

Achieving Tenure: Faculty Panel

Faculty Bag Lunch

April 8, 2026

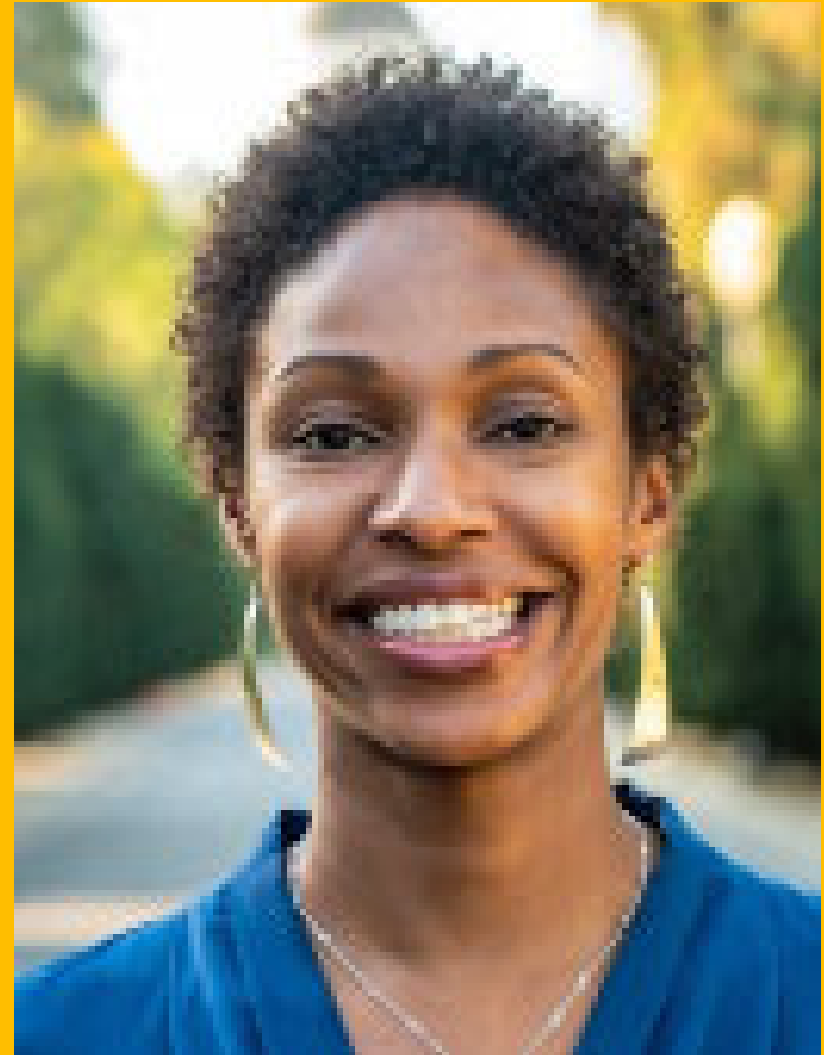
Flow for today

- Introductions
- Poll
- Submitted questions
- Open Q&A
 - Chat or Raise Hand
- Close/Evaluations



Shani Buggs

- Department of Emergency Medicine, School of Medicine
- Associate Professor
- Achieved tenure in 2025
- Dr. Buggs' specialties include Population Health, Public Health, Epidemiology, and Social Epidemiology. A health and public policy scholar with expertise engaging federal, state, and local officials, agency leaders, and organizations on comprehensive and community-driven violence intervention and prevention efforts. She uses qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches to examine state-level firearm policies and local-level violence reduction initiatives. In her research, Dr. Buggs strives to consistently center the experiences of individuals most impacted by violence and interrogate structural determinants of health to advance equity, safety, and well-being.





