



Provost's Welcome

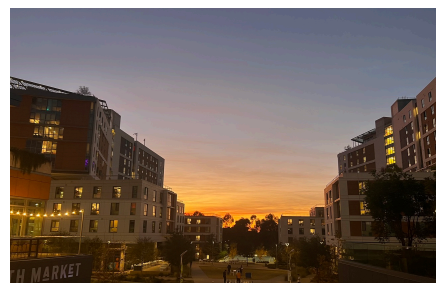
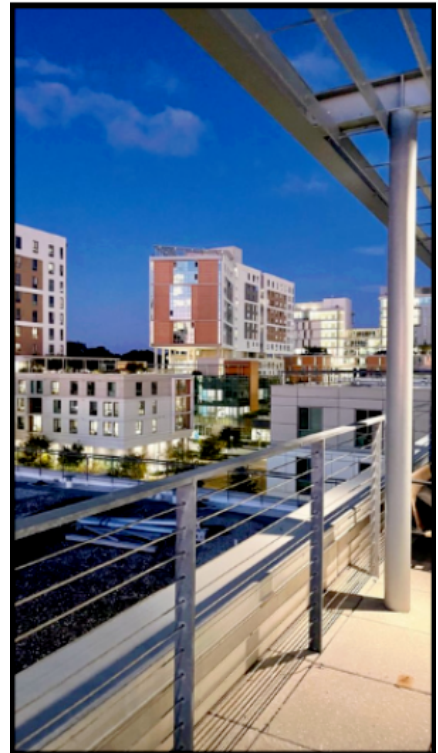
Dear Sixth College alumni,

I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of our alumni newsletter, Sixth Degree of Separation. The name, as you might know, refers to a famous sociology experiment called the "Small World Experiment" that suggests any two people across the globe are only separated by six others. This idea was later popularized in the Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon game! The name is intended to remind us that no matter where we are in the world, we are all connected through our experiences at Sixth College.

Sixth is 22 years young and we continue to thrive. We take great pride in all your achievements and work hard to build on them. Your work in diverse fields – from technology and the arts to social impact and beyond – exemplifies the core values of Culture, Art, and Technology, and our motto of Innovative, Interconnected, Aware. Your continuing participation in our college is very important to us, and we invite you to stay connected, whether by mentoring students, attending events, or sharing your journey. As always, your experiences and insights inspire the next generation of Sixth College scholars and help strengthen our community. Thank you.

Warmly,

Lakshmi Chilukuri



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Sixth College: Always Evolving

At a youthful 22 years old, Sixth College continues to evolve, innovate, and adapt to better equip students to encounter the complexities of our current moment. Depending on how long it's been since you've been on campus, we have a few changes that we are excited to share with you!

#1: A New Logo!

After much feedback, brainstorming, and collaboration amongst students, staff, and faculty, we are delighted to share the newly re-imagined Sixth College logo. The design centers around a hexagon framed by three dynamic lines, symbolizing our core values of being innovative, interconnected, and aware. These lines also create distinct spaces within the shape, reflecting our commitment to culture, art, and technology. Together, these elements embody both the creativity of our community and the spirit and values that define Sixth College.



#2: CAT Conversations

Starting in 2021, Sixth College launched an annual common reading and speaker series to enhance the experience of CAT 1 students. We've hosted authors from Robin Kimmerer to Naomi Oreskes and this year, we are bringing mathematician, classical pianist, and best-selling author Eugenia Cheng. We would love for you to join us for this year's CAT Conversations and book signing on October 17th.

Click [here](#) for event and RSVP information (including ways to support!).



#3: Art, Art Everywhere

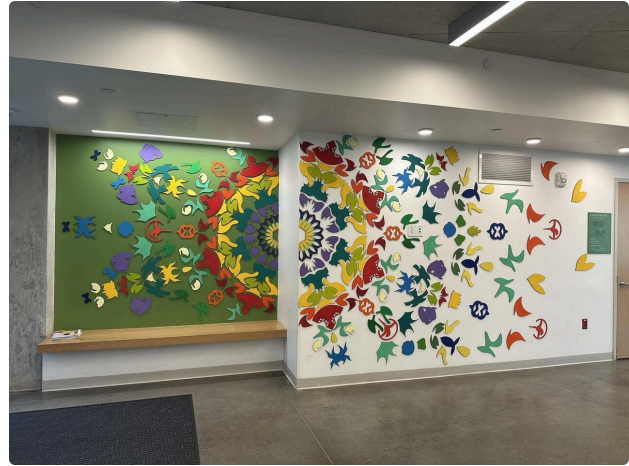
This past school year saw the installation of two large pieces of public art at Sixth College!

