



ALUMNI HONORS

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



EMERGING LEADER AWARDS

AUTHOR E. HUGHES CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

MOTHER ROSALIE CLIFTON HILL AWARD

BISHOP CHARLES FRANCIS BUDDY AWARD



UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
Joan B. Kroc, Institute for Peace And Justice

OCTOBER 9, 2025



ALUMNI HONORS

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Eric J. Hafner
Senior Director, Alumni Relations

INVOCATION

Michael Lovett-Colyer '13 (PhD)
Vice President, Mission Integration

WELCOME

Chase Tushaus '11 (BS/BA)
Alumni Association President

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Emerging Leader Awards

Presented by
Vice President for University Advancement
Richard P. Virgin, '24 (PhD)

Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Awards

Presented by
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Nicholas Santilli, PhD

Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Award Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award

Presented by
James T. Harris III, DEd
President

CLOSING REMARKS

James T. Harris III, DEd
President



UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO ALUMNI HONORS

Tonight, we celebrate alumni whose exceptional contributions across various fields embody the values and spirit of USD. These prestigious awards honor individuals who have made a significant impact on their communities, industries, and the world.



EMERGING LEADER AWARD

The Alumni Emerging Leader Award recognizes a rising professional of noteworthy merit and accomplishment. It is bestowed upon an alumnus/a in recognition of his or her outstanding service and exemplary representation of the ideals characteristic of USD's most outstanding alumni.



AUTHOR E. HUGHES CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The recipient of the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award will be a USD alumnus/a who exhibits significant or extraordinary contributions within his or her chosen profession. This person exemplifies the values espoused by the college or school from which he/she is a graduate.



MOTHER ROSALIE CLIFTON HILL AWARD

The Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Award is presented to an alumnus/a for their extraordinary service and continuously active relationship with the University.



BISHOP CHARLES FRANCIS BUDDY AWARD

The Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Humanitarian Award is presented annually to an alumnus/a of the University of San Diego in recognition of his or her extraordinary contribution and commitment to humanitarian cause

2025 ALUMNI HONORS

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
Momo Bertrand '19 (MA)
Education Specialist, The World Bank

Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
Christian Burgos Nolan '19 (MA)
Outreach Coordinator, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

College of Arts and Sciences
Ray Vialu '20 (BA)
Clinical Psychology PsyD Student, California Baptist University

AUTHOR E. HUGHES CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering
Matthew Dominick '05 (BS/BA)
NASA Astronaut and U.S. Navy Commander

Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
Kathy James '85 (MSN), '91 (DNSc)
Family and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner,
Researcher and Retired Professor of Nursing

School of Law
Frederick Schenk '78 (JD)
Managing Partner, Schenk Law Firm

MOTHER ROSALIE CLIFTON HILL AWARD

Knauss School of Business
Richard Yousko '87 (BBA)
Founder, Chief Operating Officer and Owner, SJ Creations, Inc.

BISHOP CHARLES FRANCIS BUDDY AWARD

College of Arts and Sciences
Adama Iwu '05 (BA) CAS
Co-Founder of the "We Said Enough" Movement

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
MOMO BERTRAND '19 (MA)

Education Specialist, The World Bank

Momo Bertrand was raised in Cameroon, in Central Africa, by a single mother who became widowed when he was small. She was the first in her family to finish high school and went on to support 11 siblings and five children. She taught him not to be idle, to work hard and to make every moment count.

After graduating from the Catholic University Institute of Buea in Cameroon with a bachelor's degree in management, Bertrand launched a digital marketing agency that served a number of clients, including two Fortune 500 companies.

He also wrote a novel about a child displaced by a terror attack and sold it to raise money for the thousands of refugees who were crowding the northern part of his country. His personal story evolved into one about helping other people share the hidden stories about Africans



that we all too rarely hear — stories beyond those about safaris or Ebola or poachers chasing elephants.

After graduating with his master's degree in social innovation from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, Bertrand began working as an

education specialist for World Bank and recently published a report for World Bank titled, "100 Student Voices on AI and Education" as well as a report on "Investing in Inclusion," a guide on disability inclusion for universities.

He has devoted his career to bettering educational systems in West Africa and remains dedicated to training the next generation of Changemakers and storytellers, and ultimately, changing the narrative of Africa.

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
CHRISTIAN BURGOS NOLAN '19 (MA)

Outreach Coordinator, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Christian "Chris" Nolan is a passionate community advocate with a background in outreach, program management, and volunteer coordination.

