FAMILY WELCOME

Undergraduate Education and Advising
Letters & Science Dean’s Office
Your Student’s First Year:
How to Succeed & Thrive, Academically, at UCD

Carolyn Thomas
Vice Provost and Dean
Undergraduate Education
ORIENTATION 2017
California Higher Education

UC
Top 12.5%
Research

CSU
Top 33%
Teaching

CCC
Open to All
Vocational & Transfer
1. Know the Classroom

• Differences from high school
  • Large Class (200-500)
  • Sections and Labs (25 and fewer)

• Distinguish yourself by participating: be that person

• Seek help from your TA
  • This is someone who knows the field
  • Who is likely grading you
  • Who can be a good guide to the material
• Find study groups
• Don’t hesitate to ask for help: Academic Success Center or department specific tutoring help
  • Biology Academic Success Center
  • Calculus Support Rooms
2. Know what’s behind the scenes: Research
Many students don’t realize that research is going on all around them

- And what distinguishes a UCD education is getting involved in research
- Go beyond the classroom: become a knowledge creator
- Imagine the difference in job interviews!
Many students don’t realize that research is going on all around them

• Imagine the difference in the letter of recommendation!

• Also imagine the change one can make in the world!

• Your faculty will be mentoring graduate students in research
Courses I’ve Taught

• Introduction to American Studies
• Objects and Everyday Life
• Marketing Products and Places
• Corporate Cultures
• Food & Culture in the United States
• Understanding the Research University (First Year Seminar)
My Research

Areas of Research:

- Education & Technology
- Food, Health & Gender Studies
- Technology & Science Studies
- Corporate & Consumer Cultures
- Public/Civic Engagement in Humanities

“Thomas believes that in small doses, artificial sweeteners are safe unless one has a special sensitivity. The substances have also enhanced the lives of diabetics. But they have been unhealthy for society as a whole in ways that go beyond chemistry.”

—Nina C. Ayoub, The Chronicle of Higher Education

NutraSweet, Splenda, and their predecessors have enjoyed enormous success by promising that Americans, especially women, can “have their cake and eat it too,” but Empty Pleasures argues that these “sweet cheats” have fostered troubling and unsustainable eating habits and that the promises of artificial sweeteners are ultimately too good to be true.

Empty Pleasures has been awarded the 2011 Book Award from the Association for the Study of Food and Society.

Carolyn Thomas: Profile of the Author.
CURRICULUM VITAE

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT
University of California, Davis

Offices of the Provost and Chancellor
Vice Provost and Dean
Office for Undergraduate Education (appointment 5.1.14)
Interim Vice Provost
Office for Undergraduate Education (appointment 1.1.13)
Program in American Studies
Professor (appointment 7.1.10)
Associate Professor (appointment 7.1.05)
Assistant Professor (appointment 7.1.01)
Affiliated Faculty, History Department (as of fall 2010)

PERSONAL

PUBLICATIONS
Books
- Re-Wiring the Nation: The Place of Technology in American Studies, Editor with Siva Vaidhyanathan (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).

Articles
• Introduction to Biology
• Biology of Invertebrates
• Introduction to Biological Research Methods
• Ecology Seminar
“My research centers on building an understanding of the behavioral, ecological, cellular, developmental, and genetic mechanisms that limit conflict and promote the evolution of cooperation.”
3. Do Research!
How do you get involved?

- You have to find the opportunity to participate in research
- Only rarely does the faculty member approach the student
- Do the research: don’t be in class without poking ”behind the curtain”
- Ask for opportunities—office hours?
- And, you can GET HELP: The URC
4. See an Advisor

- 100+ majors on campus and counting
  - Is this the right major?
  - What can I do with this major?
- 10 week quarter system
  - Study skills?
  - How do manage a difficult course
  - Interpersonal relationship issues?
  - Questions about your learning style?

Struggles?
See an Advisor

- Question of how to do research?
- Internships? Thinking about career?
- Graduate school or professional school?

- Biggest reason, in my view:
  - Academic advisors are trained professionals who help you develop as an individual in ways that enable you to succeed academically and find your best life path.
4. Take a First Year Seminar!!

