

**UC Irvine**

Claire Trevor School of the Arts

# CLAIRE TREVOR SOCIETY

Impact Report  
2024-2025



### Dear Claire Trevor Society members,

Thank you for your commitment to the Claire Trevor School of the Arts (UCI Arts). As we enter the 2025-26 anniversary year for UC Irvine and for our School's naming in honor of Oscar- and Emmy-winning actress Claire Trevor, we are thrilled to share with you what your contributions made possible this past year and to introduce the students and projects they will support in the year ahead.

As the UC system's only school encompassing art, dance, drama and music, UCI Arts fosters creativity and interdisciplinary collaboration while upholding a commitment to academic rigor and artistic excellence. The Claire Trevor Society supports this mission by sustaining scholarships, seeding faculty and graduate research, and expanding career pathway opportunities with partners in Orange County and across the region.

Inside this 2024-25 Claire Trevor Society Impact Report, you will meet our 2025-26 Claire Trevor Society Scholars and see how your partnership has advanced work across the School. Our Research & Innovation program completed its fourth granting cycle, awarding \$50,000 across 20 projects. Claire Trevor Society Department Grants provided \$60,000 to enrich our classrooms, support inclusive curriculum innovation, build community and cross-campus partnerships, and advance student professional development.

In the year ahead, your Claire Trevor Society membership will further elevate the work of our students and faculty. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your support and engagement. We look forward to welcoming you on campus throughout this milestone year.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Ana López, Ph.D.  
Claire Trevor Dean of the Arts  
UC Irvine Claire Trevor School of the Arts



Cheryll and Richard Ruszat  
Co-Chairs  
Claire Trevor Society

### A Year In Review



**6**

Awarded Claire Trevor  
Society Scholars



**\$12,000**

Provided in  
Student Scholarships



**100+**

Surpassed 100 Charter  
Members of the  
Claire Trevor Society



**\$242,000**

Raised for UCI Arts Dean's  
Excellence Fund



**\$50,000**

Awarded for  
Arts Research & Innovation



**631**

Total Attendees to Claire  
Trevor Society Events





### Michael Balerite

B.A. Music '26

Michael Balerite served as the 2024-25 student conductor for the UCI Choirs, assisting Dr. Irene Messoloras, Director of Choral Activities, in the direction of the UCI Chamber Singers and UCI Concert Choir. Since 2021, he has served as the conductor for St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Modesto, California, and since 2024, as the Music Director for the Filipino Catholic Community at UC Irvine – Liwanag.

*"This award serves not only as academic assistance, but also as an investment into my career, for which I am extremely grateful to you."*



### Jered Frigillana

B.A. Art '26

Jered Frigillana strives to explore and experiment with a wide range of media, materials, and techniques. Recently, his work has focused on using digital projection in dynamic combination with these traditional mediums to explore complex ideas surrounding personal identity through the lens of biology and evolution.

*"As a learning artist, I am deeply grateful and excited for the opportunity to push the boundaries of my work and continue developing my practice with the generous support of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts."*



### Colt McGuire

B.A. Drama '27

Colt McGuire's work centers around the intersection between the arts and engineering. At UCI he has worked as a scenic designer, technical director, and actor. He has also worked as the Assistant Technical Director for the LA Premiere of *Guinea Pig Solo*, the Assistant Scenic Designer for the World Premiere of *Am I Roxie?* at the Geffen Playhouse, and the Automation Intern at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

*"With this funding, I will create a prototype I designed during my internship and research ways in which the principles of automation can be adapted to lower costs while enhancing the production. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to pursue this research!"*



**Lauren Lim**

B.A. Dance '26

Lauren Lim is a third-year Dance and Biological Sciences Major at UCI. Though dance will always be her first love, Lauren has a strong passion for the medical field, specifically understanding the biomechanical function of the body. She is grateful and honored to be able to keep dancing while working towards her professional career in medicine.

*"I heavily relied on scholarships to keep dancing. Now, I can help my parents once again thanks to your generosity. The arts are often overlooked and underfunded, but it never stops us artists from creating. You are the reason why some of us can continue chasing our dreams so that one day we may repay you tenfold."*



**Webster Spencer**

B.A. Music '26

Webster is a California Bay Area native who grew up surrounded by creativity, with their parents encouraging them in every creative endeavor they pursued. They have been playing the flute for almost a decade. Now as an adult, Webster has found out that not just music but education is a passion of theirs, prompting them to take on the Creative Connections internship and an Education minor.

