

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a coastal park. In the foreground, there is a paved path that curves through a sandy area. Several tall palm trees are planted in a row along the path. In the background, there is a body of water, a fence, and distant mountains under a clear blue sky. A few people are visible walking on the path in the distance.

CCS Notes

2018 Newsletter

Inside:

- Alumnus builds menswear brand
- Thomas Fire research inspires art
- Mentorship that defies disciplines



UC SANTA BARBARA
College of Creative Studies

Message from the Interim Dean



Interim Dean Bruce Tiffney

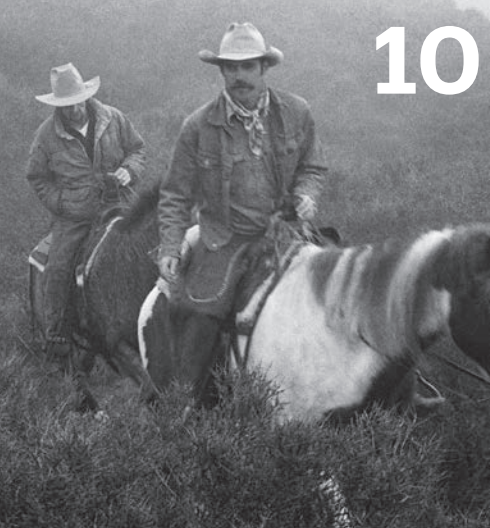
L&S Robert M. Norris Presidential Chair of Earth Science). The Marine Science major is a new opportunity for undergraduates interested in research in the biological and physical aspects of the ocean. Equally importantly, it stands as a testament to the value that UC Santa Barbara places in the CCS model and its contribution to campus, and as a guide to the potential establishment of other new majors in the College.

However, we are not measured by programs, but by our students. Our population of junior colleagues swelled by 102 new admittees this fall, balancing 95 who graduated last spring, bringing the College to 402. The variety of activities and accomplishments of CCS students is extraordinarily heartening. We again celebrated this in person with the Second Annual CCS Research & Creative Activities Conference (RACA-CON) on November 3rd, but increasingly the College is able to share some of these projects and ongoing stories through its growing video record of student research and creativity—I invite you to visit, and revisit ccs.ucsb.edu/news to view the challenging and ever-expanding world of our students.

Bruce

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the next 50 years (and beyond) of CCS. I certainly did not expect to be penning this greeting, having thought, as did many others, that I'd stepped down from the Deanship. However, as the search for a new Dean remains ongoing, I am profoundly grateful to Professor Kathy Foltz for assuming the interim position for the last two years. I find myself seated in a familiar office again enjoying the vibrant excitement of the College and its students. And indeed, much is going on.

We look forward to searching for three new faculty, in Art, Music Composition and Marine Science, which will be the first new CCS major in 24 years when it admits its first students in 2020. This major opens the vision of a range of faculty from many departments and colleges across campus, spearheaded by our own Professor Dave Valentine (CCS Biology, and the newly invested



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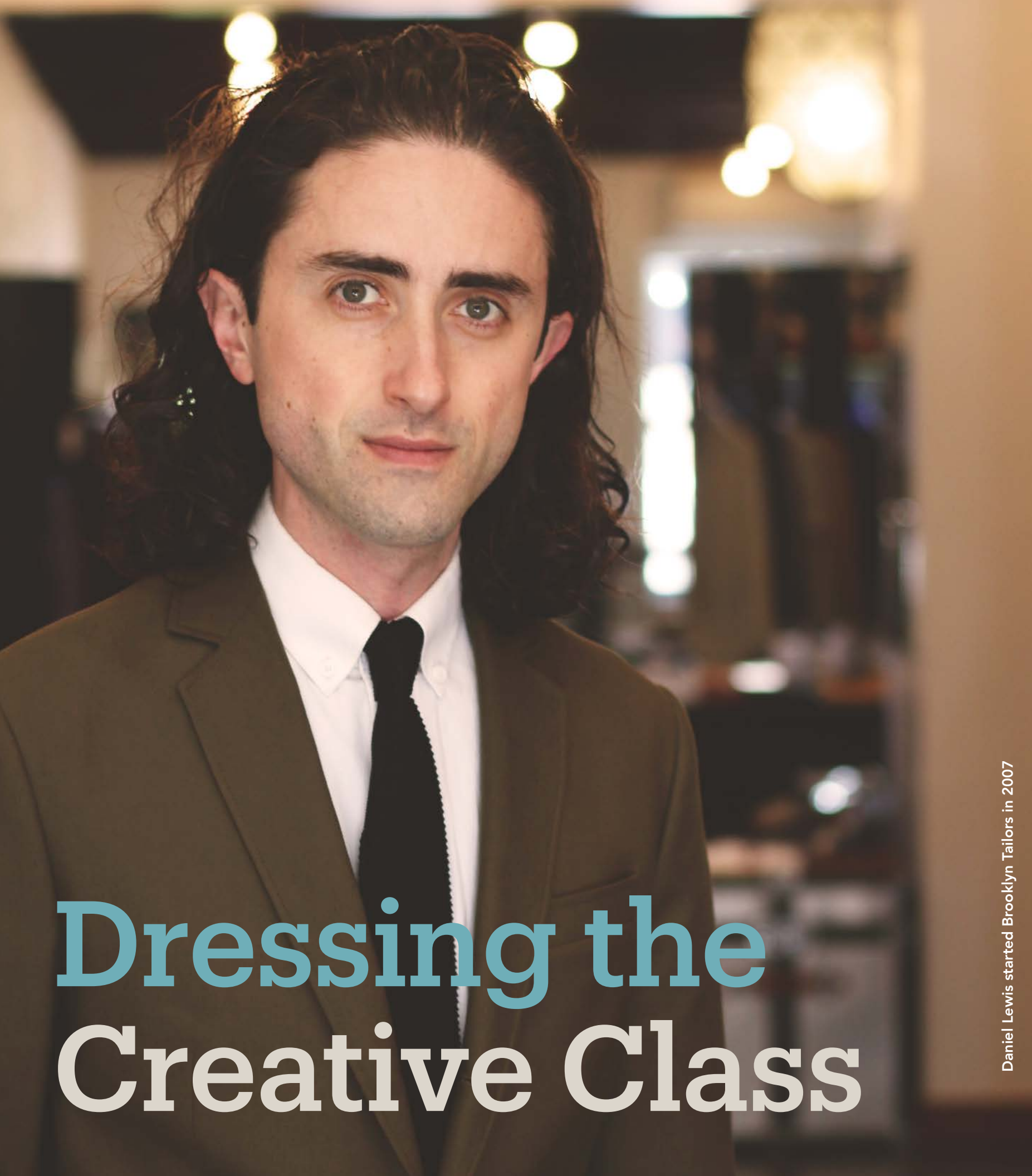
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Have Impact

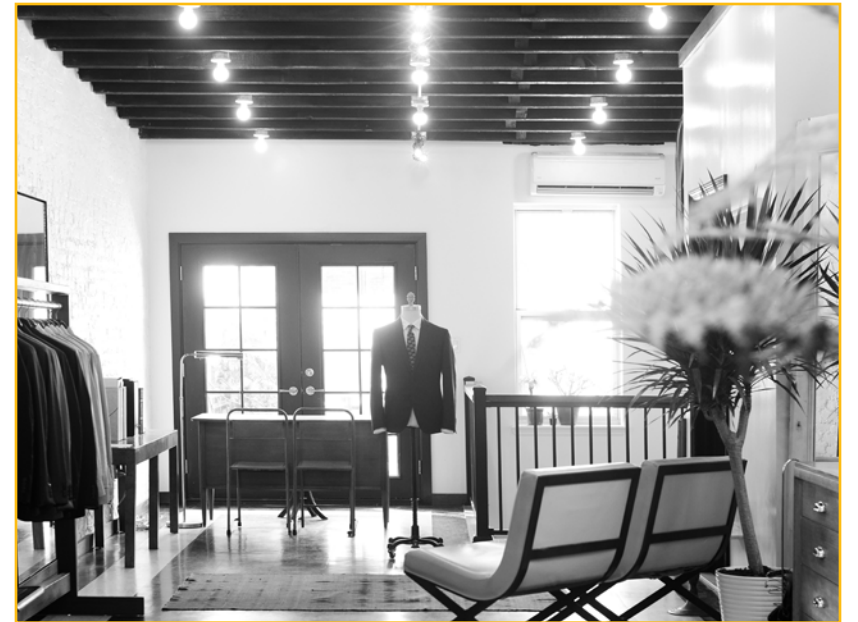
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Daniel Lewis started Brooklyn Tailors in 2007

Dressing the Creative Class

Alumni Feature



Brooklyn Tailors opened its flagship store in 2011

CCS Art alumnus Daniel Lewis created one of New York's hottest menswear companies by building suits for artists

Unless you are a banker, lawyer or businessman, a suit is in all likelihood a uniform you only dust off for weddings, job interviews and funerals. Most men's clothing brands design suits for the corporate class, forgetting about the artists, actors, writers, musicians and other creative folks. Frustrated by the lack of diversity in menswear, Daniel Lewis, CCS Art '05, set out to make a suit for people like himself—whose needs had been ignored by the traditional brands—and founded Brooklyn Tailors.

