



UC San Diego Foundation Vice Chair



John D. Cambon, '74

It can be said that John Cambon knows investing – not only investing of funds, but in the case of UC San Diego, investing of a great deal of time and talent. John has lost track of how many terms he has served on the UC San Diego Foundation, but he knows that his commitment started with his role as president of the Alumni Association, which he sees as not only a continuum of engagement, but a strong reason for it.

“When I first came on the Foundation, there were maybe one or two other alumni. Now we have many more and I think as that number grows, those members are going to be very active and enthusiastic.” Although his term on the Alumni Association ended years ago, he is still a booster for UCSD students, past and present. As a member of the Foundation’s Investment Committee – on which he has continually served – he helped launch a similar committee on the UC San Diego Student Foundation, mentoring students in the ways of growing and investing philanthropic funds.

John has been doing this work since he left school. He was an economics major at UC Irvine, then earned his PhD in economics at UC San Diego. After a spell on the East Coast in finance, he returned to San Diego in 1980. Soon after, a campus friend brought him onto the UCSD Alumni Association board to help on the Investment Committee; he’s been providing this expertise to UC San Diego ever since, and elsewhere: He is on the Board of Governors at The San Diego Foundation, and has served on the Investment Advisory Committee to the Regents of the University of California.

“I came in with a very well-defined focus, and have stayed focused. I tend to gravitate toward things where I can see results.” And he has: John was on the steering committee for the successful \$1 billion Campaign for UCSD. He has been involved with the Mandeville Gallery Art Council, and he and wife Barbara are Chancellor’s Associates. His daughter, Megan, is a recent graduate of UC Davis.

John is a principal at Regent Partners, LLC, with more than 30 years of experience in the management and financing of early-stage companies, corporate planning and investment management. Prior to Regent Partners, he was a partner at Commercial Bridge Capital, LLC, a bridge lending fund. He has served as CEO and Director of Genetic BioSystems, Inc., a venture funded start-up company developing products for biomedical research; as President and Director of AMBIS, Inc. a biomedical research equipment company; and as CEO and Director of Digivision, Inc. a medical imaging equipment company.