Opening Reception & Scavenger Hunt

Who are Chancellor’s Scholars?

These scholars are some of the best and the brightest students who receive admission 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/5th Quintile school
- Financial need

This year, we were able to welcome a new cohort of 40 smart and industrious Chancellor’s Scholars during the virtual Opening Reception on September 23, from 4:30-6 PM. Over 90 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 CSP/EMP Program Coordinator Vania Bailon, President of the UCSD Emeriti Association Professor Steven Adler, Vice President of the UCSD Emeriti Association Professor Emeritus Allen McCutchan, Chair of the Emeriti Mentor Program Professor Emerita Ann Craig, and President of the Chancellor’s Scholars Alliance Andrew Hu.

Incoming 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 CSP Kick-Off Scavenger Hunt, held on Saturday, September 25, from 12-1:30 PM. The event was held in collaboration with the UCSD Chancellor’s Scholars Alliance. Scholars had a blast walking through campus in groups of 8, following clues and taking group photos along the way. One group (Rachel Luu, Casey Hild, Ariana Hamidi, Taymor Tsepiia, Ryan Lee, Ethan Quan, Richard Maroun, and Angela Chapman) managed to find the most locations the fastest, and received $20 each in Triton Cash for their efforts.

You can view additional Scavenger Hunt photos on the [CSA Instagram Page](#).
Chancellor’s Scholars Alumni Spotlight

What have you been up to since graduating?

I worked as a mechanical engineering contractor at NASA Ames Research Center, where I started as an intern. I worked on projects including developments for revolutionary vertical lift technology, conceptual designs for the successor to the Mars Helicopter, and STEM outreach engagement. I am returning to school to study robotics, moving from the Bay Area to Pittsburgh. I’m excited to use this opportunity to develop expertise in unmanned aerial vehicles.

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

The program’s leadership, professional development, and community engagement activities helped me grow as a person. I keep reflecting back on the lecture about developing a growth mindset that Dr. Lisa Gates gave during my first year. The lecture had valuable lessons on how to view setbacks, challenges, and the process of learning. I strive to apply these lessons as I work towards my educational and career goals. It was also immensely helpful to learn about the various opportunities and resources that UCSD has to offer. Throughout my time at UCSD, I found the Chancellor’s Scholars community to be a welcoming and supportive one where I got to meet other scholars who came from similar backgrounds. Connecting with my peers was one of my highlights in undergrad. It’s inspiring and motivating to hear about everyone’s ambitions. By forming bonds with the community, I’ve learned about classes, resources, and helpful life advice. I also developed my leadership skills by being an active member of the Chancellor’s Scholars Alliance.

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

My mentor was Dr. Ron Gold. He was a great mentor who cared about his mentees and took the time to listen and provide wise counsel. Having a mentor who accomplished great things and experienced many aspects of life helped ground my vision of what I wanted to make of my college experience. During our meetings, I would share ideas of what I had planned, including classes and opportunities to engage in at school. The encouragement and support that Dr. Gold gave me helped me throughout my studies.

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

College is a great time to explore interests and try out new things! It can definitely get busy depending on what you engage in, and its okay if you don’t have everything figured out. When I was at UCSD there were times when I felt quite lost about what exactly I wanted to do and what kind of career I envisioned for myself. Talking with more people within the school and outside of school, engaging in various opportunities including research, and working in the industry helped me develop a better understanding of how I wanted to shape my career. What I’m going to add here are things that I wished I had done when I was an undergrad. I was quite focused on the research path, so I did not seek any internships in the industry until my final year when I was stuck deciding if I actually wanted to stay with my original plans. Reach for and create opportunities to build skills. Since recruiters are looking for people with experience, it can be tough if you start looking for internships later in college. If I did not have my research experience and solely took courses, I would’ve had a more difficult time. I applied to many positions in my final year and did not hear back from most of them. I actually applied to the NASA internship program multiple times for all sessions throughout the year.

Even if you are set in a career within the industry or in academia, seek opportunities in both areas because doing so will give you insight from experience. Prepare for applications for summer internships or research opportunities during the fall or the summer before the fall quarter starts. You can also even consider internships during the school year which may not have as many applicants. The CSP alumni network and the “Take a Triton to Work” opportunity are fantastic. I highly encourage you all to make use of these to learn more about how others made use of their studies, what they do, how they got to where they are, and any advice they have. If there is an opportunity to network with someone who has also graduated from UCSD with a similar major, see if you can participate in that as well. Of course, get to know people in the Chancellor’s Scholars community because you can learn so much from everyone!
EMP Chair Spotlight

We are all indebted to mentors, each one playing a different role in our professional and personal lives. As I write, I recall a dozen mentors at various moments in my life.

