Dates To Remember

Thursday, November 5
Membership Recruitment Reception
5:30 at the Old Ranch Country Club, Seal Beach

Friday, December 18
Deadline for Scholarship Applications
Selection Period Begins in January

Special Thanks

Thanks to Grace Knight for her dedicated service and inspiring commitment to Women & Philanthropy as co-chair these past two years. We are delighted that her co-chair, Marilyn Anania, will continue on as chair this term.

Supporting council members this term include Enid Busser, Lynn Hermstad, Marilyn Jensen, Grace Knight, Lea Lowe, and Susan Rose.

Please contact us if you are interested in serving on a committee or becoming more involved with Women & Philanthropy.

For More Information:
(562) 985-2800 | wp@csulb.edu | www.csulb.edu/wp

Women & Philanthropy has a proud history of helping CSULB students reach their academic goals. To date, W&P has given over $318,000 in scholarship money to deserving students in the areas of “Re-entry” and “Creative Research.” As your new chair, I look forward to building on this legacy with Vice Chair Lea Lowe.

In the last biennium, I had the pleasure of working with former Co-Chair Grace Knight who imbued our organization with her dynamism and enthusiasm and was strongly committed to honoring and supporting qualifying students who applied for scholarships. Continuing on with that tradition, I’m excited to be working with women who value education, are committed to giving back, and see great hope for our CSULB students, while always seeking to grow in membership. All the women of W&P are professional, dynamic, and dedicated to supporting students. We follow on the heels of many accomplished and visionary women beginning with Debbi Cordano, a former Associate Vice President for Development at CSULB, who helped create our Women and Philanthropy organization in 1998, giving willing participants leadership opportunities related to philanthropy.

I love being part of a vibrant institution of learning that embraces everyone, from incoming freshmen to community college transfers to graduate students to retirees. As a teacher and a graduate student, I am thrilled to lead an organization that helps deserving, yet struggling, undergraduate students achieve the lives they have dreamed of. W&P members, it is your continued involvement with our organization that makes a difference! Please plan to join us to socialize, be inspired, and just to enjoy! We have an exciting calendar of events ahead of us this year.

— Lea Lowe
CSULB W&P Member since 2012

Women & Philanthropy’s scholarship program touches a place in my heart as I returned to community college when I was a single mom faced with raising two daughters on my own.

It was difficult and we survived on grilled cheese sandwiches, free school lunches and recycling of newspapers and aluminum cans for extra expenses. I went from being a candidate for president of the local school’s PTA to an unemployed, divorced mother of two with slim prospects for adequately providing for our livelihood. I found a job, pursued a degree and eventually graduated from Cal State Long Beach twenty years after graduating from high school.

I know how hard it can be to take 1-2 classes a semester while balancing work and family without losing sight of the goal of a degree which will be invaluable in future career choices. Involvement in Women & Philanthropy is my way of helping others facing the same challenges.

— Marilyn Anania
CSULB W&P Member since 2009
The following is an excerpt from a recent Long Beach Press Telegram article written by staff writer Josh Dulaney:

Veterans of the Army can appreciate a well-timed assist from teammates.

In the case of Samantha Simonds, who suffered concussive waves from blasts on the battlefield, and who drives four times a week from San Diego to Cal State Long Beach on her way to earning a degree in recreation therapy, a $2,500 scholarship has meant fewer worries about life at home when she’s completing her studies on a campus 100 miles away.

“I could feel all this weight lifted off of me,” said Simonds, a former signal support systems specialist who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, who is using the scholarship to fill her gas tank, among other necessities.

“Come hell or high water, I’m finishing this degree.”

Her scholarship came through a donation by Kathleen Hansen, president of the CSULB Alumni Association, who donated the money to Women and Philanthropy, a fundraising group at CSULB that awards scholarships ranging between $1,000 and $2,500.

Hansen, who is among five children in her family who all went to college, said she wanted to honor her parents, who died last year, by giving to CSULB and supporting students. Simonds’ scholarship is called the Paul and Dorothy Reams Scholarship.

“I think it’s really important to give back,” Hansen said. “For all of us who have gone to state schools, we are the beneficiaries of public education.”

Simonds is a mother of four who was inspired to earn a degree in recreation therapy after participating in a program out of the Naval Medical Center San Diego Health and Wellness Department that offers outdoor recreation and other activities as a way of physical and emotional healing.

“Without recreation therapy, I wouldn’t be here,” said Simonds.

Recreation therapy programs draw hardened military people out of their shells, she said. Simonds said she has watched veterans go from “hibernating” to leading hikes within six months in the program. She hopes to work as a recreation therapist and offer the same kind of hope and healing she’s experienced.

“I want to give back to my community, which is military members and veterans,” Simonds said.

The following is an excerpt from a recent Huntington Beach Independent article written by staff reporter Anthony Clark Carpio:

Norma Brandel Gibbs doesn’t let people tell her how it’s going to be. Whether it’s city business or her personal life, Gibbs has her own ideas.

When she was diagnosed with tuberculosis for the second time at age 20, a doctor told her that she would never be able to have children or live past 30.

She was also told that high-rise buildings would be built in Huntington Beach on the beach from the pier to the bluff, that a library in Central Park was unnecessary and that her efforts to shelter abused women might lead to her untimely death.

She proved everyone wrong.

On Wednesday, Gibbs, the first female council member and mayor of Huntington Beach, celebrated her 90th birthday at Gibbs Park, which was named after her in 1995. She was accompanied by her son, daughter and grandchildren.

Today, Huntington City Beach is free of buildings, the Central Library celebrated its 40th anniversary and Gibbs has helped thousands of people through the Interval House, a nonprofit she started in 1979 that cares for those who have been abused.

The celebration brought out about 100 people—including former and current council members, representatives from the Interval House and Gibbs’ family and friends—who waited in line to greet Gibbs and reminisce about her accomplishments.

Along with helping those in need and dedicating her time to her community, Gibbs has found time for her own interests. She has traveled around the world three times.

“I’ve completed my bucket list, as far as travel goes,” Gibbs said.

She also earned her master’s degree in psychology from the University of Illinois and taught at Cal State Long Beach for 40 years.

But Gibbs said there’s at least one more thing she’d like to see come to fruition, and, like so many other matters that she has been involved in, it has been controversial. She wants to see the new senior center open in Central Park.

“So when I finish that, then I can go,” Gibbs said. “I’ll finally retire.”