Changing Lives and Launching Industries: UC San Diego’s Economic Impact

In just more than 50 years, UC San Diego has achieved the extraordinary in education, research and innovation. Sixteen Nobel laureates have taught on campus; stellar faculty members have been awarded National Medals of Science, Fields Medals, Pulitzer Prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, Tony Awards and many other honors. UC San Diego—recognized as one of the top ten public universities by U.S. News & World Report and named by the Washington Monthly as No. 1 in the nation in rankings measuring “what colleges are doing for the country”—is widely acknowledged as an academic and research powerhouse that shapes minds, changes lives and launches industries.

UC San Diego’s growth and transformation into one of the nation’s most accomplished institutions has made it an important economic force locally, regionally and nationally. The university generates 39,000 jobs, making it San Diego County’s fourth largest employer, and each year it contributes $7.2 billion into the California economy.

Companies started by UC San Diego faculty, staff and alumni create an even more powerful impact. The total statewide economic contribution from UC San Diego startup companies is more than $37 billion annually and nearly 130,000 jobs. In San Diego County, these startups add approximately $32 billion in direct and indirect spending and personal income to the economy.

Photometria, Inc. is just one example of a local startup made possible by the campus. Created by several UC San Diego students, Photometria initially received seed funding and advisory services through the William J. von Liebig Center for Entrepreneurism and Technology Advancement at the Jacobs School of Engineering. The company, which creates photo enhancement technology that enables users to explore, change and improve their photos, has grown to 45 employees since its founding in 2007.

“UC San Diego changes the lives of San Diegans and Californians every day, through job creation, advanced patient care, disease and drug therapies, service in the local community and world-renowned research and education,” said UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox.

UC San Diego is also known for the caliber of its 140,000 graduates. The campus plays a major role in supporting the expansion of the skilled workforce in San Diego, including high-tech and biotech businesses.

According to Bloomberg Businessweek, “Of the school’s recent graduates, more than one quarter, or 28 percent, are working in the technology sector, followed by 24 percent in business. Many alumni go on to successful careers at biotechnology and technology firms; UC San Diego faculty, staff and alumni have started 646 companies, with estimated annual sales of more than $15 billion.”

UC San Diego continues to have a profound impact on the economic life of the region and the state. Higher education has a big role to play in California’s economic resurgence. Institutions of higher education have a unique ability among state-funded programs to create new industries, new companies, new jobs and a skilled workforce to fill those jobs. If UC San Diego can obtain the support and stability it needs, the campus can help provide California with the education, innovation and job creation it needs for economic revival.

von Liebig Center Celebrates 10 Years of Inspiring Innovation

Join us Wednesday, March 14, for a special Chancellor’s Associates Colloquium highlighting the 10th anniversary of the William J. von Liebig Center for Entrepreneurism and Technology Advancement. Established at the Jacobs School of Engineering, the von Liebig Center’s mission is to inspire entrepreneurism and catalyze commercialization of UC San Diego inventions through grants, education and business mentoring. The center cultivates a broad range of projects in areas such as medical devices/diagnostics, software and clean technologies. It has granted $4.6 million and contributed to the creation of more than 30 startup companies.

The colloquium will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Jacobs School of Engineering’s Qualcomm Conference Center and features speakers from von Liebig Center alumni companies, including John Rodenrys, CEO of Inflammagen Therapeutics, and Dr. Geert Schmid Shonbein, co-founder of Inflammagen. Stephen Flaim, deputy director and technology and business advisor at the von Liebig Center, will moderate the program. Please RSVP to ca@ucsd.edu; for more information, visit www.chancellorsassociates.ucsd.edu.

Irwin and Joan Jacobs School of Engineering, home of the von Liebig Center

Cymer Inc. co-founders Bob Akins (left) and Rick Sandstrom are among the many alumni entrepreneurs who have made an economic impact on the region.

UC San Diego, home of the von Liebig Center
When Nori and I married," said Chancellor’s Associate Stanley Faer, "I warned her that we would eventually move to San Diego." In 2003, he made good on his word when the two left Manhattan and set up house in Valley Center. They’re planning to move again, this time closer to UC San Diego, where Stanley spends almost as much time as the undergraduates do.

The Faers first connected with the campus by taking courses through UCSD Extension’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, where Stanley served as president for three years. Soon they became Chancellor’s Associates, attending lectures, getting to know professors and making friends. "Nori has an M.F.A. from Rutgers, but I'm not a college graduate," said Stanley. "I was fortunate to get into a successful career by starting at the bottom: I delivered mail to Edward R. Murrow, moved into production and retired as a director after 44 years at CBS."

He added: "But I know the importance of education."

