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Hansson Fund Creates New Student Opportunities



Fred Hansson '74 and his wife, Pamela created the Hansson Adventure, Research and Travel Fund

Fred Hansson (B.S. '74, Geography) grew up in San Mateo, lived on a farm in Half Moon Bay during college, and was the first in his family to attend a university. Hansson paid for his education himself, which meant that finances were very tight.

"I remember going to the cafeteria (now the Dining Commons) and making soup from hot water and ketchup," he recalled.

Hansson chose geography as his major after taking a course with Professor McVicar.

"He discussed exploration and discovery, man-land relationships, spatial analysis, and space relations," recalled Hansson. "Geography wasn't about 200 place names on a map,

but about ideas, understanding our surroundings, and making a difference. We would need to take History, Art, Science, and Psychology to understand the world we lived in. Professor McVicar concluded that we needed to share what we learned with others, for our discipline was broad-based."

One of the ways Geography majors could share what they learned with others was to participate in a Geomorphology class that offered students an opportunity to take a weekend trip to the Eastern Sierra and the Long Valley Caldera.

"It was one thing to read textbooks, but quite another to be in the field and see formations, not only textures and subtleties of rock and soil, but also the scale of a 20-mile wide crater," Hansson said.

Unfortunately, he did not have the extra money required for the trip. "Once a quarter, the department professors and students would have dinner together and reminisce about the events for that quarter," explained Hansson. "I had to listen to how some of my classmates went down to the hot springs to swim and the great time they had! I missed out not only on having fun, but also on building upon relationships with others in our department."

Hansson never forgot about this missed opportunity during his time as a student. So in 2014, he and his wife, Pam, created the Hansson Adventure, Research, and Travel Fund

(continued on next page)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **HOST Labs Benefit from Amgen Grant** (page 3)
- **Scholarship Spotlight** (page 4)
- **Volunteer Spotlight** (page 6)
- **Planned Gifts Benefit Cal State East Bay Students** (pg. 7)

"The fund my wife and I created is intended to allow students the opportunity to share with each other their enthusiasm, and to venture out of their comfort zones."

— Fred Hansson B.S. '74, Geography

Hansson Fund

(continued from front page)

in Anthropology, Geography, and Environmental Studies (AGES) to help students pursue an academic goal beyond degree attainment.

“College students need to explore our world, talk with people who are not from their environment, be curious, have the ability to develop relationships, and to talk about what was seen, learned, and experienced,” Hansson explained. “The fund my wife and I created is intended to allow students the opportunity to share with each other their enthusiasm, and to venture out of their comfort zones.”

This summer, two Cal State East Bay students were awarded the Hansson Adventure, Research and Travel Fund in Anthropology, Geography, and Environmental Studies (AGES): Breanna Johnson '22, majoring in Anthropology, and Rachel Garcia '22, also an Anthropology major. Both students worked on a research project with Tony Marks-Block, assistant professor of Anthropology. The research project aims to learn more about the effects of prescribed fire on acorn pests, acorn phenology (the study of the timing of life cycle events), and acorn gathering efficiency.

“Indigenous peoples across California have used fire to reduce acorn pest infestations, thus Indigenous ecological

knowledge is guiding the development of research objectives and methods,” explained Marks-Block.

The study compares acorns collected in prescriptively burned oak woodlands on Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen and adjacent woodlands on Sonoma Land Trust's Glen Oak Ranch that have not been prescriptively burned.

Marks-Block said, “If we are to re-imagine our relationship with fire, it will be critical to provide research and educational opportunities for our next generations to see fire in a positive light. This project exposed the Hansson recipients to Indigenous fire knowledge and has prepared them for future leadership in fire management.”



Dr. Tony Marks-Block supervises the research work of Rachel Garcia '22, along with Kylie Diaz '21 (left) and Breanna Johnson '22 (right).

HOST Labs Benefit from Amgen Grant



A Cal State East Bay “science guide” engages school children with her lesson activity.

The Hands On Science Teaching (HOST) Labs first opened in 2014, providing pre-service teacher educational opportunities to improve the teaching of Next Generation Science Standards. The effort was led by Associate Dean Danika LeDuc and a team of faculty in the College of Science.

Cal State East Bay students who are on the Liberal Studies Teacher Preparation Pathway take part in the HOST Labs as part of their degree requirement. At the beginning of the course, students are introduced to ideas of pedagogy, Next Generation Science Standards, and inquiry-based, hands-on science teaching. The students then go through either three or four thematic units. In each unit, they learn content and get to choose, with a partner, from a suite of activities.

With scaffolding, Cal State East Bay students progress in the elements of lesson design and teaching, so that they have significant latitude in designing the activity for the final field trip at the end of the semester. This is when the

school children visit campus and do the activities over approximately two hours. Each “science guide” and their partner teach the lesson three times, and observe other Cal State East Bay “science guides” and their partners teach a different lesson to the school children.

