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MESA Empowers Science Minded Students

Over 50 years ago, the Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) program was founded at Oakland Technical High School to develop academic and leadership skills, raise educational expectations, and instill confidence in students historically underrepresented in engineering, physical science, or other math-based fields. The goal was to increase the number of African American, Latinx American, and Native American graduates from four-year universities.

In the 1990s, the MESA Program adopted a new goal: to serve educationally disadvantaged students and—to the extent possible by law—emphasize participation of students from groups with low rates of eligibility for four-year colleges.

“Cal State East Bay MESA opened my eyes to the possibilities of engineering.”
 — Hillary, a local high school senior

Today, MESA's success comes from a combination of academic support, hands-on learning, supportive student communities, career preparation, exposure, and more. Most of MESA's 22,000 students are the first in their families to attend college, are low-income and attend (or attended) low-performing schools. More than 75% of students come from historically underrepresented ethnic groups.

“Cal State East Bay MESA opened my eyes to the possibilities of engineering,” said Hillary, a local high school senior. “I always loved math and science, but never considered or learned about engineering until MESA.”

The Cal State East Bay MESA College Prep Program supports students and teachers from 6th through 12th grades in Antioch Unified School District, Fremont USD, Hayward USD, Pittsburg USD, and the West Contra Costa USD. The program builds a community where students and teachers develop their confidence, competence, and love of STEM that fosters curiosity and a drive for students to excel in math and science, and go on to college in math-based majors.

“The Cal State East Bay MESA College Prep Program has been a part of our community for more than a decade and, in the past few years, we have seen an increase in student and family engagement, an increase in STEM content knowledge in the teachers we support, and 97% of graduating seniors go on to college directly

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Two eighth graders from Orchard Park School in Antioch build the testing device for a MESA competition.

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Alumni Mike and Arlene Abary Create Marketing Department's First Endowed Scholarship



Mike '88 and Arlene '89 Abary

To recognize the strengths of the Marketing Department in the College of Business and Economics, and career success that began at Cal State East Bay (Hayward), alumni Mike and Arlene Abary have created the Marketing Department's first endowed scholarship.

The scholarship will support undergraduate Business Administration students pursuing an option in Marketing who are first-generation students and/or demonstrate financial need. The Abarys both came from similar backgrounds and have a particular interest in supporting these students.

The Abarys are establishing their scholarship in gratitude for the impact of their time at Cal State Hayward, where they met. Mike earned his B.S. in Business Administration in 1988 and Arlene completed her B.S. in Health Sciences the following year. Arlene spent 11 years as a health administrator for Kaiser Permanente in Hayward before

devoting her time to raising their two children.

Mike has had a strong career in tech marketing and is currently vice president for Asia Pacific Devices and Services at Google in Singapore. Previously, Mike was vice president of the North American Consumer Group at Lenovo, where he led sales, product management, and operations. During his four-year tenure there, he led the division to double market share, and Lenovo became the fastest growing consumer PC brand in the U.S. and

Canada from 2015 to 2018. Prior to Lenovo, Mike held positions with Samsung Electronics, Sony Electronics, and Synnex, a national commercial IT distributor.

In addition, Mike founded and manages Mahogany Holdings Corp., which acquires and transforms small businesses serving low-income communities into high-performing, profitable entities. Mahogany Holdings is designed to give back to the communities it serves through charitable contributions and discounted services.

Mike recognizes that he has been blessed with an outstanding career, and that it started during his time at Hayward.

"My degree provided me with a foundation on which to rely upon. Skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and understanding people—these were fundamental skills I learned from Cal State East Bay that I have carried throughout my career," he said.

A frequent volunteer for the university, Mike was the featured speaker in 2010 for Cal State East Bay's Honors Convocation. More recently, he hosted "Zoom Happy Hour with An Exec" for the College of Business and Economics to provide career advice to business students, and served as a judge for the Smith Center's start-up pitch competition.

