



November 2018

Volume 1, Issue #1

# Chancellor's Scholars Journal

## *Chancellor's Scholars 2018 Cohort*

### **Who are Chancellor's Scholars?**

These students are some of the best and the brightest who receive admittance to UC San Diego, and they are coming in with top GPA's and test scores.

They all have in common:

- ◆ Demonstrated academic excellence
- ◆ Leadership potential

However, these top students have had to work hard to achieve their place here, faced with difficult life challenges. Chancellor's Scholars have one or more of the following attributes:

- ◆ First generation college attendee
- ◆ Hail from a 4th or 5th Quintile school
- ◆ Financial need



The Chancellor's Scholars Program is a two-year leadership development program for students who are recipients of the prestigious Chancellor's Scholarship. Students who receive this award must be entering freshman who demonstrate academic excellence. This is evaluated based on students' high school academic program, test scores, grades and other academic criteria. Other factors for consideration include students' education environment, financial need and economic background. An overwhelming number of Scholars are first-generation college students who, among other requirements, must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to retain the award. Chancellor's Scholars benefit from faculty mentoring through the Emeriti Mentor Program and Faculty Mentoring Program, peer mentoring with upper-division Chancellor's Scholars, ongoing leadership and professional skill development, social and community service activities with other Chancellor's Scholars and exposure to student resources and involvement opportunities.

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## *Chancellor's Scholars Opening Reception*

Every year we welcome a new bright and motivated incoming class of Chancellor's Scholars. This year's first year cohort is composed of 40 eager scholars. These students, along with many of our Emeriti Mentors, joined us for our Annual Chancellor's Scholars Opening Reception at the Ida & Cecil Green Faculty Club on Thursday, October 6, 2018. Director of the UCSD Retirement Resource Center, Suzan Cioffi, and Emeriti Association President, Deputy University Librarian Emerita Phyllis Mirsky, welcomed attendants with opening remarks. Chair of the Emeriti Mentor Program, Professor Henry Powell, and Chancellor's Scholars Program Coordinator Vania Bailon presented the 2018 Cohort. UCSD Alumna and 2014 Chancellor's Scholars Cohort



member Brenda Ngo and Chancellor's Scholars Alliance President Alexis Velazquez Olivera gave inspiring speeches, which undoubtedly made an impact on the new scholars. UCSD Emeriti Association Historian Dr. Jack Fisher gave the closing remarks, ending the memorable evening.

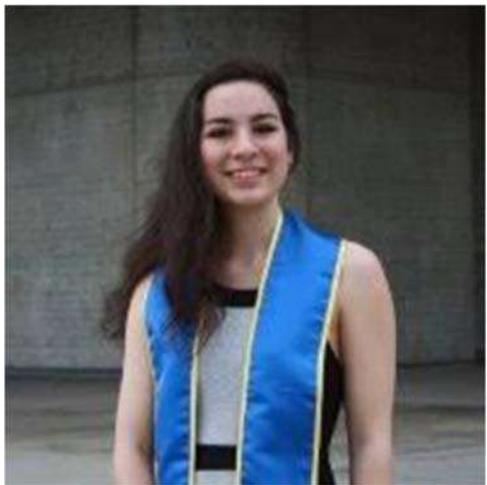


## *Chancellor's Scholars Annual Welcome Barbeque*

In order to properly welcome the incoming freshman cohort to UC San Diego, the Chancellor's Scholars and Emeriti Mentor Programs host an annual barbecue. This barbecue is a chance for incoming scholars to meet fellow cohort members as well as students from different cohort years. This event is an incredible way for incoming scholars to network with upperclassmen, alumni, Emeriti Mentors, and scholarship donors through great conversation as well as fun, summer games such as hula hoop contests, egg tosses, and musical chairs. This event was catered by GibbsRibs and entertainment is provided by "The Sophisticats," a 50's Rock & Roll group, allowing scholars to have one last sweet taste of summer before plunging into their rigorous academics and extracurricular activities.



# Chancellor's Scholars Alumni Spotlight



**Ciara Dooley**  
2013 Cohort  
**Mechanical Engineering**  
**Revelle**

## What have you been up to since graduating from UC San Diego?

Since graduation, I have been working at Northrop Grumman Avionics and Tactical Networks here in San Diego as an electromechanical engineer. I have rotated through several different roles in the company and currently work primarily in the analysis group doing thermal modeling of our products. In my free time, I care for my cat, rock climb, and have recently taken up swing dancing. I still live in the La Jolla area with my college roommates so not much else has changed!