“Having a meaningful and supported experience with quality, hands-on, engaging science activities with small groups of children is powerful,” said LeDuc. “Our students have seen themselves grow in content knowledge, confidence, and reflective practice, and have witnessed their potential impact on young people. Many of the school children have never been to a college campus before, and seeing people that look like them, who aren't that much older, having fun with science, really helps them better understand scientific concepts.”

During the pandemic, undergraduates of the HOST Labs switched to recording themselves teaching science lessons to people they lived with, and

sending science kits to school children so they could participate in virtual field trips from home via Zoom. Now that COVID-19 restrictions have been somewhat lifted, LeDuc and the College of Science faculty are actively pursuing getting permission to have in-person experiences once again.

“Although we believe the virtual field trips were a positive experience, the program is called Hands On Science Teaching,” explained LeDuc. “We are committed to the new administrative work required to return to in-person field trips, because we feel this experience is so much more impactful for Cal State East Bay students and the school children.”

The HOST Labs benefit from a grant distributed by Amgen, one of the world's leading biotechnology companies. “HOST Labs directly aligns with Amgen's Science Education funding priority to help promote STEM education

(continued on page 4)

HOST Labs

(continued from page 3)

in all communities, particularly in underserved communities," said Dr. Saptarsi Haldar, vice president of research & Amgen South San Francisco site head. "By serving school children, in-service teachers, and undergraduates interested in teaching, HOST Labs provide an opportunity for students and teachers alike to get involved and excited

"Many of the school children have never been to a college campus before, and seeing people that look like them, who aren't that much older, having fun with science, really helps them better understand scientific concepts."

— Danika LeDuc, Associate Dean, College of Science

about STEM education. It provides equity access to STEM education to those students who might not typically gain quality experiences with STEM

education—experiences that are crucial to piquing curiosity to pursue an eventual career in STEM or STEM education."

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Richard A. Juarez Excellence in Finance Scholarship

Richard "Rick" Juarez (B.S. '88, Business Administration) recently updated his trust to establish the Richard A. Juarez Excellence in Finance Scholarship through a bequest. The scholarship will be awarded to a first-generation Cal State East Bay student majoring in Finance, who is also involved with supporting the Hispanic, Latinx, or Chicano communities. Recipients must demonstrate financial need and the ability to strive for and achieve excellence in their coursework and activities.

Rick Juarez is an investment banking managing director at Imperial Capital



Richard "Rick" Juarez '88

and a former Wall Street analyst. The eldest of six children and a first-generation college student, Juarez grew up in San Lorenzo, where he played high school football and was student body president. He attended Chabot College and transferred to

Emily Lowe Brizendine's mother, Ruth, spent her life helping those who needed it most

Her mother's generous spirit and belief in the importance of education is what inspired Brizendine to make a \$26,250 gift to Cal State East Bay's Center for Research, Equity and Community Engagement (CRECE).

"She had her ear tuned to people that were in need of support and had less than what we had," Brizendine said. "She was very astute and very entrepreneurial and was able to leave us with a comfortable lifestyle. I thought it was

really important to share with others, just as she did."

For Brizendine, a professor emerita at Cal State East Bay with more than 25 years in the CSU system as both a faculty member and administrator, supporting the CRECE was a natural choice. Before her retirement in 2012, Brizendine served in many capacities in the College of Education and Allied Studies, including interim dean, associate dean, assistant dean

and department chair of Educational Leadership. She was also executive director of the Concord campus.

The Ruth L.T. Lowe CRECE Research Award will help ease some of the challenges doctoral students may face in conducting their research.

"This generous gift will be instrumental in leveling the playing field for our doctoral students, providing opportunities and resources for research and publication that are often only available for the most privileged," said Kathryn Hayes, the director of CRECE and assistant professor of educational leadership.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

CRECE is a partnership in which Cal State East Bay faculty and graduate students work with Pre-K16 and higher education professionals. Its mission is to identify the needs of Pre-K16 students and educators, address their most pressing concerns and support social justice practices through scholarly research, evaluation support, and professional and community development.

So supporting a program that helps doctoral students in educational leadership and, in turn, those in local K-12 schools, was personal and meaningful.

"In many ways it also comes out of what I experienced as a doctoral student," Brizendine said. "My dissertation chair helped me get a small grant and boy, did that make a difference."

Jennifer Marie Stramaglia Memorial Friends of the Arts Scholarship in Creative Writing



Dr. Marilyn N. Silva

Dr. Marilyn N. Silva established the Jennifer Marie Stramaglia Memorial Friends of the Arts Scholarship in Creative Writing this year to recognize and support outstanding creative writing students.