"This is a wonderful gift," said Professor Yi He, chair of the marketing department. "An endowed scholarship will benefit and inspire many generations of students. I am proud of the achievements of our marketing alumni and excited about the role this scholarship will play in propelling our students forward in their careers."

GOLD NUGGET ADVICE

Mike offered some wise career advice for Pioneer students and alumni:

1. Find that person who believes in you, whether that be a mentor, boss, or colleague, and leverage that person to help you ascend.
2. Pursue things you are good at, not just passionate about. Look for those opportunities that you are naturally skilled in.
3. Never underestimate those five minute conversations in the hallways. This is where networking and relationship building happens, which can turn into opportunities.
4. Even if you don't have a lot of work experience, show results on your resume and let people know how you think. For example, you can turn your customer service experience into an impressive outcome. "I was able to resolve 90% of customer complaints within the first phone call."

MESA program *(continued from front page)*

after high school,” said Janiene Langford, MESA director. “Key to this success is the ability to leverage resources from our campus to connect our MESA community to our students, faculty, and staff, all of whom help demystify the college experience. We are incredibly fortunate to have the expertise and guidance of Dr. Cristian Gaedicke, associate professor in engineering, to help guide our work, as well as our Cal State East Bay MESA Industry Advisory Board.”

One critical element to the continued outreach and success of the Cal State East Bay College Prep Program is the philanthropic partnerships of Chevron Richmond, Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation, Broadcom Foun-

dation, the Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation, and Marathon Petroleum.

“Our ability to consistently serve five school districts and more than 600 students and 25 teachers annually is made possible by the generosity of our partners,” said Langford. “These organizations have a vested interest in seeing historically excluded students thrive in STEM fields, and are helping to ensure that the future of the STEM workforce reflects the communities they serve. In addition, our Industry Advisory Board helps to guide our work to ensure that we are preparing students for success beyond middle and high school.”

“We’re proud to support the MESA Program in its pursuit to increase STEM participation among education-

ally disadvantaged students,” said Karen Iannella, president of Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation. “By funding programs that foster intellectual curiosity and lift up young minds, Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation helps to ensure the next generation has equal opportunities for their future success.”

Lily Naaz Rahnema, community engagement manager for Chevron Richmond Refinery, said, “The Chevron Richmond Refinery is a proud supporter of the Cal State East Bay MESA College Prep Program. Chevron’s investments in education are long-term and far-reaching, and partnerships like these facilitate STEM positions for the next generation of problem solvers to tackle the most complex future challenges.”

Save Our Students Scholarship Keeps Students in College

Thanks to the ongoing support and commitment of founding donors Luanne Rotticci (B.S. ’87, Business and Kinesiology) and Liza Jane MacNaughton (B.A. ’90, Spanish), as well as many other alumni and friends, the Save Our Students (SOS) Scholarship has been providing material and moral support to students experiencing financial duress for eleven years. Nearly 200 students have received scholarships totaling over \$100,000, helping them to finish their degrees and move forward in their careers.

The original motivation for Rotticci and MacNaughton was a drop in state support for public higher education that caused student fees to rise prior to the fall term. The donors knew the increase would force some students to drop out for financial reasons.



SOS Scholarship students met the founding donors in 2015. Left to right, top row: Cymone Seward ’18; Bonnie Marshall ’16, ’18; John Matthews ’13; Luanne Rotticci ’87; and Liza Jane MacNaughton ’90. Left to right, bottom row: Vichelle Nelson ’16; Melissa Ford ’16; and David Balderas ’16.

Rotticci and MacNaughton took action by founding the Save Our Students (SOS) Scholarship. “I know how an extra \$1,000 or \$5,000 can really make a difference for someone,” Rotticci said. “I hope students can take

advantage of this and keep fighting the good fight.”

