WELCOME TO THE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

2023
ALUMNI
AWARDS

Thursday, April 13, 2023
Anna W. Ngai Alumni Center
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CONOLEY

Dear Friends,

The entire Beach family joins me in extending warmest congratulations to all our 2023 Alumni Awards recipients.

Through your outstanding contributions to our campus, our communities and your fields of endeavor, you have brought distinction to the university and set a powerful example that inspires all of us to dream bigger and reach higher. Thank you for making a positive difference in the world.

I also want to express my gratitude to the many loyal alumni whose ongoing interest in and support of their alma mater keeps us vital, dynamic and strong. Thanks in large part to your leadership and engagement, The Beach remains a place where, in the words of one alumna, “breaking barriers is the norm.”

Congratulations, once again, to our awardees, and thanks to everyone who helped make tonight’s celebration of Beach excellence possible.

Go Beach!

JANE CLOSE CONOLEY, PH.D.
PRESIDENT
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
Nominations were accepted from the community at large and reviewed by the CSULB Alumni Awards selection committee. These honorees have a record of distinction and accomplishment in their field and a proven record of exemplary leadership and service to their community, profession and our alma mater.
Gregory Irwin has watched more than 100 feature films — not from a red velvet theater seat, but from behind a lens. It was an opportunity afforded to him through his education at Cal State Long Beach.

Irwin has spent 42 years behind the camera as one of Hollywood’s top motion picture camera operators, responsible for the cinematography on more than 100 theatrical films, determining the style and approach of such films as “Joker,” “Star Trek Beyond” and the “Fast and Furious” franchise.

He also worked on television shows, including “M*A*S*H*,” “Murder She Wrote” and “The A-Team.”

“CSULB gave me the education that I needed to launch myself into a very ‘closed’ industry,” Irwin said. “The school gave me the confidence and contacts to live my dream.”

Born and raised in Southern California, Irwin fell in love with photography and by age 17, dreamed about becoming a Hollywood movie camera operator. Once deciding upon earning a degree in Radio & Television Special Major Cinema from CSULB, Irwin set his sights on attaining his dream.

He credited two educators for helping him — Professor Sandra McMillian and Steven Hubbert, the film services coordinator at the university. Irwin said McMillian was the first professor he met his first year at CSULB and she “took me under her wing and looked out for me and guided me.”

Yet it was Hubbert, who was both mentor and friend, who made the biggest impact on his education and future, he said. “We wouldn’t have a film school today, if it was not for him,” Irwin said.

Irwin’s experiences at CSULB led him to the upper echelon of the world of filmmaking. He has served as head of the camera department for major theatrical-release motion pictures and has been responsible for camera personnel, logistics and the technical aspects of film cinematography. In 2016, he was honored by the International Cinematographers Guild Society of Operating Cameramen with its Lifetime Achievement award.

Now living in Atlanta, Irwin is founder, owner and president of Latitude 33 Motion Picture Services of Georgia. L33 MPS provides motion picture technology to Hollywood studios and other producing companies to fulfill the motion picture’s cinematography requirements.

When not on a set, Irwin makes it a priority to mentor CSULB graduates who desire to break into the cameraman ranks in Hollywood. He said he believes it imperative to train the next generation. He is proud to be a graduate of CSULB.

Despite his success and accolades, the most important job to Irwin is being a husband, father and grandfather. His wife, Rosie, is a retired clinical nurse specialist and travels with him to every job site.
As a student, Kathleen Reams Hansen had to work to pay for her studies at Cal State Long Beach, leaving little free time to spend on campus. Five decades later, she is making up for that lost time by actively being involved in her alma mater.

Kathleen has been part of the 49er Foundation for six years and serves as chair of the finance committee. She was on the CSULB Alumni Board for more than 10 years, serving as president from 2015 to 2017. She also volunteers as a mentor in the College of Business Student Center for Professional Development and was on their board for several years. She also sponsors the Bloomberg terminals for Beach Investment Group.

Reams Hansen played a key role in creating the Anna W. Ngai Alumni Center and sponsored the D’Reams Family Boardroom, which honors her parents and their commitment to helping her and her siblings get college educations.

