



UC San Diego Foundation Treasurer



Brian Walsh, '89

Over the years, Brian Walsh estimates that his commercial real estate firm, Walsh Chacon, has employed over 30 UC San Diego graduates and interns. More than loyalty to his alma mater, Brian attributes it to a simple fact: “I like smart people.”

Brian also values connectedness, something he learned early on from his father, former City Councilman and County Supervisor Jack Walsh. Fathers in politics connected Brian with a friend he met at UCSD; the two started a real estate company that took off but kept Brian so busy, “It took me 14 years to get through UCSD!” He ultimately graduated with a degree in Urban Planning, a “practical and useful” major, he has found, as was his minor in Economics.

His experience as a commuter student has shaped his vision for the campus, including strong views about life outside of the classroom. “To me student life is critical. If we really want to be successful we need to fill our board with graduates who had a great time, then were launched into successful careers.” He is also passionate in his views about making a UCSD education accessible to minorities. The scholarship he established with his wife, Erin, is set up “to reach into some of the more challenged zip codes in San Diego.”

Brian has served as president of UC San Diego’s Alumni Association, a position that led to his current role as trustee on the UC San Diego Foundation board, where he serves on the Audit, Investment and Student Foundation committees, all very hands-on. In addition to his involvement at UC San Diego, he served as an elected member of the Little Italy Business Improvement District and was president of the Gaslamp Quarter Council. He advises the board of directors of St. Vincent de Paul Village on real estate matters.

Brian launched his real estate career in 1978, joining his father in a residential development company. With his UCSD classmate, in 1982 Brian co-founded Walsh Chacon, a full service San Diego commercial real estate company representing clients in industries ranging from professional services to high tech companies, biotech concerns, manufacturing entities and telecommunications. Recently, Brian ceased all brokerage operations to concentrate on acquiring commercial property. His San Diego County property interests include apartment complexes, retail projects and vacant land.

Brian and Erin are the parents of two college baseball players – Brendan, an outfielder at Johns Hopkins, and middle infielder Colin, a student at Stanford. A longtime coach of his boys’ teams, Brian has also become a booster of UCSD’s Triton Athletics, quick to tell you, “Did you know our student athletes have a higher GPA than the campus average?”