From the beginning, the quality of each suit from Brooklyn Tailors set it apart from the competition. While at CCS, Lewis noticed his classmates cared about the details of their aesthetic lives. "My friends were artists, musicians, writers and they all had excellent taste," remembered Lewis. "They cared about the clothes they wore, but suits, somehow, didn't seem to fit into their identity." Brooklyn

Tailors did not revolutionize the suit or make any extreme changes; rather, they subtly tweaked the clothing to make it speak to another sector of the population. Lewis added, "The goal was to make a suit that [creative people] could put on and would feel like a seamless extension of everything else they embodied."

One of the differentiating features of a Brooklyn Tailors' suit is the quality of the fabric. According to Lewis, Brooklyn Tailors utilizes some of the world's best tailoring fabrics, the same fabrics used by the big designer fashion houses, including wool from Vitale Barberis Canonico and Trabaldo Togna, two of Italy's oldest and most renowned mills. Portuguese craftsmen hand sew and tailor each suit using these extraordinary fabrics. Lewis travels to Portugal each year to ensure the products are up to his high standards.



Daniel Lewis with his wife and business partner Brenna Lewis

Lewis is not alone in this venture. His wife, Brenna (College of Letters and Science Sociology '05), is also his fifty-fifty partner in charge of the business aspects of the company. The couple had no experience running a business before Brooklyn Tailors and thus had to learn the ins-and-outs on the fly. "We both laugh about the fact that we really have no formal training in running a business," Lewis remarked. "I think that if you talk to most small business owners, they'll probably tell you that the steepest learning curve was learning how to be a business, to manage people, to motivate a team, and to build operational systems." Although it seemed daunting at first, the UCSB alumni couple had fun learning the ropes together. Said Lewis: "Every day is a new adventure and a new challenge."

Fine Art to Menswear

Lewis was attracted to CCS for the ability to take advanced art classes as a first-year student. "I loved the idea that I could, even in year one, go right to the subject matter and even more advanced-level courses that I was eager to be a part of," he said. The openness of the CCS Art program enabled Lewis to grow his craft. "One of the cool things about CCS was the program allowed me to develop as an artist very freely and quickly without a lot of restrictions," said the San Diego native. Although Lewis' emphasis in the Art program was painting, he did not want to get pegged as only a painter and CCS permitted him to delve into different mediums. "Jumping around from medium to medium ... was just easier at CCS, and the whole ethos welcomed that more than the rigid structure of the traditional studio art program." Lewis also enjoyed CCS because the faculty

treated him as a fellow artist. "It was a very fluid environment that I think mimics more of the reality of being a working artist out there in the world where you're having conversations and you're jumping around."

Developing ways to analyze and see the world, instead of learning facts, is what Lewis believes was the most valuable facet of his CCS education. "CCS puts more emphasis on learning how to think and learning how to understand the world than it does learning information," explained Lewis. "Anyone can teach you facts ... [but] we spent most of our time having dialogues and actually making things, actually doing things, and then talking about what we did. That was just a much richer education for me." Lewis sees the sciences and the humanities as being more closely related than people normally recognize. "Sometimes people are surprised that, within CCS, there are disciplines that people don't regard as creative," he said. He continued, in some respects "there's no difference between being a mathematician or an artist," and to excel in the sciences or business you need to be creative and communicate with the world.

Lewis' goal while at CCS was to become a professional artist. "My plan was to make 'fine art' and become a working artist that exhibited in galleries," he remembered. Although he always enjoyed clothing, it was not until after he graduated that he grew interested in formal attire.

Growing up in San Diego and attending UC Santa Barbara, Lewis did not need a suit until he started looking for full-time jobs. "I needed to find myself a good suit that I actually wanted to wear," he remembered, "and I was having an incredibly hard time finding it." Eventually, he got fed up and decided to make a suit for himself. "As an artist, as someone who knows how to make things ... I naively felt that it would be easy," said Lewis. During the process of teaching himself to create his first suit, Lewis learned an appreciation for this incredibly challenging craft.

Lewis quickly realized instead of being the person building the suits, he wanted to build a brand. "I didn't want to be the one necessarily with the needle and thread," said the suit maker. "I enjoyed the bigger picture of not just making a suit or making a piece of art, but making a brand and a concept and telling the story behind a product."

Soon after creating his first suit, Lewis moved to New York and began working in entry-level fashion jobs. In 2007, he and his wife decided to branch off on their own. Together they started Brooklyn Tailors from their small New York City apartment.

Still an Artist

People often perceive Lewis as undergoing a career shift when he started his business—from artist to businessman. He, however, still sees himself as an artist. "To me, it was just sort of an organic transition," he noted. "I look at it all as the same side of the brain. I'm still engaged in a creative practice, it just became more practical and applied." For Lewis, establishing a creative business instead of investing in himself as an artist "added some interesting layers to the equation."

Opening a flagship company store, which Lewis did in 2012, was one of these layers and one of the first times Lewis felt like the brand had made it. Also in 2012, Brooklyn Tailors was first asked to be carried in a retail store. "The first time that a retail store contacted us asking if they could carry our clothing was another kind of benchmark moment," remarked Lewis. "We thought, 'Wow, someone wants to sell our product.' We didn't expect that would ever happen."

Once Brooklyn Tailors was in its first retail store, the company quickly began getting picked up by a few more retailers. All the while, Lewis had his sights set on Barney's of New York. He considered Barney's the perfect retailer for his young brand, but knew he had to carefully consider when to reach out. "I purposefully waited until I felt our brand had developed enough and our collection was up to par enough to even knock on their door," said Lewis. Lewis sent an email to a contact from his previous work, never expecting to hear back. Next thing he knew, he was showing his collection to Tom Kalenderian, Barney's Menswear Director, who dug his suits. "[Meeting with Kalenderian] was one of those big moments for us," remarked Lewis. "He's a person I admire in the industry, and he

CCS puts more emphasis on learning how to think ... than it does learning information.



Brooklyn Tailors' flagship store is located in Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood

knows more than anyone what goes into a well-made suit." The fact that Kalenderian approved of his suits "was a really proud moment."

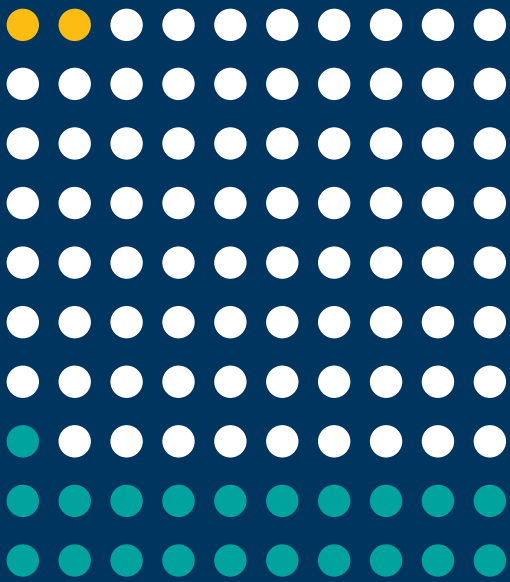
Word of Mouth

Many publications have lauded Brooklyn Tailors for their outstanding suits. In 2014 they were one of four brands, and the only formal brand, recognized by GQ in the magazine's 2014 "Best New Menswear Designers in America" contest. More recently, in 2017, Brooklyn Tailors' new flagship store--they moved from their original store in 2016--was dubbed by GQ as one of the "25 Best New Stores in the World." The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, New York Magazine, Rhapsody, MR Magazine, Esquire, and many other periodicals raved about the suits. Additionally, many A-list celebrities, including Bryan Cranston, Daniel Radcliffe, Aziz Ansari, Paul Rudd, and Kumail Nanjiani, have been spotted on red carpets, on talk shows, and in magazine covers sporting one of Lewis' bespoke suits.

Rather than invest in marketing and advertising, Lewis depends on word-of-mouth and good press coverage to drive sales. "[The press coverage] definitely helps us grow our business and gets more customers," remarked Lewis. When his fledgling company first started earning recognition, Lewis thought the effects would be immediate--there would be a line of new customers outside the door. He soon recognized this was not the case. A suit, he explained, is an investment item that most people only buy every few years. "You'll get someone walking into the store three years after that article comes out, and we ask them how they heard about us, and they say, 'I didn't need a suit at the time, but I saved the article, and now I'm here.'"