“I loved my parents. Their devotion to us as kids and their legacy lives on through the many offspring of their children, my nieces and nephews,” Reams Hansen said.

In the 1980s, Reams Hansen opened Financial Planning Department, Inc. to offer personal financial planning, tax preparation and investment advice to individuals and small business. The company has offices in Long Beach and San Diego, and provides a holistic approach to finances, emphasizing personal needs-based services.

Before joining the financial services industry, Reams Hansen was a buyer for Buffum’s department stores, buying manufactured products based on commodity prices. That sparked her interest in investing, which led her to obtain an MBA. She has found providing personal financial planning rewarding because she feels she is making a difference in her clients’ well-being.

To this day, Reams Hansen believes in the power of education. She said several educators influenced her during her time at CSULB, but Professor Virginia Belt got her excited about investing — and her life changed.

“I started attending college 50 years ago. The difference it made in my life is second to none,” she said. “As a student, I don’t think you understand at the time what it will mean to you to get a good education and how life-changing it will be. And it was so affordable and still is today. We are lucky to have a university system in California that provides this opportunity.”
Attending CSULB was a turning point in Jill Baker’s career.

While in her third year of teaching, Baker decided to go back to school to earn a master’s degree in education, which not only gave her the tools to move from the classroom to the principal’s office but inspired her to find new ways to teach and lead.

After completing her master’s and administrative credential at CSULB, Baker spent seven years as a principal, where the school saw consecutive years of growth and strong efficacy. Her track record led her to the Long Beach Unified School District office, where she served as a development office administrator, assistant superintendent and chief academic officer before being promoted to deputy superintendent. Three years ago, Baker was promoted to superintendent, the first woman to hold that job.

“I am proud of building teams in all of the jobs that I have held,” said Baker, who earned her B.A. and teaching credential at UC Irvine and her doctorate at USC. “The building of teams allows others to step into their strengths and to achieve together what might seem impossible to an individual.”

One of the things Baker said she is most proud of is elevating student voices and perspectives while promoting equity throughout her educational career. Her desire to disrupt systems that negatively impact marginalized students has inspired Baker to view education as a civil rights issue.

As a long-time resident of Long Beach, Baker says CSULB continues to hold a special place in her heart. She and her husband, Trevor ’91, and their family routinely attend athletic and arts events and on occasion, they take leisurely strolls on campus. She has maintained a relationship with the College of Education, served as a guest speaker in the doctoral program and attended special events presented by the college.

“I love having CSULB in our city because it means that our schools are places where future teachers, counselors, social workers, administrators and other educational specialists are learning what it means to work in education,” Baker said. “This creates a symbiotic relationship.”
Hing W. Hung

Co-Founder, Mercury Security Corporation (Ret.)

1978, A.A., Electronic Technology, Harbor Community College
1980, B.S., Engineering Technology, Cal Poly Pomona
1985, M.S., Electrical Engineering, CSULB

Born in Foshan, China, Hing Hung is the epitome of the American dream. He spent his teenage years in a labor camp before escaping in the middle of the night to Macau and eventually Hong Kong. At the age of 22, he arrived in the United States, where he focused on learning English and catching up to his educational potential at Cal State Long Beach.

Hung worked as a hardware engineer for nearly a decade; in 1992 he became co-owner of Mercury Security Corp., a manufacturer of technology and hardware for facility security and access control. Hung held several roles at the company, including CFO and COO, before stepping down, but not before helping the company become a leading controller platform supplier.

Hung is as proud of his personal accomplishments — balancing work and family, raising two honest and accomplished sons and being able to take care of family elders — as he is of professional ones. He and his partner at Mercury Security Corp “were able to build a successful business, which provided stable employment for many people in the local communities,” he said.

“We were able to keep most outsourced manufacturing with a Southern California contract manufacturer, thus providing more work in the U.S. Products we produced help monitor and secure tens of millions of doors in facilities in the U.S. and other countries.”

Hung believes in the power of education and the reach it provides generations. He and his wife support Cal State Long Beach’s College of Engineering, having pledged a sizable gift toward new facilities and buildings. He has also supported the Anna W. Ngai Alumni Center and scholarships across campus.