As academics we most conventionally remember those who offered professional experiences: a seat on a laboratory bench, inspiration for a specialization, a role in a theatrical production or a musical ensemble, an introductory research experience, or a first footnote or co-authorship on a publication. A mentor’s support can lead us toward – or away from – an imagined professional path.

In Life beyond the professional, mentors can be individuals who help us clarify goals, sort through opportunities, facilitate networking, puzzle out applications, navigate family or personal challenges, or improve our communication skills. They may expand our horizons by introducing us to live theater, a new musical form, the delights of travel, or new cultural traditions. They may simply listen.

The Emeriti Mentor Program (EMP) gives mentors a chance to “pay the mentoring debt forward,” always listening to our mentees for the ways in which we can best support their journey at UC San Diego. We hope to begin as a personal, trusted connection in a very large university -- a connection that affirms that our remarkable students are seen, resilient, and on the path to academic success.

Over the past decade I have been paired with Scholars in a variety of majors. I’ve found that discipline matches help with an opening conversational gambit, but they’re not essential. Where disciplinary issues are concerned, we can link mentees to supplemental mentors or departmental resources. More broadly, as Scholars navigate the adjustment to a large research university we can support their exploration of the range of majors, faculty, and campus services they may access. We can encourage investigation of research, service, and leadership experiences which build out a balanced skill set (and CV) for their careers. We don’t have to speak their disciplinary code!

Mentors are rewarded in many ways. We get to know remarkable mentees. We prolong careers predicated on mentoring. We sustain engagement with the university’s educational mission through ever-changing cohorts of students. We discover campus innovations alongside our mentees – e.g., new majors such as Data Science, the co-curricular record, and the Changemaker Program.

Scholars, we hope the Emeriti Mentor Program offers the first in a succession of UC San Diego mentoring relationships. Each will make a different contribution and together they will enrich your educational experience.

To students and mentors in the program, our thanks for joining the journey. To emeriti who might be interested in mentoring, please be in touch via emeritimentor@ucsd.edu or with me as acraig@ucsd.edu.

Are you interested in becoming a Mentor?

The Emeriti Mentor Program is always looking for new emeriti faculty mentors. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to contribute your time and knowledge to a student, and to UCSD, please contact the UCSD Emeriti Mentor Program Director Suzan Cioffi, and Coordinator Vania Bailon, by phone: (858) 534-0207 or email emeritimentor@ucsd.edu.
Chancellor’s Scholars Research/Internship Spotlight

Eric 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?**

**Internship:** This past summer I worked as an AI/ML intern at Apple. I worked on a project to develop a new feature for Spotlight Search using named entity recognition technology to improve the user search experience.

**Research:** Since the last academic year, I have been in collaboration with Scripps Institution of Oceanography on a research project applying state-of-the-art language models to analyze climate change policy documents. We presented our paper, “BERT Classification of Paris Agreement Climate Action Plans”, at the “Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning Workshop” at the International Conference on Machine Learning 2021.

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

**Internship:** I applied online, and a recruiter reached out to me in December with an interview offer. After two rounds of technical, live coding interviews with engineers, I received an offer in January.

**Research:** I found out about this project from a Faculty Mentor Program newsletter and reached out to the principal investigator by email.

**What are/were some of your daily tasks?**

**Internship:** My daily tasks changed over the course of the internship; I was continuously working on different parts of my project, revising my code after review, and diagnosing bugs. Due to company-wide social distancing guidelines, I was unable to work in-person at the office in Seattle.

**Research:** I worked on analyzing the document data, running the language model, and compiling experimental results. Having started last year, this project has been entirely remote, and we have been holding weekly meetings over Zoom to discuss progress and next steps.

**Any advice for other scholars currently struggling to find opportunities in your field?**

**Internship:** Internship experience is very valuable to have as an undergraduate student, as you have the opportunity to learn about what sorts of practices are used in the industry. I recommend other scholars seeking software engineering or other computer science related positions to take on a personal programming project about something you care about that you can use to showcase your best skills during interviews.