In the Fall 2021 semester, 13 undergraduate students received scholarship awards of \$1,400 each. “Learning that I was awarded the

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Save Our Students (SOS) Scholarship brought tears to my eyes,” says Jason Crabb ’22, an ethnic studies major. “I was incredibly close to withdrawing from school as a result of mounting financial strains brought on by the pandemic. The Save Our Students Scholarship meant I can stay in school and fulfill my dream of graduating.”

Emily Andrews ’24, who is majoring in kinesiology, says, “I come from a family of five, and I’m the first one to attend a four-year university. Money is tight, and I lost my part-time job due to COVID-19, so I don’t have an income to help pay for college. Being awarded the Save Our Students (SOS) Scholarship will definitely help me continue my higher education at Cal State East Bay.”

John Matthews (B.S. ’13, Engineering) is profoundly grateful to have

received the SOS Scholarship while he was a student.

“I was on pace to finish my degree in one and a half years, until two required courses offered only once a year, at the exact same time in the fall semester, pushed my graduation date back a full year. My wife and I had two small children, and she was our only source of income. We had no money left for my final year of school. My wife and I had debt and we were broke. If not for the SOS Scholarship, I would never have finished my degree at Cal State East Bay. God played a major role in keeping us together and getting us through financial hardship. I am now a process engineer at Tesla, and I owe my career to Liza Jane, Luanne, and the donors of the SOS Scholarship.”

Matthews and his wife, Tami, promptly made a donation to the SOS Scholarship the same year he graduated. They have been donating to the scholarship every year since. “We are forever grateful for the Save Our Students Scholarship, and we pay it forward to help other students. This is a priority in our lives!” said Matthews.



Luanne Rotticci made a recent gift of Tesla stock to help build the Save Our Students Endowment Fund. Rotticci explained, “Donating shares of appreciated stock made good financial sense, it provided the most ‘bang for the buck’ to support the scholarship that means so much to me.”

Gifts of appreciated stock and securities can offer tax and capital gains benefits, and may be a practical strategy for starting or enhancing a fund. Alumni Michael and Arlene Abary donated Alphabet stock to establish their new endowed scholarship, the first endowed scholarship for the marketing department. Mike Abary shared, “I chose stock based on the tax advantages and the flexibility it afforded the university in receiving the gift.”

To learn more about making a gift of stock or appreciated securities, contact Fern Tyler, advancement services manager, at (510) 885-2433 or fern.tyler@csueastbay.edu.

“We are forever grateful for the Save Our Students Scholarship, and we pay it forward to help other students. This is a priority in our lives!”

— John Matthews (B.S. ’13, Engineering)

A Legacy to Impact Climate Change

“If the climate changes, then the conditions for life must also change,” said Dan Alex (B.S. ’65, Biological Science; M.S. ’71, Biological Science). “Plants, animals, and humans need to adapt to allow for ecosystems to survive. These ecosystems are the various interactions between living things and their nonliving environments. The important question is, ‘Do we have enough time to adapt?’”

Alex’s urgent question and interest in climate change is no surprise. As a tenured biology professor at Chabot College for over thirty years, he has

had a longstanding commitment to the natural world. His master’s thesis at Cal State East Bay (then California State College at Hayward) was on isoenzyme changes during amphibian metamorphosis. The university is also where Alex met his wife, Sandra Stanford Alex (B.A. ’85, Human Development; M.P.A. ’89, Public Administration). As a graduate student, Alex remembers—and even today is grateful for—his thesis advisors who were helpful in securing space and funding so he could pursue research on a local salamander species.

