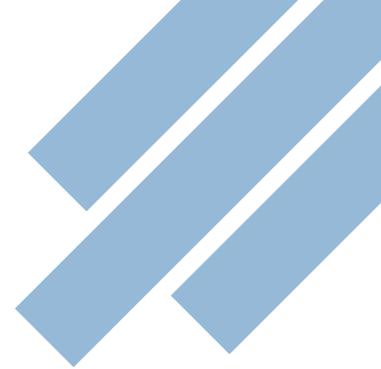


## 2020 Excellence in Stewardship Award Winners



### Edward Abeyta, PhD

*Associate Dean for Education and Community Engagement (Outreach)  
for UC San Diego Extension*

Dr. Abeyta joined UC San Diego in 1992. For the past three decades he has worked to extend educational opportunities tailored to the needs of underserved communities in San Diego through stewardship and innovation. In the last year alone, Dr. Abeyta has secured over \$1M for pre-collegiate programs at UC San Diego, and has secured annual commitments for the next five years from private donors, city agencies and foundations.

His successful stewardship can be attributed to his unique approach to networking; Dr. Abeyta has formed long-term relationships with donors and earned their support through strategic marketing plans, annual reports, program-specific data, impact videos, events and testimonials from beneficiaries. In addition, his active listening, problem-solving, and connecting skills have been crucial in identifying gaps in education and creating solutions. For example, Library NExT (Network of Education x Training) started as a pilot program in 2017 to provide San Diego libraries with much needed visitation and underserved San Diego students with educational workshops. Since then, the program has grown from six to 21 local libraries and continues to expand, providing nearly 6,000 elementary, middle school and high school students with an introduction to robotics, circuitry, and other STEAM fields at little to no cost.

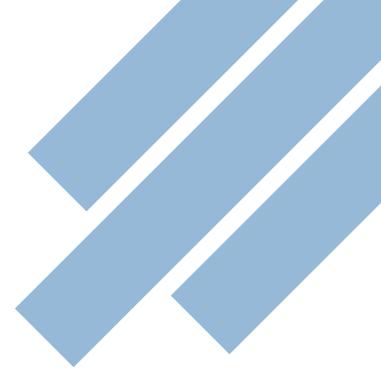
Dr. Abeyta has also secured funding for numerous projects, including Academic Connections and the new UC San Diego Educational Center. This 3-week residential summer program for high school students to experience life on the college campus is taught by UC San Diego doctoral students and has served over 4,000 pre-college youth in the last

decade. The new UC San Diego Educational Center, located in National City, was initiated by Dr. Abeyta in partnership with city officials and other educational advocates to serve the South Bay San Diego region. As private donors provide funding, Dr. Abeyta works hand-in-hand with nonprofits, philanthropic foundations and government agencies to prepare innovative programs to benefit the entire community.

In keeping with his educational mission, Dr. Abeyta brought together UC San Diego Extension, UC San Diego's Intertribal Resource Center and the indigenous Kumeyaay tribe in an unprecedented partnership to provide pre-college programs for Kumeyaay youth. Classes and workshops are tailored to suit their needs, and some are offered in their native tongue. For Dr. Abeyta, stewardship is about building relationships between UC San Diego and the community by addressing the needs of its underserved population, ultimately benefitting the entire region.

Mary Walshok, Dean of UC San Diego Extension, says, "Ed creates opportunities that wouldn't otherwise exist. His integrity, vast knowledge, and astounding personal professional relationships have done wonders to advance the university's mission to be of service. He effortlessly links members of the community, the corporate sector, students, scientists, and university officials in ways that enable groundbreaking programs."

**The Campaign For**  
**UC San Diego**



### Dr. Robert Naviaux

*Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Pathology*

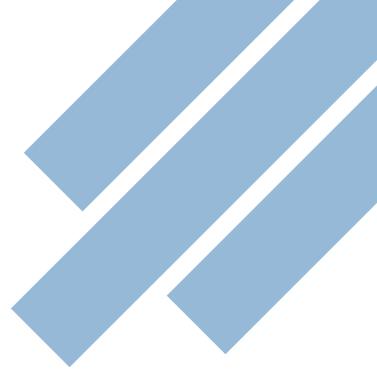
*Founder and co-director of the Mitochondrial and Metabolic Disease Center*

Dr. Naviaux leads the Naviaux Lab, which is focused on the study of mitochondria and their role in energy production, metabolism and cellular defense. For the past 20 years, his lab has helped hundreds of patients with mitochondrial and metabolic concerns. Dr. Naviaux is dedicated to his work inside and out of the lab, and personalizes each interaction he has with patients, families and donors.