During his career, he actively sought out Beach graduates as interns, some of whom were hired after graduation. He also provided internship opportunities to high school seniors. One of them, he remembers, went on to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and upon graduating sent Hung a thank-you card.

Hung remembers evening classes at Cal State Long Beach and professors whose industry experience contributed to his own learning. The university was able to provide flexibility in class schedules outside of working hours; without those options, he says, he probably would not have been able to attend the graduate program.

“I remember Dr. Ed Evans,” he said. “The classes he taught were insightful as he brought practical knowledge from the industry to the classroom.”

A believer in the value of an experiential education, Hung’s visits to CSULB classrooms and labs give him assurance that the practical side of learning is still valued at his alma mater.
When her mother went back to school, Karen King took on the responsibilities of taking care of her four siblings. Barely older than her three sisters and one brother, King didn’t mind the extra chores and duties while her mother was studying for her master’s in social work. She liked tending to her family.

Little did she know then, as a teenager, that managing her family would set her on a 40-year career path in nursing.

Born in Quebec, Canada, King first worked as a candy striper at a hospital while in high school before enrolling in the Nursing Diploma Hospital School of Nursing in Sherbrooke, Canada. She graduated in 1972 as a registered nurse. Later, she moved to Southern California and attended Orange Coast College for two years, then transferred to Cal State Long Beach’s RN Pathway program, where she graduated cum laude.

“Seeing firsthand how committed my mother was to earn an advanced degree certainly influenced my decision to attend nursing school and many years later, when older, my B.S.,” said King, who loved working in labs in high school, furthering her desire to go into medicine.

King spent 15 years as a telephonic case manager for Molina Healthcare and United Healthcare, coordinating care services for their members. She previously held positions in several Southern California hospitals as a staff nurse in areas such as oncology, orthopedics and medical surgical.

She left hospital work and moved into homecare service, improving the lives of Medicare recipients in their homes for seven years before retiring in 2016. She said earning her B.S. gave her the satisfaction of knowing she would be helping others.

“I feel proud of my 44-year nursing career in helping people,” King said. “I have always had a heart for service.”

Her love of helping others led King to give back to CSULB through an endowed scholarship in The Beach’s School of Nursing (SON). She said her inspiration for the scholarship came from retired SON director Dr. Loucine (Lucy) Huckabay, who headed the school for 21 years and was at CSULB for 44 years.

She hopes the scholarship will help future students pursue their dreams of nursing school.

Although she left her nursing career behind, King continues to serve others, volunteering at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center in the pet therapy program with her dog, Scratch.

Since retiring, King has remained connected to Cal State Long Beach by attending community events such as Beach Street and Día de Los Muertos on campus. She also is active in the Legacy Society.
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

MARIO CORDERO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PORT OF LONG BEACH

1974, B.S., Political Science, CSULB
1978, J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law

Mario Cordero decided in high school he wanted to pursue an education in law but going to college presented financial challenges. The son of immigrant parents from Mexico, money was tight and going off to college seemed unattainable until he discovered Cal State Long Beach.

There, he found the best of both worlds — an affordable education and a strong political science department that presented a diverse and motivating curriculum. Furthermore, his experience at CSULB installed in him a sense of civic responsibility.

Cordero used his political science degree to become an attorney and advance in the maritime industry. He now serves as executive director of the Port of Long Beach, where he oversees a budget of $775 million and a staff of more than 500. Cordero was appointed to President Barack Obama’s Federal Maritime Commission in 2011 and later served eight years on the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners.

During his time with the board, Cordero spearheaded the internationally recognized Green Port Policy, a comprehensive approach to reducing harmful port-related emissions and improving harbor water quality.

“There is no substitute for hard work and determination,” Cordero said. “In the end it always pays off. However, always enjoy life, follow your passion and engage in a career that you love. This will ensure a road to ultimate success in both your career and your quality of life.”

Before joining the port administration, Cordero taught political science at Long Beach City College, where he often reminded students to be proud of their achievements and mistakes.