She holds a master's degree in peace and justice from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies. Her work experience includes leading the Truth Commission in Culiacán through the school's Trans-Border Institute. She also runs various



programs at Mama's Kitchen, where she supported clients facing critical illnesses.

In her current role, as an outreach coordinator at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Nolan provides food and other resources to the community in need.

She remains committed to breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for people to access the resources they deserve.

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

College of Arts and Sciences

RAY VIALU '20 (BA)

Clinical Psychology PsyD Student, California Baptist University

Ray Vialu is a second-year, triple-degree student pursuing a Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD), a Master of Science in Sport and Performance Psychology, and a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology at California Baptist University. He also holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from San Diego State University. His multidisciplinary training prepares him to promote mental health and optimize human performance across diverse populations and settings.

Raised in Hawai'i, Vialu is the son of two physicians who emigrated from the Philippines. He credits their dedication to service for inspiring his own commitment to health and leadership. As an undergraduate at USD, he studied abroad in France, an experience that sparked a lifelong love of global learning. After completing his MPH, he returned to France in 2022 as an alumni fellow with the American College of the Mediterranean, where he spent a year supporting student wellness programs and strengthening his cross-cultural perspective.



Vialu was honored as Volunteer of the Year in 2021 by the County of San Diego for his leadership in the Live Well @ Work Healthy Worker Accelerator Program, which brought wellness initiatives and mental-health resources to more than 1,500 businesses across the region's business and faith communities.

He has presented research at national conferences on veteran suicide prevention and the role of social support in marginalized communities. His current scholarship includes developing programming for student-veterans and contributing to studies on the psychological construct of flow in sport and performance settings.

Today, he continues to integrate scholarship, clinical training, and global engagement to inspire change, create lasting generational impact, and to serve as a true Changemaker in the fields of mental health, public health and human performance.

AUTHOR E. HUGHES CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

School of Engineering

MATTHEW DOMINICK '05 (BS/BA) - SHILEY-MARCOS

NASA Astronaut and U.S. Navy Commander

Matthew Dominick was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. The Colorado native earned a dual Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Electrical Engineering from the University of San Diego and a Master of Science degree in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, before graduating from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in Patuxent River, Maryland.

Dominick launched to the International Space Station March 3, 2024, as commander of NASA's SpaceX Crew-8 mission. He served as a flight engineer aboard the orbiting laboratory, as part of a nearly eight-month science mission and the agency's eighth commercial crew rotation mission to the International Space Station.

Dominick was commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps following graduation from USD in 2005 and reported to Pensacola, Florida, for flight training.



Following initial training, Dominick was assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 143. He made two deployments to the North Arabian Sea, flying close air support missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While with Strike Fighter Squadron 143, he earned his

master's degree from the Naval Post Graduate School and graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.

In 2013, Dominick was assigned to the fixed wing carrier suitability flight test department of Air Test Evaluation Squadron 23. In 2016, Dominick returned to an operational naval squadron, Strike Fighter Squadron 115, flying F/A-18E Super Hornets in the Forward Deployed Naval Forces stationed in Atsugi, Japan.

When selected as an astronaut candidate, Dominick was at sea aboard the USS Ronald Reagan, serving in the U.S. Navy.

Dominick is married to Faith Dominick, and the couple has two daughters.

AUTHOR E. HUGHES CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science

KATHY SHADLE JAMES '85 (MSN), '91 (DNSC)

Family and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner,
Researcher and Retired Professor of Nursing

Kathy Shadle James is a nurse scholar and an internationally recognized expert in adult and childhood obesity prevention and intervention.

She received her master's degree in nursing (MSN) in 1985 and her doctorate degree in nursing science (DNSc) in 1991.

Dr. Shadle James is a family and women's health nurse practitioner, researcher and served as a professor of nursing in the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science for 25 years. Although now retired, Shadle James continues mentoring USD's nurse practitioner students in learning how to translate research into clinical practice and improve patient outcomes.



She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing as well as an International Fellow of the World Obesity Federation. She has more than 30 years of clinical experience and her research has focused on health education and improving the quality of life for underserved

families, her work has advanced nursing care for patients facing the challenges of obesity. Her work has also included studying the effects of obesity on reproductive women, as well as lifestyle factors predicting the risk of obesity in children. She has conducted workshops for allied health professionals across the globe to advance the care of families in obesity prevention and intervention.

Her active life includes swimming, golfing at Pauma Valley, electric bike riding and traveling with her husband and three sisters.

