The Clog’s guide to TEDxBerkeley

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The annual TEDxBerkeley event is back for the fifth year in a row Saturday with a lineup of CEOs, artists and professors discussing their latest work and ideas.

The event — held in Zellerbach Hall — is an opportunity for students to interact with faculty members, intellectuals across the city and other students. If you are new to TEDxBerkeley, the wealth of interesting speakers to seek out can be intimidating and the $30 ticket price can seem steep. But don’t worry — the Daily Clog has curated the best events based on your interest.

While the doors open at 9 a.m., the first speaker sessions still won’t begin until an hour later. We recommend using this downtime before the main events to network with a variety other attendees.

Because watching the wide array of speakers would be akin to voluntarily sitting through a seven-hour lecture, you have to be selective. All the economics junkies will definitely want to watch UC Berkeley professor Edward Miguel, whose work deals
primarily with African economic development. Carol Sanford, a business titan, is another must-see. For those interested in activism, be sure to see Sarah Hillware, who champions women’s health and empowerment. Additionally, check out Roberto Hernandez, a doctoral candidate in public policy at UC Berkeley who has been pushing for major prison reform in Mexico.

Meanwhile, if you can only handle a few speeches before you get worn out, then you should see Yonat Mayer, who has been performing around the Bay Area with her band Yonat & Her Muse for the past three years. In addition to Yonat’s folk/rock/soul blend, you can get your fix of acrobatics from Nikki Borodi, Vangelis Chaniotakis or both.

Regardless of what you are interested in, however, our top pick to see is Randy Schekman, a UC Berkeley professor hot off a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Additionally, Brenda Chapman, who has worked on popular Disney films such as “The Little Mermaid” and “The Lion King,” is one not to miss.

No matter who you check out, it is unlikely you will leave disappointed. If you are still unsure what talks you should see, just go at random and see what you discover!

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