Now over 11 years into the business, Lewis still greets customers at his flagship store in Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood. Business success is important, but quality is paramount. In an interview with Leanluxe, Lewis said he and his wife want to have their hands in every aspect of the business and have turned down outside investors. "I think by nature that's probably going to keep us small, but we're ok with that. I mean, the luxury of being small is that you don't have anyone to answer to."

CCS by the Numbers



CCS accounts for 2% of UC Santa Barbara's undergraduate students and 21% of the campus' regent scholars

7

7:1 student to faculty ratio



55% of the residents of Pendola, the CCS residence hall, are CCS students



402 students

- 82 Physicists
78 Biologists
68 Mathematicians
49 Writers
42 Computer Scientists
39 Chemists & Biochemists
38 Artists
17 Composers

A Perfect Pair

CCS alumni Mary Heebner and MacDuff Everton explore the world while inspiring each other

Think of the most beautiful locations in the world—from the beaches of Fiji to the Himalayan mountains and the rolling hills of the Tuscan countryside. It is highly likely that MacDuff Everton (CCS Art '81) and Mary Heebner (CCS Art '73) have been there. The couple has spent the past 30 years traveling around the planet, capturing photos, and creating art at every opportunity.

A landscape photographer and visual anthropologist, Everton has been shooting images since he was a teenager in the 1960s. In the beginning, he traveled by himself. But that all changed in 1988 when fellow Santa Barbara artist Heebner invited herself on a trip to Mexico. Although they were friendly and ran in the same professional circles, this trip was the first time they spent time together. The Santa Barbarans hit it off and married a year later.

For decades, magazines sent Everton on assignment to all corners of the Earth, and Heebner joined him, at times writing the magazine story and other times as the photo assistant. "We work really well as a team," Everton noted. "We see the world differently. We inform each other's eye." He went on to say that Heebner turned out to be a great model. "She had no idea she'd end up a cover girl," he laughed. "It surprised both of us."

Heebner took advantage of the trips to inspire her own work. "While I am on the road, I'm constantly writing and taking notes; I keep notebooks and sketchbooks," said the artist. This practice was the impetus for her to start creating limited edition fine art

MacDuff Everton and Mary Heebner in Antarctica



Macduff Everton scouting a location in Antarctica

books. These books paired her images with her writing, culled from her travel notes and subsequent studio work. Heebner continued, “I use my notes and sketches as a way of getting back into the studio after being away for several weeks or longer.” Since 1995, Heebner, through her imprint Simplemente Maria Press, has created 17 such limited-edition fine art books.

Expeditions, including to places that are not typical travel destinations, frequently spark years of creativity for Heebner. “There are places that inspired a lot of work that were completely unexpected and magical-like going to Iceland,” said Heebner. “I went to Iceland, and it blew my mind. It was like walking into a Georgia O’Keefe painting, and being part of these barren hills with color and everything. I wound up getting three to four years of paintings from just that one trip, and from the paintings came a book.”

Finding Photography

Everton found photography by chance at age 17 when he left Santa

Barbara to surf in Biarritz. It was on this trip that he literally picked up a camera a tourist had left in the middle of the road. His early attempts of photography augmented the letters he sent to his family as he worked his way from Europe across Asia. “Initially, I would send rolls of film along with letters allowing my family to see visually what I was writing,” remembered Everton. He processed a few rolls of film in Hong Kong and when he reached Japan he was able to sell his first two stories to the Asahi Press—one on Burma, the other on South East Asia. Everton was still using the Kodak Pony Camera he originally found on the street. “I wondered what I could do with a real camera,” he said.

He returned to Santa Barbara, enrolled in Santa Barbara City College, and worked odd jobs to save enough money to buy a new camera. One day a local film company offered him a position to create educational films in South America.

Although taking this opportunity meant dropping out of school, he jumped at the possibility. “This was exactly what I wanted to do if I

had gone through school ... so I dropped out of school to do it.” A year later, the company ran out of money when he was in Guatemala. He turned the situation into an opportunity by undertaking a photo series on the Yucatán.

One Day to 20 Years

Inspired by *Life Magazine’s* popular “Day in the Life” photo series, Everton set out to make a similar story on the indigenous people of the Yucatán. He soon realized he could not capture the essence of the rich Yucatán culture in one day. Everton explained: “Everyone knew what a country doctor was. But the people I was documenting in Yucatán, their lives were completely foreign to an American audience. They needed to be explained. A caption wouldn’t suffice. I needed to go more in depth.” A day in the life became a year. But he was so intrigued by his visual anthropological study that he returned year after year.

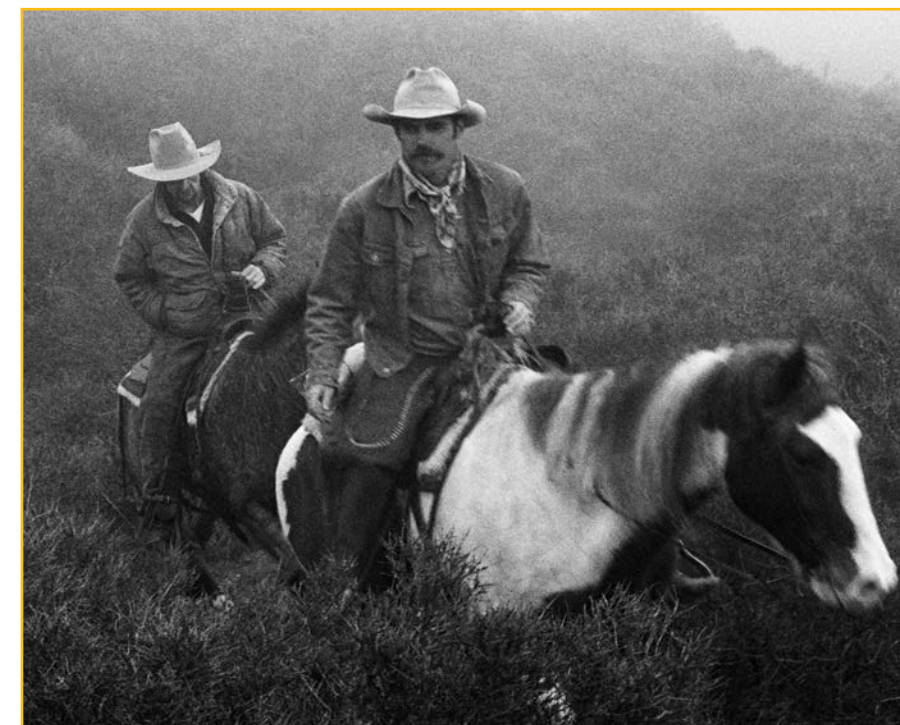
Everton enjoyed documenting the Yucatán, but he aspired to return to school to be challenged as an artist. Everton heard about CCS from family friends who were members of the College’s faculty. The year was 1976, and he was fresh off a year as an Artist-in-Residence in Washington State.

CCS was everything Everton was looking for and more. He truly enjoyed the relationships he forged with the faculty and his classmates. “I was getting ideas and feedback as an artist, and I found CCS to be really exciting.” While studying at CCS, Everton

supported himself by working at a pack station, an operation that guided people and delivered freight by mule and horse, in the High Sierras. This did not stop him from taking full advantage of the fantastic opportunities available to him as an Art major, and his work led to him teaching a seminar on Latin American writers. “When I was on the trails I was riding on average about 30 miles a day on horseback, and I would read the books of these great Latin American writers whenever I had the chance,” recalled Everton. “At the time, there weren’t any classes on these writers, so I decided to teach a seminar class focused on them.”

Everton was still working on his Yucatán project while at CCS. The photographer would take a full year of classes in two quarters to allow him to work at the pack station for the remaining six months. Following his graduation, Everton pursued a Master’s degree at UCSB, where he met Professor and Photo Historian Ulrich Keller. Everton showed Keller his portfolio—which was now in its second decade—and Keller was blown away. Remembered Everton: “He [Keller] looked at the portfolio, and he said, ‘Have you published any of this material?’ and I said, ‘No, that’s what I want to do.’ And he replied, ‘The dream of every photo historian is to discover some great work. This is some great work. I’ll help you.’”

A few years later, in 1991, Everton’s epic tale of the Yucatán people, titled *The Modern Maya*, was published by the University of New Mexico Press. What had started as a one-day project, had turned into a 20-year masterpiece. The book was turned into a traveling exhibition that toured the United States.



