First UCSC fundraising campaign nears goal

The Cornerstone Campaign is the first major campuswide fundraising effort in the history of UC Santa Cruz. The campus is well on its way toward raising the goal of $50 million by the end of June. All areas of UCSC are benefiting from the campaign, with increased undergraduate and graduate support a top priority.

To help meet that priority, hundreds of alumni, parents, donors, and other friends of UCSC attended the Scholarships Benefit Dinner, held in November. A record $1 million, double the amount of the previous year’s event, was raised to support UCSC students.

“We’d have to change the name of this campaign, we will continue advancing the mission of UCSC at a crucial time for the students we serve,” said Gordon Ringold of UCSC. “This year’s event, was raised to support the earlier campaign, as a re-entry student, she had nearly enough units to graduate—but in four different majors. UCSC welcomed here, and she has recently made the largest gift ever by a graduate. Her $1.4 million planned gift will be split equally between and improvements to the Library’s facilities. The Kumar Malavalli Endowed Chair will support the Baskin School of Engineering’s Storage Systems Research Center. “I am most excited that Mr. Malavalli, a business leader in the field of storage networking, has chosen to support the Storage Systems Research Center with this endowment,” said dean of engineering Steve Kang.

Some recent campaign highlights:

Alumna’s gift supports scholarships and library

When Kit Mura-smith (Merrill ’71) came to UCSC as a “re-entry” student, she had nearly enough units to graduate—but in four different majors. UCSC welcomed her, and she has recently made the largest gift ever by a graduate. Her $1.4 million planned gift will be split equally between support initiatives

Volunteer leaders have launched new fundraising programs that are providing immediate and long-term benefits for UCSC’s colleges. Nearly $80,000 has been raised through the first-ever Reunion Match Challenge and the Alumni Colleges Fund Tiles Program. College tiles will be benefiting from the hard work of a couple they will never meet. Long-time Santa Cruz residents Federico and Renia Perlinos lived modestly, worked hard, and donated their estate to local charities and organizations, including UCSC. More than $400,000 from the Perlinos’ planned gifts will support psychology graduate students working with deaf or hearing-impaired individuals.

Colleges benefit from support initiatives

Graduate students studying marine mammals and plants have new options for student support with the creation of two fellowships.

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Fellowships support science students

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One of UCSC’s earliest graduate programs has received a major gift from Craig Schiffer (Cowell ’78), who established the History of Consciousness Fellowship Endowment. The history of consciousness program is an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program centered in the humanities with links to social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts. Schiffer’s gift provides crucial student support, enabling focused dissertation research and writing.

Santa Cruz couple’s surprise gift

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