**Research:** For scholars interested in research, I recommend finding opportunities through the Research Experience and Applied Learning Portal or by reaching out to faculty directly.
Mel Green Peer Mentor Award Spotlights

All CSA Peer Mentors receive co-curricular credit for mentoring and are eligible to compete for one of two Mel Green Peer Mentoring Awards. This award is given to peer mentors who 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 at UCSD. The awards are generously gifted by Professor Emeritus Mel Green, the founder of the Emeriti Mentor Program. Highlighted below are two past recipients.

“The CSA Peer Mentoring Program was a major highlight of my time as a UCSD student and Chancellor’s Scholar, and it has been one of the most meaningful experiences I have been a part of. Having been a mentee my first year, I was (and am still!) immensely grateful for and inspired by the kindness and support of my CSA Peer Mentor (alumna Jenny Sayaseng) and my Emeriti Mentors (Emeriti Professors Harry Powell, Jim Lin, and Howard Kushner) who helped guide and encourage me in exploring and finding my place at UCSD as a first-gen college student. With all the insights about how to navigate UCSD and the real world and the newfound confidence I gained from being their mentee, I wanted to contribute my knowledge and efforts to similarly make an impact on first-year scholars, whose nervousness and excitement as a new college student I could deeply relate to. This past year, I had the pleasure of mentoring Phil Howard and Sophia Turcot, and they both made my experience mentoring for the first time so engaging and memorable. Peer mentoring is so powerful, impactful, and rewarding, and I encourage you all to extend your care and support to uplift and empower your Littles and your community!”

Dephny’s mentee shared the following about their mentoring relationship:
“I can’t think of anything Deph could do better because she is literally the best peer mentor.. She has been so helpful and supportive. Outside of the Peer Mentor program we would absolutely still be friends because she’s the best person ever.”

“Being a part of the peer mentoring program has been one of the highlights of my experience with CSA and the CSP program. As a peer mentee, having someone to go to for help or simply just as a guiding point alleviated some of the stress that accompanied my transition to college. As a peer mentor, I strive to help my mentees in the same way, helping them have someone they can turn to whenever they have questions, whether they may be about academics, resources, or how to navigate college life. Being part of the peer mentoring program has been an incredibly rewarding experience and it has allowed me to learn how to communicate well and give support to others. A piece of advice that I would like to give both mentees and mentors in this program is that no matter how small the gesture, even a simple "good luck with your week," can be helpful and appreciated.

Ixchel’s mentees shared the following about their mentoring relationship:
“I like the casual nature of our relationship and the broad range of topics we tend to talk about, both within our personal lives and academic subjects. It does feel like an extra support system in place if I need it! Ixchel has such a wonderful attitude and when we do message, it is wonderful and uplifting.”

“She’s offered various tips in regards to UCSD and just education in general, as well as many options i could pursue in my future years. She reaches out to me a perfect amount of time so that we both have time to focus on our studies and overall I thoroughly enjoy our conversations!”

Dephny Duan
2021 Recipient
2019 Cohort
Roosevelt College
International Studies—Political Science

Ixchel Rivas Torres
2020 Recipient
2018 Cohort
Muir College
International Studies & Economics
Dr. Roger and Carole Spragg believe in the Emeriti Mentor Program (EMP) and its positive impact on Chancellor’s Scholars. Dr. Roger Spragg has been an EMP mentor for over a decade, where he has seen firsthand just how much scholarships can benefit talented students with financial need. Both he and Carole have enjoyed supporting students with two major five-year scholarships.

Dr. Roger Spragg kindly agreed to be interviewed by one of his senior year mentees, Grace Kim, on what the Emeriti Mentor and Chancellor’s Scholars Program means to him. The full interview can be found on the UCSD Retirement Association YouTube Channel.

**Can you please talk about your first introduction to Chancellor’s Scholars?**

I retired in 2006 and I did several different things for a year or so, but I wanted to stay connected with the university and I knew that there was an Emeriti Association so one day I stopped by the Emeriti Association office and met Suzan Cioffi, the Director of the Retirement and Emeriti Associations. We had a wonderful discussion, and I think she viewed me as a potential victim for involvement in the Association and that was great. I learned from her about the various programs that the RA & EA had, including the Chancellor’s Scholars and Emeriti Mentor Programs. They sounded interesting. At that time, Jack Fisher was Chair and I arranged to have a lunch with him. We met at the Faculty Club and spent a good hour talking about the program, how it functioned and some of its benefits.