*"For the past three years, I've been a student of the performing arts and the Claire Trevor School of the Arts has welcomed me with open and supportive arms. I'm never in a moment where I feel like I can't reach out to professors and advisors."*



**João Tiago Duarte Martins**

Ph.D. History and Theory of Music '25

Joao Martins is a pianist, percussionist and composer specializing in jazz and Brazilian music and culture. He has toured Europe, Brazil, South Korea and the US as a pianist and percussionist, and has composed and arranged music for film, theater and dance.

*"I am writing to you to convey my deepest gratitude for your generosity and support. As an artist and academic, it is my goal to further my research into those elements of music that bind people together – the expression of human empathy that is found in the folkloric and traditional styles of the music made by and for the people."*



### Your Philanthropy at Work

Your generous contributions to the Dean's Excellence Fund through your Claire Trevor Society membership directly support academic and creative excellence at UCI Arts. These funds give the Dean the ability to support the Departments of Art, Dance, Drama and Music in high quality exhibitions, elevated productions and first-class learning opportunities.

Over the past year, your support has allowed UCI Arts to:

- **Host internationally renowned artists** for our Visiting Artist Lecture Series, offering publicly accessible talks and one-on-one student consultations.
- **KISSSSS by Yong Soon Min Exhibition:** The Department of Art exhibition honored the late Professor Emerita of Art, Yong Soon Min, for her significant contributions to UC Irvine and the art sector.
- **Created and fostered dance workshops** centered on student professional development and interdisciplinary partnerships.
- **Enhanced the production quality** of all winter quarter drama productions and the spring musical, *Starmites*.
- **Supported the Music Department** in a graduate student-led speaker series, the Vocal Arts *Liederabend* recital and a career pathways panels by Jazz Program alumni.



### 2024-25 Research & Innovation Grants

The UCI Arts Research & Innovation (R&I) Grant program supports projects that feature cutting-edge research and interdisciplinary collaborations. The R&I Advisory Committee reviewed a competitive pool of 34 research proposals from UCI Arts faculty and graduate students requesting a total of \$140,000 for the 2024-25 academic year. A total of \$50,000 were awarded to 20 projects to fund an array of research, performances and exhibitions.

#### Grand Prize Winners:

**Coleman Collins, Assistant Professor, Art:**

*The Intimacies Between Continents*

**Daphne Lei, Professor, Drama:**

*Orientalizing Taste across Borders: Food, Migration, Violence, Belonging*

**Chad Michael Hall, Associate Professor, Dance:**

*Frame(s) of Reference*

#### 2024-2025 Research & Innovation Grant Recipients:

**Juliette Carrillo, Associate Professor, Drama:**

*San Ignacio Project*

**Fabricio Cavero Farfan, Ph.D. candidate, Music:**

*The Primeval Project*

**Oliver George Brown, Ph.D. candidate, Music:** *Burns-Piñon Arts Collective*

**João P. Ducci Pereira, M.F.A., Dance:**

*Untitled Thesis Concert (Thesis Title: Meaning Making in Abstract Cintemporary Concert Dance)*

**Laura Dudu, M.F.A., Art:** *We Will be Ancestors Too*

**Diana Fathi Rasgani, Ph.D. candidate, Drama:**

*Beyond the Frame: Zari, Resident of Citadel*



Chad Michael Hall rehearsing screendance performance.  
Photo by Ryan Andrew Bruce.



Danielle Dean, *True Red Ruin (Elmina Castle)*, 2018, Two-channel video installation, color, sound, 9 min 39 sec, die cut digital prints on cardboards, Courtesy of Patrick Collins and Liv Barrett. Photo by Yubo Dong.