“Failure and mistakes are part of the life experience,” he said. “In fact, failure, mistakes, even rejection, can be our best teachers.”

Cordero met his wife, Gloria ’77, at the University Student Union when they were both undergraduates; they have been married for 45 years. The couple settled in Long Beach and raised their family, quickly becoming a part of the community, where he practiced law for more than 30 years before his professional involvement in the maritime industry.

Cordero is a past member of the Long Beach Bar Association and Federal Bar Association’s Central District, and was named Attorney of the Year by the Mexican American Bar Association in 2007.
Fred Lauzier has made a huge impact on clinical laboratories in Southern California, starting his own lab, Belvue Medical Labs, and later developing more than two dozen independent labs.

He was an early advocate of digitizing lab and radiology work to make results and images electronically available to providers regardless of their physical location — a routine practice nowadays but a novel concept at the time. For his efforts, Lauzier was named Employee of the Year at both FHP International Clinical Labs and later the UC Irvine Medical Center.

Lauzier, who also holds a clinical lab scientist license and a bioanalyst lab manager license, was among the first to recognize the importance of testing in the areas of HDL cholesterol, hemoglobin A-1-C and HIV, as well as functional MRI for neuroimaging.

After retiring as executive director of the UC Irvine Medical Center - All Ancillary Services, Lauzier returned to the workplace to hold several interim positions, most recently interim director of the USC Keck/Norris Medical Center.

During his time at CSULB, Lauzier served as president of Sigma Pi fraternity and was on the Intra-Fraternity Council. He also helped co-found the Microbiology Club and was an active participant in the Intramural sports program. He said what he learned at CSULB was the meaning of hard work and patience.

“Results often don’t appear immediately,” he said. “I also learned the value of developing networks of friends, both for the educational and the social aspects.

Lauzier has endowed a scholarship at the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and was part of a group of Sigma Pi alumni who donated money to resurface the floor at the Walter Pyramid.

Looking back at the faculty who influenced him during his time at CSULB, he remembers Dr. Galli Ascher, who taught hematology. Said Lauzier: “For some reason (not my intellect or grades) she recognized something in me and offered me an opportunity at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital, which started my career in laboratory medicine.”

After retirement, he volunteered at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center and the Aquarium of the Pacific. He also has mentored students, organized several local blood drive efforts, and helped develop an Ebola response plan for Orange County, via UCI. He enjoys Long Beach State Athletics events, particularly basketball and volleyball.
ON BEHALF OF CSULB FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

2023 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Through your outstanding contributions to our campus, our communities and your fields of endeavor, you have brought distinction to the university.

Jane Close Conoley
President
NO BARRIERS
TO EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES

Ranked in the top 3% of “Best Colleges in America, Ranked by Value”
(Money Magazine, 2022)
Supporting Education

The Port of Long Beach is proud to work with Cal State Long Beach and our other local educational partners to develop our workforce and leaders of tomorrow. We’re proud to help honor Port Executive Director Mario Cordero, LBUSD Superintendent Jill A. Baker and the rest of your Distinguished Alumni.
When emergencies can’t wait.

Let’s face it: No one wants to go to the ER. But if you need emergency medical care, it’s reassuring to know that St. Mary Medical Center is taking every precaution to keep you safe. And with our online arrival system, our emergency care team will be alerted that you’re on your way. So you can spend less time in our ER—and more time at home. See available arrival times at DignityHealth.org/ER.

