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.

“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)

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

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 Bouvaine 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.”

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

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— Danilo LeDuo, Associate Dean, College of Science

HOST Labs (continued from page 3)

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.

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)

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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 Cal State East Bay, then called Cal State Hayward, where he earned his B.S. in Business Administration, later earning his MBA from Harvard Business School. Just like many Cal State East Bay alumni, Juarez supported himself through college with off-campus jobs. He was grateful to receive a scholarship and emergency loans during various times of need.

“I created a scholarship to inspire students to strive for academic excellence and to pursue careers in finance, while also giving back to their communities,” said Juarez. “I want to ease the financial burden that many students face in paying for college. I want to help others, just like I was helped as I moved forward in my academic and professional career.”

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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

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.”

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.

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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.

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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/ASU) 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 that, I was hired as a volunteer in a leadership capacity with the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA)-Hayward Student Chapter.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK MUST BE TAINED IN ORDER TO BUILD A GREAT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM?**
My experience at Cal State East Bay, and working with the National Association of Black Accountants, taught me that in order to build a great volunteer program, it’s essential to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where volunteers feel valued and appreciated. Additionally, clear communication and regular feedback are crucial for maintaining engagement and satisfaction among volunteers. Finally, fostering a culture of leadership and encouraging volunteers to take on leadership roles can help build a robust and effective volunteer program.

**WHAT IS IT ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT CAL STATE EAST BAY THAT REMAINS THE MOST CHALLENGING?**
As a volunteer, I have encountered several challenges, one of which is ensuring that all volunteers have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Another challenge is managing the diverse needs and interests of the volunteers, ensuring that everyone is engaged and satisfied with their experience. Finally, balancing the needs of the volunteers with the needs of the institution can be a challenge, as we need to ensure that our volunteers are providing valuable support while also acknowledging their time and effort.

**HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, WHAT DO 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 mentor—a friend or professional guide. The reward gained from a relatively small outlay of energy will change everyone for the better.

**WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU HAVE LEARNED THROUGH VOLUNTEERING?**
I have learned the value of giving back to the community and the importance of creating meaningful connections between individuals and institutions. Through my volunteer work, I have had the opportunity to help shape the lives of others in meaningful ways, and I have gained a greater appreciation for the role that volunteers play in making our communities stronger.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?**
If you’re interested in volunteering, I would encourage you to reach out to your local community organizations or the alumni association. Organizations are always looking for dedicated volunteers to help with a variety of projects. Additionally, volunteering is a great way to gain experience and make new connections, which can be valuable both personally and professionally.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT CAL STATE EAST BAY?**
If you’re interested in volunteering at Cal State East Bay, I would encourage you to contact the alumni association or your local community organizations. Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community and make meaningful connections. Additionally, volunteering can be a great way to gain experience and build your resume, which can be valuable for both personal and professional growth.

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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.

csueastbay.edu/giving/givingtuesday