



2023  
**GRAD  
SLAM**  
**UCLA**

# FINAL COMPETITION & CELEBRATORY RECEPTION

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 | 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
California NanoSystems Institute

## HOSTS

**Marissa López**

Associate Dean of Graduate Education, 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

## SCHEDULE

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

GUEST ARRIVAL  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

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

WELCOME BY ASSOCIATE DEAN MARISSA LÓPEZ  
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

**Robert Buswell**

Emeritus Professor, ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES/CENTER FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES

**Thomas Bye**

Alumni, LINGUISTICS ('72 MA AND '76 PHD)

**Yolanda Gorman**

Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Chief of Staff, OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

**Jerome Greenberg**

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

**Christina Lee Buswell**

Translator, KOREAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**Julie A. Sina**

Associate Vice Chancellor, ALUMNI AFFAIRS  
Chief Operating Officer, UCLA FOUNDATION

**Michelle Sityar**

Chief of Staff, UCLA ADMINISTRATION

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

MEREDITH & PHILIP BERKOWITZ

JEROME & RANDI GREENBERG

JERRY SCHNEIDER

CHARLES STEINMETZ

JOSEPH & JENNIFER WATSON

UCLA CALIFORNIA NANOSYSTEMS INSTITUTE

UCLA STORE

## PRESENTATION ORDER



Jenna Wahbeh

Redefining the Gold Standard  
of Degenerative Disc  
Treatments

BIOENGINEERING



Siddharth Srivastava

Cancer Diagnosis from Saliva  
Using Lasers

MATERIALS SCIENCE AND  
ENGINEERING



Elaine Jessica Castillo Tamargo

Choose Your Own Adventure?  
Exploring Factors that  
Complicate Career Choice

EDUCATION



Dakotah Tyler

Characterizing Stellar Effects on  
the Evolution of Exoplanets

ASTRONOMY AND  
ASTROPHYSICS



Judah Van Zandt

The Distant Giants Survey:  
Uncovering the Origins of  
Earth-like Planets

ASTRONOMY AND  
ASTROPHYSICS



Brandon Tsai

Next Generation COVID-19  
Vaccines

HUMAN GENETICS



Ella Petter

Unlocking the Power of  
Big Data to Improve Cancer  
Research

COMPUTER SCIENCE



Moupi Mukhopadhyay

Protecting the Kerala Murals:  
Using Materials Science to  
Interpret Kerala's Past

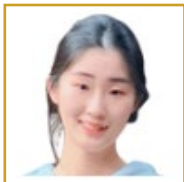
CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL  
HERITAGE



Alexander Kwako

Reducing Bias in Standardized  
Tests

EDUCATION



Yifan Wu

Understanding Cell's Language to  
Cure Disease

BIOENGINEERING

