



**CLASS OF 2021**

# **Commencement Celebration**

June 11, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.

Bren Hall Courtyard, UC Santa Barbara



**UC SANTA BARBARA**

**Bren School of Environmental  
Science & Management**



## PROGRAM

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### Presiding

**Steve Gaines**, Dean, Bren School

### Welcome

**Brengrass**

### Commencement Address

**Fahmida Bangert**,  
VP of Sustainability, IT Renew

### Presentation of Awards

Bren School Distinguished Teaching Award, presented by **Vanessa Rathbone**, MESM 2021

Bren Staff Excellence in Service Award, presented by **Arturo Keller**, Professor, Bren School

Student Teaching Award, presented by **Kelsie Fronheiser**, MESM 2021

MESM Academic Achievement Award, presented by **Hunter Lenihan**, Professor, Bren School

Class Gift, presented by **Alicia Fennell** and **Elliott Matthews**, MESM 2021 Class Chairs



## PROGRAM (continued)

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### **Student Address**

*Unprecedented*

**Pat Byrne**, MESM 2021

### **Recognition of PhD and MESM Graduates**

**Satie Airamé**, Assistant Dean for  
Academic Programs, Bren School

### **Special Dedication**

*We Belong*

**Brengrass**

### **Follow the Buzz on Social Media**

Share your social media posts with the greater community by using the hashtag  
**#UCSB2021** in addition to **#BrenGrad**.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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## **Fahmida Bangert**

VP of Sustainability

IT Renew

With 20+ years of experience, Fahmida leads sustainability initiatives for ITRenew, Inc., specializing in a global circular economy model for data centers. She spearheads cross-functional efforts to evaluate supply chain carbon footprint, reduce the company's footprint through solutions, and integrate sustainability and Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) best practices to create "zero carbon-zero waste-circular" framework for ITRenew and its global hyperscaler community. Her passion for a circular and sustainable economy in the IT sector stems from her early career with Siebel Systems, deep experience in integrating ESG criteria in institutions, and her capacity to create frameworks for decarbonizing complex systems.

Prior to returning to high tech in 2021, Fahmida served as a pioneering practitioner in integrating sustainability in higher Education for 15 years. She directed Stanford University's Office of Sustainability ([sustainable.stanford.edu](https://sustainable.stanford.edu)) programs for infrastructure, resource efficiency, assessments, reporting, business digitization, individual engagement, and research integration to foster 'university as a living lab'. During her service, the university earned a Platinum rating, ranking 1 out of 940 institutions, through the national Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Fahmida is a guest Lecturer at Stanford University and mentor to countless students and researchers. Before Stanford, she was the founding director at UC Berkeley, where she built its first climate action program and a model for the University of California system.

Fahmida earned a B.A. in Economics from Smith College and a Master's in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her early career apprenticeships include positions at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL).

# PHD GRADUATE

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## **Doctorate of Environmental Science and Management**

**Sam Collie**

Faculty Advisor: Professor Chris Costello

*Social Efficiency of Natural Resource Management*

# MESM GRADUATES

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## MESM Specializations & Foci\*

Coastal Marine Resources Management (CMRM)  
Conservation Planning (CP)  
Corporate Environmental Management (CEM)  
Eco-Entrepreneurship (Eco-E)\*  
Economics and Politics of the Environment (EPE)  
Energy and Climate (EC)  
Environmental Data Science (EDS)\*  
Pollution Prevention and Remediation (PPR)  
Strategic Environmental Communication and Media (SECM)\*  
Water Resources Management (WRM)

## **Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM)**

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Anna Abelman	CMRM, EDS	Alex Ehrens	WRM, EDS
Simone Albuquerque	WRM	Lucas Empson	CEM
Allison Bailey	PPR, EDS	Garrett Eyer	CEM
Indigo Bannister	CP	Jordan Faires	EPE, EC
Qusai Bhaijeweala	CEM	Waldo Felix	EC, EDS
Marie Bouffard	CP, SECM	Alicia Fennell	EC, SECM
Margaret Brickner	EC, CEM	Claudia Flores	WRM, EDS
Cameryn Brock	CP	Bret Folger	CP
Grace Brofman	WRM	Emma Friedl	CEM, EC
Pat Byrne	WRM	Kelsie Fronheiser	CP
Janelle Christensen	WRM, SECM	Hannah Garcia-Wickstrum	CP, EDS
Mauricio Collado	CMRM, CP	Dylan Glave	CMRM, SECM
Rachel Conway	CP	Leana Goetze	CP, EDS
Julia Dagum	EC	Monica Gordon	EPE
Gabriel De La Rosa	CP, SECM, EDS	Haley Grant	EPE
Max Diamond	CEM, Eco-E, SECM	Allison Hacker	WRM, EDS
Zoe Duerksen-Salm	CP, SECM	Jaleise Hall	EC, PPR, EDS