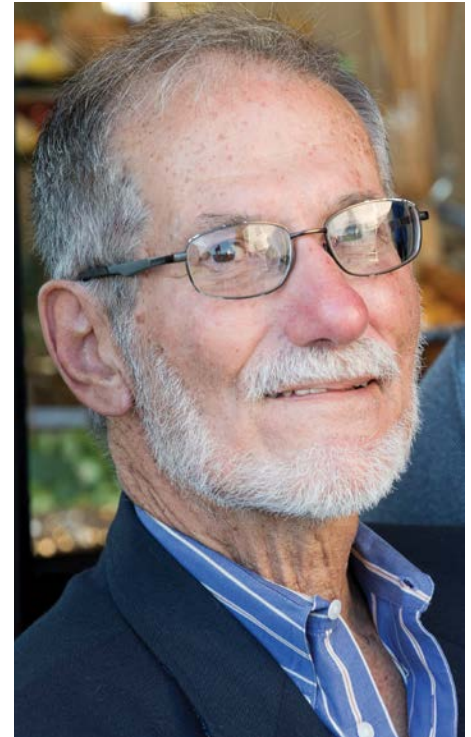
Alex never forgot the supportive research environment he found at Cal State East Bay. As a result, he chose to establish a planned gift, the Dan and Sandra Alex Climate Change Research Endowment, to support future students in having equally impactful research experiences.

The endowment, named after Alex and his beloved deceased wife, will be used to support environmental research scholarship in the field of climate change, with an emphasis on supporting student researchers and those who would like to contribute to the science of addressing climate change.

“Students can make a huge contribution in analyzing our current systems, gathering data, and generating solutions. There is a tremendous opportunity for students to get involved in what is a matter of survival for all living species,” said Alex.

“Alex’s commitment to both student researchers and climate change research aligns with Cal State East Bay’s focus on professional development and social mobility,” says Arnab Mukherjea, chair and associate professor of the Department of Public Health.

“These opportunities not only provide applied skills utilized in dynamic contexts, they provide students with a track record of research experience which appeal to employers, both locally and globally. With climate change being a key driver of social disruption—including those which result in increased infectious and chronic diseases—it is imperative that Cal State East Bay’s students are at the forefront of research activities that will prepare them for generating solutions to problems that have yet to be well-defined.”



Dan Alex '65, '71

Incubating Invention

Simon Edelhaus (M.B.A. '17) jokingly quotes the Beach Boys’ song, “Be True to Your School” when talking about the value he places on supporting his alma mater. But his support has seriously helped Cal State East Bay students gain the skills needed to be competitive in Silicon Valley.

Edelhaus came to the university mid-career to obtain a M.B.A while also serving as vice president of software engineering and validation at Aquantia, a manufacturer of high-speed transceivers. While at Cal State East Bay, he met computer engineering professors who shared his professional interests. “Dr. James Tandon and Dr. Roger Doering speak the language of Silicon Valley,” Edelhaus said. “Once I met undergraduate students, I saw how

motivated they are and I wanted to be involved.”

Before Edelhaus completed his graduate degree, he established the Edelhaus Senior Design Project Award. The award is in the name of his grandfather, Abraham Edelhaus, and honors the undergraduate student with the most promising computer engineering senior capstone project. He also began hiring Cal State East Bay undergraduate students as interns and employees.

Edelhaus is now vice president of software and validation engineering at Marvell, which develops and produces data infrastructure technology. He is constantly exposed to new ideas in his field and in the broader innovation economy.

Edelhaus had an idea for a product that could meet a need during the

pandemic and perhaps come to market. He decided to sponsor a senior capstone project team to work on it, thereby ensuring the team had enough supplies, including printed circuit boards (PCBs). PCBs are boards that connect electronic components and are an integral part of the electronics we use in our everyday lives.

In addition to providing financial support to the capstone project team, Edelhaus joined Tandon in coaching them.

“Because Edelhaus is such a dedicated engineering manager, the students were able to experience a real industry project as part of their education prior to graduation,” Tandon said.

The project was ambitious and not at all easy. The team encountered technical challenges, as well as pandemic-related

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issues that stalled progress for a time. In the end, the team came up with an interesting design but, as often happens in the real world, other obstacles stood in the way of bringing the product to market.

