In a breakthrough study published in February in the journal *Nature*, UC Merced’s Professor Joel Spencer reveals the first ever image of hematopoietic or blood stem cells, captured inside their niche in the bone marrow. This development in live imaging could lead to new therapies for hematologic disorders, including cancer.

Professor Sarah Kurtz has become the first UC Merced faculty member elected to a national academy — the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional honors bestowed on an engineer. Dean Mark Matsumoto said, “Sarah’s membership is well deserved for her long and numerous contributions to solar energy, for applications here on Earth but also for space exploration.”

Professor Kevin Dawson (second from left) received the Harriet Tubman Prize by the Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for his book “Undercurrents of Power: Aquatic Culture in the African Diaspora.” The award recognizes the best U.S.-published, nonfiction book on the slave trade, slavery and anti-slavery in the Atlantic World.

UC Merced and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) have teamed up to lay the groundwork for a direct pipeline between the two, opening a door to research collaborations as well as job and internship opportunities for students and alumni. Leily Kiani (’16) is one of 21 former Bobcats who currently work at LLNL, strengthening the bond between the university and national lab.
**Sustainability — to our core**

Our faculty research on environmental impacts, including soil erosion, water use, Valley Fever, biodiversity, renewable energy, human evolution and even political violence is world renowned.

**Research units include:**
- Sierra Nevada Research Institute
- UC Advanced Solar Technologies Institute
- National Parks Institute

We operate the Wawona Field Station in Yosemite National Park, and campus is surrounded by the UC Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve — our own living laboratory.

On our 830+ acres, UC Merced has demonstrated commitment to the environment from the ground up — from sustainably designed and operated LEED-certified buildings to a sustainable campus vehicle fleet and purchasing practices.

**Student success — from enrollment to career**

**Summer Bridge Program** brings first-generation students onto campus during the summer before first-year classes to provide acculturation and study skills to prepare them for college life.

**Competitive Edge Summer Bridge** ensures graduate students are better equipped to complete their degrees and go on to successful careers, by helping them navigate life in a new city and at a new level of academic intensity.

The Calvin E. Bright Success Center provides opportunities and co-curricular experiences that aid students in enhancing their knowledge of university resources, academic and personal growth and development, and advocacy and access, through learning support, transition programs and individual interventions.

Our Living-Learning Communities help students to find their micro-communities, sharing study and social lives with like-minded peers organized around fields of study, such as natural sciences, or areas of passionate concern, such as social justice.

**Social mobility — our mission and passion**

We are leading the way in California and the nation for helping young people build better lives for themselves and their families through higher education.

**55.5%**

Hispanic + Designated a Hispanic Serving Institution

**99.4%**

Undergraduates are from California

**U.S. News & World Report**

- #1 Student Outcomes
- #1 Outperforming Predicted Graduation Rates
- #7 Social Mobility