Macduff Everton (right) worked at a pack station in the High Sierras while he was a CCS student

A Perfect Fit

Heebner’s journey to CCS was more conventional than Everton’s. She attended UCSB right after high school as a UCSB Regents Scholar, but she felt out of place in the large university. “At first I was flailing around,” said Heebner. “I didn’t seek out a counselor; instead, I would browse the bookstore and take classes based upon the books that were interesting to me. I wound up taking some fascinating classes, but they were all upper division—I hadn’t taken any lower division requirements.” A faculty member, Max Schott, saw Heebner’s passion and realized that she was a classic CCS student. She submitted a portfolio in 1971 and once she was admitted to the College, she flourished.

CCS turned out to be the perfect fit for Heebner. “It was specific to people who were disciplined and self-directed, and had some kind of inkling or some kind of passion and curiosity,” said Heebner. “These [CCS] students thrived in an environment where people would ask you challenging questions, and you would have to come up with thoughtful answers.” She went on: “You couldn’t just sit there and be passive. It’s not for everybody, but I thrived.” The spontaneity and collaborative nature of her cohorts was one of Heebner’s favorite aspects. “The College was 24/7,” she noted. “We



Mary Heebner in her Santa Barbara studio

were in the building all the time.” Often a student would come up with an idea at midnight, and they would work on it until the sun rose. “The sense that you can go off and do somebody’s idea ... there is no replacement for that. CCS is type of place that changes the way you think.”

Heebner fell in love with writing at UCSB and CCS. Although she was an Art major, she recalled: “There was a major emphasis on literature at CCS.” She was grateful that she did not have to choose between the two disciplines at CCS, and was encouraged to explore both fields.

Art from Experiences

Heebner has spent her career taking life experiences and making something tangible. She explained, “As an artist, I am curious and always pushing the envelope. I have a need to experience life, but then have it churn around inside of me and make something of it. I’ve tried to do that all my life.”

Once she graduated from CCS and received an MFA from UCSB in studio art, galleries started approaching her to exhibit her work. Throughout her career as an artist, she has had numerous shows and exhibitions across the country. “There is this satisfaction when you think you’ve done something—you have a sold-out show, or someone publishes an article on you. There are these moments where you are just like, ‘Yeah, that was good!’ There are dozens and dozens of these, and you savor those moments, but they are vanishing and then the rock rolls down the hill and you gotta start all over again.” The desire to get back to those moments keeps her going. Heebner added, “You live for those moments.”

Heebner’s path as a self-employed artist has not always been smooth, but she would not have it any other way. “It’s fun to allow for mistakes or surprises that can take you off onto a tangent that might lead to something absolutely wonderful that you couldn’t predict,” she stated. Her newest fine art book, *Cassandra*, pairs her images with a poem by Bay area poet and translator Stephen Kessler.

New Opportunities

In the early 2000s, magazines were having a tough time transitioning to digital. According to Everton, those struggles, coupled with the economic downturn of 2008, resulted in magazines slashing assignments. “Magazines really took a hit in 2008,” he noted. “A lot of magazines lost a tremendous amount of advertising and that advertising hasn’t come back.” Everton took the opportunity to work on projects he had been meaning to finish.



Mary Heebner has often been a model in her husband's photos

Everton collaborated with Heebner to publish the definitive photo journal of their hometown. *The Book of Santa Barbara* was released in 2010 and featured essays by the famous essayist Pico Iyer. Even though the couple had lived in Santa Barbara for a majority of their lives, they had very few photos of the seaside town. “We had to treat it like an assignment where it was our main focus,” said Everton. “People would say, ‘Well, you must have great shots of Santa Barbara.’ And I replied, ‘When? When I’m home, I am in the darkroom, I’m editing, I’m running errands.’ There was just no time to take photos.” So Heebner and Everton went to work on creating a book enjoyed by residents, newcomers, and tourists alike.

Everton also spent time putting together an update to *The Modern Maya*. He continued annual trips to the Yucatán after the original book was published in 1991. In those 20-plus years, he witnessed how NAFTA, the War on Drugs, tourism, and globalism impacted the once-secluded society. When *The Modern Maya: Incidents of Travel and Friendship in Yucatán* was published by the University of Texas Press in 2012, it portrayed how, over four decades, Maya culture adapted to outside pressures.

No matter the project, Heebner and Everton make each other’s works better. “We inform each other’s work,” said Heebner. “I think we make each other better. He’s got a different way of seeing the world and thinking about it than I do.” Candidness, support and equality are paramount in their relationship. “Mary is an incredibly good editor for me, and I’m a good editor for her too,” said Everton. They both tell each other honest opinions on their projects. Heebner added, “We are a sweet mix of being strongly independent and deeply dependent on one another.”

“These [CCS] students thrived in an environment where people would ask you challenging questions, and you would have to come up with thoughtful answers.”

“CCS has taught me how to evolve in both sound and knowledge, preparing me to embark on a journey of creative curiosity and allowing me to advance my compositional tools.”

Jordan Mitchell
Third-year CCS Composer



“CCS is truly a little family inside of UCSB. I love the supportive atmosphere and the wonderful sense of camaraderie that CCS students and faculty possess.”

Anshika Bagla
Fourth-year CCS Biologist





Art From Ashes

■ Student Experience

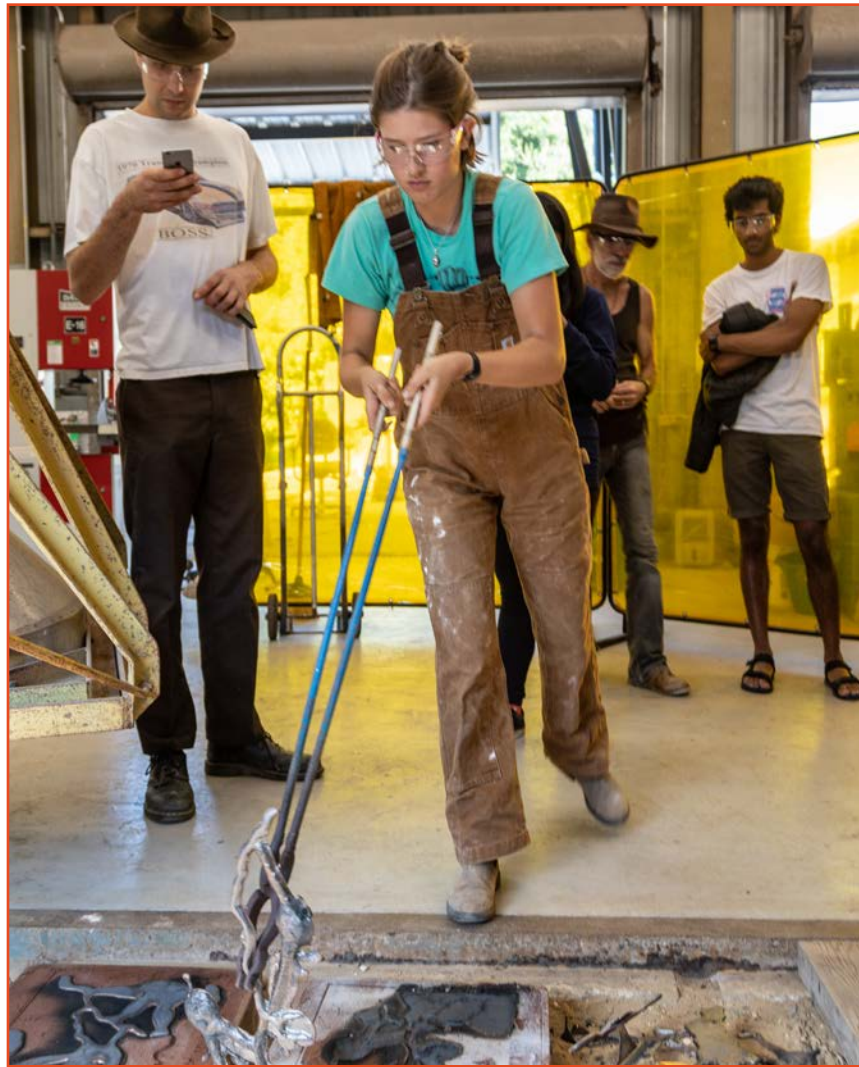
CCS Artist and Biologist Sophie Nebeker uses research on Thomas Fire to inspire her art

For as long as she can remember, Sophie Nebeker, a third-year CCS Artist and Biologist, has used the surrounding world to inform her art. Supported by a donor-funded CCS Summer Undergraduate Fellowship, Nebeker spent much of the summer studying the effects of the Thomas Fire—the second largest fire California history—and subsequent severe debris flows with a UC Santa Barbara biology doctorate student. From this, she designed a sculpture to reflect the impact of these natural disasters.