Still, this senior capstone project was an important experience. “It was very helpful to be mentored by someone in the industry who brought in that perspective,” said team member Kyle Pjesky (B.S. ’21, Computer

Engineering). “I treated the project like a job, and like a job, I hyper focused on our goal.”

In fact, Edelhaus was so impressed with Pjesky and his work that he helped Pjesky get hired as a hardware and silicon validation engineer at Marvell.

“It can be tough for a new graduate without connections,” Pjesky said. “Without Edelhaus, I would probably be in a different situation. Meeting

him through the capstone project was pivotal for me.”

Edelhaus said it was fun to collaborate with young, ambitious students who wanted to get exposure to new technologies and learn real world techniques and methods.

“It is our responsibility as alumni and industry leaders to promote such projects and provide proven experience to Cal State East Bay academia and graduates,” he said.

From Idea to Innovation

It all began with a conversation in a biology lab at Cal State East Bay between Dr. Chris Baysdorfer and Randy Davis (B.S. ’02, Biological Science; M.S. ’06, Biological Science). “I was telling Randy that molecular

analysis of the growing number of rare and endangered California plants was not on anybody’s radar,” said Baysdorfer. “If we took it on, it would fit with the biology department’s expertise and would be a unique

scientific effort that our students could be a part of.”

Nearly 1,000 plants have been listed as threatened or endangered by the California Native Plant Society. These plants are in danger of being



Dr. Chris Baysdorfer demonstrates to a group of biology students how to use a pipet to load a BluePippin sequencing system.

“GBI is bringing cutting-edge genome sequencing technologies to a diverse STEM community through hands-on student engagement in integrative genomics research.”

— Dr. Chris Baysdorfer, Professor, Biological Sciences

lost forever, with no understanding of their biology, ecological interactions, and potential human benefits.

What was Davis’s response?

“I was excited about this project. I thought about how I might support this effort and had some ideas on how we might turn this into a broader, high profile program,” Davis said.

Davis was so enthusiastic about Baysdorfer’s novel idea that he and his wife, Patricia Davis, donated \$1.8 million to launch the Green Biome Institute (GBI), the first conservation and genomic profiling institute in the California State University system. Davis has also helped the GBI build relations with other like-minded organizations, while he and Patricia also funded the Green Biome Institute lab as one of the core labs in the forthcoming Applied Sciences Center.

From that first simple exchange, the GBI has grown and attracted more philanthropic interest, which has allowed it to build new research arms and student opportunities. The GBI piqued the interest of one anonymous donor who offered a \$75,000 challenge in support of the institute, specifically to create a germplasm library of the frozen embryos of endangered plants and a network of other storage sites. That challenge resulted in many more alumni and friends of Cal State East Bay answering the call to conserve California’s plants far into the future.

Illumina, a biotechnology company with sites in Hayward and Fremont, also joined the effort through an introduction by alumni volunteer Kevin Corcoran (B.S. ’86, Computer Science). The company’s mission is

to make genomics more useful for all, for a better understanding of human health.

Additionally, Illumina awarded a \$50,000 grant to fund the GBI-Illumina for Conservation Program this academic year, so graduate and undergraduate students could learn and employ Illumina’s MiSeq sequencing equipment in a laboratory setting.

Not only did Illumina provide a grant to the GBI, their employees have been engaged with the university’s students. Last September, four staff members from Illumina offered a career panel for students in the College of Science. In October, alumnus and Illumina senior systems engineer George Sakaldasis (M.S. ’09, Biological Sciences) came to campus to speak to biology students.

“At Illumina, we are committed to sharing our time, talent, and technology to empower our communities, our employees, and the next generation of researchers and clinicians,” said Sharon Vidal, head of corporate social responsibility. “The power and potential for sequencing to improve human health and the health of our planet are endless, and we’re thrilled to support the efforts of the GBI and Cal State East Bay to advance native plant conservation with genomics.”

The partnership is a win-win for Cal State East Bay and Illumina: undergraduate and graduate students get to develop their technical and scientific skills to increase their competitiveness in the biotech industry, while contributing to the establishment of protocols to support

conservation of California’s threatened, endangered, and rare flora.

