UCSD

Chancellor's Scholars Journal

Opening Reception & Kick-Off

Who are Chancellor's Scholars?

These scholars are some of the best and the brightest students 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

This year, we were able to welcome a new cohort of 40 smart and industrious Chancellor's Scholars during our first virtual Opening Reception on October 8, from 5-6 PM. Over 75 participants joined us and helped give motivated first years an introduction the UCSD Chancellor's Scholars Program and Emeriti Mentor Program. Event speakers included UCSD RRC/CSP/EMP Director Suzan Cioffi, CSP/EMP Coordinator Vania Bailon, President of the UCSD Emeriti Association Dr. Jake Jacoby, Vice President of the UCSD Emeriti Association Professor Emeritus Steven Adler, EMP Chair Professor Emeritus Mark Appelbaum, Chancellor's Scholar Alumna Jia Wu, and Chancellor's Scholars Alliance President Rachel Luu.

Mentors, incoming scholars, and upper year scholars had an opportunity to introduce themselves and get to know each other in a more informal setting that following weekend during the virtual CSP Kick-Off Event, held on Saturday, October 10, from 12-1:30 PM. Over 90 participants joined this event, and played fun virtual games of Family Feud, Quarantine Bingo, and Kahoot! Trivia. Mentors and scholars shared the best book they ever read and learned several more fun facts about each other along the way.

See an online Kudoboard of CSP/EMP welcome messages here:
https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/WwPheDSJ#view

Chancellor's Scholars Alumni Spotlight

Jia Wu
2010 Cohort
Marshall College
Joint Economics and Math

Currently:
Financial Analyst
at NDS Stormwater Management

What have you been up to since graduating?

I went on to get a Master of Finance degree at the UCSD Rady School of Management. During my program, I met people from various backgrounds and different parts of the world. Upon graduating Rady, I had a fellowship in Israel for 3 months and worked with a non-profit investment organization which allowed me to interact with some of the most influential people in the technology sector. After returning from my fellowship, I found my first/current full-time job as a Financial Analyst at a manufacturing company (all thanks to the UCSD career portal).

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

The Chancellor's Scholars Program not only helped me financially but it also allowed me to network with others, especially during my first year when I was quite shy. The regular meetings introduced me to some of the best resources that UCSD has to offer. Through these resources, I was able to further my education and eventually land my current job.

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

Having a mentor is the best part of the program in my opinion. I feel very fortunate to have been paired with Dr. Spragg. I started undergrad with a major in Pharm-Chem which is why I was paired with Dr. Spragg. However, I switched my major halfway though undergrad into Math and Economics. The switch did not affect my relationship with my mentor even though we were in different fields. The career advice and encouragement he gave me were applicable regardless of what I ended up doing. Ten years later, I still keep in contact with Dr. Spragg and hope that other Chancellor's Scholars can have similar relationships with their mentors.

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

It's ok to feel lost and unsure of the future. I went into my freshmen year not knowing what I wanted and picked a major because it was popular. Then I decided to switch into something I was more passionate about, numbers! You don't need to have everything figured out at the beginning, the best part of college is to experiment and see what really drives you. Participate in extracurricular activities, take a class that's completely different from your major, talk to a stranger at the cafeteria (after COVID), and attend your professor's office hours!

Any specific advice for remote learning/working?

I am currently working remotely full time due to COVID and I do miss live human interactions. When working remotely it's important to set a schedule for yourself. Don't roll out of bed a minute before class. Get ready for class as if you're attending a live lecture. Multi-tasking is inefficient, so put those phones and other distractions away during remote learning. Communicate to your family when you will be busy so they don't interrupt you. Try to stay engaged by taking notes and asking questions.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Enjoy the present moment as best as you can. Worrying about the next moment will only take away the joy of the now. Reach out to someone if you need help, there will always be someone willing to help out. Most importantly, stay healthy!