The Thomas Fire provided a chance to see how an ecosystem is affected by a major disturbance. “I hesitate to call it an opportunity because it was a huge tragedy, but it was a fascinating way to see how an ecological community adapts to change,” she said. Working with Kate Culhane, a UC Santa Barbara Ph.D. student in Hilary Young’s lab, Nebeker studied how fire shapes a community ecosystem. By examining how the burning of the stream-side forest canopy led to increased algal growth, Nebeker and Culhane surveyed the influence on the associated community of invertebrates. “Kate will trace hydrogen isotopes from the insect samples up the food web to see how the diet of invertebrate communities changes based on the availability of aquatic algal or terrestrial leaf litter in the habitat,” Nebeker explained. “So when we were in the field, we would measure the stream hydrology and morphology and collect a lot of bugs.”

The entire time she was in the field, Nebeker tracked her sentiments to inform her art. Rather than create a real scene, such as an insect in a river, her piece focuses on impressions. “[My sculpture] is more like an abstract, kind of an emotional perspective,” she stated. “I’ve been distilling what feelings and words come to mind when I’m out there, and then make some form based off of those feelings.”

Sophie Nebeker creating art in the Santa Barbara back country



Sophie Nebeker creating a bronze casting

Nebeker's unique position—as a Biologist and Artist—enabled her to create a work of art based on scientific research. And although it will be a piece of fine art, she approached her project with a science communications lens. “I find that a lot of my art is inspired by these natural shapes and forms, and the processes that create them,” said the Utah native. “I wanted to be able to make something visual, something you can approach that is beautiful while learning about the environment we live in.” Nebeker's goal for the work was to convey complex information in an approachable and digestible way without sacrificing the integrity of the project. Nebeker continued: “You don't want to dumb things down or give false information, but you also don't want to overwhelm the viewer with detail, so it is an exciting line to walk.”

Nebeker feels more connected with sculpture than any other art form. “I really like sculpture because it utilizes an emotional component. Instead of looking at a painting, you are confronted physically with this object that you can walk around and interact with as well as have an intellectual relationship with.” As she works mostly with metal and it is difficult to create organic shapes without heat, the artist worked with

“I wanted to be able to make something visual ... while learning about the environment we live in.”



Sophie Nebeker evaluating pieces of her art, which she created by creating molds of natural objects

Emily Baker, a CCS Art faculty member, to create bronze castings.

Nebeker realizes that this project was a learning experience and is grateful that the CCS Summer Undergraduate Fellowship enabled her to explore her two disciplines. “This was an excellent learning experience to see how I can translate concepts into art,” she stated. “With this fellowship, I was able to explore whatever I wanted—my creative desires had no limit.” She continued: “I learned about these two seemingly disparate things, but this fellowship gave me the opportunity to work on one project, while still satisfying these two sides [science and art] of myself.”

2018 marked the first time the CCS Summer Undergraduate Fellowships, supported by The Create Fund launched during the College's 50th Anniversary, were made available to all CCS students, including those majoring in Art, Writing & Literature, and Music Composition. Previously, the fellowships were focused solely on student scientific research. Nebeker described how it felt to receive

this funding: “It was a really amazing and liberating feeling because ... as an artist and a maker, you're not constantly having people say ‘let me help you, let me give you this so you can make art,’” she said.

Nebeker is one of 36 CCS students who received Summer Undergraduate Fellowships in 2018. CCS donors—alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends—completely funded each fellow, who spent up to 12 weeks working on a research or creative project. “It's awesome,” said Nebeker, “when individuals can support us and can give the necessary resources for these intellectual and creative projects.”

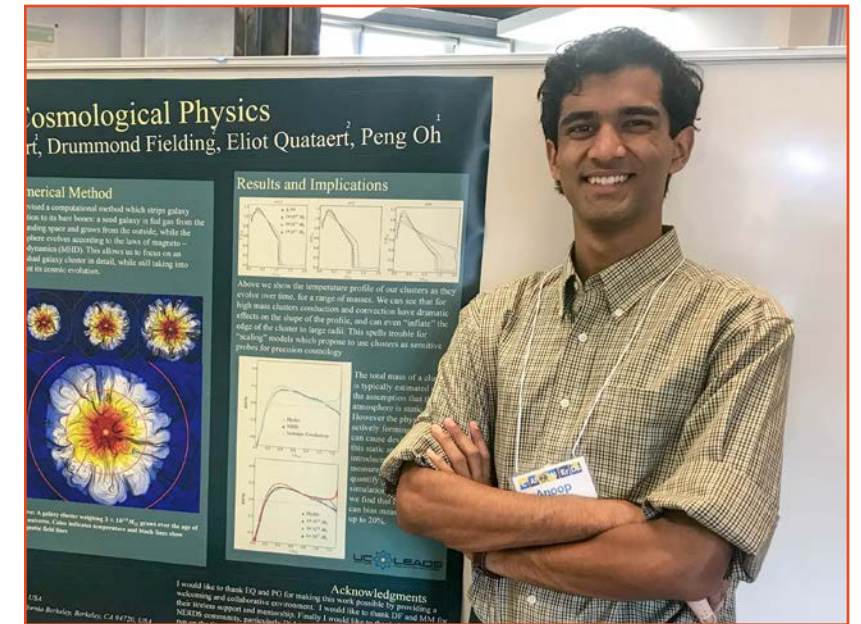
Nebeker displayed her project at the 2018 CCS Research and Creative Activities Conference (RACA-CON) on November 3.

The Mixture of Galaxies



Anoop Praturu giving a talk at the 2017 CCS RACA-CON

Student Experience



Anoop Praturu presenting his research at a conference

How teenage boredom led Anoop Praturu to the study of galaxy clusters

When Anoop Praturu (CCS Physics '19) was 14, he visited his grandparents' house in India. He eventually became bored, as would any teenage boy confined to the suburbs, and began bugging his older sister. To alleviate this annoyance, his sister handed him a book and urged him to read it. The book? *Cosmos* by Carl Sagan. He's been hooked on space ever since. As he grew more interested in space, he realized, "This could be my job. I could just do *this*."

Jump forward to mid-way through his undergraduate studies at UC Santa Barbara, where, for the past two summers, Praturu has been working with the support of a UC LEADS scholarship, which encourages upper-division STEM students of non-traditional backgrounds to continue to graduate school. In the second year, students can choose another UC campus to conduct research for the

summer. Praturu selected UC Berkeley to continue the studies of his mentor Mike McCourt, a postdoctoral fellow at UCSB who earned his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. He explained the reasoning behind his decision to target UC Berkeley. "I picked up a project he [McCourt] started with his old advisor [Professor Eliot Quataert] up in Berkeley. So it seemed like a perfect fit to go up to Berkeley and work with his advisor. It was a great experience." Praturu eagerly looked forward to learning about Professor Quataert and forming a personal relationship with the scientist of whom McCourt had spoken so fondly. "It's kind of like when you meet your best friend's parent," he added, "and you are like, 'oh, that is where you get all of these really cool qualities from.'"

Praturu's research focuses on the composition of galaxies and galaxy clusters, structures that, through gravity, bind thousands of

galaxies together. It is a common misconception amongst those unfamiliar with space that stars and planets are the most massive objects in a galaxy and the rest of the space is empty. “When you look at a galaxy, you might see this huge collection of stars,” said Praturu. “But surrounding this collection of stars is actually this giant halo of plasma and hot gas. That makes up the majority of mass in the structure of a galaxy.” Specifically, Praturu studies how heavy elements become distributed throughout the hot gas and plasma cloud which fills the otherwise empty space in the galaxy.

“Heavy elements are produced by stars, and these stars are all concentrated to the innermost thousand or so light-years in these galaxy clusters,” Praturu notes. “You would expect that all the heavy elements produced by them would be somewhere around in those thousand or so light years, but when you take your telescopes and look at these clusters, you see the heavy elements everywhere. They are very well mixed throughout these galaxy clusters. And no one understood why.”

Although older models suggested that it would be incredibly hard to mix galaxy clusters, heavy elements were observed throughout these clusters. Praturu was interested in finding out how heavy elements could be so widely distributed. After using an assortment of math techniques to compare the observations to galaxy models of the Coma, Virgo, and Perseus Clusters (also called the Skull Cluster because in some images, you can see two stars exploding outwards, which look like the eye sockets of a skull), Praturu’s research team concluded that atmospheres are actually very easy to mix. “I could just flick the atmosphere a little bit and all of a sudden it would start mixing violently,” he stated. This leads to the equal distribution of heavy elements around the cluster.

“I really liked this result because we were able to connect it back to the observations people make with the telescopes,” Praturu said of the discovery. “The solution was kind of unexpected, and it was just a lot of fun overall.”

At CCS, Praturu met others who, like himself, dedicate their lives to their chosen field. “I just wanted to dive in and do research and eat, sleep, breathe physics,” he said. “[In high school] there was no one else around me who felt that way, and they all thought I was weird for feeling that intensely about physics. I realized that what I had been lacking was a sense of community of committed people who love what they do so intensely, and that is exactly what I found at CCS.”