## How has the Chancellor's Scholars Program helped you reach your education and career goals?

The Chancellor's Scholars Program taught me valuable communication and leadership skills that helped me all throughout college and have carried over into my current career. My involvement with the community was one of the highlights of my college experience, and all the time I put into the program has paid back double.

## How has the Emeriti Mentor Program helped you reach your education and career goals?

The Emeriti Mentor Program offered support and a wealth of experience that I drew on many times for advice and recommendations throughout college. My mentor was always there to answer my questions, and it was a relief to have such a supportive and knowledgeable figure in my life to help - no matter how big or small my problem was.

## Do you have any advice for current Chancellor's Scholars?

Don't be afraid to reach for unrealistic goals. When I applied to intern at the company I am now employed at, I almost didn't turn in my application because I was convinced my lack of experience would disqualify me from the job. However, my mom encouraged me to apply regardless so I put in the effort to complete my application and ended up getting the internship. I was hired on full time after graduation, all because I reached for an "unrealistic" goal.

**"The Chancellor's Scholars Program is there for you - if you put in the time to attend the classes and be a part of the community, it will pay you back with endless skills and opportunities."**

## DACA: Where We Stand by Vania Bailon

DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, was a program implemented by the Obama Administration in 2012. Seen as a way to remove immigration enforcement attention from “dreamer” students who had, for the most part, been raised in the US and demonstrated good behavior. The number of current DACA recipients is nearly 700,000. On September 5, 2017, the Trump administration announced their plan to end DACA, stating that no new applications would be accepted after September 5th. More recently, federal judges have blocked the efforts to end DACA completely, ordering the administration to resume accepting renewal applications. USCIS is once again accepting renewal applications, though no new DACA applications or advanced parole applications are currently being accepted.

There are several Chancellor's Scholars who are DACA recipients. Many depend on DACA to receive financial aid and for work authorization. These individuals are students working towards completing their higher education goals. They have worked hard to attend UCSD and many are future engineers, economists, mathematicians, and more. Losing this temporary legal status and ability to work could mean taking on insurmountable debt to attend school, or perhaps even dropping out. That being said, DACA was never meant to be a permanent solution to undocumented immigrants' plight, which is why now, more than ever, activists are calling for a “Clean Dream Act”. This means a permanent, bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation that will not only solve current uncertainty for immigrant youth and young adults, but will also provide them with a viable path to citizenship. It is important to reach out to your representatives and demand a viable solution to this problem. For more information on this topic, please visit the UCSD Undocumented Students Services Center, or visit: <https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/undoc/>

## Nursing Hearts at UCSD by Carli Underhill



Nursing Hearts is an organization that seeks to establish a pre-nursing community here at UCSD, where there aren't many resources for those who desire to pursue a career in nursing.

Through the Chancellor's Scholars Emeriti Mentoring Program, I discovered my passion for nursing. Dr. Marguerite Jackson and Betty Garbutt were key advocates for Nursing. The more that I

learned about the field, the more I fell in love with the career path. I was extremely fortunate to have the guidance of Dr. Marguerite Jackson, who has adopted me as her mentee, and became the community advisor of this organization, and to have the support of Suzan Cioffi, Director of the Chancellor's Scholars Program, who provided us with the Retirement Resource Center for both General Body Meetings as well as Officer Board Meetings. The generosity of those who offer guidance through the Chancellor's Scholars Program is truly such a blessing, and without it Nursing Hearts would not be the organization it is today.



**Carli Underhill**  
2015 Cohort  
Biochemistry & Cell Biology  
Revelle

## International Study Award Recipient 2016-2017



Dr. Ruth Covell and International Study Award Recipient Brenda Ngo



"My semester abroad was a truly informative experience. I learned so much more about Americans and how different the country is outside of my Southern Californian bubble. For better or worse, I saw different faces of America from what I am accustomed to. I absolutely loved many aspects of traveling abroad, and I would not trade this experience for the world. I also began to have really important conversations regarding gender, race, and a variety of social issues in the US and the world. I look forward to continuing these conversations. I just want to end by saying how grateful I am to have been a Chancellor's Scholar. I was given so many resources and opportunities under this scholarship program, and I cannot imagine how different my college career would have been without them."