# MESM GRADUATES

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Jon Hart	CP	Vanessa Rathbone	CP, SECM
Jordan Isken	EPE, SECM	Rebecca Reynolds	PPR, WRM, EDS
Ruiheng Jin	CEM	Rachel Rhodes	CMRM, SECM
Gavi Keyles	EPE, EC, SECM	Paul Rikhter	CEM, EC
Courtney Krone	EPE, SECM	Minnie Ringland	EPE, EC, SECM
Annika Leiby	WRM, EDS	Erin Ristig	CMRM, EDS
Kat Leigh	CMRM, EDS, Eco-E	Andrew Salvador	EC, CEM
Anthony Luna	PPR	Ruben Sanchez Ramirez	CMRM, EDS
Lauren Manzo	CMRM	Lizzy Schattle	CP
Renata Massion	CEM, SECM	Nicole Schmidt	WRM, SECM
Elliott Matthews	CMRM	David Segan	EC
Kazia Mermel	EPE, SECM	Kate Shoemaker	CEM
Alex Milward	WRM, EDS	Shuhan Song	CP, EDS
Bobby Miyashiro	EC, CEM	Evan Heberlein	CMRM, WRM, EDS
Peyton Moore	CMRM, SECM	Jennifer Truong	CP, EDS
Keene Morrow	EC, SECM, EDS	Benson Truong	CP
Wesley Newbury	CMRM, EPE, Eco-E	Richard Viebrock	EC
Derek Nguyen	CEM, WRM	Victoria Wallace	EC, SECM
Audrey Nolan	EC	Shelby Walsh	CEM
Madeline Oliver	EPE, SECM	Ruoyu Wang	EC, EDS
Peter Omasta	CEM, SECM	Veronica Weber	EC, SECM
Anne-Marie Parkinson	CP, EDS	Michael Wells	EPE, CMRM
Joanne Pham	CEM, SECM	Jakob Wilford-Bivin	EC
Yani Pohl	CP, SECM	Alexandria Wilkins	WRM
Siya Qiu	CEM, EDS	AJ Zekanoski	EPE

# SPECIAL HONORS & THANKS

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Many of our graduates received special awards in their first or second year. We are extremely grateful for these gifts and honored to be joined by many of our donors today!

## **Allen Construction**

Mauricio Collado

## **Anonymous**

Qusai Bhaijeewala

Max Diamond

Waldo Felix

Kat Leigh

Anthony Luna

Wes Newbury

Paul Rikhter

## **Association of Environmental Professionals**

Becca Reynolds

## **Birchim Family**

**In Memoriam Alana and Tansy**

## **Birchim**

Zoe Duerksen-Salm

## **Robert L. Boughton, Jr.**

**Educational & Scholarship Fund**

Kazia Mermel

Zoe Duerksen-Salm

## **Donald Bren Foundation**

Janelle Christensen

Jordan Isken

Kat Leigh

Rachel Rhodes

Erin Ristig

David Segan

Victoria Wallace

## **Bren School**

**Alumni, Faculty, and Staff**

Janelle Christensen

## **Bren School Class of 2018**

Dylan Glave

## **Catena Foundation**

Simone Albuquerque

Grace Brofman

Pat Byrne

Alex Ehrens

Claudia Flores

Allison Hacker

Annika Leiby

Alex Milward

Derek Nguyen

Evan Heberlein

## **Janey and Tim Cohen**

Keene Morrow

## **Michael J. Connell Memorial Trust**

Allison Hacker

Jon Hart

Ann-Marie Parkinson

Lizzy Schattle

## **Joy Dittberner**

**In Memoriam Tom Peters**

Kazia Mermel

## **Brent and Dagny Dehlsen**

Bobby Miyashiro

## **Stephan and Terri Frenkel**

Joanne Pham

Benson Truong

## **Steve Gaines and Peggy Lubchenco**

Peyton Moore

## **Goldring Family Foundation**

Rachel Conway

# SPECIAL HONORS & THANKS

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(continued from previous page)

**John T. Gray Memorial Fund**

Veronica Weber

**Pamela Harris**

Emma Friedl

**Gary Hunt**

Courtney Krone

**Irvine Ranch Conservancy**

Benson Truong

**Kingfisher Foundation**

Siya Qiu

**Kim Kimbell**

Jordan Isken

**Konigsburg Family Fund**

Wes Newbury

**Moslander Family Fund**

Wes Newbury

**Moulton Niguel Water District**

Claudia Flores

Jaleise Hall

Ruoyu Wang

Jakob Wilford-Bivin

**The Nature Conservancy**

Peyton Moore

Peter Omasta

Erin Ristig

Shuhan Song

AJ Zekanoski

**Betty and Mike Noling**

Annika Leiby

Renata Massion

**John and Katrina Onderdonk**

Elliott Matthews

**Matthew T. Riley**

Wes Newbury

**Lynn Scarlett**

Minnie Ringland

**Sea Forward Fund**

Evan Heberlein

**SoCal Gas**

Margaret Brickner

Jordan Faires

**Stillinger Family Fund**

Alicia Fennell

**Walton Family Foundation**

Mauricio Collado

**Dee White**

**In Memoriam David E. White**

Max Diamond

**Dani and Mel Willis**

Audrey Nolan

**Jules Zimmer and Carolyn Cogan**

Jon Hart

Nicole Schmidt

*And thank you to the Bren School's Corporate and Institutional Partners:*

**James S. Bower Foundation, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, CHUBB, Deckers Outdoor Corporation, Dipaola Foundation, Eli Lilly, Grove Plating Company, Lean Green Way, Rhodium Group, Tetiaroa Society, Toad and Co., Yardi**



# BRENGRASS

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We would like to express our sincere thanks to the musicians of Brengrass, an ever-evolving musical group of talented Bren students and friends. Every year, some band members graduate and leave the group, and new Bren students step in to take their place. The group often plays around town, bringing its engaging music to club gigs, farmer's markets, and other gatherings.

## **Brengrass Musicians**

**Gabe De La Rosa** (MESM 2021) – Lead Guitar

**Jon Hart** (MESM 2021) – Rhythm Guitar

**Gavi Keyles** (MESM 2021) – Vocals

**Kat Leigh** (MESM 2021) – Vocals

**Keene Morrow** (MESM 2021) – Vocals

## **Welcome**

*With a Little Help From My Friends*

The Beatles

## **Dedication**

*We Belong (Bren Version)*

Pat Benatar

You can follow Brengrass on Facebook or tag your photos with #Brengrass.