In the future, Praturu wants to continue in research. “I enjoyed the creative freedom I’ve had and the ability to think outside the box instead of performing routine tasks.” Praturu is applying to graduate schools, but also considering taking a gap year after he graduates in June 2019.

I realized that what I had been lacking was a sense of community of committed people ... and that is exactly what I found at CCS.

CCS Student Awards

CCS students receive many prestigious awards, ranging from college-specific and departmental awards to university-wide and national awards. The following is a partial list of awards received by CCS students in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Barry Goldwater Scholarship
Jasen Liu, CCS Biology

Betty Stevens Frecknall Scholarship
Erica Fagnan, CCS Math

Bridges Scholar
Malia Stuart, CCS Biology

CAMP Program
Allison Koopman, CCS Chemistry & Biochemistry

Cancer for College Scholarship
Seamus Morrison, CCS Writing & Literature

Community Financial Fund Grant
Roshelle Carlson, CCS Art

CCS Faculty Executive Committee Commendation of Excellence Awards
Chloe Avery, CCS Math
Christina Garcia, CCS Biology
Marvin Qi, CCS Physics

CCS Travelling Undergraduate Research Fund (TURF) Recipients
Chloe Avery, CCS Math
Bailey Clark, CCS Art
Casondra Cunningham, CCS Biology and CCS Art
Nicholas Geis, CCS Math
Kailyn Kausen, CCS Writing & Literature
Belle Machado, CCS Writing & Literature
Sierra McLinn, CCS Biology
Jordan Mitchell, CCS Music Composition
Pharuj Rajborirug, CCS Physics
Nicholas Rommelfanger, CCS Physics
Kate Ryan, CCS Art
Veronica Torres, CCS Biology
Yunkai Zhang, CCS Math
Maya Zohbi, CCS Art

CCS Summer Undergraduate Fellowship Recipients
Samuel Alipour-fard, CCS Physics
Anshika Bagla, CCS Biology
Rex Bai, CCS Physics
Milo Bechtloff, CCS Math
Justin Bernstein, CCS Chemistry & Biochemistry
Zhe Chen, CCS Biology
Alexander Cicconi-Kasper, CCS Physics
Jason Corbin, CCS Physics
Pieter Derksen, CCS Physics
Cole Garcia, CCS Biology
Jason Gros, CCS Math and CCS Computing
Taozhi Guo, CCS Physics
Bonnie Huang, CCS Art
Kristen Klitgaard, CCS Biology
Cecilie Lande, CCS Biology
Yurim Lee, CCS Physics
Ben Lewis, CCS Chemistry & Biochemistry
Zachary Lewis, CCS Physics
Jerry Ling, CCS Physics
Yuanqi Lyu, CCS Physics
Nick Mazuk, CCS Music Composition
Sophie Nebeker, CCS Art and CCS Biology
David Newsom, CCS Physics
Umut Oktem, CCS Physics
Aaron Peng, CCS Physics
Supavit Pokawanvit, CCS Physics
Veronica Russell, CCS Biology
Sandy Schoettler, CCS Math
Youssef Sibih, CCS Biology
Dima Sidorin, CCS Physics
Braeden Sopp, CCS Math
David Suslik, CCS Physics
Nicholas Wilson, CCS Chemistry & Biochemistry
Yingzi Xia, CCS Chemistry & Biochemistry
Yunkai Zhang, CCS Math and CCS Computing

CCS Writing Competition- Most Excellent Awards

Narrative Prose
2nd place: Ted Tinker, CCS Math

Essay
Honorable Mention: Pei Jia Anderson, CCS Writing & Literature

Brancart Fiction Awards
1st place: Via Bleidner, CCS Writing & Literature

Richardson Poetry Awards
1st place: Komal Surani, CCS Writing & Literature
3rd place: Shelia Tran, CCS Writing & Literature

Cornelius H. Muller Award for Excellence in the Plant Sciences
Jasen Liu, CCS Biology

Dorothy and Sherrill C. Corwin Award for Excellence in Music
2nd Place - Large Ensemble: Tristan Perez, CCS Music Composition
3rd Place (tie) - Large Ensemble: Nick Mazuk, CCS Music Composition
3rd Place (tie) - Large Ensemble: Brian Morones, CCS Music Composition
2nd Place - Electronic/Electronic-Acoustic: Preston Towers, CCS Music Composition
3rd - Vocal: Thomas Håkanson, CCS Music Composition

EUREKA Internship
Max Prichard, CCS Physics

Field School Elasmobranch Scholarship
Anshika Bagla, CCS Biology

Gene and Susan Lucas Undergraduate Research Fund
Yanelyn Perez, CCS Biology

Gorman Scholarship
Lia Yeh, CCS Computing and Phyiscs

Joan K. Hunt and Rachel M. Hunt Scholarship in Field Botany
Jasen Liu, CCS Biology

McNair Scholars
Jordan Mitchell, CCS Music Composition
Veronica Torres, CCS Biology

NASA Research Grant
Erica Fagnan, CCS Math

New Venture Competition-First Place
Andrea Anez, CCS Biology

NSF Grant
Malia Stuart, CCS Biology

Rotary Scholarship
Seamus Morrison, CCS Writing & Literature

Santa Barbara Writers Conference Scholarship
Kailyn Kausen, CCS Writing & Literature

The Bruce Award
Juan Silverio, CCS Art

The Promising Artist Achievement Award
Bailey Clark, CCS Art

UCSB Art Department Faculty Awards of Distinction
Vanessa Ayala, CCS Art
Bonnie Huang, CCS Art
UCSB Undergraduate Research and Creative

Activities Grant
Katie Feerst, CCS Biology
Jasen Liu, CCS Biology
Yanelyn Perez, CCS Biology
Amani Rodriguez, CCS Biology
Salmanfaizee Sadakkadulla, CCS Biology
Shea Schwennicke, CCS Biology

UCSB Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Slam
1st Place - Mitchell Hee, CCS Biology
3rd Place - Sydney Hunt, CCS Biology
4th Place - Sharon Tamir, CCS Biology

UCSB Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research
Colin Kim, CCS Chemistry & Biochemistry

UCSB MCBF Fellowship
Jessica Abesamis, CCS Biology

UCSB MRL Research Internship in Science and Engineering (RISE)
Nicholas Rommelfanger, CCS Physics

UCSB Physics Department Academic Excellence
James Chow, CCS Physics
Christina Garcia, CCS Physics
Aidan Herderschee, CCS Physics
Neeraj Kulkarni, CCS Physics
Avik Mondal, CCS Physics

UCSB Physics Department Research Excellence
Dolev Bluvstein, CCS Physics
Neeraj Kulkarni, CCS Physics
Avik Mondal, CCS Physics
David Newsom, CCS Physics
Gavin Niendorf, CCS Physics

UCSB Physics Department Research Honors
James Chow, CCS Physics
Aidan Herderschee, CCS Physics
Tynan Kennedy, CCS Physics
Neeraj Kulkarni, CCS Physics
Christopher Madsen, CCS Physics
Avik Mondal, CCS Physics
Sergiy Valsilyev, CCS Physics

UCSB Writing Program Raab Writing Fellowship
Kailyn Kausen, CCS Writing & Literature
Komal Surani, CCS Writing & Literature

William Dole Memorial Scholarship
Bonnie Huang, CCS Art
Ashleigh Pillay, CCS Art
Bailey Clark, CCS Art
Juan Silverio, CCS Art
Fernando Tapia, CCS Art

Worster Summer Research Fellowship
Elizabeth Jahn, CCS Biology
Dolev Bluvstein, CCS Physics
James Ehrets, CCS Physics
Gavin Niendorf, CCS Physics
Nick O'Dea, CCS Physics



UCSB's Game Development Club was founded by Chelsea Chung (left) and Jake Tran (right), and is advised by Richert Wang (center)

Richert Wang, CCS Computing faculty, mentors third-year CCS Artists Jake Tran and Chelsea Chung in game development

Almost everyone has played a video game at some point in their lives—from the single-player Gameboy Mario games of the past to today's open world games such as Red Dead Redemption 2. Lost on many gamers throughout time is the interdisciplinary team of artists, computer scientists, musicians and others behind the creation of these games. CCS Computing faculty member Richert Wang teamed up with third-year CCS Artists Chelsea Chung and Jake Tran to design a space that will be home to the emerging interdisciplinary community of game developers on the UC Santa Barbara campus: the UC Santa Barbara Game Development Club.