— Brenda Ngo, Chancellor's Scholar 2014 Cohort

In Spring 2017, **Emerita Mentor Ruth Covell, M.D** awarded one meritorious Chancellor's Scholar a \$1,000 scholarship to help support their dream of studying abroad. Dr. Covell is a huge advocate for students wanting to expand their horizons. She believes that study abroad and foreign immersion makes for a more well-rounded student. The first ever recipient of the International Study Award, **Brenda Ngo** was "extremely humbled by the opportunity that had presented itself" and felt "very relieved to know that [she] would have extra funds to spend during [her] time abroad". She participated in a Semester at Sea program, and credits the International Study Award as helping her be "almost entirely financially self-reliant" during her study abroad experience.

With the money from the scholarship, she was able to pursue greater adventures in addition to her voyage. This included visiting the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana, going on a safari in South Africa, and traveling through the Cu Chi Tunnels in Vietnam, as well as participating in homestays in India and China. The aforementioned experiences have allowed her to gain different perspectives of the culture and lifestyle of the different areas, for which she is extremely grateful.

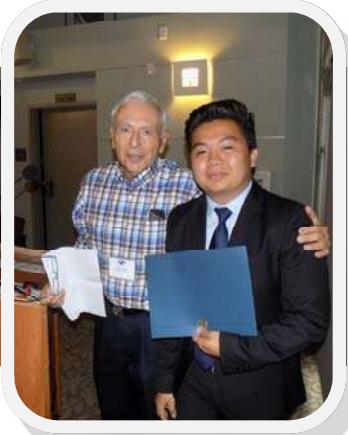


## Peer Mentoring Award Recipients 2016-2017

**Alexis  
Velazquez-Olivera**  
2015 Cohort  
Physics  
Warren



**Gonzalo Santos**  
2015 Cohort  
Human Biology  
Revelle



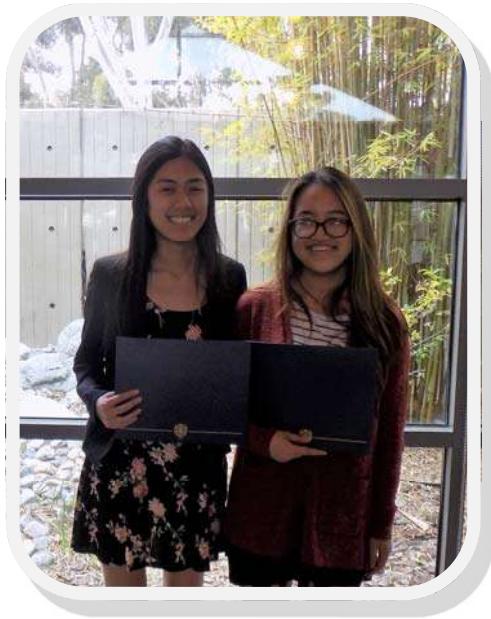
Each year, second, third and fourth year Chancellor's Scholars have the opportunity to mentor incoming freshman as part of the Chancellor's Scholars Peer Mentoring Program. This program allows the freshman cohort to be welcomed to this university personally by a mentor who was hand selected for them by the CSA's Peer Mentoring Coordinators and the Chancellor's Scholars Program Coordinator. Peer mentors are there to guide, encourage, and support their incoming mentee throughout their first year. At the end of the year, mentees then have the ability to nominate their mentor for the Peer Mentoring Award. This award is given to those peer mentors that have gone above and beyond their duties to welcome and support their mentee, and in doing so, have greatly impacted their lives and first year here at UCSD. Generously gifted by **Mel Green**, the founder of the Emeriti Mentor Program, third years **Alexis Velazquez-Olivera** and **Gonzalo Santos** both deservedly received this award for the year of 2016-2017, due to the meaningful and consistent encouragement and support they gave to their mentees.

"To me, the Peer Mentoring Program of the Chancellor's Scholars is something to be grateful for. During my freshman year, I was blessed with an amazing peer mentor, Winnie Shi. That made me want to become a peer mentor myself. I want others to experience the same things that I experienced in the mentoring program. **Being a college student is not easy, so it is a relief to have someone that you can look up to and rely on. That is what the Peer Mentor Program means to me, an experience that ensures that I enjoy and live a satisfying college experience.** Last year, that's what I did. I imparted the same wisdom and knowledge I received from Winnie to my mentee Hongru. Being both a peer mentor and mentee were both a fulfilling experience that I could proudly say was one of the best things I did in college."

