

Trustee



Darcy Bingham

In the wake of Darcy Bingham's drive and energy you will find young people whose lives have undergone a dramatic change for the better as a result of her time and generosity, but more importantly, because they have worked hard to earn it. Darcy is a native of Wisconsin, and as she told the *San Diego Union-Tribune* in a 2012 interview, "My parents may not have had a lot of money that they could share, but it was certainly about sharing your time and your talents and volunteering. We kind of had a family ethos, a Midwestern ethos, that you are only allowed to complain about something so much before you were expected to go help fix it." At UC San Diego, Darcy has applied fixes largely to the problem of access to education.

Long before she was a philanthropist, she was a college student racking up student debt as a work-study student while earning two bachelor's degrees at Arizona State University, then studying graduate-level sports management at San Diego State University. This is where she met her future husband Robert; they married in 1991. Darcy was hired at UC San Diego, and became director of operations and associate director of recreation. She became involved with the UC San Diego Staff Association and eventually became president. This led to a position as chair of the UC system-wide Council of UC Staff Assemblies, which included attendance at UC Regents meetings. "I became incredibly informed about the UC system."

When her husband's company sold, Darcy left her staff position in 2000 and began sharpening her focus on efforts that provide opportunity, with Midwestern sensibility: Bingham scholarships are awarded to students who are employed on campus to pay for college, not only helping themselves, but also contributing valuable work that keeps an enormous university running.

Darcy serves on UC San Diego's Undergraduate Scholarship Council and is very active in the annual Triton 5K, which is in line with her passions: students, scholarships, recreation and networking. She has been a vocal advocate for students, addressing and educating several support groups on campus. Darcy is a member of UC San Diego's Town & Gown and Chancellor's Associates, and she has co-chaired the annual celebration at The Preuss School UCSD for several years, another venue where she helps make a difference in the lives and futures of incredible students. In 2012, she and her husband were made Honorary UC San Diego Alumni.

Darcy's reach extends beyond UC San Diego. She is co-founder of San Diego Social Venture Partners and SVP International, and has chaired the San Diego Foundation Scholarship Program Committee. She also serves on the San Diego Foundation's Strategic Planning Committee and the San Diego Regional Disaster Board. In addition to now serving a second term on the Board of Trustees of the UC San Diego Foundation, she is also a member of The

San Diego Foundation Board of Governors, and the Board of Directors of NIRSA, an international recreation, health and fitness organization she has been a part of since early in her career.

When not strategizing the next scholarship campaign, Darcy travels the world with Bob, with a preference for trips that direct her considerable energy up mountains and around icebergs.