January:
- Winter Quarter Instruction Began

February:
- Trustee Board Meeting
- Philanthropy Awards Dinner

March:
- End of Committee Meetings and Quarter
UCSB First's favorite weekend of the quarter, the Trustee Board meeting! We are so thankful to the Office of Development and the Board of Trustees for including our team in the quarterly meetings to learn about the ins and outs of this University. It is remarkable to see the progress going on at UCSB and what the future holds for Gauchos. With that said, this past Winter meeting, UCSB First had the privilege to listen to and meet with molecular biologist and Nobel laureate, Carol Greider! She wowed the audience with her presentation on the development of new therapeutic strategies for cancer and age-related diseases.

Attending the Board Meetings is something that all of our members are so appreciative of because it gives us the opportunity to share our past and upcoming events with close Trustee members. At the Winter meeting, we talked about our Philanthropy Awards Dinner and how incredible the applicants were this year!
This year, UCSB First was thrilled to host the 8th annual Philanthropy Awards Dinner! During this event, we give out financial grants to philanthropic student organizations. We found it so rewarding to give back to other students organizations and see them feel appreciated for the hard work they do in our community. Last year UCSB First gave out $7,000, and this year we awarded $8,000 to seven well-deserving organizations! Members of UCSB First had the opportunity to get to know more about the work that these seven organizations do both on and off campus, as well as about the many other wonderful organizations who had members in attendance at the dinner. Attendees were able to learn about each other's philanthropic work as well as about UCSB First and what our role is on campus. Throughout the evening, attendees heard from our co-chairs, Alperan Koliva and Deepika Chandrashekar, about who UCSB First is, as well as from guest speakers Beverly Colgate, Alex Moon, and Kristi Newton who spoke about their relationships with philanthropy. Throughout the evening, attendees traded their own ideas about philanthropy with each other, and some even discovered new organizations to join. Overall, the evening was a success, and we can't wait to host the Philanthropy Awards Dinner again next year!
With a generous $8,000 to hand out, our committee team came together and carefully looked through all seventy applications and chose seven organizations that we felt had the most impact. UCSB First allocated $625 to the four organizations: UCSB Ideas, Greeks Go Green, Latino Business Association, and Rho Psi Eta. All of these groups have shown extraordinary efforts in our community. The next two organizations, Health Professional Association and IV Trading Post both received $1,500. The Health professional Association works tirelessly to maintain a strong philanthropic presence on campus and actively assists in the education of local youth at Isla Vista Elementary. They are teaching our next generation of doctors, nurses, and health care providers to pave the path for the next generation of science and health. The relatively new organization, IV Trading Post, has the unique initiative of tackling clothing insecurity and promoting textile sustainability. Their work has included holding fashion shows to de-stigmatize the idea of second-hand clothes, as well as clothing drives. Lastly, our first place winner was IV Surfrider, receiving a $2,500 grant! IV Surfrider has worked diligently in the Isla Vista community to preserve this beautiful area we all call home. They are constantly collaborating with various organizations and a diverse group of students to foster care and consideration for our environment, as well as educate students on sustainable means of consumption!
Meet the UCSB First Team

Committee Leadership

Alperan Koliva
Co-Chair
Class of 2020

Deepika Chandrashekar
Co-Chair
Class of 2020

Directors

Adriana Mora
Event Planning
Class of 2020

Miya Herzstein
Fundraising
Class of 2020

Anthony Pimentel
Engagement & Outreach
Class of 2019

Alex Gorman
Creative Design
Class of 2020

Taylor Henderson
Public Relations
Class of 2020

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