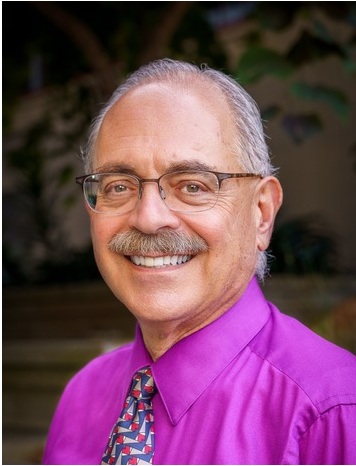


New Dual Role at UC San Diego



I am thrilled to announce that I have taken on an exciting new dual role at UC San Diego. As outlined [in this campus notice](#), for the next five years, I will serve both as Special Adviser to the Chancellor for Campus Strategic Initiatives and as Dean of the Irwin and Joan Jacobs School of Engineering. My new five-year term in this dual role began on January 1, 2024.

Yes, you read that right. Late last year, I did indeed announce that I planned to retire from the university and step down as Dean of the Jacobs School of Engineering on June 30, 2024. After I announced my plans to retire, I kept talking with campus leadership about things dear to my heart: the transition plans and strategies that would maintain the positive momentum and impact of the Jacobs School while also advancing strategic initiatives of our campus overall. Out of this dialogue with Chancellor Khosla, Executive Vice Chancellor Simmons and others, emerged a new opportunity: to serve as Dean of the Jacobs School while also working directly with the Chancellor on campus-wide strategic initiatives in education, research and innovation.

One piece of advice I regularly give students is to “Find your Why.” Ever since I arrived on campus on September 1, 2013, my big-picture “Why?” has been to leverage engineering and computer science in order to improve lives and generate positive impacts for society. Engineers and computer scientists dedicated to the public good can not afford to work in isolation. My efforts have brought the Jacobs School into close collaboration with every school on our campus. Solving the toughest challenges facing society requires unprecedented levels of collaboration from all disciplines and all corners of campus, as well as from myriad external partners. Returning to my “Why?” I realized that this new, bigger opportunity was exactly the new thing I needed to do.

Therefore, I am honored to take on this campuswide leadership responsibility while also leading the Jacobs School as Dean. I see this as a truly win-win scenario for both the Jacobs School and for UC San Diego overall. In fact, this new role both formalizes and expands much of the deeply collaborative work I have been doing over the last 10-plus years at UC San Diego.

Together, we can make UC San Diego the most impactful campus in the nation. We can make UC San Diego the place where the shared vision of interdisciplinary education, research and innovation leads – again and again – to game-changing insights, advances and solutions for the public good.

Let’s do this, and do this together!

I can be reached at DeanPisano@ucsd.edu

Sincerely,

Al

Albert ("Al") P. Pisano

Dean, UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering

Special Adviser to the Chancellor for Campus Strategic Initiatives



2023 Jacobs School of Engineering Highlights

From research breakthroughs in robotics, AI and healthcare, to launching new centers for microelectronics and computing, 2023 was another impactful year at the Jacobs School of Engineering. [This video shares just a few highlights](#) that showcase our students, faculty, staff, and industry and community partners working together to advance engineering and computer science for the public good.

[Read More](#)



Undergrads at the Jacobs School Shine in 2023

Developing autonomous underwater vehicles for Arctic waters, running the steel bridge nationals, and creating Mars rovers and concrete canoes. This is just a small taste of what Jacobs School undergraduate students achieved by applying their skills to unique challenges. This video features a few highlights from their impressive accomplishments in 2023.

[Watch the Video](#)



Two Faculty Inducted into National Academy of Inventors

Electrical engineering professor Eric Fullerton and bioengineering professor Prashant Mali have been named 2023 Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). The distinction honors academic inventors whose work has made a tangible impact on the quality of life, economic development, and the welfare of society. Fullerton directs the Center for Memory and Recording

Research at the Jacobs School. He was recognized for inventing and developing various forms of multilayer, high-density magnetic recording media. This technology has enabled hard disk drives to store data at unprecedented levels while shrinking in size. Mali, a professor in the Shu Chien-Gen Lay Department of Bioengineering, was recognized for his pioneering work to engineer tools for enabling gene- and cell-based therapeutics. He has helped develop CRISPRs and ADARs as powerful tools for DNA and RNA editing, respectively, with wide applications in both basic biology and human therapeutics.

[Read More](#)



Wireless Tracking Improves Extended Reality (XR)

A new technology developed by electrical engineers at UC San Diego has the potential to make the extended reality (XR) experience smoother and more seamless. The technology consists of an asset localization system that uses wireless signals to track physical objects with centimeter-level accuracy in real time, and then generates a virtual representation of these objects. Applications of this technology range from enhancing virtual gaming experiences to improving workplace safety.

[Read More](#)



Computer Scientists Embrace AI Tools to Make Programming Accessible

ChatGPT and Large Language Models (LLMs) are viewed by many as a threat to the field of computer science education because they're able to produce code on command. But for Leo Porter, a computer science teaching professor at UC San Diego, these are tools that can help bring programming to a wider, more inclusive and diverse audience. In a retooled foundational course and a book he co-authored, Porter looks to LLMs to stretch learning objectives and potentially level the playing field in computer science.

[Read More](#)



Bridging Disciplines to Build a More Efficient, Equitable Future

Electrical Engineering professor Pamela Cosman uses her diverse technical and educational expertise to bridge disciplines to build a more equitable future while empowering students to

thrive. A new feature highlights some of her efforts as Director of the NeuroDiversity in Tech internship program at the Qualcomm Institute, as an author of young-adult literature, as an award-winning researcher in image and video compression, and as a diversity advocate.

[Read More](#)



Alumnus Albert Lin Has a New National Geographic Show

Three-time Jacobs School alumnus Albert Lin (Ph.D., materials science and engineering '08; B.S. and M.S., mechanical and aerospace engineering, '05, MS '06) gives a behind the scenes interview about his new National Geographic show “Lost Cities Revealed with Albert Lin.” In this Q&A, he shares how his early experiences at UC San Diego are directly tied to where he is today.

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