**You are also a mentor in the Emeriti Mentor Program. What motivated you to become an Emeriti Mentor?**

I think I saw it as being able to do a couple of things. One was to maintain an involvement in the university, both by meeting with students and by interacting with other retired faculty members who had been active in the faculty and were now functioning as mentors in the program. I thought that this would give me a deeper understanding of UCSD than I had had just by being active in the Medical School because my only exposure to undergraduates was through some who had worked in my laboratory and that wasn't much. This allowed me to interact with Chancellor Scholars and with faculty members from outside the Medical School to broaden my understanding of UCSD and specifically, what undergraduate life was like. That was attractive to me, and it really has been fun to do. It let me get a good window into what life is like as an undergraduate.

**What motivated you to make a major gift to fund a Chancellor’s Scholarship? Did it grow from your experience as a mentor? Was this a family decision? Do both you and your wife Carole feel deeply about supporting Chancellor’s Scholarships?**

Carole was certainly enthusiastic about my figuring out ways to stay engaged with the university and the decision to fund a major gift and fund two scholarships was very, very much a joint decision. It reflects the value that that we put on education and in paying it forward and trying to make education available and possible for people in the next generation.

**Does making a major scholarship gift correspond with your core life values?**

Very much. I grew up in an educated academic family. My father was a university professor, and I think, from the time I was a very little child academics were held up as something important to engage in and to support, so it was very much a core life value to support education.
Is it important to mentor the recipient of your donation to see firsthand the positive effect on the recipient?

I would say no to that. We are both interested to see the progress of the recipients of the gift that we've given, but I think I would prefer not to mentor that person, because it seems to me, it’s a little hard to express this, but maybe a little bit like putting some pressure on somebody. I don't want them to feel as if they need to take the advice, because they're benefiting from the gifts we've given. It should be a little more of a neutral relationship, where I’m giving advice, but they might go and get advice from other people, and it may not always be the same, and maybe somebody else’s advice would be better to take than what I'm giving them. I don't want to confuse those two relationships. In pre-Covid days, we’ve gotten together a couple of times a year just socially for lunch, with the folks that we've supported to put, in both directions, a human face on the relationship and to see how the kids are doing and that's been really fun. But overall, I think it's good to keep the relationships, a little bit separate.

Do you see scholarships as leveling the playing field?

The way I would see that is that there are folks who might not have the opportunity to attend a school like UCSD and getting those scholarships can tip the balance and can make the difference and allow them to come to UCSD where people who are more privileged may not quite need that help.

Why do you think that major scholarship donations are important at UCSD?

I think major donations are important for being able to attract students to UCSD who may be very qualified, but just not be able to swing it financially and if this really makes the difference. That's very important.

What impact do you believe your scholarship donations are having?

One impact is that it helps the kids to be able to come to UCSD. The other thing that I think I'm hearing from at least some students, not necessarily ones we've supported, but in general, is the impact it has had on their families. Families may be really struggling to get together the money that is required and are relieved by the presence of the scholarship. I think that that's probably something that Carole and I hadn't really thought about much until we heard some of the kids expressing this.

How have you seen your Scholarship recipients grow and evolve over time?

Well that's one of the real fun parts of this, is seeing kids who are pretty undifferentiated, both intellectually and socially, mature tremendously in both of those spheres over a short number of years. I think back to my first mentee, probably 11 years ago, a very wonderful, shy, nervous Asian lady who was uncomfortable relating to me as an older Caucasian male professor. We would meet for lunch and I think it was initially quite painful for her to be in that situation. Over the next few years, she just blossomed in self-confidence and socially. She did well in school. She won a scholarship to Rady and then did an internship in Israel. I got an email, one day, where she was telling me about bungee jumping in Israel, and it was just a sort of sign of the growth that she had, that she was out there bungee jumping in a foreign country. Just a year ago I think she commented to me in an email that she was really doing well and having fun, but she still was finding it challenging to negotiate salary. I didn't know really what to tell her, but I knew who to talk to, and I was able to get that information to her. It is fun for me to have an ongoing relationship with her and feel that she could still turn back to me and look for some advice and that I could at least make my best effort to try to do something that would help.

Do you have anything to say to anyone else who may be considering making a gift to a Chancellor’s Scholarship?