Coordinator Spotlight

Vania Bailon
Program Coordinator
Chancellor's Scholars Program

Vania Bailon serves as the Program Coordinator for the UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program and Emeriti Mentor Program. Vania is a UCSD Muir College alumna, having graduated in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in economics. She was a UCSD Chancellor's Scholar.

Vania is DACAmented, an identity she considers a source of strength and motivation. As an undergraduate student, she assisted in surveying undocumented members of the San Diego community and connecting them with legal resources alongside UCSD Professor Tom Wong. She is currently a full-time graduate student at the UCSD School of Global Policy and Strategy, where she is working towards obtaining a master's degree in International Affairs—International Politics with a specialization in Latin America. Vania hopes to take the skills she learns in graduate school to further promote the wellbeing of immigrant communities.

"I was able to benefit first-hand from the generosity of the program staff and mentors. During my undergraduate career, I was one of my family's main financial providers. I had to work throughout my three years at UCSD, working full-time during my third and final year, in order to help support our expenses. I would not have been able to continue to attend UCSD if I had the additional worry of paying for tuition. Suzan Cioffi, Director of the CSP/EMP offered me a job at the Retirement Resource Center my first year as a student staff member. I was eventually promoted to Interim Program Coordinator, and officially became the Program Coordinator upon graduation. Suzan's flexibility and understanding of my background, and the opportunities she opens up for scholars is something I will always be grateful for. Aside from the monetary support, the Chancellor's Scholarship enabled me to connect on a more personal and professional level with a number of highly esteemed Emeriti Mentors. I cannot emphasize enough what a treasure the Emeriti Mentor Program truly is. As a first-generational student, I had no idea what was expected of me academically. The several Emeriti Mentors I had throughout my time at UCSD helped me understand that talking to faculty is not as intimidating as I previously thought. Two of these very sincere, wonderful mentors, Dr. Ann Craig and Professor Henry Powell, were instrumental in my decision to pursue graduate school. Their letters of recommendation and guidance helped me get one step closer to my goal of helping those in need. The weekly Chancellor's Scholars meetings were crucial for my development. It was during these meetings that I built confidence in my public speaking, learned more about the resources available to me, and made several connections with my peers. To current Chancellor's Scholars, please make sure to take advantage of the different opportunities available to you as an undergraduate student. Although COVID currently makes it difficult, it is important to make sure you branch out and expand your social and professional circles."

School of
GLOBAL
POLICY &
STRATEGY

Chancellor's Scholars Research/Internship Spotlight

Sonali Bhanvadia
2017 Cohort
Muir College
General Biology

Sonali has had both research and internship experiences while at UC San Diego. Both experiences have been shared below:

What opportunities have you been a part of since starting UCSD?
Research: I've volunteered at UCSD School of Medicine since Spring 2019. I am a volunteer research assistant at the Klemke Lab, focusing on cancer research

Internship: In Spring of 2020, I became a Pathmaker Intern at Palomar Hospital. The Pathmaker Internship Program is a wonderful opportunity for students interested in healthcare and patient care. This specific internship allows interns to part take in direct patient care, from helping patients walk and eat, to assisting nurses and other techs with things like heart monitors, taking vitals, and more.

How did you find these opportunities, and what was the application process like for each?
Research: I found this particular research opportunity on the UCSD Jobs & Internship Facebook page and was able to interview for the position. The application process was fairly easy. All I had to do was email the lab manager about myself and why I believed I would be a good candidate for the position

Internship: The Pathmaker Internship Program has four rotations, one for each season, that they have applications for on their website. The application is followed by interviews and intensive training. For me, the interview and training was not too bad, but right before I was supposed to start, the pandemic started.