The first, located in the commuter lounge, is entitled "Earth and Water: We are the Watershed," and was designed and created as part of a CAT 124 collaboration course between Sixth College students, Preuss School students, and muralist Jay Wolf Schlossberg-Cohen. Motivated by the global water crisis, the mural raises awareness about the unequal access to water in California and Mexico. You can read more about it

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The second, located in the Kaleidoscope Residential Hall Lobby, is the outcome of a two-year, student-led public art project that began in Spring 2023 in Mathieu Gregoire's "Art in Public Space" course. Sixth alumna (and artist from Prague) [Katerina Husar-Lazarova](#)'s kaleidoscope-inspired piece uses repetitive shapes and vibrant colors to enhance the visual character of the residence hall, serving as a powerful model for inclusive, experiential learning grounded in student creativity.

Are you an artist interested in collaborating? Get in touch with us!



#4: Community Engaged Honors Program

Launched in Fall 2024, Sixth College's [Community Engaged \(CE\) Honors Program](#) is the first of its kind at UC San Diego. Blending honors education with a focus on community engagement, climate justice, and changemaking, the program prepares and inspires the next generation of global leaders. Read more about our CE program in [UC San Diego Today!](#)



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Over the last few years, we've been hard at work reigniting one of the signature features of Sixth College: the [Experiential Learning Program](#). These efforts have resulted in exciting new courses that showcase creativity, community, and impact.

🐱 CATalyzing Community: Placemaking and Connection at Sixth

– Students pitch original ideas in our very own "Purr-suasion Den," a Sixth College spin on Shark Tank!

📖 Sixth Literary Arts Magazine (SLAM)

– A student-run publication that highlights original writing and art, capturing the experiences of Sixth students and the UCSD community.

🌍 Earth and Water: We Are the Watershed

– The inaugural class in our new "Tapestry for Change" series, where students use art as a tool for social impact and climate justice.

Click the courses above to explore more about them!



Alumni Spotlight: Lakshya Datta

BS, Management Science, Class of 2011

Follow on Instagram: [@lakshya.d](#)

What have you been doing since graduating, and what excites you most about your current path?

I've been lucky to play across education, creative arts, finance, and real estate. As a senior, I started an underground finance course--like *Dead Poets Society* with 300 econ students and no poetry. I worked in investment banking, taught valuation at SDSU, then moved back to India to launch a writing platform and a podcast studio. A few years ago, the finance itch returned, and now I run a real estate fund in Mumbai. What excites me most is walking multiple paths, writing daily, making things up, staying connected to education, and putting my finance background to work.

Looking back, what aspects of Sixth College have proven most valuable?

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stories into a mic that's beamed into the universe. An amalgamation of Culture, Art, and Tech, is it not? My first creative piece came when a CAT 2 professor let me skip the final if I wrote a short story instead. I haven't stopped typing since, still half-hoping he'll one day see how far I've come and upgrade that B+ to an A-.

Is there a particular class, project, or activity that has stayed with you?

Sophomore year, I was academically lost (and watching a lot of *Lost*). At UCSD, unlike in India, I could explore beyond bioengineering, film, theatre, playwriting, until I found my way. By senior year, I was a few credits short of a film minor, something I'd never have dreamed of back home.

What stands out as one of your favorite memories?

A core memory came after graduation, at an alumni event where Conan O'Brien was guest of honor. On April 20, 2012, we named Sixth after him for a day! I still listen to his podcast weekly, and it always takes me back.

What advice would you give to current students?

Graduation is like the Super Bowl of advice... everyone has a playbook. I'll just say this: your future self already knows you'll be okay, even magnificent. Detours are part of the path.

What song best represents your time at Sixth?

Frank Sinatra's "My Way." Sixth was all about figuring out who we were, and the college empowered me to walk my own path.

Do you want to be featured on our next Alumni Spotlight? Shoot us an email at sixthprovost@ucsd.edu!

Upcoming Alumni Opportunities!

Sixth College alumni, we invite you to reconnect, engage, and inspire the next generation! Check out these upcoming events and ways to get involved:

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CAT Conversations: Eugenia Cheng

Please join us for this year's CAT conversation with [Dr. Eugenia Cheng!](#)

Sponsors needed!

We invite alumni to help support this event. By making a donation of any amount through the link below, you'll receive a personal invitation and have your name recognized on all event materials.

Location: Mandeville Auditorium

Date/Time: October 17th at 10am

Support this event!



Homecoming

Come back to campus and share in your school pride with Tritons young and old! Stop by and join any of the numerous events taking place on campus this week!

Location: UCSD

Dates: November 7-9, 2025

Learn more

This Year's Welcome Week Theme is...

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Graphic designed by Sixth College student Jamie Han!

Ways to Contribute!



Partnerships

Offer internships, research opportunities, or mentorship to Sixth students!

Contact Us



Support Our Work!

All donations go directly to supporting the educational mission of Sixth!

Support!

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Till we meet again! 🤘🏄

Interested in connecting, email sixthprovost@ucsd.edu.

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