Now, just a few years after that initial conversation between Baysdorfer and Davis, the GBI is training 300-plus students every fiscal year. This includes the summer high school biotech program, where students are chosen for an intensive eight-week lab course. In 2021, the GBI faculty trained 240 Cal State East Bay undergraduates, eight graduate students, and seven high school students. Thus far, they are in the process of sequencing 52 plant species, with an initial analysis and assembly focused on 25 of those.

“The GBI is bringing cutting-edge genome sequencing technologies to a diverse STEM community through hands-on student engagement in integrative genomics research,” said Baysdorfer. “The GBI’s aim is aligned with the university’s mission and vision to promote and support a diverse student body with academically rich, culturally relevant learning experiences, which prepare students to apply their education to meaningful lifework, and to be socially responsible contributors to society.”

Is Cal State East Bay a part of your estate plan?

We would love to know so we can give you proper recognition and share our gratitude!
Contact Fern Tyler, advancement services manager, at fern.tyler@csueastbay.edu or (510) 885-2433.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

STAN HÉBERT, III (B.S. '76,
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION)



Stan Hébert III '76

Since his graduation from Cal State East Bay (Hayward), Stan Hébert has shared in establishing student support programs and creating the first Black Alumni Association. Mr. Hébert contributes his time and talent working as a volunteer for both alumni and students. We recently interviewed him to find out more about his volunteer roles as a Pioneer, and what motivates him to give back.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH CAL STATE EAST BAY?

Volunteer service has been a part of my family for as long as I can remember. Both of my parents were always active helping or leading community activities, and they would bring us along to keep an eye on us and sometimes to help with the work. Volunteering and helping in our community was a way of life for us growing up.

My first year at Cal State East Bay (Hayward) was also my first year in California (I came from Washington, DC). Volunteering was a great way to meet folks and learn more about the campus community. My fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, had community service requirements that added to my volunteering. My dad was a volunteer member of the university's Board of Visitors during my years as a student.

After I graduated, I supported campus activities, especially those that help current students. Eventually, I was elected to the Alumni Association Board and ultimately served as president for several years before joining the statewide CSU Alumni Council, where I served in various volunteer leadership roles, including president.

My volunteer work continued even after being appointed to an adminis-

trative position in the CSU. Volunteer service again provided a means of learning more about each campus, the community, and the students.

Often, I volunteered because I felt I could make a difference, and few others were as interested or enthusiastic as I was. Through volunteer service, I've continued to learn-by-doing and have made countless numbers of contacts and friends.

WHAT DREW YOU TO SPONSOR BOTH THE SANKOFA AND KALEIDOSCOPE PROGRAMS ON CAMPUS?

The Sankofa Scholars and the Kaleidoscope Mentoring Programs were developed in response to the university's recognition of low retention and graduation rates among Black students. At that time, I was acting vice president for

Student Affairs, and was charged by then President Morishita with developing an immediate response to this statistical trend. I convened a team of university leaders, along with former Student Equity and Success executive director Dr. Alison Richardson (Ed.D. '19, Educational Leadership) who researched and discovered that many Black students were leaving after their initial year at Cal State East Bay. Although many students would return to continue their higher education, we wanted to address these issues that caused Black students additional time and money to complete their degrees. We learned that some students didn't believe they belonged in a university—what is known as “imposter syndrome”—and others were not emotionally prepared for the rigors of higher education. If we could reach these students as early as possible—even before they arrived for their first class—this would improve their results. The team worked to create what ultimately became the Sankofa Scholars Program, which provides academic support for new transfer students, and the Kaleidoscope Mentoring Program, which is designed to match faculty or staff mentors with incoming Black students to better connect and support them during their initial year at Cal State East Bay. I served as a mentor for several students in Kaleidoscope and was the initial faculty-of-record for the Sankofa Scholars Program.

