AN ADVOCATE FOR STEM CAREERS

Mona Simpson

Mona Simpson ’87 (B.S. engineering-mechanical) is a self-professed “big fan” of Cal State Fullerton, as is her employer. The director for Site Services and Manufacturing Support in Boeing’s Shared Services Group Supplier Management organization knows firsthand that Cal State Fullerton graduates arrive at Boeing with the best combination of academic training and hands-on practicality.

“Boeing is the largest corporate donor to the College of Engineering and Computer Science. It’s all about our desire to continue to attract the best and brightest students,” said the alumna.

Since 1997, Boeing has donated more than $1 million to support scholarships, research grants and programs at CSUF. Over the past three years, the company has expanded its reach to provide tutoring services in the college’s Center for Academic Support, explore the development of a composites lab and assist in projects like the Formula-SAE race car.

“Boeing provides charitable contributions and grants for scholarships, participates in advisory boards, overseas and mentors student projects in many areas, and provides technical talks to students,” said Simpson, referring to the company’s relationships with universities in the U.S. and abroad. “We try to help students with different types of mentoring and avenues into what it’s like to work in the technology industry. We want to align those efforts and resources so we keep the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) pipeline flowing — and of course, we’re hoping that Boeing is one of those beneficiaries.”

In addition to being the Boeing executive focal for Cal State Fullerton and a recipient of CSUF’s 2015 Distinguished Alumna Award, Simpson is a member of the Engineering and Computer Science College Leadership Council and the California State University Foundation’s Board of Governors.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to stand on the shoulders of a great company and be aligned with a great school,” said Simpson.

For more information about how you can support the College of Engineering and Computer Science, please contact Hart Roussel, director of Development, at 657-278-5429.
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| $2,500 - 4,999 | Dr. Sandra Sutphen •, Donna J. '70 and Kirt M. Spradlin, Christopher G. Schmidt '81, Kerri Ruppert Schiller '82, Nikki and Jack Reinholtz, Dr. and Mrs. Richard V. Benson • (deceased), Mary Enid and David (B.A. business administration – finance and management) attended Cal State Fullerton, she helped support her family financially. She didn’t have a car but most of her friends went to CSUF as well, so she would ride with them. Today, as president of the Cal State Fullerton Alumni Association 2015-16 Board of Directors, Vu hopes her gifts to scholarships in the Mihajlo College of Business and Economics and the Alumni Association can help alleviate students’ financial burden so that they may navigate the college experience more comfortably. “You see so many motivated students that have the ‘it factor’ and just need a little financial support to get them where they need to be,” she explained. “Being able to financially assist them helps ensure they reach their goals of graduating and securing a career.” As a student, Vu was involved in University activities and organizations, even serving as co-president of the Finance Association. “I missed my student involvement — being able to participate, being able to connect with friends,” said the financial services professional. While supporting the Student Finance Association as an alumna, she discovered the Alumni Association chapter program and helped charter the business finance chapter. She soon joined the Alumni Association board “to make a bigger difference.” Vu’s passion lies in being able to give back to her community — whether it is Cal State Fullerton or a nonprofit organization — and connecting individuals to achieve a common goal. “My main aspiration is in connecting people to provide opportunities for personal and professional development,” she explained. One day, she added, she would like to create her own foundation and establish an endowment at Cal State Fullerton. For more information about how you can support the Alumni Association, please contact Donna Lopez Fisher, executive director, at 657-278-2586.

**FOR THE GREATER GOOD**

**Dung Vu**

When Dung Vu ’04 (B.A. business administration – finance and management) attended Cal State Fullerton, she helped support her family financially. She didn’t have a car but most of her friends went to CSUF as well, so she would ride with them. Today, as president of the Cal State Fullerton Alumni Association 2015-16 Board of Directors, Vu hopes her gifts to scholarships in the Mihajlo College of Business and Economics and the Alumni Association can help alleviate students’ financial burden so that they may navigate the college experience more comfortably. “You see so many motivated students that have the ‘it factor’ and just need a little financial support to get them where they need to be,” she explained. “Being able to financially assist them helps ensure they reach their goals of graduating and securing a career.” As a student, Vu was involved in University activities and organizations, even serving as co-president of the Finance Association. “I missed my student involvement — being able to participate, being able to connect with friends,” said the financial services professional. While supporting the Student Finance Association as an alumna, she discovered the Alumni Association chapter program and helped charter the business finance chapter. She soon joined the Alumni Association board “to make a bigger difference.” Vu’s passion lies in being able to give back to her community — whether it is Cal State Fullerton or a nonprofit organization — and connecting individuals to achieve a common goal. “My main aspiration is in connecting people to provide opportunities for personal and professional development,” she explained. One day, she added, she would like to create her own foundation and establish an endowment at Cal State Fullerton. For more information about how you can support the Alumni Association, please contact Donna Lopez Fisher, executive director, at 657-278-2586.
Caecilia Gotama

TV stereotypes of engineers and scientists are getting a little old for Caecilia Gotama ’82 ’86 (B.S., M.S. engineering-mechanical).