—Gonzalo Santos

## *Peer Mentoring Award Recipients 2017-2018*

**Ivy Dang**  
2016 Cohort  
*Microbiology*  
*Marshall*



**Bella Le**  
2016 Cohort  
*Computer Science*  
*Warren*

Ivy Dang (left) and Bella Le (right) were the recipients of the 2017-2018 Mel Green Peer Mentoring Awards. Both of their first-year Chancellor's Scholars mentees praised them for their openness and understanding. Their friendliness and positivity allowed their mentees to adapt to UC San Diego, and grow further as scholars and as individuals.

**"Being a peer mentor is definitely one of the highlights of my college experience.** Not only was I able to provide support and academic/personal knowledge for my peer mentee, Martin, but I was also able to gain a good friendship. I was able to help him with classes that I had already taken, talk about my personal college experiences and give advice, and now we even work together! I unexpectedly learned more about myself as well and what it truly means to be a good peer mentor. I am very grateful that we both taught and learned something from each other and I am super excited to see what I will learn this year from my new peer mentees, Brian and Molly!

—Ivy Dang

"Being a peer mentor makes me feel that I can make even a small difference in someone's life. It's not just about passing on the knowledge I've come up with the past few years here at UCSD, but also about learning both ways -- even being able to find new perspectives and frames from my mentee that could contribute to my own growth and how I'm able to contribute to the program in the future. In addition, a mentee isn't just someone you teach to, but also a friend who has your back just as much as you have theirs. I greatly appreciate all the opportunities that the Chancellor's Scholars Peer Mentoring Program allowed me to have and the moments I've shared with all the mentees I've had so far."

—Bella Le

## CS in C.S. by Andy Thai



**Andy Thai**  
**2014 Cohort**  
**Computer Science**  
**UCSD Alumnus**  
**Ph.D. Student**  
**UC Irvine**

In 2008, the number of enrolled undergraduate UCSD students with computer science majors was around 598. Today, it has grown to over 1600, nearly triple that of a decade ago. Given recent accelerated developments in software and hardware, it comes as no surprise to anyone that computer science has grown to be one of the largest and most popular areas of study for the modern generation.

The UCSD Chancellor's Scholars cohort is no stranger to this tech explosion. Over the last four years, I've seen interest in computer science spike throughout the cohorts. The amount of incoming Chancellor's Scholars Computer Science majors grows with each coming year. I embarked on a few interviews to investigate this phenomenon and learn a bit more about my fellow scholars.

I interviewed Haoyuan Wang, who goes by the nickname, Charles. Charles graduated recently this year, as a computer science major. During his time at UCSD, he worked as a Qualcomm intern. He's experienced in multiple programming languages,

with lots of projects, and is currently looking for a full-time web developer position. Attracted to UCSD because of its "prestigious computer science program," Charles said the school "[gave him] a lot of opportunities, especially in terms of the job fairs and company recruitment." He went on to say that **the Chancellor's Scholars Program has helped him prepare for these job fairs and recruitment opportunities through the various resume workshops offered**. He stated, "Just having someone look over and critique my resume was a really helpful resource."



Bella Le

Next, I interviewed Bella Le. Bella is a third-year computer science student with a minor in cognitive science. She wanted to study computer science at UCSD because "UCSD was one of [her] dream schools! The location was great and the computer science department has a lot of notable faculty such as Rick Ord and Christine Alvarado who are so passionate about their area of study." I asked Bella if her parents had any influence over her chosen major. Her response was, "At first they wanted me to pursue something in the medical field. I took one class of biology in high school and decided I hated the field, so they relented and let me study something I actually liked. I'm basically the tech-support person in my family anyway, so when I told them, my parents were like, 'yeah, we can see that. Go ahead.'"

Bella is interested in the UI/UX/design aspect of software engineering. "I think that how a user interacts with their technology is an important thing, especially in regards to technological accessibility. How will someone use your tech if it's so hard to navigate, after all?" Bella credits the Chancellor's Scholars Program as having "been really helpful for [her] in regards to networking." Bella's mentor, Donna Mulcahy, previously worked in web-based training while at UCSD, and "has been super sweet," introducing her to a lot of the more notable techies on



Haoyuan "Charles" Wang

campus and helping guide her journey learning about the different potential careers in computer science. She says, **"You really learn a lot from your Emeriti mentor, and for me personally I've been feeling a lot more comfortable meeting new people for interviews and stopped getting so nervous."**



Allen Gong

I reached out to Allen Gong, one of the Chancellor's Scholars Alliance's founding members and UCSD alumni. He graduated in 2015 as a Cognitive Science major specializing in Human-Computer Interaction. Over the past few years, he has completed his Master's degree at UCLA in Computer Science and has found full-time work as a full-stack developer at Appfolio.

