

## A Message from Dean Genetti

Friends,

We are all in the midst of an incredibly challenging time in the global response to the COVID-19 virus. In an effort to minimize the risk of exposure in the Santa Barbara community, UC Santa Barbara is offering only remote instruction for Spring Quarter. Additionally, all on-campus research has been shut down. This is obviously having a large impact on our graduate student community and we in the Graduate Division are working hard to assist them in this difficult period. We have created a set of [FAQs](#) that resides on the GradPost and that we are constantly updating. Our staff has been meeting with graduate students virtually and both the Graduate Division and the Graduate Student Resource Center are providing all of their regular services via email and Zoom calls.

We appreciate all of your support as we work hard to ensure that our graduate students continue to receive the same great world class education that you received.

Sincerely,

*Paul Genetti*



**Dr. Carol Genetti**

Anne and Michael Towbes Graduate Dean

UC Santa Barbara



## An Equation for Success

**Dr. Nien-Tsu Shen '76 MA**, a mathematician and award-winning leader, shares her motivation to pursue her master's degree at UC Santa Barbara, her passion for problem solving and her advice for other young professionals.

[Read More](#)



## Unraveling a Virus

Graduate students investigate the inner workings of well-known infections to prevent the next pandemic.

[Read More](#)

Milestones

Do you have a milestone that you would like to share? Contact John Lofthus at [john.lofthus@ucsb.edu](mailto:john.lofthus@ucsb.edu)





## 1980's

### **Jose Hernandez MA '86**

#### [Electrical & Computer Engineering](#)

Former NASA Astronaut, Hernandez, recently visited campus to give a talk to a select group of graduate students. In his talk, titled "Reaching for the Stars," 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.

### **Jean Fuller Ph.D. '89**

#### [Education](#)

Retired state senator, Fuller, is teaming up with Bakersfield College to lead and expand the school's Early College program. Fuller will bring her relationships with businesses and national policy organizations to scale up the program aimed at high-school students.

## 1990's

## **Patricia Harrison Ph.D. '99**

### [English](#)

Harrison is the Director of World Learning's International Professional Exchange Programs, which provide short-term learning experiences abroad for thousands of professionals each year. The programs offer links to U.S. and international colleagues, exposure to new ideas, and a broader view of core U.S. values and culture.

## **2000's**

## **Nick Fichtenbaum Ph.D. '08**

### [Electrical Engineering](#)

Fichtenbaum 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.

## **2010's**

## **Kate Anania MESM '12**

### [Environmental Science & Management](#)

Currently a Technical Analyst for the RAND Corporation's Washington DC office, Anania has written a book: Twenties in Your Pocket: A twenty-something's guide to money management. In addition to her degree from the Bren School, Kate also has a Masters in Economics from UCSB.

## **Damien Kudela Ph.D. '15**

### [Chemistry](#)

Co-Founder and CEO of Cayuga Biotech, Kudela won the [2020 UC Startup Pitch Competition](#) and will be advancing to the global finals.

## **Tristin Beckman Ph.D. '17**

### [Political Science](#)

Beckman spoke at the recent "Beyond Academia" conference at UCSB. Tristin, who also received a Masters in Economics from UCSB, is currently working as a Data Scientist for Eventbrite.

## **Levi Maaia Ph.D. '18**

### [Education](#)

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.

## Mihnea (Mike) Stefan Andrei Ph.D. '19

### Statistics

Andrei was among 48 new full-time educators and researchers promoted or 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 statistics and applied probability from UCSB.

## Event Highlights



### “Your job search during COVID-19”

Get concrete tips to help you maximize your job search.

**Wednesday, April 15**

**12:00 -12:30 p.m. PDT**

[Linkedin](#) and [Facebook Live](#)

### Register Now



### Virtual Gaucho Gallop

Stay connected from home! Run, walk, or skip through the Virtual Gaucho Gallop.

**April 20-26, 2020**

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