“It’s become a running joke — engineers who can’t communicate well, who can’t socialize. And not just engineers — physicists, chemists, scientists, journalist. “It’s the alma mater. “My goal is to change that.”

Communications and soft-skills development for engineers and those in other technical fields is a passion for Gotama. Over the years, the engineer — now retired from Gotama Fullerton was one of the organizations that helped get me into the College of Engineering and Computer Science’s communications and soft-skills development for engineers.

Her most recent gifts are helping create an Endowed Teaching Support Fund to integrate communication skills into the College of Engineering and Computer Science's curriculum.

Communication and soft-skills development for engineers and those in other technical fields is a passion for Gotama.

“Communications and soft-skills development for engineers and those in other technical fields is a passion for Gotama.”

She helped develop a series of workshops focused on learning about personality types, making compelling project proposals, creating impactful presentations, teamwork and negotiating skills. Planning is underway for a multiyear pilot project to adapt soft-skills content into the academic context, provide training and complement instructors with communications and soft-skills experts.

“I always believed in giving back,” said Gotama, who also holds an MBA from Pepperdine University. “I got here because a lot of people helped me out and it’s only fair that I do the same now that I am in a position to do so. Cal State Fullerton was one of the organizations that helped get me here. It’s only natural that I give back.”

For more information about how you can contribute to the College of Engineering and Computer Science, please contact Hart Rousell, director of development, at 657-278-5429.
Harvesting the fruits of education

Silas Abrego

Silas Abrego made a commitment to himself early in life as he worked for his education and helped the underrepresented. He and his wife, Tina, recently pledged $50,000 to the Dr. Silas H. Abrego Scholarship Endowment Campaign, which supports the CSUF Abrego Future Scholars — high-achieving, high-caliber Latino students, but also graduating them, “he said. “I worked at Cal State Fullerton for 27 years around so I have this inner strength and motivation and desire to pursue higher education. I want the scholarship to give that them opportunity.”

Abrego earned numerous honors while at Cal State Fullerton, including the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Lifetime Achievement Award and the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) Apple of Gold. Both awards were presented in 2014, in recognition of his commitment to Latino students’ academic success.

He founded the Hispanic Scholarship Golf Tournament in 1998 to support underrepresented students; the event has raised over $1 million.

Abrego commended CSUF President Mildred García for her commitment to all students and “for not only attracting high-caliber Latino students, but also graduating them,” he said. “I’m so proud of this University.”

For more information about how you can support our students through scholarships, please contact Victoria Jagoda, director of development, Scholarships and University Programs, at 657-278-7446.
FACULTY / STAFF / EMERITI

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

program development, at 657-278-7642. Theresa Davis, associate vice president of college and
to support the College of Communications, please contact
College of Health and Human Development, please contact
For more information about how you can contribute to
Shari McMahan knows firsthand the many ways in which
before becoming the University’s deputy provost, she served as
dean of the College of Health and Human Development and
and interested in higher education and technology transfer. She also is a proud Titan
mom — her son is a junior on campus.

The faculty that run these centers and programs are providing once-in-a-lifetime experiences for our students,
said. “I feel compelled to help drive their mission and provide those opportunities, because these high-impact practices are changing lives.”

Indeed, as deputy provost, McMahan monitors how these practices impact retention and graduation, as well as graduate school attendance rates.

“What I remember most from my college years was the research experience I had with a faculty member and the opportunity it gave me to present work in front of critics,” said McMahan. “High-impact practices are near and dear to me not only because I feel personally responsible for helping meet the university Mission, but because I see such great examples on campus of students getting that kind of high-quality experience.

“Many of our students are first-generation and underrepresented,” she added. “With experiences like these, I have no doubt they will always remember Cal State Fullerton and, someday, give back by way of their time, talents or treasures.”

For more information about how you can contribute to the College of Health and Human Development, please contact Elizabeth Eastin, director of development, at 657-278-5466.