Have social distancing guidelines affected any part of your research/internship?
Research: The position has definitely changed. The lab was shut down in spring when the pandemic first began, but over the summer, my lab was cleared to open and I was able to go in as long as I followed all of the requirements, such as additional training, social distancing, and of course, wearing a mask. Now, in Fall quarter, I have been going more often, but not as often as before the pandemic. I only go if there are specific tasks for me to do, whereas before I was going on a set schedule to observe and shadow as well
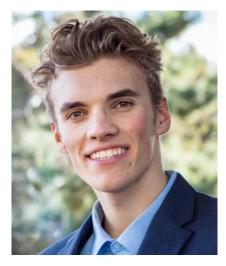
Internship: I was not able to start my position in April as planned. Instead, I started in August. Although I did have the option to defer to later, I knew that they needed a lot of interns, and that many current interns were taking leaves of absence. It has been weird starting the program during the pandemic, since the protocols and training has changed a lot (much of it was online until I actually got on my rotations), but the nurses and all of the leadership team were extremely helpful. We have to take caution and wear masks at all times, wash our hands, use hand sanitizer, and wear gloves when advised. Overall, I really enjoy the program and have been able to perform a lot of direct patient care. It is also very exciting to get to shadow different floors, and learn from all of the different healthcare workers.

Any advice for other scholars currently struggling to find opportunities in your field?
Research: I would recommend emailing professors or checking on REAL Portal, as many volunteers will not be able to return to their previous positions and these have now become available. I would also suggest including in the email or application process that you are aware of the school's protocols and guidelines regarding the pandemic, as it is vital to stay healthy and keep the environment safe in the given situation.

Internship: I would suggest anyone who is interested in any kind of healthcare to consider applying to the Pathmaker Internship Program, especially since they have applications during different times of the year, and they only require one 4 hour shift every week.

Chancellor's Scholar Internship Spotlight

Phillip Vally
2017 Cohort
Muir College
Aerospace Engineering

What work/internship opportunities have you been a part of since starting UCSD?

I have taken part in a co-op between General Atomics and UCSD during summer and fall of 2019. I worked on an R&D project for the Magnetic Fusion Energy department within the Energy division. I was responsible for setting up a prototype cryogenic pellet injector. In the summer of 2020, I participated in a remote internship with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. I worked on a team with two other interns formulating a conceptual redesign of the Polar Diagnostic Instrument Manipulator, a system that is a part of NIF (National Ignition Facility) at LLNL.

How did you find these opportunities, and what was the application process like?

I found these opportunities through company job sites and the Jacobs School of Engineering job portal. The application process involved applying online, initial phone screenings, and in-person interviews.

Have social distancing guidelines affected any part of your internship?

My internship at LLNL was converted to a remote one. While I did miss out on coming into the lab and getting hands on experience with hardware, the team at LLNL adapted to the virtual setting and changed the scope of our project. I had an awesome experience where I learned a lot and contributed meaningful work to LLNL.

Any advice for other scholars currently struggling to find internships/jobs in your field?

My biggest advice to my fellow scholars who are trying to land an internship or job is to gain experience outside of the classroom as much as possible. Simply doing well in class is not enough. Join student organizations that are working on cool projects in your field, or pick up an independent project that interests you. With these experiences, you will be able to create a solid resume. Make sure your resume is well structured, consistent in formatting and grammar, and error free. Finally, leverage your network. As they say, it is not what you know, but who you know. Overall, stay diligent and know that success will come to those who work hard.

Getting an Internship During the Pandemic

Erik Miller
Principal
Intern Sherpa

It's an unprecedented time to be a student. Over the past 8 months, constant change and uncertainty have become your norm. You've had to expand your comfort zones, reprioritize expectations and regularly adapt to how you engage with your education. Despite all of these challenges, you continue to persevere and push past boundaries. This is a testament to your resilience and I'm proud of you.

As you begin the process of finding an internship for this summer, you'll need to draw upon this same resilience to navigate the remote recruitment environment that exists today. You've surely noticed that career fairs, information sessions and on campus interviewing have all been replaced by their virtual counterparts. While this may cause students yet more uncertainty, there's no need to panic. The truth is, you never really needed these recruitment events to find a job in the first place. They were helpful in making connections, but you have the power to make these connections all on your own. You just have to try a different approach - stand out from the masses.