Having arrived in Fall 2017, Wang is relatively new to UCSB, but his interest in game development and student mentorship are long-standing. After receiving a Ph.D. in Information and Computer Science with a focus on distributed systems from UC Irvine, Wang spent time in industry working on Amazon's mobile appstore and the AWS Appstream service until the opportunity arose to join UCI's faculty. There, he focused on computer science education and course development including various game design topics, and sought a

Mentoring that Defies Disciplines

way to work with undergraduate students directly.

The CCS faculty-student advising model attracted Wang to UCSB. "I'd never really heard of this focus on undergraduate mentorship," said Wang. His approach to mentorship is to discover the interests of each student, which empowers him to guide them to the appropriate resources—such as scholarships, classes, research, and other opportunities—that effectively help them achieve their unique goals.

When Wang arrived on campus, he quickly recognized a void in game development opportunities at UCSB and set his sights on filling it. Jake Tran and Chelsea Chung, both CCS Art '20, were already making small steps in the right direction; they created a Facebook page dedicated to developing video games. "The idea of making games was present in many of my peers, but I could feel the frustration in how difficult it is to find other folks that want to work and learn about games," said Tran about the creation of the club.

"When I was talking about my intention of starting a game development club, they reached out to me and told me what

they were doing," said Wang. "Since then, we joined forces and started rolling with it." Tran noted, before Wang's involvement in the organization, he and Chung were able to maintain small and inconsistent club meetings. "Richert's knowledge of the industry, people in the industry, and the dynamics of the UCI video game development club helped us navigate and better understand solutions to obstacles we face such as providing advice for how to support the interdisciplinary nature of this organization with the UCSB student members."

"There are a lot of students who are interested in game development on campus, but never had the opportunity, so my first interest was just to talk to them and get to know each other and try to learn from each other," Chung said of her first year in the club. Chung noted that it is difficult to make a game on your own because of the considerable amount of time, energy, and diverse skills required to produce one. She thinks she probably could make one on her own, but she prefers to work with someone. "It just makes it easier for everybody," she said. "[Games are] so complex and strange and difficult. It is a miracle that any games exist at all." She continued: "Then this year, we got to start making games as a game development club."

Wang's leadership, coupled with the dedication of Tran and Chung, enabled the organization to experience tremendous growth with attendance at the weekly meetings growing from 12 to over 35 members. From understanding the mechanics of running a club to teaching Tran and Chung the programming skills they needed to lead the club effectively, Wang is someone any club member with a question can approach to find answers. "Richert is very clearly passionate about game development, which is important to us because we are pretty much running on passion," said Chung. She

added, her adviser is an encouraging force in the production of their work. "He makes sure that we are doing work and being productive so we can advance our own work portfolios."

Along with computer scientists and artists, the Game Development Club also attracts students from all majors including, but not limited to, mathematicians, physicists, writers, musicians, psychologists, chemists, and biologists who collaborate on projects together. "One of the things about game design is it is an interdisciplinary field," Wang explained. "You can't just have great mechanics without aesthetics, and you can't have great aesthetics without mechanics. It really is a combination and balance of many elements that create a unique player experience."

"When you are trying to possibly make a career in game design or get into that industry, a lot of it is, 'What have you done? What does your portfolio look like? What games have you developed?'" Wang asserted. "So the opportunity for students to meet other students, form collaborations in interdisciplinary teams, and actually create games and build their portfolios is something that can be used to seek employment in this field."

Wang's commitment to the club goes beyond the project level. "He's giving his time and energy to make a club space for us and getting furniture and everything. He'll even help us get food for large events," said Chung. Tran stated, "Richert has encouraged my passions and has given me opportunities to grow as an artist, student leader, and person. He has always been so understanding and has helped me feel grounded."

The club meets weekly on Fridays at 5:00 PM in CCS room 143.

Richert Wang (front-third from the left) and Chelsea Chung (front-center) with the UCSB Game Development Club





Interim Dean Bruce Tiffney welcoming over 250 attendees to CCS RACA-CON

Communicating Knowledge

CCS RACA-CON continues tradition of linking disciplines

The College of Creative Studies houses eight distinct disciplines, each with its own focus. Simultaneously, the College seeks to build an interdisciplinary community of young scientists, artists, composers, and writers. The annual Research and Creative Activities Conference (RACA-CON) provides a unique opportunity for students in all eight disciplines to share their research and creative activities with each other and the public.

Held on November 3 in the Girvetz Hall, over 250 CCS students, faculty, and parents attended this year's RACA-CON. Attendees witnessed 28 student talks on topics ranging from a student-run musical to the future of particle colliders and everything in between.

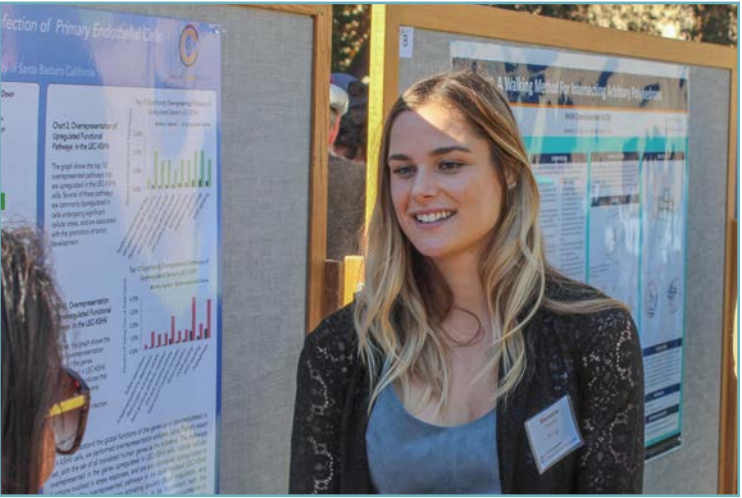
Subsequently, over 55 students took advantage of a beautiful Santa Barbara autumn afternoon by showcasing their work in the RACA-CON poster session in the Girvetz Hall courtyard. CCS urges students to get involved in research and creative projects from the moment they step on campus, allowing them to immerse themselves in laboratories and studios, which often leads to CCS students getting published. Katie Feerst, a fourth-year CCS Biologist, gave a talk about a marine worm she discovered and named *Amphiglena Joyce* after her grandma Joyce Beck this past summer. "RACA-CON was a fun and supportive environment," said Feerst. "I tend to get nervous when giving talks on my research and this was a

great opportunity for me to practice my speaking skills." Feerst continued, "This work is my greatest accomplishment to date and will be my first publication, so it's awesome to be able to share that with my friends and family."

As an interdisciplinary conference, RACA-CON encouraged each participant to build a presentation for a general audience rather than those within their discipline. Feerst and other students focused on the big picture. "I made sure to give a general overview of the process and emphasize the importance of the results rather than the minutia of the details," she said. Delenn Jadzia (Chemistry '20), Hannah Morley (Writing & Literature '21), and Preston Towers (Music Composition '18) gave a memorable talk about their experience creating a musical. Working on the CCS Musical over the course of the last year inspired the trio to create their own show, "Homebrewed: A Musical Quest," and their presentation focused on this journey. Jadzia said of the talk, "We spoke about the process of writing while living in different cities and performed one of the original songs." The trio used RACA-CON to build awareness about their play. "We're at a pivotal point where we are trying to spread information about the show," added Jadzia, "and RACA-CON provided a platform to do so."

David Watson, CCS Computer Science '99, closed the conference with an enlightening keynote address. He observed that there are two approaches as one assimilates knowledge and moves forward in life—to go deep and become a specialist in a field or to be a generalist, someone who knows a little about a wide range of topics. He urged students to take a T-shaped approach to their career—both going deep into one subject and learning an expanse of knowledge of many other things, often in a cyclical manner as life raises new opportunities and challenges. Watson's career exemplifies this model. After his graduation from CCS, he was an early employee at Google but soon ventured outside of computer science when he—along with his wife Vinitha—created Zoo Labs, an artist residency that teaches business skills to musicians to provide them with a greater toolbox to expand their craft. More recently, he has moved into self-driving trucks. David and his wife Vinitha have provided CCS students with the opportunity to learn how to practice the breadth of this "T-shaped" approach to life by establishing the Transdisciplinary Fund at CCS in 2006. The Transdisciplinary Fund underwrites short visits by scholars or practitioners working at the intersection of two or more disciplines with the goal of encouraging student discussion across disciplines.

CCS looks forward to continuing the tradition of showcasing original student work at RACA-CON next fall!



Fourth-year CCS Biologist Veronica Russell presented her summer research project



Delenn Jadzia, Hannah Morley, and Preston Towers gave a talk on their experience creating a musical



Students from all eight CCS majors presented posters and original work at CCS RACA-CON

Shake On It!

CCS students write,
compose, and
produce the sixth
CCS original made-
for-tv musical

by Shelly Leachman for *The Current*

"Shake On It" starred Molly Clementz (photo//Shivash Ghardiri)



Imagine being able to sap the personality traits from all whose hands you shake, and assume them for yourself. Would you become the person you always wished you could be? Would you ultimately learn to appreciate the “you” you were before?

