Gift announcements among highlights at Sac State Gala

Sacramento State’s Green & Gold Gala, the University’s signature fundraising event held Friday, March 27, netted more than $450,000 for student scholarships. The black-tie event also celebrated the accomplishments of President Alexander Gonzalez and his wife, Gloria, as he prepares to retire in June after a 35-year career in California higher education, including the past 12 years at Sacramento State.

At the event, President Gonzalez announced significant philanthropic support for Sacramento State, including the establishment of the University’s first endowed chair and the naming of the Alumni Center in recognition of gifts and a bequest intention from Leslie and Anita Harper.

“Les and Anita are well known at many Sacramento State events and have generously supported Alumni Association scholarships, among other areas on campus,” said President Gonzalez.

“Today, I am pleased to announce that, thanks to their generosity, through gifts they have already given the University and a significant bequest, we – with the approval of the CSU Board of Trustees – are naming the Alumni Center ‘The Leslie and Anita Harper Alumni Center.’ ”

Les Harper (Business Administration ’55) was a member of Sacramento State’s first graduating class at its current location.

At the Gala, President Gonzalez also announced:

- A $1 million gift from the estate of Hazel Cramer to create an endowed chair in the Department of Public Policy and Administration in the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. It is the University’s first endowed chair and will allow the campus to bring in a renowned expert in the discipline to expand the range and quality of offerings for students. Mrs. Cramer was a longtime donor to the University, providing more than $800,000 in scholarships before her death in December and a total of more than $3.5 million through her estate.

- A $150,000 gift from University Enterprises Inc. to the President Alexander and Gloria Gonzalez Public Service and Community Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes students who aspire to follow the Gonzalezes’ examples of perseverance and dedication in the pursuit of community improvement.

- The inaugural recipients of the new Green and Gold Scholarship: biological sciences major Manmeet K. Singh, and food and nutrition major Morgen M. Spiers. The scholarship was created to assist undergraduate students of any major who have demonstrated enthusiasm and determination to obtain a degree despite personal, financial or other hardships. Preference is given to students involved in high-impact programs that benefit their fellow students. During the
Gala, a live auction raised enough funds to enable the awarding of additional $2,500 Green and Gold scholarships in 2016.

Sponsors of the 2015 Green and Gold Gala included University Enterprises Inc., Douglas and Barbara Patiño, Wells Fargo, Western Health Advantage and Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region.

For more information on the Green and Gold Gala, contact the Office of University Advancement at (916) 278-7043 or visit www.csus.edu/gala.