**Jibade-Khalil Huffman, Assistant Professor, Art:**

*I'm Your Biggest Fan*

**Kasi Kirkpatrick, M.F.A., Dance:** *Episodic Seriality in Screendance through the Feminist Lens*

**SeeVa Dawne Kitslis, M.F.A., Art:** *Burns Library Collection*

**davora martine lindner, M.F.A., Art:** *wolfmyn*

**João Tiago Duarte Martins, Ph.D. candidate, Music:**

*Afro-Diasporic Dialogues: The Music of Northeastern Brazil*

**Nolan Miranda, Ph.D. candidate, Music:** *boxed in/ pushed out*

**DJ Maloney, M.F.A., Drama:** *Twelve Angry Jurors*

**Yee Eun Nam, Assistant Professor, Drama:**  
*Untitled: Sequel*

**Andrew Palermo, Professor, Drama:**  
*Dancers in the Dark*

**Mariánageles Soto-Díaz, Lecturer, Art:**  
*Spills and a Pineapple Moon Under Water*

**Anna Zalevskaya, M.F.A., Art:** *Split*



### Claire Trevor Society Department Grants

With your support, UCI Arts has become one of the nation's most acclaimed and innovative centers for the study of visual and performing arts. To maintain this reputation, we must continue to explore bold ideas and new directions. The Claire Trevor Society Department Grants make this possible by empowering the Departments of Art, Dance, Drama, and Music to launch ambitious creative projects, offer students transformative experiences, and strengthen our impact within the community. Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 academic year, these grants will help bring the following initiatives to life:

#### **The Inoperative Community: Exhibition X Practice, 1965–2025**

The Department of Art will use the grant to support an archival exhibition of the University Art Galleries (UAG) from 1965 to the present. Drawing its title from Jean-Luc Nancy's seminal essay "Inoperative Community," which imagines community as non-hegemonic and fluid, the exhibition positions UAG's history not as a linear narrative but as a dynamic, collective moment where diverse voices and practices converge and shift over time. In doing so, it broadens awareness of and honors UAG's impact on UCI and the wider field of art practice.

#### **Department of Music Key Initiatives**

The Department of Music will offer a series of masterclasses and special events to enhance students' artistic and professional development. Students will gain hands-on experience in event organization through partnerships with the Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA) and the Music Graduate Student Organization (MGSO). The program is designed to serve a wide spectrum of students, including vocal arts, jazz, instrumental classical and ICIT PhD students.



#### **The Community Bridge Project**

The Department of Drama will provide students with hands-on, professional experiences and interdisciplinary opportunities. Students will participate in a multi-year residency with South Coast Repertory, gaining accredited training, mentorship and exposure to a professional theatre environment. The project will also hire guest artists and professional collaborators to enhance department productions, offering students direct mentorship and creative collaboration. In addition, guest artists and speakers will lead talkbacks and presentations, connecting productions to research, social themes and professional pathways.

#### **Success Reimagined: Building New Pathways**

The Department of Dance will use this funding to create innovative, multimodal experiences that emphasize student professional development, foster interdisciplinary collaboration and strengthen community engagement. By bringing in distinguished guests to lead specialized two-part workshops on targeted genres and topics, the department will provide students with immersive opportunities that combine artistic exploration with practical skill-building.





# UC Irvine

Claire Trevor School of the Arts

## CLAIRE TREVOR SOCIETY 24-25 EVENTS

### 2024–2025 Claire Trevor Society Events

The Claire Trevor Society provides a front door to the arts at UC Irvine for alumni, parents and friends to participate in behind-the-scenes experiences and network with fellow arts enthusiasts. In 2024–2025, the Society hosted the following engagement events to celebrate our community and provide a behind-the-scenes look into the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

Thursday, September 12, 2024

#### **Claire Trevor Society Salon**

Generously hosted at the home of Cheryl and Richard Ruszat

Saturday, October 5, 2024

#### **Arts at UCI Fall Exhibition Opening Reception**

Contemporary Arts Center

Thursday, November 21, 2024

#### **9 to 5: The Musical Performance and VIP Reception**

Irvine Barclay Theatre

Thursday, February 20, 2025

#### **Dance Visions 2025 Performance and VIP Reception**

Irvine Barclay Theatre

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

#### **UCI Chamber Singers and Concert Choir, *Finding Light: Alzheimer's Stories* Performance and VIP Reception**

Irvine Barclay Theatre

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

#### **UCI Symphony and Pacific Symphony Orchestra Side-by-Side Rehearsal, Featuring Maestro Carl St.Clair and Maestro Geoffrey Pope**

Avenue of the Arts Hotel & Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

#### **Claire Trevor School of the Arts Annual Scholarship Celebration**

UC Irvine Student Center

Thursday, June 5, 2025

#### **An Evening with the Claire Trevor School of the Arts: Undergraduate Honors Thesis Exhibition + *Starmites***

Arts Plaza

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

#### **An Evening with New Swan Shakespeare Festival**

Langson Library & New Swan Theater



**BRILLIANT FUTURE**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR **UC Irvine**

# UC Irvine

**Claire Trevor School of the Arts**

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