With the help of Cal State East Bay's University Advancement, my wife and I designed a donation registry when we were married in 2016. Instead of gifts, we asked our guests to donate to the Stanley and Angela Hébert Student Mentorship

Support Fund that would assist student mentoring efforts at the university. We would learn the identity of the donors so we could thank them, but would not know the amount. My wife and I continued to donate to the fund until the total reached the amount needed for an endowment.

YOU WERE ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE FIRST BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. WOULD YOU MIND SHARING WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO CREATE THIS GROUP? WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE?

When I initially attended alumni activities, I didn't see any former students that looked like me. There were active Black student groups during my undergraduate days, and a good number of Black students on campus but few, if any, were active with the Alumni Association.

I cannot say I was a founder of black alumni *participation* at Cal State East Bay, but I was the first Black Alumni Association president, and have always been focused on bringing more Black alumni to the table. During my many years as an Alumni Association Board officer, I encouraged the development of “affinity groups.” These groups included a Black Affinity Group. The idea for establishing these groups to increase the total number and diversity of participating alumni came from then Director of University Relations, Dennis Lavery, and our Alumni Director, Carrie Rohlfing, now Carrie Stewart (B.S. '85, Physical Education). Each group was formally “chartered” with the Alumni Association, and was responsible for determining their structure, officers, and activities. Every affinity group could have a representative on the alumni board. This not only allowed the alumni membership to grow, but also

broadened the representation in the leadership of the Alumni Association.

I remain supportive of reaching Black alumni and encouraging participation in university efforts to help current students. The East Bay Affinity Network is the current effort that embraces Black alumni outreach and programming.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ALSO VOLUNTEERED TO HOST EVENTS. ARE THERE PARTICULAR EVENTS THAT YOU ENJOYED HOSTING, AND WHY?

In the past, I have volunteered to host (or co-host) events. One example is a reception at a downtown Hayward restaurant and bar for Cal State East Bay athletes from the 1970s. The event allowed for a more intimate gathering of former classmates to reconnect and share stories from our years competing as Pioneers. Hosting adds a personal touch to the invitation and seems to generate a more positive response.

Another example is when I co-hosted breakfast for Super Sunday. For those who aren't familiar with this event, Super Sunday is when students, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteers go to various churches to talk with prospective Black students and their parents about college admission, financial aid, and careers. The breakfast that I hosted for the volunteers was held at a soul food restaurant in Oakland, a location central to the various church sites. This is an excellent way to thank the Super Sunday volunteers and to allow them an opportunity to share their Super Sunday experiences.

I enjoy the opportunity to host or be a part of an event that brings folks together for positive interaction. These events help guests pleasantly reminisce

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Hébert (continued from page 9)

on days gone by, while creating new memories and friends from the event.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT VOLUNTEERING THAT KEEPS YOU GOING AND INSPIRES YOU?

Through volunteer efforts, I always learn something new and meet new people. In some cases, I get to engage in activities that I might not have attempted on my own.

Volunteering also keeps me current with the triumphs and challenges that students and others are experiencing. I've discovered new interests thanks to volunteering.

IF A CAL STATE EAST BAY ALUMNUS OR ALUMNA WERE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THEM? WHAT WOULD YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW?

Volunteering is easy and fun! Yes, it's "work," but most often flexible work. Your time commitment is often negotiable. I often end up giving more time than I originally planned. You want to make sure that you are clear with your expectations when volunteering. Be open to new experiences; you can learn valuable skills through volunteer service. Volunteering allows you to show and develop more of your talents, skills, interests, personality, etc. Many of my new jobs were earned via volunteer service, because potential employers got to see how great I was in a real-life situation. The rewards are many, even though you are not paid for your volunteer hours.

