

Defining the Future of the Public Research University

UC San Diego

Even a day at the beach provides the UC San Diego community the opportunity to be of service and enrich the environment. Meet the Beach, part of the university's Volunteer50 initiative, is the annual surfside cleanup event held near UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.



Stephen Foster



Paul Niehaus, Ph.D.



Jessica Graham, Ph.D.



Christine Harris, Ph.D.

Perspective

Understanding and eradicating global inequalities that impact people's lives calls for scientists and humanists with an extensive and deep knowledge of diverse cultures and behavior.

From public-policy experts and social scientists to practicing artists—UC San Diego is forging an interdisciplinary approach to addressing these disparities. Building on an appreciation of multiple cultures and unique perspectives, our work helps reveal the full richness and potential of human experience.

Gaming the Future

Stephen Foster uses the video game Minecraft to teach kids to write programming code. He and fellow graduate students at UC San Diego invented LearnToMod, software that teaches computer science in nontraditional ways. Foster's goal is to increase the percentage of women and other underrepresented groups in the computer-engineering workforce of the future.

Illuminating Race

Jessica Graham, Ph.D., contributes to the increasingly transnational orientation of U.S. history research at UC San Diego and augments the faculty who work on race and ethnicity. She focuses on the issue of race in debates over democracy, fascism and communism in the Americas.

Giving Without Strings

What if we put more money and power directly into the hands of the poor? **Paul Niehaus, Ph.D.**, co-founded GiveDirectly, which sends no-obligation money to poor people abroad, directly to their cell phones. The results: increased assets and income, reduced domestic violence and improved mental health. GiveDirectly has been awarded a No. 1 charity ranking by GiveWell, and "Leading Global Thinkers" recognition by *Foreign Policy* magazine.

Examining Emotions

Psychologist **Christine Harris, Ph.D.**, studies why patients are ashamed or embarrassed by medical consultations or why people forgive strangers for insulting them. Her research on the impact that emotions have on interpersonal relationships is redefining our understanding of how people make real-life decisions.

Playing video games at UC San Diego isn't just for fun. Students learn software system design and implementation in a computer science and engineering course focused on team building and group execution.

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Learn more at ucsd.edu.

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Washington Monthly