

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Graduate Division

2022  
UC Santa Barbara  
Grad Slam



GRAD  
SLAM

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Friday, March 11, 2022  
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## EVENT PROGRAM

### Opening Remarks

by Interim Dean Leila Rupp

### Finalist Presentations

Q&A with All Students and Voting for People's Choice Award

People's Choice Award Announcement

Runners-Up Announcement

Grand Prize Winner Announcement

Closing Remarks

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES



### Dr. Leila J. Rupp

Interim Anne and Michael Towbes Graduate Dean  
UC Santa Barbara

## 2022 GRAD SLAM FINALISTS



### Alexandra Birch

*GULAGSound: Vsevolod Zaderatsky's  
Violin Concerto*

**MUSIC & HISTORY**



### Skyler Palatnick

*Imaging Exoplanets with Metasurfaces*

**PHYSICS**



### Krystal Vo

*The Photochemistry of Pigments*

**CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY**



### Siena McKim

*Sponges: Local Alien Apartments*

**ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, & MARINE BIOLOGY**



### Alyssa Lawson

*It's Not Just What You Say, It's How You Say It:  
Investigating the Positivity Principle in Learning*

**PSYCHOLOGICAL & BRAIN SCIENCES**



### Esther Showalter

*Your Connection is Unstable: An Ode  
to Internet Improvisers*

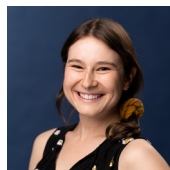
**COMPUTER SCIENCE**



### Taruna Schuelke

*Runaway Seaweed*

**ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, & MARINE BIOLOGY**



### Sophia Bailey

*Fake It 'Til You Make It: Developing  
Chemistries to Advance Biomimetic  
Materials*

**CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY**



### Menglin Li

*Sleep Chronotype: From Fruit Flies to  
Humans*

**MOLECULAR, CELLULAR, & DEVELOPMENTAL  
BIOLOGY**



### Geoff Meyerhof

*The Early Bird Gets the Worm, but the Second  
Mouse Gets the Cheese: What Simple Organisms  
Can Teach Us about Our Daily Rhythms*

**BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

# GRAD SLAM JUDGING CRITERIA

Presenters are allowed **three minutes** and **three slides** for their presentation and are judged based on the following criteria:

**Clarity:** Did the speaker provide adequate background knowledge to make the talk and the importance of the project understandable?

**Organization:** Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?

**Delivery:** Pace, enthusiasm, confidence, body language, eye contact, and vocal range.

**Visuals:** Did the visuals enhance the presentation and help to emphasize the primary points of the talk? If no visuals, would the presentation have been more clear and engaging if used?

**Appropriateness:** Was the topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent, but non-specialist audience? Did the speaker avoid discipline-specific jargon?

**Intellectual Significance:** Did the speaker explain why the project matters and its significance to the academic discipline?

**Engagement:** To what extent did the talk speak to your intellectual curiosity? Did it make you want to learn more about the topic?

## MEET THE JUDGES

### FINAL ROUND



**Dr. Niki Sandoval '07**  
Senior Strategic Development Manager  
WestEd



**Dr. Alexandra Seros '72**  
Screenwriter & Author  
Redwing Films Ltd.



**Rick Rosen '75**  
Co-Founder of Endeavor  
WME



**Heather Hochrein '16**  
Founder & CEO  
EVmatch, Inc.



**Anne Towbes H'20**  
Philanthropist & Former Educator  
UCSB Foundation Trustee

### PRELIMINARY ROUND

#### UC Santa Barbara Affiliates

**Tamara Affifi**, Professor of Communication | **Miles Ashlock**, Student Affairs Chief of Staff and Executive Director, Planning & Administration | **Omer Blaes**, Professor of Physics | **Amanda Brey**, Director of Program Review | **Shasta Delp**, Executive Director of the Academic Senate | **Kathy Foltz**, Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology | **Jim Frew**, Associate Professor of the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management | **Tania Israel**, Professor of Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology | **Chandra Krintz**, Professor of Computer Science | **Laura Marques-Pascual**, Language Program Director, Spanish and Portuguese | **Maria Napoli**, Director of Research Development for Biological Engineering, Science, & Technology, Office of Research | **John Park**, Professor of Asian American Studies | **Sumita Pennathur**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering | **Joe Sabado**, Executive Director of Student Information Systems & Technology | **Adam Sabra**, Professor of History

#### Community Partners

**David Chow**, Chief Scientific Officer (HRL Laboratories) | **Christina Knapp**, Associate Researcher (Microsoft Station Q) | **Leah Macy**, Research and Development Supervisor (Agilent Technologies) | **Peter Mage**, Senior Staff Engineer, Advanced Technology Group (BD Biosciences) | **Jessica Sanchez**, Director of Donor Relations (Santa Barbara Foundation)

## 2022 GRAD SLAM SPONSORS

Thank you to our generous donors, whose gifts make the Grad Slam possible!

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Dr. Carrie Towbes & Dr. John Lewis

### Medalist Sponsors



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### Outreach Partners

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### The Grad Slam Team | Graduate Division

**Leila Rupp** | Interim Anne and Michael Towbes Graduate Dean  
**Amr El Abbadi** | Associate Dean  
**Jin Sook Lee** | Associate Dean  
**Robert Hamm** | Assistant Dean  
**Shawn Warner** | Director, Graduate Student Professional Development  
**Baron Haber** | Assistant Director, Graduate Student Professional Development

**John Loffhus** | Assistant Dean, Development  
**Walter Boggan** | Admissions, Outreach, and Diversity Initiatives Director  
**Carlos Nash** | Director, Diversity Programs  
**Jackie Snider** | Publication Design  
**Misti Shilling** | Development Assistant  
**Matthew Choi** | Marketing & communications Intern  
**Marge Perko** | Former Director, Marketing & Communications  
**Veronica Torres** | Former Social Media & Photography Assistant

### Many thanks to the following that helped along the way

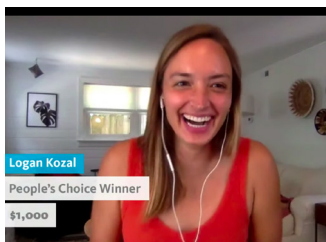
**Erika Snell** | Senior Producer-Director  
**Erik Moore** | Campbell Hall Technical Director  
**Avery Wheeler** | Theater Production Specialist  
**Jeff Liang** | Photographer  
**Matt Perko** | Senior Web Designer, OPAC

**Jessie Ward O'Sullivan** | Multimedia Producer, OPAC  
**Shane Terenzi** | Special Events Executive Producer & COVID Compliance Consultant, Arts & Lectures  
**Student Staff** | Arts & Lectures

### Prizes

**Grand Champion:** \$5,000 and the honor of representing UCSB at the UC-Wide Grad Slam  
**(2) Runners-up:** \$2,500  
**(1) People's Choice Award:** \$1,500  
**(6) Finalists:** \$750  
**Equipment cost reimbursement** up to \$75 for all qualifying round participants

### 2021 Campus Champion



Logan Kozal, our 2021 Grad Slam Champion, will help present the awards to this year's winners. Last year, Logan won top honors in our campus competition and then went on to win People's Choice at the UC-Wide competition with her presentation on "Hot Dads and Super Moms? Musseling up against Marine Heatwaves."

Tune into this year's UC-Wide Grad Slam competition on Friday May 6 where you can cheer on and vote for our 2022 UCSB campus champion:  
[gradslam.universityofcalifornia.edu](https://gradslam.universityofcalifornia.edu)