To support the College of Communications, please contact Theresa Davis, associate vice president of college and program development, at 657-278-7642.

STUDENT SUCCESS

A FOCUS ON

Shari McMahan

“I believe in this institution,” she said. “I can think of no finer place to send your kids to school.”

McMahan’s gifts often are directed toward centers and programs such as the Center for Sport Performance, Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research, and the Athletic Training Education Program — all part of the College of Health and Human Development — as well as the College of Communications’ Forensics team.

The faculty that run these centers and programs are providing once-in-a-lifetime experiences for our students, she said. “I feel compelled to help drive their mission and provide those opportunities, because these high-impact practices are changing lives.”

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To support the College of Communications, please contact Theresa Davis, associate vice president of college and program development, at 657-278-7642.
In attendance at the “Better Together: California Teachers Summit” were, from left, Anu Cairo of the nonprofit New Teacher Center; CSUF College of Education Dean Claire Cavallaro; CSUF President Mildred Garcia; Joan Bissell, director for teacher education and public schools at California State University; and Lynn Kepp, also of the New Teacher Center.

**‘Better Together’ in Education**

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Hundreds of educators from across Orange County and the region came to Cal State Fullerton this summer for the first-of-its-kind “Better Together: California Teachers Summit.”

This unprecedented day of learning was supported by grants, including $1.25 million to Cal State Fullerton, from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The daylong, July 31 event gave teachers a unique opportunity to hear from other educators and speakers, as well as share cutting-edge strategies and proven best practices to teach the new California Standards in math and English language arts. Cal State Fullerton was a leader for the statewide event, which brought more than 15,000 teachers to 33 locations across California. The California State University, New Teacher Center and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities and its member institutions partnered to organize the summit, co-sponsored by the California Department of Education.

“Teachers gathered for a day of sharing, learning and networking to create a better future for California students,” said Claire Cavallaro, dean of CSUF’s College of Education, which led the CSU effort.

“By learning together and sharing what works, we can make a difference for students,” said Steve Ballmer, chairman of the board of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “This is what we saw so beautifully demonstrated today in Fullerton.”

For educators like Richard Torres ’97, ’04 (B.A. English, M.S. educational administration) for educators like Richard Torres ’97, ’04 (B.A. English, M.S. educational administration), who teaches sixth grade at Cambridge Elementary School in Orange, the summit was an opportunity to grow professionally through exchanges of ideas, ingenuity and passion.

“So many times we sit in rooms and we’re taught by people who don’t spend time teaching in the classroom. They have ideas and strategies that they’ve developed through research, but they haven’t necessarily been in the classroom and practiced it,” said Torres.

“We’re looking toward each other for the answers … to grow as educators.”
James D. and Jeanette Woods

James D. Woods ’67 (B.S. business administration), chairman emeritus and former CEO of Barker Hughes Inc., and his wife, Jeanette, believe so strongly in education that they were the first pledge in a $1 million endowment three years ago.

In October 2014, at the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics’ annual Economic Forecast, Dean Ani Lurie announced the success of the campaign to support and sustain the event. The center that originates the forecast is now named the James and Jeanette Woods Center for Economic Analysis and Forecasting.

Woods enrolled at CSUF in 1960, the first year classes were offered at the Center for Economic Analysis and Forecasting. Because of his support for the building of the Center for Economic Analysis and Forecasting, Woods was but one of the many gifts and support that the Woods have made.

The $500,000 pledge they gave to kick off the Mihaylo endowment was but one of many gifts and support that the Woods have given to the University. They have been a major contributor to Titan Athletics and he served as president of the Titan Athletic Foundation and campaign co-chair for the Titan Sports Complex. The alumnus also served on the cabinet for the $15 million Campaign for the College of Business and Economics, because of their support for the building campaign, his name now graces the great foyer of Mihaylo Hall.

Woods has been honored with the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award, and in 2000 was recognized anew at the University’s Vision & Visionaries gala. In 2006, he received an honorary doctorate of humane letters in recognition of his success as a business leader and philanthropist.

For more information about how you can contribute to the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics, please contact Carol Spencer, senior director of development, at 657-278-2857.
Cal State Fullerton received more than $22.7 million in additional support in the past fiscal year as contracts and grants from government agencies, educational institutions and other organizations, completing the picture of total external support. These funds support research projects, student services, community outreach and assistance, and other important University efforts.

For more information about the Ontiveros Legacy Society and planned giving, please contact Michele Casco, associate vice president, Central Development, at 657-278-4869.