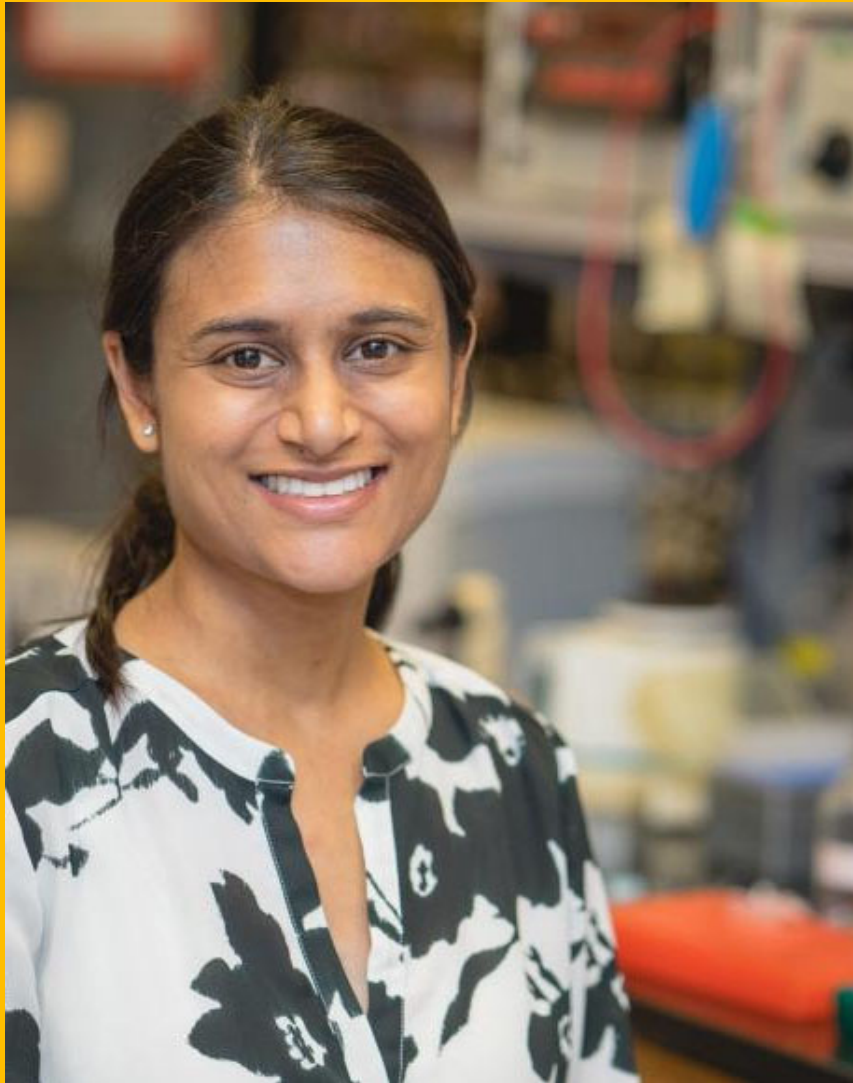
Agustina Carando

- Department of Spanish and Portuguese, College of Letters & Science
- Associate Professor
- Achieved tenure in 2024
- Dr. Carando studies diverse Spanish speakers immersed in an English context, looking at the unique ways that bilinguals use their two languages and how one may influence the other, leading to long term changes in their mental grammar. Her research focuses on the structural innovations produced by heritage speakers of Spanish and their implications for multilingual language education. Over many years, she has collected data from speakers, seeking to explore cross-language interaction in the bilingual mind, how similarities and differences between the grammars are negotiated, what structures might be more or less vulnerable and under what circumstances, the role of frequency of exposure and, ultimately, the internal mechanisms underlying linguistic change.

Debbie Fetter

- Department of Nutrition, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
- Achieved tenure in 2024
- Dr. Fetter is an Associate Professor of Teaching and teaches introductory nutrition to >1,400 students a quarter.
- Her research centers on inclusive education, with a focus on comparing online and in-person learning experiences. She also studies health communication strategies and food security, aiming to make nutrition science more accessible and impactful.
- Most recently, she and her husband (also a UCD alumni) welcomed their first child, Leah, last April, and are having a great time introducing her to the world of food. Dr. Fetter is an advocate for “variety in moderation” and believes that in a healthy diet there’s always room for a piece of cheese.





Priya Shah

- Department of Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering
- Associate Professor
- Achieved tenure in 2024
- Dr. Shah uses systems and synthetic biology to map and engineer biological networks. Specifically, Dr. Shah researches how viruses hijack host machinery, gene expression, and the autophagy network to model and engineer controls over autophagy network to improve bioreactor protein yields and better understand their replication and develop therapeutics.

Michael Singh

- Department of Chicana/o/x Studies, College of Letters & Science
- Associate Professor
- Achieved tenure in 2025
- Dr. Singh's research is guided by questions of racial and gender justice in schools, with a focus on Latino men and boys. His work ranges from ethnographic portraits of youth programs to policy-oriented studies with Latino men teachers. His second line of research advances critical theories of race and Latinidad in education. His book, *Good Boys, Bad Hombres: The Racial Politics of Mentoring Latino Boys in Schools* (University of Minnesota Press), tells the story of a school-based mentorship program for Latino boys in the era of neoliberal multiculturalism. It delves into the complicated and sometimes contradictory racial and gender politics undergirding youthwork.



Polls

Please complete the following poll questions

1. What is your home College or School?
2. How many years until you go up for tenure?



Question

Knowing what you know now, what do you wish you had known or would have done differently?



Question

What resources did you use or find most helpful in preparation for tenure?



Question

What considerations did you take into account for your letter writers (arm's length vs non-arm's length; conflicts of interest; career stage; academia vs government)?

Question

What sort of mentoring did you look for in your preparations for going up for tenure--both in the immediate lead-up (e.g. who did you ask to review your statements?) and farther in advance (e.g. how much help did you get with strategizing about publications, grants, etc.)?

Question

How did you manage your time and balance work and life while on the tenure-track?



Question

What was the best advice you received on your way to tenure?



Question

What is life like after tenure?



Question

Please share one final thought or piece of advice you would give to faculty preparing for tenure.



Open Q&A

Open Question and Answer

Please feel free to raise your hand or submit your questions via chat to our faculty panel.



Thank you!

Thank you for joining us!

**Please take 2-5 minutes to complete an evaluation
for today's bag lunch**