- Take a transformative small course that fosters curiosity, active discussion, critical thinking, a sense of community and engagement
  - 19 or less students
  - Letter graded or pass/no pass
  - 1-2 credits

- Seminars are fun: “Experimental Magic,” “Rocket Science,” “Zombies,” “Psychology of Drumming” and “Think Like a Cosmologist” are among about 300 topics.

First Generation Faculty

Add or edit your information

First generation faculty are invited to join our directory using this link. You can also edit your entry or add a bio. Emeritus faculty who no longer have Kerberos access, please send your name, department, and e-mail address to aherron@ucdavis.edu.

Search the Directory by Name, Department, or College/School

JULIAN ALSTON
Distinguished Professor
AG & RESOURCE ECONOMICS
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

We are very excited to have your students here at UC Davis! They wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for you!
Goals for Today:

• Discuss the First Year Transition
• Introduction to the College of Letters & Science
• Summarize our Advising Services
• Explore the path to Your Student’s Success
Your Student’s First Year Transition

- Adjustments: new life, responsibilities, roommates, freedoms.
- Excitement
- Homesickness
- Unfamiliar territory (workload, expectations, etc.)
What Parents Can Do

• Encourage your student to be independent and responsible

• Become familiar with UC Davis resources so that you can direct your student to them as needed

• Remind your student and yourself that transition adjustments are normal
Reminder: Privacy Regulations

FERPA – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

UC Privacy and Confidentiality Laws

• You will need your student’s permission for us to release any of their information to you
• Consent to disclose information from a student record must be obtained from the student in person and in writing
THE COLLEGE FACTS

1. Largest and most diverse college
2. Humanities, Arts, & Cultural Studies; Mathematical and Physical Sciences; Social Sciences
3. More than 50 majors and 60 minors
DEGREES IN THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

- Bachelor of Arts (A.B.)
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
- Bachelor of Arts & Science (B.A.S.)
Students Change Their Major

• Over 80% of our students change their major at least once
• We encourage exploration
  • Nearly every course offered/taken yields GE credit toward graduation
• Double majoring or double minoring is common
L&S Advising Services

- Assist students in shaping a meaningful educational experience

- Advising is shared between
  - Undergraduate Education & Advising (UEA) in the Deans’ Office - 200 Social Science & Humanities Building - and
  - Administrative clusters/majors
  - Residence Hall Advising Team (RHAT)

Make an appointment online at https://appointments.ucdavis.edu
For assistance call (530) 752-0392

- Faculty, professional staff, and peer advisors
Undergraduate Education & Advising Office Staff and Peers
Student Health and Counseling Services: Your College Counselor

SHCS College Counselors provide individual counseling for students in specific colleges.

Adriana Torres, L.M.F.T.
atorres@shcs.ucdavis.edu

Office hours scheduled in UEA.
Mandatory Advising

• All students in L&S are required to meet with an academic advisor. New first year students will be meeting with our advisors in Fall Quarter 2017.

• This is a great chance for us to get to know your student, hear about their expectations and goals for college, and partner with them to support a great first year!
Advisor Responsibilities

- Be knowledgeable about requirements, resources, and procedures
- Create a safe space for students to express their concerns and individual values
- Provide referrals to relevant campus resources
- Consider and respond to each student as a whole person
Advisee Responsibilities

• Learn about program requirements, campus resources, and procedures
• Prepare for advising meetings ahead of time
• Participate actively during appointments
• Seek assistance when concerns arise
• Take ownership of your education
Position your Student for Success

• Encourage communication, but leave room for independence
• Accept their path to self-discovery
• Encourage interaction with faculty and advisors
• Encourage them to get involved
REGISTRATION TOMORROW

• Will your student get the perfect schedule?

• Will they get all the classes they want?

every class counts
REGISTRATION TOMORROW

• Balance, balance, balance*
• ELWR or English Composition
• Math and/or Chemistry (appropriate class, depending on major)
• Foreign Language (A.B.)
• Introductory classes
• First-Year Seminars, fun classes

*Carnegie Rule = 2-3 hours of studying for every unit of coursework
To UC Davis and the College of Letters and Science!