"I came from a working class family and was the first in my family to go to college," said Dr. Silva. "I wouldn't have been able to attend college without scholarships provided by generous donors so that students like me could have opportunities

Support for doctoral students also comes from the many years that Brizendine worked to bring an education doctoral program to the CSUEB campus, including several years as Co-Chair of the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership with UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, and San Jose State.

But mostly the gift was inspired by Brizendine's mother. Among her many life accomplishments, Ruth built a school for children of farming families in the outskirts of Hong Kong with no other access to education when she was a young woman.

"It's that kind of conviction, belief, and access to education that's always been very important to her that I just wanted to honor," Brizendine said.

that otherwise would not have been available to them. This scholarship is my way of paying it forward."

Dr. Silva was a professor in the departments of Human Development and English at Cal State East Bay, specializing in language and linguistics, from 1986 until her retirement in 2007. During this time, she served as Chair of the Department of Human Development, Chair of the Department of English, and Chair of the Department of Art, as well as Associate Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences. She taught undergraduate courses in human development and undergraduate and graduate courses in English. A member of the Friends of the Arts since 2007, she served as secretary and then president of the board.

Friends of the Arts (FOA) at Cal State East Bay is an organization of current and former faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters. Its mission is to encourage student artists by providing annual scholarships in creative writing, fine arts, music, and theatre arts and by working to increase

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Emily Lowe Brizendine

audiences at campus performances and presentations.

"As a board member of FOA, I lobbied for creative writing to be made a permanent beneficiary of its scholarships," Dr. Silva said. "Prior to the establishment of the creative writing endowment, FOA had two other endowments, one in theatre arts and one in music, and I wanted to add a third. FOA's hope is that the endowments will allow FOA to provide scholarships in perpetuity."

The Jennifer Marie Stramaglia Memorial Friends of the Arts Scholarship in Creative Writing was named by Dr. Silva in honor of the memory of one of her former students. Ms. Stramaglia (1964-2000) graduated from Cal State East Bay in 1987 with a B.A. in English and a minor in Italian. Subsequently, she completed a master's in Linguistics at San Jose State University.

"Jennifer was excited by the act of learning and by scholarship itself. What I remember most about her was how her eyes lit up when she discussed her hard work and the joy she found in accomplishment," Dr. Silva said. "When I learned she had passed away, I wanted to do something to keep her memory alive."

Tyehimba Jelani (B.S. '94, Business and Economics)

Since his graduation from Cal State East Bay, Tyehimba Jelani has shared his time and talent working as a volunteer for both alumni and students. We recently interviewed Mr. Jelani to find out more about his volunteer roles as a Pioneer, and what motivates him to give back.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH CAL STATE EAST BAY?

I became interested in volunteering at CSUEB during my freshman year, when I attended my first Black Student Union/African Student Union (BSU) meeting back in the Fall of 1989. Local and national, socio-economic, and political events at that time were motivating factors as well. Campus is where I developed into a “community organizer,” if you will. Also, Cal State Hayward, as it was known back then, was and is highly-respected for accounting, which was my major. In addition to the BSU, I served as a volunteer in a leadership capacity with the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA)–Hayward Student Chapter.

WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

I was inspired by my friends that attended historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), many of whom remain very involved with their respective alma maters. Their continued investment in the educational institutions that helped shape them as young adults motivated me to reconnect with CSUEB. In 2018, I was also yearning to impact the lives of college students, and what better place to start than at the school that helped prepare me personally and professionally for life’s challenges? With those ideas in mind, I applied for the opportunity to serve as



Tyehimba Jelani '94

board member of the Cal State East Bay Alumni Association, where I had the honor of serving for two years.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD?

Serving as a board member was a great experience. First and foremost, the board was comprised of a brilliant group of individuals, all committed to increasing alumni engagement. Being on the board gave me visibility into the resources available at the school for students and alumni. Additionally, being a board member was a reminder of what a group of dedicated staff and volunteers can accomplish when working together as a team. Being a board member helped me gain a greater appreciation for Cal State East Bay as an institution, and it increased my Pioneer Pride. I no longer serve on the board, but I am volunteering as a part of Cal State East Bay’s Affinity Group network.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO VOLUNTEER TO TEACH FINANCIAL LITERACY TO OUR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS?

I believe that learning money management concepts will help increase students’ academic performances, their

university graduation rates, and their long-term financial position. With more than sixty percent of the CSUEB enrollment representing the first generation of college students within their families, I wanted to do my part to help level up young trailblazers by exposing them to the basic principles of financial education. Also, on a personal level, I hope to help students avoid some of the financial missteps I made as a young person.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN THIS CAPACITY THAT KEEPS YOU GOING, THAT INSPIRES YOU?