And because they believe in making education accessible, the Faers became York Society members by naming UC San Diego in their estate plans. "I like what they do here and how they motivate students," said Stanley, who also advocates for students at the Preuss School UCSD as a La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotarian. "I think we should invest in UC San Diego, for the future of the country."
As Chancellor’s Associates donors, we are justifiably proud of the recognition recently bestowed on UC San Diego and its distinguished faculty—three successive National Science Medals and twice ranked No. 1 in the nation for public service by the Washington Monthly, for example. But excellence is not measured by the garnering of awards alone.

UC San Diego’s commitment to enriching its social, cultural and educational environment through diversity among faculty and students is essential for maintaining our top-ranked position, now and in the future. In past years, diversity efforts have emphasized outreach and retention. Beginning in fall 2012, academic support for the diversity program will be enhanced.

Chancellor Fox has committed $60,000 per year for five years to establish two Chancellor’s Associates Postdoctoral Fellowships for Diversity. Our allocation will be matched with other funds to provide the two most promising candidates five-year stipends for research, postdoctoral education and other expenses. We will be helping to serve two strategic objectives: increasing support for graduate/postdoctoral research and expanding diversity opportunities.

On another note, mark your calendars for Thursday, March 29, when Chancellor’s Associates will present Faculty Excellence Awards in teaching, research, visual and performing arts and community service. During the past 37 years, we have recognized more than 120 faculty members for excellence in these categories—and it’s making a difference.

Sincerely,
Wayne Dernetz
Music Performance: The St. Lawrence String Quartet will perform the San Diego premiere of a new work by Osvaldo Golijov. $43–50. Date: Feb. 10, 8–10 p.m. Location: Conrad Prebys Concert Hall. Tickets and info: (858) 534-8497 or artpower@ucsd.edu.

Dance Performance: Cloud Gate 2 is a hybrid of Asian gesture, martial arts-inspired leaps and modern dance. The group will showcase works from Taiwan's up-and-coming Generation Y choreographers. $34–40. Date: Feb. 22, 8–10 p.m. Location: Mandeville Center Auditorium. Tickets and info: (858) 534-8497 or artpower@ucsd.edu.

Performing Arts: Don’t Fence Me In: Songs, Music and Poetry of the American West explores the region’s celebrated musical and oral culture. $15–30. Date: Feb. 27, 8–10 p.m. Location: Mandeville Center Auditorium. Tickets and info: (858) 534-8497 or artpower@ucsd.edu.

Music Performance: France’s Quatuor Ebène is distinguished by its youth, open-mindedness and versatility and has enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top. They are among the world’s most sought-after quartets. $43–50. Date: March 2, 8–10 p.m. Location: Conrad Prebys Concert Hall. Tickets and Info: (858) 534-8497 or artpower@ucsd.edu.

Film: Part political thriller and part memoir, Granito—How to Nail a Dictator is a haunting tale of genocide and justice that spans four decades, two films and filmmaker Pamela Yates’ own career. $7–8. Date: March 8, 8–10 p.m. Location: The Loft. Tickets and info: (858) 534-8497 or artpower@ucsd.edu.

Special Event: The 2012 Fiesta de las Estrellas, hosted by the Hispanic Scholarship Council, celebrates Hispanic achievement and promise, and raises funds for student scholarships. $150. Date: April 12, 6–8 p.m. Location: International House Great Hall. Tickets and info: (858) 534-1507 or stuaffairsdev@ucsd.edu.

Music Performance: Based on the Mississippi River Flood of 1927 and the ensuing transformation of American society and music, The Great Flood is a suite of original music composed and performed by Bill Frisell, Tony Scherr, Kenny Wollesen and Ron Miles with accompanying film and staging by Bill Morrison. $21–25. Date: April 19, 8–10 p.m. Location: Price Center East Ballroom. Tickets and info: (858) 534-8497 or artpower@ucsd.edu.

Special Event: The 31st Celebrity Chefs Cook Gala takes the theme “Epicurean Elegance: Food for the Mind, Body and Soul” Funds raised benefit the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center. $350. Date: April 28, 6–11 p.m. Location: Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. Tickets and info: (858) 534-6797 or c9rodriguez@ucsd.edu.

Conference: Mexico Moving Forward is a two-day event where Mexico’s visionary leaders celebrate the country’s excellence with a rare and open dialogue on Mexico’s future. Free. Dates: May 3–4, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Location: Institute of the Americas Building. Info: (858) 534-4305 or usmex@ucsd.edu

For additional events, and more information, please visit http://calendar.ucsd.edu. For specific Chancellor’s Associates events, visit www.chancellorsassociates.ucsd.edu.