

UC SANTA BARBARA

# THE *Current*

December 19, 2023

[Shelly Leachman](#)

## Unveiling our most visited stories of 2023

As The Current winds down coverage for this calendar year, we round up and revisit the five stories from 2023 that you visited most. Happy (re)reading!

### [WiFi can read through walls](#)

Researchers in Professor Yasamin Mostofi's lab proposed a new foundation that can enable high-quality imaging of still objects with only WiFi signals. The technique has also enabled, for the first time, imaging, or reading, the English alphabet through walls with WiFi, a task deemed too difficult for WiFi due to the complex details of the letters.

### [Alumni and former staff member establish fellowship for Iranian women](#)

The campus's tight-knit Iranian community founded the Mahsa Amini Graduate Fellowship for Iranian women studying non-STEM fields at UC Santa Barbara. The group decided to target non-stem majors, fields that are often inaccessible to Iranian students, particularly women.

## [From impact to academics to outcomes, UC Santa Barbara ranks among the nation's top universities](#)

In student outcomes and academics. In affordability and social mobility. For return on investment. For overall excellence. In multiple rankings across an array of metrics, UC Santa Barbara in 2023 continued to place in the upper echelons of higher education.

## [Study finds parents' phone use in front of their kids can harm emotional intelligence](#)

In a study of parents to look at how various forms of media use might impact their children's emotional intelligence, communication professor Robin Nabi found that the emotional intelligence of kids can be adversely impacted by their parents' smartphone use — that all-too-common scene of a caregiver engaging with a screen with their child nearby seeking attention.

## [Physicists discover an exotic material made of bosons](#)

The research group of condensed matter physicist Chenhao Jin made a new material out of interacting bosons, marking the first time such a material has been created in a “real” (as opposed to synthetic) matter system. The unique material is a highly ordered crystal of bosonic particles called excitons.

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**About UC Santa Barbara**

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.