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Honoring Family and Dreams



Roberto Hernandez, Jr. '99

Roberto Hernandez, Jr. (B.S. '99, Computer Science) values the power of connections. As the worldwide director of services support and infrastructure at Ruckus Networks at CommScope, a network technology company, he helps large enterprise customers around the world realize the value of the Ruckus Network technology. He also has advised many who are just starting their careers on how to make connections and advance in their profession.

When Hernandez, a 2021 Cal State East Bay Distinguished Alumnus, thought about making a gift to Cal State East Bay, things that are important in his life came together into one connected idea. He knew he wanted to help students committed

to careers in STEM. But on top of it, Hernandez wanted to honor members of his family and the values that animated their lives, with the goal of involving other family members in supporting undergraduate students.

The first person who came to mind was Alfonso Gutiérrez, Hernandez's deceased brother-in-law, who had a lifelong interest in space and NASA. The eldest of 12 children, Gutiérrez came to the United States from Mexico when he was 15 years old. He attended school for a short period of time, but was forced to drop out to focus on making money to send to his family. Bringing his siblings to the United States became Gutiérrez's goal in life. He understood that his family would have better

opportunities for education and jobs than in their hometown.

In 1989, Gutiérrez accomplished his goal. The entire family immigrated to the United States and a new life full of opportunities began for his family.

“My brother-in-law was fascinated with space and NASA. He was a frequent visitor to the Chabot Space Center in Oakland, and would spend hours watching TV series about space. Even though he did not finish high school, he understood how important school was,” Hernandez said.

Remembering Gutiérrez’s love of science, as well as his care to help others reach their goals, Hernandez decided to establish the Alfonso Gutiérrez Go to the Moon Memorial

Scholarship in STEM, in honor of his brother-in-law’s life. Eligible students are undergraduates who are in majors within the departments of Biological Sciences; Chemistry and Biochemistry; Computer Science; Earth and Environmental Sciences; Engineering; Mathematics; Physics; and/or Statistics and Biostatistics. The student who receives the scholarship must demonstrate how their future STEM career will promote, advance, and inspire minority students in STEM, and/or demonstrate their involvement with affinity groups or projects that support minorities.

“The purpose of the Alfonso Gutiérrez Go to the Moon Memorial Scholarship in STEM is to be a small

contribution into someone’s future,” said Hernandez. “Helping someone to potentially reach their goals, knowing that only the moon is the limit. In future years, I hope to honor other family members and the dreams of future CSUEB graduates.”

“As an alumnus, Hernandez understands both the challenges our students face in financing their degrees, as well as the tremendous impact a degree from Cal State East Bay will have on their future careers,” said Jason Singley, Dean of the College of Science. “I’m grateful for his decision to help future students and am inspired by his choice to honor his brother-in-law.”

“Helping someone to potentially reach their goals, knowing that only the moon is the limit. In future years, I hope to honor other family members and the dreams of future CSUEB graduates.”

— Roberto Hernandez, Jr. (B.S. '99, Computer Science)

New Vice President of University Advancement

Evelyn Buchanan is the newly appointed Vice President for University Advancement at Cal State East Bay.

The Vice President for University Advancement leads the offices of Alumni and Constituent Engagement, University Communications & Marketing and University Development. Additionally, this role serves as the Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation Board president.

Buchanan comes from Chico State, where she served as Associate Vice President of Development and Campaign Manager since 2018. She brings over 25 years of experience as a vice president for advancement programs at Carthage College and Franklin Pierce University, and

leadership roles at Colgate University and SUNY Empire State College, among others.

“Ms. Buchanan and I recognize that Cal State East Bay has a rare opportunity to align institutional priorities and regional needs with donor passions,” said President Cathy Sandeen. “Her expertise leveraging alumni and corporate relationships will enable her to play a critical role supporting the Future Directions initiative and upcoming comprehensive campaign.” Buchanan said, “As the priorities from the Future Directions plan become more defined, University Advancement will be active in bringing resources, elevating the

university’s profile, and nurturing pride among alumni, students, and families.”



Evelyn Buchanan

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