Hello humankindness®

Dignity Health.
St. Mary Medical Center
For their outstanding achievements

Congratulations
to all of the recipients of the

2023 ALUMNI AWARDS

COMMENCEMENT GROUP
Commencement floral and apparel
thecommencementgroup.com
Francisco J. Alarcon-Vargas, 1977
James F. Alexander, 1964
Edna M. Andrews, 1960, 1966
Leslie C. Antosy-Flores, 1985, 1998
Ronald L. Appelbaum, 1965, 1966
Susan Aramesh Price, 1994, 1996
Ronald R. Arias, 1971
David J. Armijo, 2001
James O. Armor, 1960
Edwin C. Arnold, 1967
Michael G. Auping, 1975
Denise L. Austin, 1979
Angie Avery, 1976, 1979
Naeema Aziz, 2000
John Bacich Jr., 1967
Mike M. Baghramian, 1966
Jerry L. Baker, 1968
Jill A. Baker, 1998, 1999
Richard E. Baker, 1961
Karen Baker Landers, 1984
Elizabeth S. Barber, 1979
Barbara Barcon, 1984
Jane H. Barrett, 1969
Danute I. Basiulis, 1976
Tony Baxter, 1969
Nancy L. Beard, 1977, 1987
Charlie Beck, 2007
Frank I. Benest, 1978
Carole A. Bennett, 1965, 1972
William P. Bennett, 1961
Dennis M. Berryman, 1961
Alexandra Billings, 2013
John M. Blaydes, 1962, 1966
Dean Bok, 1964
James H. Boren, 1950
Reid H. Bowman, 1969
Joan J. Branin, 1970
G. Lorain Brault, 1972, 1976
Alan M. Brennert, 1977
Jack R. Brick, 1961, 1973
John V. Briggs, 1956
Barbara Brown, 1984
Richard W. Bryson, 1966
William J. Burbridge, 1963, 1975
Jan F. Burke, 1978
Oliver Cagle, 1971
Blanche G. Brewster Cannady, 1954
Jack B. Caouette, 1969
Joyce Capelle, 1976, 1983
Michael L. Capik, 1980
Glenn L. Carpenter, 1969
Chris C. Carter, 1979
John C. Cederquist, 1969, 1971
Edward R. Cheramy Jr., 1970
Marjorie L. Chitwood-Burri, 1966
Per B. Christiansen, 1964
Michael J. Clevenger, 1978
Gary S. Cohn, 1976
Steven R. Cohn, 1973
Ronny J. Coleman, 1987, 1994
H. Brent Coles, 1979
Eugene M. Corporon, 1969
Mario Cordero, 1974
Norman M. Coulson, 1957
Larry E. Crabtree, 1976
James L. Cradduck, 1972
Jose B. Cuellar, 1969
Darold B. Cummings, 1967
Julie A. Davis, 1988, 1994
Jack H. Dean, 1964, 1968
John F. Dean, 1955
James E. DeOlden, 1969, 1972
caryn desai, 1986
Don C. Devendorf, 1966
Christine A. Dominguez, 1974, 1980
Fred Dorer, 1961
Michael L. Douglas, 1971
Eric A. Draper, 2001
Joann E. Driggers, 1973
Robert C. Dunek, 1978
Jean-Bernard Durand, 1984
Donald N. Dyer, 1963
James H. Eaton, 1987
Jana Echevarria, 1978, 1984
Modesto E. Ellano Jr., 1990
Robert E. Ellis, 1958
William F. Ensley, 1964
Jeffery B. Erickson, 1973, 1976
Gregory C. Escalante, 1980
Retha C. Evans, 1997
Patricia Ann Farber, 1967, 1983
Nelson Farris, 1969
James E. Fassel, 1973
Clifford L. Faulkner, 1976
Cathy J. Ferguson, 1970
Steven L. Fish, 1971, 1974
Roger S. Fouts, 1964
Larry E. Crabtree, 1976
Lucia Galindo Kos, 1975
George Gascon, 1977
Steve Gawley, 1977
Paul Geery, 1983
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Brian Gimmillaro, 1970
Constance W. Glenn, 1974
Jami E. Goldman, 1996
Sharlene E. Goodman, 1973, 1975
Robert J. Gore, 1972, 1975
Peter James Gravett, 1970
Jim H. Gray, 1958, 2000
Jim Green, 1985
Linda Sheryl Greene, 1970
Georgia D. Griffiths, 1973
Kenneth W. Gronbach, 1970
Erin J. Gruwell, 1994, 1994
Agnes Guerard Rodgers, 1970
Arnold Hackett, 2001
Christine C. Hall, 1974
Victoria K. Hall, 1993