His passion for finding a cure for mitochondrial disease makes him generous with his time and expertise. Debbie Shimizu, Founder and President of the Christini Benefit Fund, shares, "He is always willing to answer any questions [donors] may have and offers his time to meet with them in person if requested. He will give tours of his lab and prepare presentations of the latest discoveries and research advances made possible as a result of the donor support. He does this regardless of whether they are long-time supporters or potential new donors that have taken a great interest in his research. Dr. Naviaux is personally invested in the work and truly appreciates every penny he receives from donors." At the same time, Dr. Naviaux is well known and appreciated by his partners in Health Sciences Advancement for his timely responses to requests, openness to feedback, and support in all development efforts.

Over the course of his lab's development, Dr. Naviaux forged long-lasting relationships with families through his kindness, humility and care. He is one of the reasons why the Christini Benefit Fund, named after Christini Shimizu, who was diagnosed with Leigh Syndrome at 11 months old, still retains many of its original members and volunteers. At the benefit's 20th annual event, Dr. Naviaux read aloud a personal and heartfelt letter to Christini, who lost her battle to the mitochondrial disease shortly after her second birthday. He gave her updates on the progress that has been made over the past 20 years and thanked her, saying, "I could not have done any of this without having known you, or without everything your mom and her team, your dad and brother and sister, and all the people who have supported the Christini Fund over the years have done. Your life has brought hundreds of people together each year, and has inspired breakthroughs in medicine that will benefit millions of people around the world. I will be forever grateful. You gave us laughter and hope, and the courage to dream. The world is a better place because you were here." Dr. Naviaux touches the lives of so many through his sincerity, empathy and compassion for every one of his patients and their families. His stewardship flows naturally from his desire to help others.

## 2020 Excellence in Stewardship Award Winners



### Stuart Sandin '94, PhD

*Director, Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation  
Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography*

A proud UC San Diego alumnus, Dr. Sandin is passionate about educating people – not just students – about the global issues around climate change, which has led him to develop meaningful and personal relationships with donors who are drawn to his mission. David Hanses, Executive Director of Development, shares, “[Stuart] has been a remarkable advocate for our efforts. He speaks on behalf of, not only his research, but the entire Institution in support of the priorities set forth by leadership and always goes the extra mile in ensuring current and prospective donors feel connected to our campus and mission, motivating them to get more involved.”

Dr. Sandin always goes above and beyond in creating unique experiences for donors that showcase the work his lab does and share the overall vision of Scripps Oceanography (SIO). One way he does this is through the 100 Island Challenge – a large-scale experiment to investigate the variation of coral reefs from across the globe. Dr. Sandin played a key role in its creation and continues to play a key role in its stewardship, providing countless tours and behind-the-scenes access to individuals and families. His love for the work he and his team do shines through each and every one of his presentations. He is also known for his incredible expeditions to locations around the globe which allow donors to observe SIO’s cutting-edge research firsthand through continued conversation and interaction. After such an impactful experience, those who spend time with Dr. Sandin on an excursion often join SIO’s highest level of donors.

Dr. Sandin has headed public events such as the “Salty Cinema” Program to spearhead needed discussions surrounding global challenges. As host of this year’s event, Dr. Sandin personally greeted donor Lisa Braun Glazer and introduced her to other key faculty members after he caught her attention during a 100 Island Challenge presentation. These public events do not detract from his ability to form meaningful and personal relationships with donors, but provide an introduction sustained through his own care. In Lisa Braun Glazer’s own words, “From the moment we were introduced by Tyler Grigsby in 2017, Dr. Sandin has been warm and engaging, taking every opportunity to include me in SIO events that he thought would be of interest, to make time to participate in my visits to campus, particularly Building D, and to celebrate the confirmation of our gift which will result in the naming of the café and terrace.”

Dr. Sandin holds a sustained sense of pride in the SIO family and their global impact. He is an integral part of this impact through the research he does and the stewardship he models – one that is based in education and personalized interactions to better the San Diego region and beyond.