Below are some best practices used by students who are successfully landing internships during the pandemic. My hope is that they will empower you, show you a new way to access job opportunities and help you create your own luck. Here we go!

Ditch the online application approach: Solely applying to jobs online is an old and ineffectual habit of the lazy job seeker. As a former university recruiter for Qualcomm, I know that only a very small percentage of internship applications ever get looked at. So if your internship search strategy relies heavily on a litany of online applications, you will likely waste a great deal of time and become discouraged in the process. Applying to jobs online is okay, but should only be ~10% of your internship search activity.

It's all about who you know: The way to successfully land an internship today is the same way that people have been getting jobs for centuries - through their network. So if you don't have a network, it's time to build one. If you have a robust network, it's time to start using it. If you don't even know what a network is (that's okay too), it's time to figure it out. Here's how…

Grow your peer network: The easiest way to get an inside track on internship opportunities is by joining and participating in student organizations within your field of study. Student orgs like CSES, WIC and IEEE not only offer academic guidance, mentorship opportunities and a social network, but also are largely composed of students who have successfully landed internships. The best way to find an internship is to learn from someone who has done it before and ask for their help. So join in, network with these students and learn from their experience. You may not only find an internship this way, but also make connections that turn into dear friends.

Connect with alumni: I always tell my students, "People naturally want to help other people. But they don't know how to help you until you ask for it." Alumni are willing helpers and the greatest untapped resource overlooked by undergraduate students. Tritons have a soft spot for other Tritons, it's just that simple. Tritons Connect, LinkedIn & Handshake are all easily accessible tools for connecting with alumni and potential mentors. Search for alumni who have graduated with your same degree and are doing work that is compelling to you. Dig into their profiles and look for patterns. You may find that tutors for Rick Ord or members of WIC tended to land tech internships after their freshman year. Interesting, right? Ask those alum about it. Through LinkedIn, request a connection and then ask them for an informational interview.

Many alum will take the time to talk with you because they remember what it was like to be in your shoes and can empathize with your position (especially, right now).

Learn from your network: The goal of building a professional network is fundamentally different than building a social network. It's not about "likes" or having more friends than your peers. It's about how you engage with and leverage that network to help you reach your goals.

If your goal is to someday land a SW development job at Google, then find an alum that works there in that capacity and ask for an informational interview to learn more about how they got to where they are today. Ask for their advice, what they wish they knew when they were your age and who you should talk to next. You'll find that at some point, someone took a chance on them and gave them their first big break. Learn from their stories, what worked for them and try replicating for yourself. The secrets to finding an internship are really no secret at all. You just have to ask the right people for help and be willing to receive it.

If conducting an informational interview feels daunting, the Muse has some good tips here on how to make you more comfortable preparing for these talks.

Start small and build from there: If you've never done an internship before, then the chances of landing your first one at a large Silicon Valley company is unlikely. Remember, the goal of an internship is not to impress your friends or family with the pedigree of your employer, rather, it's about getting relevant work experience that enhances the degree you are pursuing. Start networking within smaller, local companies and express your interest in working there through informational interviews.

You can also gain experience through the Academic Internship Program where you can get course credit while you gain practical skills and invaluable mentorship. For those more entrepreneurially inclined, The Basement offers opportunities to work with student run start-ups at UCSD. Remember, the goal is to gain practical work experience in whatever way you can. Traditional internship programs are not the only way to do that. Once you have internship experience on your resume it will be easier to get noticed by bigger companies in the future.

Get connected with on campus research: Most students focus so much on getting paid internships at prestigious companies that they completely overlook the opportunities within research labs on campus. UCSD is home to world renowned research labs that offer invaluable ways to build your resume and learn more about your field of study. Speak with your department advisors about how to get involved with academic research or apply to the Faculty Mentor Program. Also, as Chancellor's Scholars you have access to the Emeriti Mentor Program, which pairs you with accomplished faculty who can help you get connected with research and so much more.

