



UC San Diego Foundation Trustee



Leo Spiegel, '83

Leo Spiegel likes to say that he was a student at UC San Diego when the dinosaurs roamed, and that he was a little shocked by the caliber of students he discovered when he arrived. “There were so many smart people, I thought, now I’m going to have to work!” Leo quickly picked up the UCSD tempo, and today attributes much of his trajectory to his college years. “It was an amazing experience. I got to work with some really great professors who, along with important knowledge, taught me how to think and solve problems.”

A Management Science major, Leo learned enough about business and computer systems at UC San Diego to take it to the next step—before even graduating. He started his first business at school, Integrated Analysis, which became LANSystems. “And UCSD was my first client! We automated and networked all of the non-academic departments on campus, like accounting and police.” LANSystems, which grew into a network utilities software developer and international systems integration firm, was later sold to Intel Corporation and R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company.

Leo is one of UC San Diego’s most enthusiastic alumni: “I was educated and groomed at UCSD and they got me into business. It’s such a spectacular institution – educating people and solving cancer and creating a green world. And for San Diego it’s become so core to this community.”

In addition to his role on the Investment/Finance Committee of the UC San Diego Foundation Board, Leo is also a hands-on contributor to the Dean's Advisory Council at the Rady School of Management, particularly in the UCSD 50K Entrepreneurship Business Plan Competition held each year to spur student innovation. Off campus, he is involved with the San Diego Jewish Academy and the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego. He is active in the San Diego Venture Group, providing a networking link between the nonprofit business association and the Rady School.

When not volunteering, Leo is a Managing Partner at Mission Ventures, a Southern California venture capital firm that invests in early stage IT companies. Prior to joining Mission Ventures, he was President of Digital Island, Inc., a leading provider of global e-business network and content delivery services. He joined Digital Island as a result of a merger with Sandpiper Networks, Inc., the world's first content delivery service provider for the Internet, where he was Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to his leadership of Sandpiper Networks,



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Leo served as Senior Vice President and CTO of Donnelley Enterprise Solutions Incorporated, an information management firm specializing in systems integration, outsourcing and software development.

A native of Los Angeles, Leo stayed in San Diego to work and raise a family. His children attend the San Diego Jewish Academy; son Hunter is looking into colleges from University of Southern California to Tufts University, and daughter Maddie has a few years to go before Dad begins suggesting his alma mater.