What is UCSB First?

UCSB First is a dedicated group of students working to facilitate philanthropic efforts on the UC Santa Barbara campus. Our goal is to raise awareness with UCSB students about the importance of private giving, which makes our outstanding educational experience possible. We strive to inspire students to get involved with philanthropy now because collectively, we can make a difference.
Co-Chair Report
BY EMILY DAY & TREVOR WEITZENBERG

Welcome to the first ever UCSB First newsletter! We are so excited for a new year of philanthropy at UCSB. This year as co-chairs, we have so many goals for this organization, where we have personally grown as leaders and gained fulfillment by the work we do for our community of students. Emily is a senior from Orange County majoring in Sociology, going into real estate development after college. Trevor is a junior from Santa Rosa, majoring in Political Science and hoping to attend law school.

Our goals for this year include making UCSB First a well-known name on campus and increasing awareness about not just our philanthropy, but all philanthropic efforts that take place on our campus, as embodied by our Philanthropy Awards Dinner. We also hope to increase Senior participation and knowledge about the importance of the Senior Class Gift.

Trevor’s favorite event held by UCSB First is the Philanthropy Awards Dinner, where we give out financial grants to student philanthropic organizations. It’s so exciting to see them feel appreciated for the hard work they do. Emily loves working with the Board of Trustees. It’s such a unique opportunity as students to interact and learn from UCSB alumnae who are still engaged with their school. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our organization, and we look forward to a new year of giving!
A Blast to the Past

Each academic quarter, UCSB First leads engagement opportunities and initiatives to expand our mission and celebrate philanthropic achievements on campus. This previous fall quarter, students interested in expanding their philanthropic skills were invited to Stories of Philanthropy, an evening of inspiration. This insightful event allowed students to hear various panelists speak on different aspects of philanthropy and how each speaker continues to give back to their community. The following winter quarter focused on our Philanthropy Awards Dinner where UCSB First distributed $4,500 in grants to six philanthropic student organizations. Our Senior Class Breakfast is also organized every spring quarter to celebrate the graduating senior class and to promote the importance of the Senior Class Gift. Additionally, the Gaucho Gratitude Project allows for UCSB First to spotlight private donors that make significant impacts throughout the university. Each and every donor allows our organization to continue to expand UCSB’s philanthropic footprint as well as allowing every Gaucho the opportunity of connecting to our campus.
A Look to the Future

This upcoming year UCSB First is enthusiastic about not only maintaining our thriving past traditions, but also about developing new ones. This very newsletter is one of the newest additions to our outreach that strives to keep donors closely connected to events and updates throughout the academic year. This year we are excited to celebrate National Philanthropy Day on November 15th. Our committee looks forward to this special day that celebrates exactly what we stand for as an organization, giving back to our community. We also plan to host our annual Thank-A-Thon this year. This event allows students to reach out to UCSB donors to thank them for all of their generosity and dedication to our very own campus. Additionally, our senior class gift voting parties have been so successful in the past years that we have decided to increase the amount voting stations and the amount of opportunities for seniors to vote. Seniors will begin voting this week on what this year’s senior class gift will be. This academic school year has a lot in store and we are excited about sharing it all with all of you!