All of these recommendations have one thing in common, the willingness to ask for help. This is a strength, that when developed, will make finding an internship decidedly easier for you. I admit, it's certainly more uncomfortable than submitting an online application, but the results are far more impressive.

Get good at asking for help and offering help to others. Rely on people more than you rely on your devices. These are the keys to finding an internship…as well as to the joy of living. I know it's not easy, but you have been through more difficult challenges than this. You can do it. I wish you luck in your search and continued resilience during these difficult times. Go get 'em Tritons!

Erik Miller has 20 years of experience connecting college students with internships and has managed internship programs for start-up and Fortune 500 companies in high-tech. As the founder of Intern Sherpa, he now works with students, companies and universities to facilitate the introduction and placement of his students into meaningful internships. Erik holds a BA in English Literature from UC Irvine and an MBA from San Diego State University.

Meet Our Mentors
In each issue, we will introduce two of our dedicated mentors

James Lin

Jim Lin is an Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the UCSD. He received his bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and his PhD from Princeton. His math specialty is algebraic topology. He has taught at Princeton, the Universite de Neuchatel in Switzerland, MIT, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of British Columbia, and Kochi University in Japan. He was Acting Provost of Muir College and Sixth College. Jim helped to create the first UCSD Teaching Diversity Conference and the first UCSD Experiential Learning Conference. He was a founder of the UCSD Cross Cultural Center and the UCSD Ethnic Studies Department.

"With almost 40,000 students, multiple departments and a complicated infrastructure UCSD can be an intimidating campus to a recent high school graduate whose parents never went to college. Having taught at UCSD for 40 years, I have a wealth of knowledge of how to navigate this complex educational institution. If I can explain to a Chancellor's Scholar how to optimize their experience at UCSD, I can make a profound impact on their life. Many of the UCSD alumni changing the world today had mentors who showed them the way to fulfill on their goals. One of my mentees had a dream of becoming a math professor. She is now in a math PhD program. Another of my mentees had a goal of becoming a math high school teacher. He is now in a credential and masters program at UCSD. He will return to his underserved community to be a stellar math teacher. Our role in mentoring these scholars impacts our world. UCSD is one of the few universities in the country where 40% of the student population are first generation students, many of them are students of color; some of them are Chancellor's Scholars. When they graduate, many of them will get jobs with salaries that their parents could only dream of. So I think of myself as part of a group of mentors who will alter the upward mobility of many of these families. I have two daughters (recent grads from UC Berkeley and UC Davis). Watching them find their careers and listening to their concerns and challenges makes me more aware of how to help the next generation fulfill on their dreams."

Gabriele Wienhausen

Dr. Gabriele Wienhausen is a Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Cell & Developmental Biology Section at UCSD. She was the founding Provost of Sixth College, the Associate Dean for Education in the Division of Biological Sciences, and the co-director of the UCSD/SDSU joint Doctoral Program in Math and Science Education. Dr. Wienhausen served as the inaugural Faculty Director of the Teaching + Learning Commons. She initiated and directed PRIME, the Pacific Rim Experience project-based, hands-on research internship program for undergrads combined with an experience in international cultural awareness. She was the founding co-director of the CSU Summer School for Math and Science (COSMOS); co-founder of Teams in Engineering Services (Global TIES); and Principal Investigator for the Howard Hughes Undergraduate Science Enrichment Program. Her seminal contributions to education at UCSD have been recognized by numerous honors, such as the Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Associate Award.

