant Project Scientist, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology  
**Stewart Moses**, Retired Former Director of Space Science and Exploration, Northrup Grumman  
**Amy Mutchnick**, Director of Academic Affairs, Economics  
**Alexander Patananan**, Medical Communications Manager, Biochemistry and Biochemistry  
**Greg Payne**, Director of Graduate Programs in Bioscience  
**Jennifer Pike**, Associate Professor, Psychiatry  
**Kyle Rosier**, Alumna, Anderson School of Management ('91)  
**Julie Sina**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Alumni Affairs / Chief Operation Officer, UCLA Foundation  
**Michelle Sityar**, Chief of Staff, UCLA Administration  
**Charlie Steinmetz**, President, Steinmetz Foundation; Alumna, Anderson School of Management ('77)  
**Martin Toderi**, Postdoctoral Scholar, Physics  
**Richard Tran**, Alumna, Statistics ('22); Operations Research Analyst, Statistics

## EVENT STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

**Estrella Arciba**, Assistant Dean, Division of Graduate Education  
**Maura Chamu**, Diversity, Inclusion, & Admissions Officer, Division of Graduate Education  
**Sherman Chew**, Director, Division of Graduate Education  
**Tim Fosbury**, Senior Fellowships Officer, Division of Graduate Education  
**Eric Manacsa**, Senior Applications Developer, Division of Graduate Education  
**Ralph Monasterio**, Senior Applications Developer, Division of Graduate Education  
**Tammi Monsanto-Eddie**, Budget and Personnel Coordinator, Division of Graduate Education  
**Briana Muñoz-Flores**, Manager of Diversity and Inclusion Retention, Division of Graduate Education  
**Jose Ruiz-Rodriguez**, Diversity, Inclusion, & Admissions Officer, Division of Graduate Education  
**Jacqueline Suero**, Customer Service & Policy Analyst, Division of Graduate Education  
**Jenny Tang**, Administrative Analyst, Division of Graduate Education  
**Vicki Truong**, Student Services Advisor, Division of Graduate Education  
**Victor Valdez**, Operations Manager & Postdoc Appt Coordinator, Division of Graduate Education  
**Shannon Yu**, Senior Administrative Analyst, Division of Graduate Education

## VENDORS

Audience Choice Participation – POLL EVERYWHERE  
Audio Visual – CNSI  
Awards – IMPERIAL AWARDS – **Gloria Saiz**  
Catering – UCLA CATERING  
Closed Captioning - FWD:LABS – **Aaron Proctor**  
Floral Arrangements – URBAN FLORIST – **Bryan Brayton**  
Gift Items/Swag – GORILLA MARKETING – **Rosslyn Forrester**  
Lighting – ROLIDES, INC. – **Robert Campos**  
Photography – ASUCLA PHOTOGRAPHY – **Don Liebig**  
Printing – MAIL, DOCUMENTS & DELIVERY SERVICES – **Manny Castro**  
Rentals – BRIGHT EVENT RENTALS – **Janet Vasquez**  
Venue – UCLA CALIFORNIA NANOSYSTEMS INSTITUTE  
Video Editing – FWD:LABS – **Aaron Proctor**