Mihnea (Mike) Stefan Andrei Ph.D. ’19
welcomed at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in 2019. Andrei is a postdoctoral scholar in mathematics. He earned his BS in actuarial mathematics and his MS in financial mathematics at WPI before receiving his PhD in mathematics. Andrei was among 48 new full-time educators and researchers promoted or appointed at UCSB in 2019.

Levi Maaia Ph.D. ’18
a Data Scientist for Eventbrite. In his spare time, Maaia recently directed Making it in Cuba, a film that highlights the people of Cuba’s culture of ingenuity during their 60-plus years of political, social and technological isolation.

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Damien Kudela Ph.D. ’15
Co-Founder and CEO of Cayuga Biotech, Kudela won the Beaty Biomedical Innovation Competition for his invention, Pangea Biometric. Kudela is one of the 2020 UC Startup Accelerator finalists and will be advancing to the global finals.

Nick Fichtenbaum Ph.D. ’08
is Co-Founder and Vice President of Engineering for Navitas, a company that has developed high-performance, easy-to-use GaN power ICs for next-generation applications in advanced mobile, industrial and consumer markets. Fichtenbaum is a recipient of the 2018 IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS) Mid-Career Award.

Patricia Harrison Ph.D. ’99
is an English professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). She teaches courses in 19th-century American literature, especially the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s. Harrison is the author of The Woman of the Century: The American Woman Writer, 1830-1875 and Time’s Maid: American Women Writers, 1876-1914. She is also the co-editor of The Cambridge Companion to American Woman Literature and The Cambridge Companion to American Women’s Writing.

Jean Fuller Ph.D. ’89
is a retired state senator and a California native. She is teaming up with Bakersfield College to lead a UCwide effort to create or develop Early College High Schools in the state. Fuller was appointed to the State Senate in 1990 and served in that capacity until 2000. She has been a supporter of early college programs for the last decade and has written a book: Twenties in Your Pocket: A twenty-first century guide to early college programs. Fuller will bring her relationships with businesses and national policy organizations to scale up the program and expand the school’s Early College program. Fuller will bring her relationships with businesses and national policy organizations to scale up the program and expand the school’s Early College program.

Jose Hernandez MA ’86
shared his incredible version of the American Dream. Born into a family of migrant farm workers, toiling in the fields by the age of six, Jose dreamed of traveling into space. Despite not speaking English until the age of 12 and being turned down by NASA eleven times, Jose persevered and ultimately was selected as the first Mexican-American astronaut and spent two weeks in space in 2009.

Former NASA Astronaut, Hernandez, recently visited campus to give a talk to a group of students at the UCSB Career Center. Hernandez shared his incredible version of the American Dream. Born into a family of migrant farm workers, toiling in the fields by the age of six, Jose dreamed of traveling into space. Despite not speaking English until the age of 12 and being turned down by NASA eleven times, Jose persevered and ultimately was selected as the first Mexican-American astronaut and spent two weeks in space in 2009.

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