I love having an opportunity to shape a young person’s perception by exposing them to information they don’t have. I also want to serve as a relatable example of someone that has gone through similar academic and/or professional challenges. I want the students to learn from my experience, both in terms of what to do and what not to do. With regards to financial education, I want the students to make sound financial decisions around budgets, credit, and investing.

IF A CAL STATE EAST BAY ALUMNUS OR ALUMNA WERE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THEM? WHAT WOULD YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW?

I would first remind my fellow Pioneer to recall those “strangers” who became “mentors” and positively changed the trajectory of their lives. I would also share one of my favorite quotes, which is, “If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot.” I believe we each have the opportunity to be that someone—a mentor—for a student. The reward gained from a relatively small outlay of energy will change everyone for the better.

Planned Gifts Benefit Cal State East Bay Students



with a bequest intention. Before her death, Foote Ireys Anderson recalled that she was helped in her education with a significant scholarship, and wanted to help other students when she was in a position to do so.

Planned gifts allow alumni and friends to leave a legacy for generations of future students. Alumna Virginia Foote Ireys Anderson (MA '74, English) and emerita professor Beatrice Pressley recently both provided for future students’ success through endowed scholarships, which will perpetually provide awards to undergraduates at Cal State East Bay.

Foote Ireys Anderson was born in Nebraska and attended Omaha public schools where she excelled and developed a lifelong love of learning. She graduated from Grinnell College in Iowa in 1945, with Phi Beta Kappa honors. She eventually moved to Santa Maria, Calif., where she began teaching.

There she began a life-long career as an English teacher. Foote Ireys Anderson taught elementary grades before moving on to high school, serving as English department chair at Santa Maria and Righetti high schools. After moving to the Bay Area in 1967, she taught English at Tamalpais and Danville high schools.

Foote Ireys Anderson continued her education at Cal State East Bay (then CSU-Hayward), where she earned a master’s degree in English, and at UC Berkeley, where she earned a Ph.D. in 1986, at the age of 62. She continued to teach at Contra Costa College, Cal State East Bay and Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. She published three books about her family and participated in a writers’ group.

In 2001, she established the Virginia F. Ireys Scholarship Fund to support prospective teachers of high school English. In 2010, she bolstered the endowment

“Virginia Foote Ireys Anderson was a very good friend to the English department and we will miss her. The scholarship she created has helped many of our student majors as they worked toward their goals at Cal State East Bay. Our department will always remember Dr. Ireys’ kindness and generosity,” said Dennis Chester, professor and chair of the English department.

Beatrice O. “Bea” Pressley was emerita professor of educational psychology at Cal State East Bay. She was appointed in 1970 and was awarded emeritus status in 2001. Pressley was an executive board member of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) for many years and served as ERFA’s president. She died in 2020.

During her time as professor at Cal State East Bay, Pressley received the Outstanding Mentor Award from the Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. She was also awarded the Distinguished Mentor Award of the American Counseling Association, the national award for outstanding mentoring. She also received the Women’s Leadership Award from the Association of Counselor Education and Supervision. She was selected as a subject-matter expert by the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners and California Central Testing to develop written examination items for the Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling Examination. She was also chosen to be an oral commissioner for the 1992 examination. Pressley received a certificate

in recognition of her contributions to the ACES. She had served ACES in many capacities, including as a member of the executive board.

Pressley was also a member of the Human Services Commission for the City of Hayward and the liaison between the commission and Parental Stress, Family Services Agency of the East Bay and La Familia. She was a board member and chair of Horizon Services, Inc. and a board member of Child Family & Community Services, Inc., and The Cove Center for Grieving Children, Inc. She was an advisory board member of Lend a Hand Foundation, Inc., and she was also a disaster response counselor for the American Red Cross.

Two years before she passed away, she created the Beatrice and Madaline Pressley Endowed Scholarship, to be awarded to a graduate student in the Educational Psychology Department who is majoring in Marriage and Family Therapy.

“I first met Dr. Bea Pressley in 1974, when I enrolled in a graduate class she was teaching in counseling psychology. I could not have imagined that we would one day work together and become friends,” said Dr. Jodi Servatius, faculty emerita. “Believing wholeheartedly in the value of a college education, Bea never passed up an opportunity to promote college-going to young people she met—grocery clerks, manicurists, lifeguards. Bea’s heart was huge, and she cared deeply about others and shared what she had. I was honored to have been her friend and colleague.”

Is Cal State East Bay a part of your estate plan?

We would love to know so we can give you proper recognition and share our gratitude! Contact **Holly Stanco, associate vice president of development, at holly.stanco@csueastbay.edu or (510) 885-3183.**

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#GivingTuesday is November 30

Mark your calendar to support your favorite college, department or academic program and make a difference for Cal State East Bay students.

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