When Allen was an undergraduate, he wanted to take CS classes because he felt that something was missing in his major courses. He "had always been interested in breaking down and understanding complicated systems," and at the time, HCI appealed to him because it "focused on the complex interactions between people and the world around them." Soon, Allen wanted more than just the understanding of these interactions—he wanted to affect them. Before he knew it, he saw himself taking more CS courses every quarter, and formed a strong appreciation for the field.

When asked how UCSD's CS department stacks up compared to other universities, Allen responded, "One thing about the CS department at UCSD that stood out to me was the emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving, as opposed to emphasizing a standard set of concepts: teaching a bag of tricks, as some say. I feel that UCSD has better prepared me for my day-to-day responsibilities as a software engineer, and for further education in the field." Allen also shares how being a Chancellor's Scholar prepared him for his current career in software engineering: "One of the skills that I improved on the most by being a Chancellor's Scholar was interpersonal communication. In an industry like software engineering, it is easy to assume that all one needs is problem solving skills and knowledge of algorithms to get by. However, this is not the full picture - **improving my ability to effectively communicate my thoughts and to network played a huge role in where I am at today, and I have the Chancellor's Scholars Program to thank for that.**"

## *Fiesta Island Beach Cleanup*

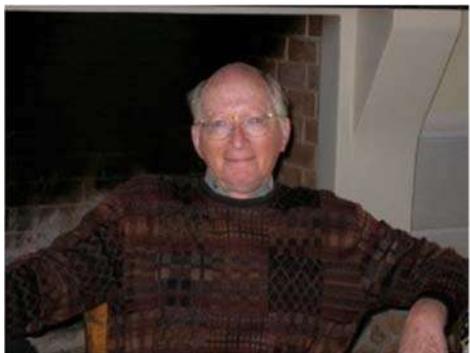
*October 13, 2018*



To show their immense appreciation and gratitude for the incredible amount of help they receive as scholars, the Chancellor's Scholars Alliance organizes at least two volunteer events per year, in order give back to the community. A coastal beautification project has become an annual service project for the scholars, and this year they chose to clean up Fiesta Island, where they were able to collect a substantial amount of trash. Scholars plan to continue their efforts to beautify San Diego by targeting areas that are in need of service.

# Meet Our Mentors

*In each issue, we will introduce two of our dedicated mentors*



## Jack Fisher

**Dr. Jack C. Fisher** is Emeritus Professor of Surgery and former Head of the Division of Plastic Surgery at UC San Diego. He graduated from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine in 1962. Dr. Fisher has authored, or co-authored, more than 200 published works that have enhanced the fields of transplantation immunity, chronic wound healing, reconstructive burn surgery, and biomaterials tolerance. He has served for more than a decade on the UB School of Medicine Dean's Advisory Council, and received the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award. In 1977,

Dr. Fisher founded INTERFACE, a volunteer team of plastic surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, and other specialists in the care of children born with facial clefts and other deformities. He has performed surgery on hundreds of afflicted children in developing nations and received the UCSD Chancellor's Community Service Award. In retirement, Dr. Fisher returned to school and earned an MA in United States Political and Economic History. His past historical works include *Lead Pencil Miner; The Rush for Yukon Gold and Stolen Glory: The McKinley Assassination*. His current work, *Silicone on Trial: Science, Regulation, and the Politics of Risk*, deals with the growing conflict between scientific enterprise and a politically-driven regulatory process. Professor Fisher served as the first Chair of the Emeriti Mentor Program. He helped to recruit its initial mentors and to launch the EMP.

## Marguerite Jackson

**Dr. Marguerite Jackson** earned her BA in Biology, MS in Microbiology and Ph.D. in Medical Sociology. She founded the Marguerite Jackson Award for Professional Nursing Excellence which continues to be given to nurses who exemplify professionalism. She has over 35 years of experience in health care, primarily in the areas of infection prevention and control, leadership development and technical consultation to health care organizations. She has been a mentor to several Preuss School students who went on to become bright UC San Diego students. She continues to consult part-time. Dr. Jackson served as the EMP Chair from 2015-2017,



