WITH GRATITUDE

At UC San Diego, we bring together a unique constellation of experts, researchers, scholars and specialists to break down the biggest issues facing the world.

Your support of the Division of Physical Sciences empowers our extraordinary faculty to challenge established convention and realize breakthrough approaches. They do it all while educating the next generation of scientific thought leaders.

Your investment in science and education is more important than ever. You help create lasting change here at UC San Diego and throughout the world.

Thank you.

A MESSAGE FROM
THE DEAN

We are still living through an unprecedented time. Continuity of our educational mission while protecting the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff was, and is, our overwhelming priority.

I am incredibly grateful to you, our donors, for supporting our efforts to meet the challenges of 2020 head-on. For the first time in our history, faculty and students interacted exclusively online. Our faculty met this challenge with determination, creativity and continued commitment to teaching and research excellence. Our students displayed patience, flexibility and openness to new approaches to learning. Our staff’s willingness to adapt and keep everyday business as consistent as possible has been inspiring to witness.

Because of you, our Student Success Center continued providing virtual services to students, crucial research continued, and faculty were able to keep teaching students. As we begin 2021, I want to thank each of you for your understanding and incredibly generous support during this extraordinary time.

With great thanks,

Steven Boggs
Dean, Division of Physical Sciences
Chancellor’s Associates Chair in Physics

Photos taken prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
DIVISION DONORS RESPOND TO COVID-19

The emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic caused disruption, confusion and uncertainty across higher education. Despite the challenges, the division’s highest priorities remained supporting faculty, research and student success, and received an amazing outpouring of support from alumni and friends.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Dean’s Leadership Council member and alumnus Jeffrey Marks ’80 made an essential $20,000 gift to the Student Success Center. This unrestricted support allowed the division to have the security to function as normally as possible at a time when Center initiatives are more vital than ever. By continuing to provide students with academic and professional development resources specific to their needs, the Center is especially crucial in helping students navigate the uncertainty ahead.

“I support UC San Diego because I received an excellent education when I was an undergraduate at the university, and several things I learned there have been important for my success later in life. UC San Diego is a great institution and I want to make sure other students have the same opportunity I had when I went there.” – JEFFREY MARKS ’80

MATHEMATICS AND THE RADY SCHOOL

Richard Libby ’80, MA ’82, received his degrees in mathematics at UC San Diego before starting a successful career in the finance industry. He chose this crucial time to establish a fellowship within the division. His recent $100,000 contribution to the university exemplifies his passion for using mathematics in concert with finance and business, in particular when it comes to assessing market risk. Richard’s unique gift will serve the mathematics department and Rady School of Management equally in support of graduate studies and research. In light of current events, Richard also made a gift to support the university’s greatest needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EMERGENCY USE

Many other donors came forward to provide the division with greatly needed general support throughout the turbulent year. Longtime partners of the division and esteemed university stewards, Carol and George Lattimer, made a generous $125,000 gift in support of our students. Additionally, chemistry and biochemistry alumnus Richard L. Jenkins ’68, PhD ’73 gave $10,000 for emergency use in his home department to support urgent student and research needs.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER THRIVES

The division’s new Student Success Center opened its doors in February, a month before the shift to virtual work and learning. Despite the unforeseen challenges of 2020, the Center has provided students with mentoring, career exploration, and job and internship placement like never before.

The Center hosted virtual events like, “Job Hunting for New Graduates in the Age of COVID-19,” and “Teaching Students of Color in STEM.” The digital format more readily enabled the participation of guests from other states and time zones. The mentoring program took off with video calls and 1:1 support through difficult times. Companies turned to the division for qualified candidates and interns. Supported by generous donors and faculty mentors, 42 undergraduate students completed ten weeks of remote research.

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"I cannot overstate the difference the Undergraduate Summer Research Award will make in multiple areas. From my professional career to coursework, and even financial stability in these complex times, this award touches all of them. I am excited for the increased time I’ll be able to spend on research this summer, as well as the continuing benefits of preparations for related laboratory studies, when possible, into the next academic year, as well as into my further professional and academic careers. Thank you."

—ISAAC CANADA ’21
CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENT
Thank you for helping continue the nontradition.

At the University of California San Diego, challenging convention is our most cherished tradition. Your contributions to the Division of Physical Sciences also support the Campaign for UC San Diego — our university-wide comprehensive fundraising effort concluding in 2022. Together, we will continue our nontraditional path toward revolutionary ideas, unexpected answers, lifesaving discoveries and planet-changing impact.

The Campaign For
UC San Diego