"As a former first-gen college student, I have experience with the struggles that many first-gen students encounter on campus. I also know first-hand how influential mentors can be. Throughout my educational journey, I was fortunate to have had faculty mentors who believed in me, taught me resilience, and who pushed me to achieve. Joining the EMP allowed me to give back, to contribute meaningfully to the success of our students and to continue to do what I love, encouraging and supporting students and being a guide. It is also a wonderful way to stay connected to the university and contribute to its most important mission, educating the next generation of citizens. Mentoring provides professional socialization and personal support to facilitate success in college and beyond. But true mentorship is about more than simply making students feel cared about and supported. It involves challenging students and making them work hard, and coaching them to get the experiences outside the classroom in addition to achieving course-based academic accomplishments. Many students do not easily understand this and often don't know where to find these opportunities. Most importantly, I see how significant it is for a student to feel that a faculty member cares about them as a person and how much this contributes to students' sense of belonging. This is especially true now during the COVID period, where there are few if any opportunities for spontaneous, outside the classroom interactions with faculty members, fellow classmates and IAs. The success of the Program depends on the willingness of the UCSD Community to be a partner and contribute to program components that introduce students to campus. It is essential that UCSD continues to raise scholarship funds to ensure that high achieving but financially disadvantaged students have an opportunity to attend."

Chancellor's Scholars Alliance

President's Message

Hello, my name is Rachel Luu (pronouns she/her/hers) and I am a third year Chancellor's Scholar. I study Mechanical Engineering and I am from Sixth College.

Only two years ago, I entered UCSD. I remember feeling proud to have received the Chancellor's Scholarship and feeling excited about all the opportunities I would find in college. If I'm being honest, I was also a bit scared. I am a San Diego native so I was always a commuter student. I was afraid of not living on campus, not being on campus enough, not meeting enough people, not making friends, and overall, not being involved enough.

And so what did I do to overcome my fears when I was a first year? Basically, I made a very conscious effort to put myself out there. I constantly reached out to others, joined different student organizations, and got involved. I recognize now that my fears back then were very valid but they did not come true because I put in the work to be vulnerable, to let myself grow, and to find my communities.

One of the communities I found was with the Chancellor's Scholars Alliance. CSA is the official student organization run by Chancellor's Scholars that serves all Chancellor's Scholars. CSA provides the peer mentoring network that you may already be aware of. CSA also plans social events, and volunteering opportunities all throughout the year. I joined the CSA Officer Board my first year and ever since then, I've met some of the most wonderful, amazing, and funniest people I know. As a third year now and as your Chancellor's Scholars Alliance President, I personally invite you all to all of our events and opportunities. As an organization and as a scholars group, we deeply value inclusion and unconditional support. So please allow us to be a resource for you, to be your friends, to be one of your homes.

Sincerely,
Rachel Luu
CSA President 2020-2021

For more information visit:
http://chancellorsscholarsalliance.ucsd.edu/

Welcome to the new CSA Board!

2020-2021 Board Members

President: Rachel Luu
Vice President (Internal): Sonali Bhanvadia
Vice President (External): Vince Ly
Secretary: Sidney Huen
Vice Secretary: Melissa Espinosa
Treasurer: Megan Tran
Vice Treasurer: Ixchel Rivas Torres
Peer Mentoring Chair: Leyna Nguyen
Vice Peer Mentoring Chair: David Ma
Social Chair: Jack Zhong
Vice Social Chair: Andrew Hu
Volunteer Chair: Vivian Chou
Vice Volunteer Chair: Kelley Ha
Webmaster: Benson Vuong
Vice Webmaster: Henry Chan
Media Chair: Eric Xiao
Vice Media Chair: Dephny Duan
Freshman Ambassador: Sharlyn Figueroa
Member at Large: Stephanie Mountain

Follow us on Instagram:
@ucsdcsascholars

— Calendar —

Event Name	Location	Date	Time
EMP Monthly Mentor Meeting	Zoom	Dec. 7, 2020	12:00 PM—1:30 PM
CSP/EMP Holiday Event	Zoom	Dec. 21, 2020	12:00 PM—1:00 PM
EMP Monthly Mentor Meeting	Zoom	Jan. 4, 2021	12:00 PM—1:30 PM
CSP Dream to Reality: Arts & Humanities	Zoom	Jan. 7, 2021	5:00 PM—6:15 PM

Please Donate Generously to the Emeriti Association's Chancellor's 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 12/31/2020, to count as a deduction for Tax Year 2020. For more information, call (858) 534-4724, and ask to speak with RRC Director, Suzan Cioffi.

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