That’s a little bit of a tough question because I don’t feel in a position to give other people advice about what they should do with their finances. I can just say that both for Carole and me, it’s been a very, very rewarding experience. We’ve reached a stage in our life where we’re able to do this and it feels very good, I think we believe in the concept of tithing and trying to give back as much as we can to benefit society, and this feels to us like a very good way to do that.
I have always loved to draw and paint ever since I was a kid, and my mom supported my passion by giving me opportunities to create art. She has always been a creative person, and I took a interest in the things that she did, like sewing, scrapbooking, and crafting. In middle school, I started taking art as an elective and had an awesome teacher who encouraged me to take my art further and enter competitions. I eventually entered into the arts academy program at my high school, which was such an unreal experience that inspired so much of who I am as an artist today. Art has always been a part of my life and I can’t imagine life without it.

In the past, I had a focus in fashion design and have worked on several collections for fashion shows. One of my favorite projects that I have worked on has been a collection in my senior year of high school that was inspired by traditional elements of fashion from my own heritage, with a contemporary edge. The previous year, I had a collection that was inspired by Rococo and Victorian era fashions... with a contemporary edge haha. Aside from fashion, I have done a fair amount of painting and drawing too.

Currently, I am working on building my art portfolio for when I apply to a graduate program. I have been drawing still lifes and painting works that will show the breadth of my skill and creativity. Right now, I am working on a series of paintings that center around dogs and flowers (two of my favorite things in the world), so I have been having a lot of fun with that. During the height of the pandemic and lockdowns, I definitely was struggling to find a space (literally) to continue my studio practice, and being in a virtual classroom without the presence of my classmates made it difficult to feel motivated when making art. Now with in-person classes back and studio spaces open though, I find that I am much more invigorated and inspired by my classmates to keep working and push onward.

After I graduate, I hope to get an art teaching credential so that I can teach high school art and continue inspiring generations of artists, just as my secondary school teachers have done for me. In the words of one of my professors, “Just do your thing with passion”.

Artwork by Megan Tran
I have loved art for as long as I can remember. Whether it is drawing, painting, graphic design, photography, music, or film, I have always been a creator. In my eyes, the most powerful thing about art is its ability to connect people. As an artist, it is the best feeling to make other people feel seen.

However, as a woman of color, I often felt unseen in art and media. So, in mid-June 2020, inspired by riot grrrl, fanzines, and with the support of the Berkeley/Bay Area community and its culture of activism, my friend Miumi and I launched Antifragile Zine, a youth artists collective, media platform, and independent publication to give a platform to youth artists and activists, focused on highlighting marginalized voices and creatives of color. As we launched during quarantine, we sought to voice and connect youth artists especially through that time of isolation, creating an online platform to make people feel seen.

Now, and moving towards the future, I hope to continue growing and expanding Antifragile as an artists collective, combining both the online and in-person world in building an empowering community of young creatives. Some advice I have to other scholars pursuing visual arts is to always remember what inspires you to create, never stop believing in the power of art, and to follow that passion and trust the process!
Meet Our Mentors

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

Steven Adler

Professor Steven Adler received his B.A. in Theatre from the University of Buffalo and his MFA in Theatre (Directing) from Penn State. Following graduate school, he spent a decade working as a stage manager on Broadway, where his credits included the Tony Award-winning musical Big River and the revival of Camelot, starring Richard Harris. He also stage managed many shows Off-Broadway, on national tours, in regional theatres, and in television. He joined the UCSD faculty in 1987. While here, he wrote two books (one about the Royal Shakespeare Company and the other about producing on Broadway) and several book chapters for theatre history anthologies, stage managed nine productions at La Jolla Playhouse, and directed eight student productions. He served as provost of Earl Warren College from 2004-16. He still teaches classes in film and American musical theatre.

“When I was an undergraduate, I was actively mentored by a professor who became a trusted adviser, role model, and friend (it’s more than fifty years later and we’re still friends). His wisdom, his concern for my growth as a person and as an artist-scholar, and his belief in me had an enormous impact on my academic and professional careers. In my years of teaching and then serving as a college provost at UCSD, one of the greatest joys that I’ve experienced has come from drawing on my own undergraduate experience as a mentee by mentoring students and watching them grow and develop. The Emeriti Mentor Program offered me the chance, even in retirement, to continue to serve our next generation of scholars and leaders. Our scholars form a remarkable cohort of the best and the brightest at UC San Diego. I’ve been impressed by how invested the students are in the relationships that form in the EMP. I’m relatively new to the program—this is only my second year—but I have heard many terrific stories from both colleagues and current and former Scholars about the lasting impact of the program. Students receive considerable guidance from a multitude of sources. However, the EMP offers advice and support from mentors with considerable academic and “life” experience, whose focus is on the development of well-rounded and successful students: as balanced scholars and as ethical, active members of our community…who may, in turn, see the value of serving as mentors themselves in the coming years. Creating the right one-on-one relationships is critical to the program. The more mentors in the pool, the greater the likelihood of a viable and successful match. And of course, participation is not limited to mentors—we seek and appreciate input from a wide variety of campus offices and colleagues who can lend a supporting hand to our students. And financial support is critical to our mission, too!”

