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Press Kit: <http://digifilmuci.com/nbff2019/>

## **UCI Brings Diverse Slate, Global Engagement to Newport Beach Film Fest**

A women's empowerment farm in Nepal; an entrepreneurial high school in Paraguay; the last gay bar in Garden Grove: documentary films take center stage in this year's UCI Collegiate Showcase.

IRVINE, California, April 20, 2019 -- The **UCI Collegiate Showcase** at the **Newport Beach Film Fest** premieres ten undergraduate filmmakers focused on socially engaged filmmaking and fostering stories from underrepresented voices. The documentary, narrative, web series and experimental films were developed and produced through UC Irvine's growing Digital Filmmaking program. The UCI showcase will screen on Saturday, April 27, 1:15PM at the Starlight Triangle Square Cinemas, Costa Mesa, CA.

Two internationally produced documentaries were created through a new filmmaking travel scholarship program established between **UCI DigiFilm** and the **UCI Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation** to document the work of the Global Service Scholars. The program received equipment support from technical partners Canon USA, Wooden Camera and SmallHD.

In '**A Summer at Her Farm**' filmmaker **Lynslee Mercado** spent four weeks in the rural mountains of Nepal documenting the Global Service Scholar researchers at a farm dedicated to women's empowerment. In '**Querer es Poder: Searching for Sustainable Education in Paraguay**' filmmaker **Corey Cao Nguyen** spent five weeks exploring the work of undergraduate researchers at Fundacion Paraguaya's ground breaking Francisco Agricultural High School.

'**Frat House**' by **Nancy Nguyen**, brings the stories closer to home in a documentary set in the sleepy city of Garden Grove which once had over 15 gay bars. Frat House is the last. Frat House founder Ted Heier was a community leader and an avid photographer who documented decades of Orange County LGBTQ history and community activism.

**UCI Digital Filmmaking** (#UCIDigiFilm) is the hub for creative film production at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts. The new film production program is focused on global engagement and fostering diverse and underrepresented voices. The program is a hybrid of traditional and creative approaches to filmmaking with emphasis on the production original content for new platforms.

The mission of the **Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation** is to mobilize the vast stock of ingenuity, knowledge and concern on campus to address the complex challenge of sustainable poverty alleviation in California, across the nation, and worldwide. The **Global Service Scholars** program offering UC Irvine undergraduates the opportunity to study compassion and participate in immersive service experiences.

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## **UCI Collegiate Showcase Lineup**

Full synopses, filmmaker quotes, stills available at: <http://digifilmuci.com/nbff2019/>

Showcase Tickets: <https://newportbeachfilmfest.com/event/university-of-california-irvine>

### **Tricks of Mind by Theone Ly**

Join us as we roam through alternate realities, memory and time.

### **A Summer at Her Farm by Lynslee Mercado**

UCI student researchers spend four weeks in the mountains in rural Nepal working on a farm dedicated to women's empowerment.

### **Smoothie by Karen Pham**

Have fun playing with delicious fruit.

### **Through the Knots by Larz Broussard**

An exercise in identity and hair care.

### **Love Winds by Austin Quon**

During what seemed to have been the perfect date, a painful secret comes out.

### **Back on Being Lost by Claire Harvey**

A crisis documented through intimate family photographs.

### **Rage by Henry Liu**

A troubled young man imagines his problems through a woman's gaze.

### **Suppressed by Ryan Wang**

An imagined escape by a man searching for meaning.

### **Quereres Poder: Searching for Sustainable Education in Paraguay by Corey Nguyen**

A group of international undergraduate researchers in Paraguay struggle with the balance between personal friendships and the long term development of a ground breaking school.

### **Frat House by Nancy Nguyen**

The sleepy city of Garden Grove once had over 15 gay bars. Frat House is the last.