"I joined the Emeriti Mentor Program at the request of Suzan Cioffi. I have been a mentor for about 20 Preuss UCSD School seniors over the past 10 years and very much enjoy working with young adults. I continue to enjoy meeting our new Chancellor's Scholars and mentoring them as well. I believe the Emeriti Mentor Program is having a very positive effect on Chancellor's Scholars as evidenced by their exemplary GPAs and participation in many CS events as well as community outreach. The Mentors provide the students with a very helpful link with academic life in a non-threatening way. The UCSD community continues to be very helpful in providing financial support and space for the program and we very much appreciate the Chancellor's continued involvement. Our greatest challenge is recruiting sufficient retired faculty to cover the needs of our group, but we have so far been able to make successful matches each year. We are always seeking newly retired faculty to join us." — Dr. Marguerite Jackson

## Chancellor's Scholars Alliance

The Chancellor's Scholars Alliance was founded in June 2013, with the main goal of offering a place for fellow recipients of the Chancellor's Scholars Scholarship to bond, network, and find a community of like-minded individuals.

The organization now consists of a board made up of many officers and a general body of over 160 Chancellor's Scholars, from all cohort years.

The Chancellor's Scholar's Alliance is a nonprofit, student-run organization, intended to serve as a resource for current and future students and to welcome UCSD's newest scholars to our community. The CSA seeks to equip and empower scholars to become the world's next generation of leaders by providing them with mentoring networks, bonding socials, and service outreaches in order to build unity, teamwork, and purpose.

For more information visit:

<http://chancellorsscholarsalliance.ucsd.edu/>

### **CSA Board Members:**

President: Alexis Velazquez Olivera

Vice President: Jenny Sayaseng

Secretary: Les Wang

Vice Secretary: Sidney Huen

Treasurer: Stephanie Mountain

Vice Treasurer: Daniel Naysnerski

Peer Mentoring Coordinators: Ivy Dang & Sonali Bhanvadia

Social Event Coordinators: Jocelyn Ornelas Muñoz

Volunteer Coordinator: Carli Underhill

Media Chair: Anissa Delgado

Members-at-Large: Martin Nguyen, Richard Tran, Milagro Ramos, Pamella Abergas, & Adan Ruiz



Next Publication deadline: **March 15, 2019**    Executive Editor: Suzan Cioffi, Director, UCSD RRC/CSP/EMP  
Managing Editor: Vania Bailon, Coordinator, UCSD CSP/EMP; EMP Chair: Professor Henry Powell  
Phone: (858) 534-0207 FAX: (858) 534-3767 Emails: ChancellorsScholars@ucsd.edu / EmeritiMentor@ucsd.edu  
The UCSD Chancellor's Scholars Program is domiciled on the UCSD Campus in University Center Building 400

## — Calendar —

Event Name	Location	Date	Time
Dream to Reality: Health Sciences	RRC	Nov. 1, 2018	5:00PM—6:15PM
Game Night—All Chancellor's Scholars	RRC	Nov. 9, 2018	6:00PM—8:30PM
Advanced CSP Speed Networking Night	Faculty Club	Nov. 13, 2018	5:00PM—6:15PM
Dream to Reality: Health Science Specialties	RRC	Nov. 15, 2018	5:00PM—6:15PM
Volunteer Event at the San Diego Food Bank	Meet at RRC	Nov. 26, 2018	12:00PM—5:00PM
De-stresser Event with Giant Doggies	RRC	Dec. 1, 2018	12:00PM—2:15PM
CSP/EMP Holiday Open House	RRC	Dec. 12, 2018	11:00AM—1:30PM

*Please Donate Generously to the  
Emeriti Chancellor's Scholars Scholarship Fund*



Through the Chancellor's Scholarship Award, scholars receive \$5,000 a year for four years at UC San Diego. Your monetary support of this program allows bright young scholars to achieve a higher education and helps them meet the challenges they face at a rigorous university like UC San Diego. Please help us continue to award these prestigious scholarships to students in need. With your financial help today, we can ensure that future scholars continue to receive outstanding educational and leadership opportunities at the university. Chancellor's Scholars are the future leaders of America. With your contribution today, we can help make these scholars' dreams a reality.

To donate, please mail your check (made payable to **UC San Diego Foundation - Fund # 4556**) to the: UCSD Retirement Resource Center, 9500 Gilman Drive, MC 0020, La Jolla, CA 92093-0020.

Note: Gifts must be postmarked by 12/31/2018, to count as a deduction for Tax Year 2018. For more information, call (858) 534-4724, and ask to speak with RRC Director, Suzan Cioffi.