Curiouser and curiouser and curiouser and curiouser.
And so on and so forth.

If you were that kid who took apart toys instead of playing with them, then maybe you’re one of us. Of course, our toy just happens to be the entire world. No, really. There’s just something in the air here at the University of California San Diego—besides the distinct whiff of Pacific sea salt—that demands we not only examine the world, but gleefully pick it apart. Because what makes us tick is finding out what makes everything else in the world tick. Want proof? Start by examining how our collective, sun-soaked, SoCal heads have been tackling some of the world’s darkest problems for decades. Take our approach to global warming. We have a scientist who hypothesized that spiritual leaders will have a greater influence on solving it than science alone. Intrigued? Good. Now, here’s what else a few of our mischievous minds have been thoughtfully reassembling. We’re using cell phones to bypass outmoded charity models in developing nations and providing cash directly to their citizens. And we’re challenging the prevailing views of feminism using storytelling more along the lines of comic books, of all things. Black freedom struggle? One of our professors unearthed a network of radical African-American female activists dating back to the 1930s, providing a much-needed woman’s touch to what was thought of as a male-dominated history. It’s perpetual puzzles like these that our academic community embraces with childlike fervor. And it’s all part of our save-the-world-with-a-whole-lot-of-curious game plan. Okay, what’s next?

ucsd.edu/breakthingsbetter

When economics professor Paul Niehaus saw how overwhelming poverty and red tape in many African nations denied people access to a better life, he developed a no-strings method to deliver funds directly to a recipient’s cell phone, reshaping international giving.

By tracing a severely under-documented history of Black women radicals from the ’30s through the Cold War, ethnic studies professor Daya Gone helped give our picture of ’60s militancy a complete makeover.


After 40 years of groundbreaking research in climate change, Professor Veerabhadran Ramanathan realized global warming wouldn’t be solved by science alone. So he turned to spiritual leaders to help frame this struggle as a humanitarian effort.
Top: UC San Diego unveils its new MTS trolley advertising downtown.
Bottom: Visitors at Triton Day lined up to ride the shake board.