Such is the situation of shy Amanda Steinberg, who even describes herself as “boring as a piece of bread”—an opinion shared by her fellow high school students. That is, until a charismatic gambler bestows her with the power to steal her peers’ personalities for herself with a simple shake of the hand. Soon, drab Amanda is an overconfident extrovert, cracking jokes and taking names.

Where is this going?

Ask the creative team behind “Shake On It,” the musical that was conceived, written, composed, produced and performed by students in the College of Creative Studies (CCS). Amanda’s curious tale comprises the latest iteration of CCS TV Musical, a course that gives undergraduates the reins to develop and execute a musical—start to finish—over two academic quarters.

It all culminated in three live, public shows, then a closed, multicamera taping, which was broadcasted on UCTV following a red-carpet premier at Isla Vista Theater.

“The CCS TV Musical is a longstanding tradition on campus that engages students in the act of creating at a very deep and personal level,” said Kathy Foltz, former interim dean of CCS and a professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology. “It is one of those wonderful experiences that a university student can look back on and say, ‘I did that!’ It’s one thing to read about how to create a musical from square one, but it is quite another to actually do it, from conceiving the story, composing the music, and then actually pulling it all together in high-caliber performances. It is truly a labor of love, and a gift to the entire campus and community.”

The musical was created by students, but CCS TV Musical the class is the brainchild of Jeremy Haladyna, a faculty member in music composition. Seeking a way to give students experience in writing for the stage, he first launched the course in 2004.

“From the very beginning there really has been a steady, high-quality effort on the part of the students,” said Haladyna, also a lecturer in UCSB’s music department and director of the campus’s Ensemble for Contemporary Music. “This is an enterprise that involves three faculty members over two quarters, and students get 12 units if they see it through. It’s a big deal, so we expect a lot and they deliver a lot.”



In addition to writing, composing, and producing "Shake On It," CCS students also performed in the show (photo//Shivash Ghardiri)

Haladyna has also run the course in 2006, 2010, 2012 and 2015, in addition to the past academic year. Starting in the fall, he squires the students through writing the show—both the book and the music—from treatment to plot skeleton to songs. Every student works on every aspect, first by submitting storyline ideas. They vote as a group on which to pursue, then collaborate to develop characters, dialogue and song lyrics.

Production and rehearsal consume winter quarter, when 10 more weeks are devoted to bring the show to life on stage with the help of Gerry Hansen, a theater and dance faculty member who has been directing CCS TV Musical since 2010.

“The students involved are all very creative, dedicated and eager to learn,” Hansen said. “Although theater is an unfamiliar environment for them, they all are very open to the experience and challenges, and willing to work hard to make sure the project is a success.”

That includes Writing & Literature major Andrés Worstell, who said it’s been a whirlwind in the best sense of the word. He and fellow then-CCS freshmen Ryan Harriman and Hannah Morley wrote the show’s script. Their first year of college and they’ve already penned an original musical.

“We just got to UCSB and out of the gate we’re doing something like this, which is just crazy,” said Worstell. “I hadn’t personally written a musical before—none of us had. It’s such a unique experience and such a great opportunity, and it’s just been wonderful to do it.”

They have done it all. Besides writing the show, Worstell is lighting it, Harriman is serving as stage manager and Morley is performing, playing Amanda’s best friend, Carly. It’s a creative mashup, CCS to the core.

“These are precious years, and this is the time to learn and try things out,” said Haladyna. “Don’t do the 1,000th performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' when you can do your own thing and see how it plays. They laughed, they didn’t laugh, they liked that song, I heard people crying. Assessing how their work plays in public—that is invaluable. This is the time to experiment, and if you’ve got a place like CCS that will foster that, you’re nuts not to exploit it.”

The full broadcast of “Shake On It” can be viewed on-demand at ccs.ucsb.edu/musical.

CCS Writing Competitions

Open to the entire campus, students from all disciplines across UC Santa Barbara are encouraged to submit their work to the annual CCS Writing Competitions. This competition gives students from UCSB’s two other colleges a chance to engage with CCS. The grand prizes—the Brancart Fiction and the Richardson Poetry Awards—are bestowed each year thanks to endowments created through the generosity of CCS alumni Christine Lehner (CCS Literature ’73) and the late Jeffery Hewitt (CCS Literature ’74) in honor of their respective grandmothers. The 2018 Brancart Fiction award was given to Via Bleidner (College of Letters and Science '21) for *Birdwatching* and the Richardson Poetry Award went to Komal Surani (CCS Writing & Literature '20) for *Silence, December Night in my Dorm*, and *The First Time*. Below are excerpts from the winning submissions.

Birdwatching (excerpt) by Via Bleidner

My mother was a skinny, worried lady. She did not like attention. At age forty-eight she dyed her thick brown hair gray and stopped wearing makeup, because that "was the natural flow of things." She did not get along with my granny, and every Thanksgiving there'd be an argument about something like gravy or table settings. Tension swung over the table, thick as cream, as matriarchy was passed around like a game of hot-potato.

By the time I turned thirteen, my mother and grandmother were not on speaking terms, and Thanksgiving dinners consisted of my mother and I silently handing each other bowls of limp turkey slices and cold stuffing. Suddenly I missed the loud fights, my granny's spicy vegetable sauce. You never realize how lucky you used to be until your quiet wiry worried mother is wiping brown cranberry mush from her knit sweater.

I resorted to silent escapades to my grandmother's house in the middle of the day, when my mother was too absorbed in staring at the walls to ask me where I was going. I figured that since they weren't talking, I could have a little bit of fun while I was at it.

December Night in my Dorm by Komal Surani

lights dimmed:
we are laughing
too close to each other
to focus on the reasons
we are here

The First Time by Komal Surani

you elongate my spine to the wall
hands pressed down on sides
lips pressed red from lipstick

I am jigsawed into you
knobs and walls and door jambs and desk corners
and your teeth, body bruised for days

I have never been whole before

To view the full list of winners and their works, visit ccs.ucsb.edu/create/writing-competitions.



Takeoff!

2018 CCS Commencement

Excerpts from *The Current*
By Sonia Fernandez

A squid hat. An ocarina performance. A brand-new school logo. These and other unique touches marked the 2018 CCS commencement ceremony.

Roughly 80 undergraduates from the unique college for self-directed students received degrees and honors, gave speeches, played music and enjoyed a solid send-off into their futures from alumni and faculty alike.

No matter their direction, urged alumni speaker Danna Staaf ('05 Biology), students should define success for themselves. "We need to embrace our own passions, understand our own needs and make the choices that are right for us," Staaf said on choosing meaningful work. An expert on cephalopods, Staaf managed to combine her affinity for squid with her journalistic talent as a science writer and educator.

For CCS logo designer Jon Ritt, who was a CCS art student in the 1980s, it was a chance to finally march across the stage, an event he "postponed" for 29 years.

Nikola Kapamadžin, a CCS Mathematics major who passed away in 2017, was awarded a posthumous degree.

A full recap of commencement can be found at ccs.ucsb.edu/commencement.

Tristan Perez (CCS Music Composition '18) performs an original piece on an ocarina ▲



Jon Ritt (CCS Art '18) with Chancellor Yang after receiving his diploma after 29 years ►



Demetrious Lloyd (CCS Chemistry '18) delivering a student speech ▼



(clockwise from the top): Jay Freeman (second from the left, CCS Computer Science '03) chatting with Chancellor Yang (left) and a graduate; Danna Staaf (CCS Biology '04) giving her Commencement Address; Sierra McClinn (third from left, Biology '18) with her friends and family; Leila Youssefi (CCS Art '18) listens as Interim Dean Foltz reads her accolades



2017-2018 Fundraising Highlights

Alumni, parents, and friends of the College of Creative Studies make a tremendous, positive impact on the College and enhance the lives of our students who go on to become leaders and change agents in our society. Our supporters make student success possible!

Did you know that our student enrichment learning activities and summer fellowships are 100% donor-funded?



203 Gifts to CCS, the second-highest in history

67 First-time donors to CCS, exceeding our goal of 50

Make a gift online at ccs.ucsb.edu/giving

For information on giving opportunities, please contact CCS Director of Development Venilde Jeronimo (venilde@ucsb.edu or 805.893.5504).

\$4,153 Raised on UCSB Give Day 2018

164 Number of gifts under \$1,000

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You're invited!

2019 CCS Community Events:

San Jose
February 24
ccs.ucsb.edu/SJ

Los Angeles
March 16
ccs.ucsb.edu/LA

Santa Barbara
April 27
ccs.ucsb.edu/SB

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