

#EngineerChange

September 2026



Dean Park Welcomes New and Returning Students to UCLA Samueli for Fall 2026

As the 2026-27 academic year is set to begin, Dean Alissa Park shares a message with UCLA Samueli students, highlighting the school's continued growth, including nearly three dozen new faculty members over the last few years and the newly launched Semiconductor Hub — one of many exciting initiatives that will help students embrace new technologies to benefit society.



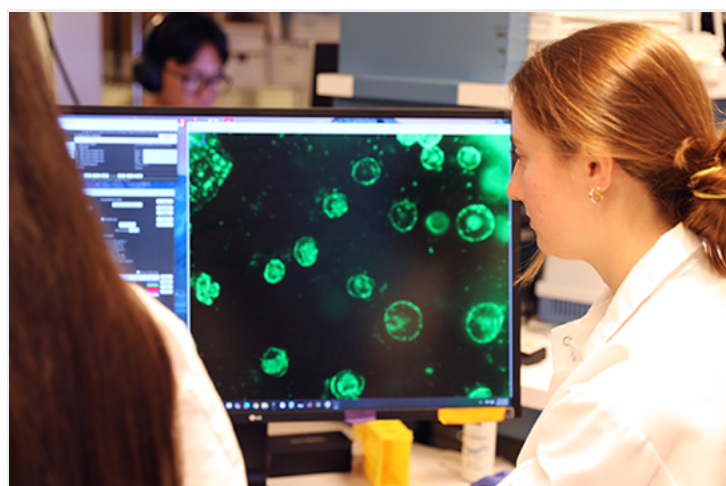
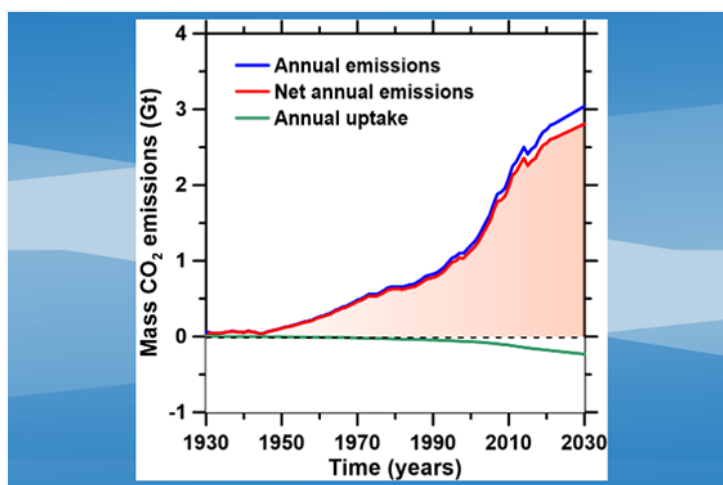
UCLA Computer Scientists Jason Cong and Jens Palsberg to Co-Lead \$75 Million NSF Quantum Computing Institutes

Jason Cong, a distinguished professor of computer science and holder of the Volgenau Chair for Engineering Excellence, and Jens Palsberg, a professor of computer science and co-director of the Center for Quantum

Science & Engineering, will lead efforts to overcome critical barriers between today's quantum systems and practical computing.

UCLA Study Finds Concrete's Natural Absorption of Carbon Dioxide Does Little to Offset Emissions from Cement Production

Led by Gaurav Sant, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, materials science and engineering and the Pritzker Professor in Sustainability, the research found ambient carbonation offsets less than 10% of the cement industry's own annual carbon dioxide emissions, and that active measures are needed to reduce emissions at production.



UCLA Engineer Neil Lin Receives \$2.1M DOD Grant to Develop AI “Digital Twins” Targeting Treatment-Resistant Prostate Cancer

Neil Lin, an associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and bioengineering, has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to support a new approach merging genetic

testing, functional drug-sensitivity testing and advanced computer modeling into a single system for guiding prostate cancer therapy.

Faculty Across Campus Receive Grants to Help Expand UCLA's Global Reach

Alberto Casillas-Trasviña, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, is one of 17 UCLA professors who have received a Global Education or Global Research award and is one of only two faculty members who have received both awards from UCLA's Global Advisors Council.



UCLA Engineering Makerspace Donates 3D Printers to L.A. Middle and High Schools, Runs Training Workshops for Teachers and Students

In partnership with the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Diversity, the project was spearheaded by Suraj Shah, a recent mechanical engineering graduate, and is now being led by Hannah

Yang, a makerspace student co-director and rising third-year chemical engineering student.

UCLA Samueli Announces 2026 Edward K. Rice Outstanding Student Awards

The honorees are Guorui Chen, who received a Ph.D. in bioengineering; Fang Zhou, who earned an M.S. in chemical engineering; Isabella He, who received a B.S. and M.S. in materials science and engineering; and Natalie Tsubamoto, who earned a B.S. in bioengineering.



UCLA SAMUELI IN THE NEWS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Nothing Makes Humans Happier Right Now Than Watching Robots Fail

Dennis Hong, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and director of the Robotics and Mechanisms Lab, shares that while watching robots fail to replicate human tasks may be humorous, it is more important to embrace failure as a learning tool. The piece is also picked up by [MSN](#).



'Huge Breakthrough' in the Math of Imbalance

Raghu Meka, a professor of computer science, comments on the mathematical progress made in proving the Komlós conjecture, which states that discrepancies in objects when they are divided up will never exceed a constant amount.



Shiloh Community Holds Briefing About Mitigation Project

Regan Patterson, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, and her doctoral student Anika Tasnia discuss the impact of a highway project that has led to increased flooding in a rural, historically Black community near Elba, Alabama.



Dennis Hong: Success of Physical AI Depends on Real-World Data

The piece highlights robotics professor Dennis Hong's keynote address at the 18th Good Growth, Good Jobs Global Forum, held Sept. 2 in Seoul, South Korea. Hong suggests South Korea can leverage its strengths in manufacturing to grow its physical artificial intelligence technology sector.

STUDENTS



From Backyard Ziplines to Self-Driving Cars: UCLA Computer Science Student Develops Tools to Help Autonomous Vehicles Safely Share Information

Rising second-year computer science student Alexandra Markova strives to ensure AI has a positive impact on society through her research in UCLA's Mobility Lab, which is directed by civil and environmental engineering professor Jiaqi Ma, and her involvement as vice president of operations for BruinAI and a reinforcement learning fellow with AI Safety at UCLA.

ALUMNI



After 28 Scholarships Fund His UCLA Education, Double Bruin First-Gen Engineer Vows to Pay It Forward

Pedro Calderon '25, M.S. '26 grew up in Oxnard, California, working in the fields with his father. Now, after earning nearly 30 scholarships totaling more than \$250,000 from multiple organizations to support both of his mechanical engineering degrees, his goal is to create STEM scholarships for first-generation, low-income students.

Changes to Building Access for Boelter Hall



Effective Oct. 1, 2026, Four Doors on the First and Second Floors of Boelter Hall Will Remain Locked at All Times and Accessible Only with an Authorized BruinCard

Due to an increasing number of unauthorized individuals accessing UCLA Engineering buildings and because certain spaces house chemicals, gases, welding and machine shop tools and equipment, access to these areas must be limited to authorized students, faculty and staff, as well as trained personnel conducting official business. For more information, visit the [Building Access page](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8, 2026 | [Free Public Screening of Second Nature: Gender & Sexuality in the Animal World](#)



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