Deborah O. Hancock, 1959
Marvin R. Haney, 1956
James C. Hankla Jr., 1961
Tadao Hara, 1965
Robert M. Harding Jr., 1973
Audrey N. Hauth, 1967
James A. Herman, 1956, 1958
Christopher M. Hernandez, 1981
John C. Hernandez, 1992
Said S. Hilal, 1972, 1976
Lee R. Hill, 1974
Michael Houlihan, 1968
Richard D. Huffman, 1961
Hing W. Hung, 1985
Robert O. Hutchins, 1962
Ruben L. Ingram, 1955
Gregory Irwin, 1982
Mark Steven Johnson, 1989
Betty P. Karchette, 1961, 1969
Michael C. Keel, 1962
Richard O. Keelor, 1961, 1964
Robert D. Keene, 1970
Samuel A. Keesal Jr., 1961
Alec D. Keith, 1962
Robin D. G. Kelley, 1983
Clyde Kendzierski, 1969, 1972
Gerard J. Kenny, 1973, 1975
Dennis J. Keough, 1971
Harold M. Kester, 1969
Nancy D. Kimber, 1990
Karen King, 2001
Hiroshi Kira, 1966
Evord F. Knights, 1964
Gerhardt G. Knodel, 1970
Bette T. Korber, 1981
Thomas Kubis, 1978
Hoon Kwak, 1982
Fred Lauzier, 1971
Alyce D. LaViolette, 1969, 1980
Pauline Bich-Phuong Le, 1994, 1998
Norman D. Lean, 1956
Marnos Lelesi, 1983
Russ Lesser, 1964
Carson J. Lev, 1980
Joanette L. Lima, 1980
Edward G. Linhart, 1974, 1976
Vivianne P. Lokken, 1993
Bonnie Lowenthal, 1974
Richard V. Loya, 1968, 1977
Pamela Macdonald Regnier, 1969, 1975
David L. Maggard Jr., 1997
Judith Magsaysay, 1978, 1979
Jerry E. Mandel, 1962, 1965
Dennis H. Mangers, 1962
Larry G. Manly, 1961
Stephen C. Marble, 1972
Marianne Marsi-Manring, 1978
Edward D. Martinet, 1978
Max B. Martinez, 1978
Misty E. May-Treanor, 2002
Jim Mazzo, 1980
Murphy McCalley, 1981
John P. McElroy, 1978
Tom R. McGannon, 1973
Debra Lee McInty-Poteet, 1982
Lenora Mendoza Noroski, 1985
James R. Miller, 1972
Jerry Miller, 1976, 2004
Thomas E. Miller, 1970
Cynthia Mirsky, 1996
Jan M. Mittermeier, 1974, 1983
Pamela M. Mokler, 1997
Steve Molina, 1979
M. Martha Molina Bernadett, 1985
Judy K. Montgomery, 1973
Michael J. Montgomery, 1968
John M.W. Moorlach, 1977
Robert Moses, 1999
Linda Moulton-Patterson, 1982
Wayne W. Murdy, 1968
Robert H. Murphy, 1962
A. Maurice Myers, 1971
Kevin M. Nagle, 1976
Anna W. Ngai, 1974
Michael R. Niggli, 1971
Alan D. Nitake, 1973, 1974
UNIVERSITY RECOGNITIONS

No. 3
nationwide for advancing social mobility
— and —
Top Performer
in “Student Outcomes”
(ahead of Princeton, Harvard and MIT)
(U.S. News & World Report, 2022)

No. 8
nationally for campus diversity
(Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education, 2021)

Elevated to
“Doctoral University:
High Research Activity (R2)” status
(Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, 2022)

Top 3%
of “Best colleges in America, ranked by value”
(Money, 2022)

No. 1
most successful athletic program
in Big West Conference
(Big West Board of Directors, 2022)

No. 6
in the U.S. for granting bachelor’s degrees to Hispanic students
(Hispanic Outlook on Education, 2022)

$8.23 billion
economic impact
of CSULB alumni on California
(CSU ICF Study, 2021)

$1.88 billion
economic impact of CSULB on California
(CSU ICF Study, 2021)

Top 10%
universities nationwide for return on investment
(Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2022)

$8.23 billion
economic impact
of CSULB alumni on California
(CSU ICF Study, 2021)