



**AI IS FOR THE BIRDS IN A NEW  
COMPUTER SCIENCE PROJECT**

Professor Shawn Newsam, left, and graduate student Shrishail "Shree" Baligar are developing a model to recognize bird calls. So far, it can detect 45 different species and will be used to produce maps of where, when and how many species are present.



**4 MILLION ACRES HAVE BURNED  
IN CALIFORNIA. WHY THAT'S THE  
WRONG NUMBER TO FOCUS ON**



"Even within a single fire, we have to be able to distinguish between the good and the bad and focusing on area burned doesn't allow us to do that," says fire scientist Crystal Kolden. Instead, some fire scientists say public messaging should focus on the community impact: the number of people evacuated and homes threatened.



As part as the Southern Sierra Critical Zone Observatory, Professor Stephen Hart, along with fellow researchers will address the hypothesis that soil type, water and rock composition play key roles in determining how deep the surface influences — such as vegetation and climate — drive microbial community composition, diversity and activity.



**NEW PROJECT FOCUSES ON LIFE IN SOIL IN  
THE EARTH'S CRITICAL ZONE**



**GOPINATHAN NAMED FELLOW OF  
LEADING PHYSICS ORGANIZATION**

Physics Professor Ajay Gopinathan has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS). This prestigious recognition is for physicists who have made exceptional contributions in physics research, important applications of physics, leadership in or service to physics or significant contributions to physics education.



**OCTOBER 2020**

## RECENT RANKINGS

- Top 100 | No. 40** among public universities (US News & World Report)
- Top 100 | No. 56** among national universities (Washington Monthly's 2020 College Guide & Rankings)
- Top 100 | No. 65** globally among universities younger than 50 years (Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2020)
- Top 100 | No. 76** among national universities (Money's 2020 Best Colleges)
- Top 100 | No. 86** among colleges and universities for Hispanics (Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine)
- University of the Year** (Education Dive's Dive Awards, 2018)
- "**Best 386 Colleges,**" two consecutive years (Princeton Review)
- No. 1** among public universities in outperforming expected graduation rates (US News & World Report)
- No. 3** in U.S. among universities younger than 50 years (Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2020)
- No. 5** among all universities in social mobility (US News & World Report)
- No. 8** among all universities in economic diversity (US News & World Report)
- No. 12** most transformative colleges (Money's 2020 Best Colleges)
- No. 13** among public universities for highest alumni giving rate (US News & World Report)
- No. 19** for social mobility (Washington Monthly's 2020 College Guide & Rankings)
- No. 51** for least amount of debt incurred by graduates (US News & World Report)
- No. 145** for undergraduate engineering (among Ph.D.-granting schools) (US News & World Report)
- No. 171** for Best Value (US News & World Report)

## SOCIAL MOBILITY

- No. 1** in the nation for student outcomes (US News Best Colleges 2020)
- No. 1** among public universities in outperforming expected graduation rates (US News Best Colleges 2021)
- No. 5** in the nation for social mobility (US News Best Colleges 2021)
- No. 8** in the nation for economic diversity (US News Best Colleges 2021)
- No. 51** for least amount of debt incurred by graduates (US News Best Colleges 2021)
- No. 19** for social mobility (Washington Monthly's 2020 College Guide and Rankings)
- No. 12** most transformative colleges (Money's 2020 Best Colleges)
- No. 8** in the nation for performance of students who receive Pell Grants (Washington Monthly's 2019 College Guide & Rankings)
- No. 8** in the nation for performance of first-generation students (Washington Monthly's 2019 College Guide & Rankings)

## SUSTAINABILITY

- Only university** in the nation to have all buildings LEED certified
- Highest marks** on "Green Rating" (Princeton Review's Best Colleges Guide, 2021)
- No. 1** in the nation for sustainable buildings (AASHE, 2020)
- Tied for No. 1** in the nation for sustainable research (AASHE, 2020)
- Tied for No. 5** in nation for sustainability investment and finance (AASHE, 2020)
- No. 10** in the nation in sustainable waste operations (AASHE, 2020)
- No. 6** overall among doctoral institutions (AASHE, 2020)
- No. 5** in the nation for sustainability (Sierra Club's Cool Schools, 2020)

*\*Official Numbers as Fall 2020*

## TOP ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- **School of Engineering**
  - No. 129** in the nation among graduate schools (US News Best Graduate Schools 2021)
  - No. 145** among Ph.D.-granting schools for undergraduate engineering (US News Best Colleges 2021)
- **Bioengineering**
  - No. 117** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2021)
- **Computer Engineering**
  - No. 106** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2021)
- **Electrical Engineering**
  - No. 129** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2021)
- **Environmental Engineering**
  - No. 84** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2021)
- **Materials Engineering**
  - No. 98** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2021)
- **Mechanical Engineering**
  - No. 117** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2021)
- **Biology**
  - No. 175** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2019)
- **Chemistry**
  - No. 122** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2019)
- **Mathematics**
  - No. 144** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2019)
- **Physics**
  - No. 146** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2019)
- **Psychology**
  - No. 90** in the nation (US News Best Graduate Schools 2018)