David Miller

Professor David Miller graduated from Princeton with a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. He came to UCSD as an Assistant Professor in January of 1966 in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (AMES), which has evolved into Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE). Throughout his time at UCSD, he has held the following positions: Chairman of the Department of Applied Mechanics and Engineering Sciences, Acting Dean of Engineering, Associate Dean of Engineering, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Planning and Resources, Acting Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, and Emeriti Association President. He currently serves as Emeriti Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. His research has been primarily experimental, centered in engineering physics, surface physics, gas dynamics, molecular beams and supercritical fluids. He has won various awards, among them the 1986 Chancellor’s Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1997 Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award, 1997 Alumni Association Distinguished Teacher of the Year and the 2004 UCSD Community Champion Award for Diversity Efforts.

“The Chancellor Scholars are a group of motivated and talented students from unique backgrounds, who UCSD has been very fortunate to attract. It has been special to me through the Emeriti Mentor Program to be able to connect, interact, and learn from these students. I always enjoy listening to my mentees when they share their backgrounds, academic experiences and concerns, and various options they consider. I sense that they do appreciate the academic and even personal guidance and suggestions they may receive. Sometimes, I feel able to connect them to colleagues for more focused academic advice or even possible research internships. We may also discuss summer employment options outside UCSD. I am convinced and proud that they will all go on in their careers to reflect well on UCSD. To sustain the financial scholarship programs, vital to all these scholars, financial aid from the San Diego community is obviously well received and well utilized – a real investment in our communities and beyond. Offers of research internships during the school year or summer employment is also a valuable and useful gift to these students and can often lead to permanent employment offers when the student graduates.”
President’s Message

Hi, my name is Andrew Hu, I am a third-year Chancellor’s Scholar in Warren College studying Computer Science.

I still remember my first year of college clearly. I felt excited and nervous and had a good amount of imposter syndrome. Back then, I really struggled with communication and interaction with others. I often kept quiet about my opinions, creative ideas, and curiosity. Part of this was because I came to college without much experience in my major whereas many of my peers had knowledge from high school. I was unhappy with my initial progress. These things made me worried about possibly going through college without making friends, falling behind academically, and not growing into the person I wanted to be. Now, heading into my third year, I have been able to move past that.

Looking back, it is easy for me to see my lack of experience and familiarity with the college environment led me to have tunnel vision on my fears and worries. What I did not see back then was how my efforts to be vulnerable would lead me to form connections and how friendly and supportive everyone I met would be.

My biggest advice to all Chancellor’s Scholars is to find your communities at UCSD. Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there and embrace the new environment you are in. Make sure you take initiative to meet people of all kinds of backgrounds and experiences. Continue to reach out to people you don’t know well and form those new connections. And to embrace the variety of experiences you will go through this year. Whether those experiences are your highs or lows, or whether you are in your first year of college or your last year, each year is different. And you will grow in many different ways that you may not have expected. But do remember to truly embrace all of that!

One of the communities where I have found amazing support and friendship is the Chancellor’s Scholars Alliance (CSA). It has been a place where I have reached out for mentorship, for social events, and for a strong support system through my ups and downs. And so I personally invite all of you to come to our events, to join our community, and to allow CSA to be a resource for you and to be your friends.

Sincerely,
Andrew Hu
CSA President 2021-2022

For more information visit: http://chancellorsscholarsalliance.ucsd.edu/
Follow us on Instagram: @ucsdcsascholars
Please Donate Generously to the Emeriti Association’s Chancellor’s Scholarship Fund - Fall Scholarship Drive

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 12/31/2021, to count as a deduction for TaxYear 2021. For more information, call (858) 534-4724, and ask to speak with RRC Director, Suzan Cioffi.

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