AUTHOR E. HUGHES CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

School of Law

FREDERICK SCHENK '78 (JD)

Managing Partner, Schenk Law Firm

Fred Schenk is managing partner of the Schenk Law Firm, formed with his son, Benjamin Schenk '20 (JD), and with his sister, the Hon. Lynn A. Schenk '70 (JD), a former member of Congress and fellow USD Law School distinguished alumna.

Previously, Schenk was a partner with CaseyGerry, where he practiced law for 42 years. Schenk was recognized as an Outstanding Trial Lawyer from the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, and was recognized by Best Lawyers as San Diego's 2014 and 2018 Trial Lawyer of the Year, in the field of mass torts. In 2019, The Daily Transcript recognized him as one of the 50 most influential people in business and law in San Diego.

Schenk joined the School of Law Board of Visitors in Fall 2014. In 2024, the law school awarded him the distinguished alumni of the year award.



Schenk is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and served on the San Diego chapter's executive committee for five years and was president of the chapter in 2021. Schenk was a member of the Board of Governors of the American Association for Justice (AAJ). He's a

past recipient of the Wiedemann & Wysocki award and achieved the rank of Diplomat by AAJ's National College of Advocacy.

Schenk finds gratification in his work as an attorney, especially when providing services to the families of the victims of 9/11 via Trial Lawyers Care, the largest pro bono program in the history of American jurisprudence.

In 2011, Gov. Jerry Brown appointed Schenk to serve on the 22nd District Agricultural Association Board of Directors and continues to serve under Gov. Gavin Newsom. In 2016, the San Diego County Bar acknowledged his civic service with its annual community service award.

MOTHER ROSALIE CLIFTON HILL AWARD

Knauss School of Business

RICHARD YOUSKO '87 (BBA)

Founder, Chief Operating Officer and Owner, SJ Creations, Inc.

Rich Yousko and his wife, Sundi, founded, built and sold SJ Creations, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of bath, body and hair care products throughout the U.S. and other countries. The company was started in a tiny apartment in Leucadia, California, and grew over more than 20 years. Rich and Sundi sold the business in 2022 and completed their commitment to the new owners in February of 2025.

Yousko married his wife, Sundi Cargill, in Founders Chapel 29 years ago and they live in Encinitas, California. They were married by the late Father Larry Dolan, who had a profound influence on their lives. The Youskos built their lives, houses and businesses in and around the Encinitas area.

As a student, Yousko was involved with USD's chapter of the Sigma Pi fraternity, serving in various capacities including social chair. He also served as a resident assistant during his junior and senior year.

His passion for being a Torero continued to grow even stronger in



the years following his graduation. He was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2000 to 2013 serving as president from 2004 to 2006. Yousko served in numerous capacities throughout his tenure on the board. He has also served on USD Magazine Advisory

Committee, USD Family Business Forum, USD Emerging Leaders Council and currently serves on the USD Alumni Subcommittee for the Capital Campaign, as well as recently joining the Franciscan School of Theology Regents. Additionally, he has also served as core committee member of the Kyle O'Connell Memorial Scholarship.

Yousko and his wife are active in their newly found conclusion of their business ownership chapter by staying engaged with numerous community outreach organizations, such as International Relief teams, Big Brothers Big Sisters, San Diego, Rancho Coastal Humane Society, St John the Evangelist and Cristo Rey Catholic High School.

They are the proud parents of two daughters, Spenser, 24 and Jensen, 23.

BISHOP CHARLES FRANCIS BUDDY AWARD

College of Arts and Sciences

ADAMA IWU '05 (BA)

Co-Founder of the "We Said Enough" Movement

Adama Iwu is a distinguished public affairs executive, social justice advocate, and co-founder of the "We Said Enough" movement, which gained national recognition for tackling sexual harassment and advocating for workplace equity.



harassment within California's political system. This letter sparked the creation of "We Said Enough," an organization dedicated to ending workplace harassment and fostering an inclusive professional culture across industries.

With a successful career in corporate government relations, Iwu has led public policy efforts for major corporations, leveraging her expertise in navigating complex regulatory environments and building strategic partnerships.

In 2017, Iwu emerged as a key voice in the #MeToo movement after co-authoring an open letter, signed by nearly 150 women, that exposed the pervasive culture of sexual

Her activism earned her a place among Time magazine's 2017 "Silence Breakers," the collective named Person of the Year for speaking out against sexual harassment.

She continues to lead efforts for legislative reform and workplace justice, with a focus on protecting and empowering marginalized voices.



