



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# SDSU RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Board of Directors

*Abbreviated Bios*

October 2018

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Adela de la Torre**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Term: Ex Officio from June 2018 to present



Dr. Adela de la Torre was appointed by the California State University Board of Trustees as president of San Diego State University and joined the campus in June 2018. Dr. de la Torre is the ninth permanent president of SDSU and the first woman to serve in that role. She brings 30 years of service in leadership roles within institutions of higher education, including the California State University system, the University of Arizona and the University of California, Davis.

Prior to her appointment as President, she served as the vice chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity at UC-

Davis. Dr. de la Torre's research focuses on Latino community health and has been funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. de la Torre served as Director for the UC-Davis Center for Transnational Health for fourteen years, as chair of the UC-Davis Chicana/Chicano Studies Department, as director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence in the College of Medicine at the University of Arizona, and as director of the Mexican American Studies and Research Center at the University of Arizona. Dr. de la Torre was a professor at California State University, Long Beach, and at the University of Arizona before joining UC-Davis in 2002, where she became the first Latina to receive the rank of Distinguished Professor.

Dr. de la Torre's grandparents immigrated to the Central Valley from Mexico. She grew up in the Bay Area, where her grandmother and mother taught her important cultural traditions – the importance of family, the value of hard work and the power of education. Her mother went to Modesto Community College and UC-Berkeley and was a public school teacher for 40 years. Dr. de la Torre earned her bachelor's degree in the political economy of natural resources from UC-Berkeley. Her master's degree and Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics are also from UC-Berkeley.



**Stephen Welter “Steve”**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Term: Ex Officio from November 2011 to present

Dr. Welter is the Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Affairs at San Diego State University. He joined SDSU in October of 2011. Dr. Welter received his B.S. in entomology in 1976 from UC Davis, and later attended the University of California, Riverside, where he received his Ph.D. in entomology. His research specialties span the applied – fundamental spectrum of biological sciences emphasizing insect ecology as it relates to understanding how natural and agricultural systems are regulated.

His program remains actively supported with funding from the USDA, EPA, and the private sector. He has worked actively with private industries as both a researcher and member of scientific advisory boards to help translate university research into pragmatic solutions of agricultural problems while also realizing tangible environmental and worker safety benefits. His efforts to develop more biologically sustainable alternatives to insecticides were recognized in a series of state, regional, and national technology transfer awards. As a recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award from UC Berkeley, Dr. Welter has been a long-time advocate for the synergy that results from integrating academic scholarship with teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels,.

Dr. Welter first served as assistant professor at San Diego State University in the biology department from 1981-1984. For 27 years, he was a member of the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley as a member of the department of entomology (1984-1993) and department of environmental science, policy, and management (1993-2011). During this period, he also served in a variety of administrative positions including division chair, Associate Dean of Instruction and Student Affairs, and Executive Associate Dean for the College of Natural Resources. He has served as a member and chair of numerous state and federal advisory or granting programs such as the USDA National Research Initiative or the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources Program Council.



**Karen Emmorey**

**SECRETARY**

Term: September 2016 to September 2019 (fourth term)

Dr. Emmorey is a professor in SDSU's speech, language, and hearing sciences department in the College of Health and Human Services, and director of SDSU's Laboratory for Language & Cognitive Neuroscience (LLCN).

The LLCN is home to one of the most comprehensive sign language research programs in the nation. Dr. Emmorey has received support from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation for her research on what sign

languages reveal about the nature of human language, cognition, and the brain. She is the author of four books and more than 100 journal articles and chapters, and is an associate editor for the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*.

Dr. Emmorey is the recipient of roughly \$15 million in grants. She currently holds awards from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Emmorey received SDSU's 2011 Distinguished Faculty Award and is a 2010 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in linguistics from UCLA and was a senior staff scientist at The Salk Institute for Biological Sciences prior to joining SDSU in 2005.



**Tom McCarron**

**TREASURER**

Chair, Finance and Investment Committee

Term: Ex Officio from July 2013 to present

Mr. McCarron is responsible for the management of one of four major divisions that make up the administrative organization of San Diego State University. Services provided by Business and Financial Affairs to the campus community include budget and financial resource management, athletics oversight, construction of new facilities, human resource management, maintenance and improvement of current facilities, and providing for the public and environmental safety of faculty, staff and students.

As SDSU's Chief Financial Officer, Mr. McCarron oversees the fiscal activities of the University and its non-profit support organizations and enterprises with combined annual revenues in excess of \$700 million. He is a member of the boards of directors of the San Diego State University Research Foundation and Aztec Shops, Ltd.

Mr. McCarron served as Vice President of Administration and Finance, and Chief Financial Officer at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) from 2007-2013. He also served as

Executive Director and President of the University Corporation and North Campus Development Corporation (1999-2007), and as Chief Financial Officer of the CSU Institute (1993-1999). Prior to 1993, Mr. McCarron spent over a decade in financial and management roles with primarily Fortune 500 companies.

Tom McCarron earned a B.S. in accounting at CSU Northridge, and an MBA from Pepperdine University. He is a past president of the CSU's state-wide Auxiliary Organizations Association and past chair of the CSU Chief Administrative and Business Officers (CABO).



**Guadalupe X. Ayala "Suchi"**

Term: September 2015 to September 2018

Dr. Ayala is a professor in SDSU's Graduate School of Public Health and Co-Director of the Institute for Behavioral and Community Health, a non-profit research institute dedicated to addressing Latino and other health disparities. Dr. Ayala completed her Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a specialization in behavioral medicine in 2002, received an MPH in health promotion in 2002 and an MA in experimental psychology in 1997. She joined SDSU as an Assistant Professor in 2005 and was promoted to Professor in 2011. Dr. Ayala served as the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Health and Human Services from 2014—to 2017.

Professor Ayala is leading several intervention and observational studies funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Healthy Eating Research program, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her total funding to date as an SDSU principal investigator is more than \$20 million. Dr. Ayala's work examines a range of factors related to health and well-being in children, adults, and families, including improving access to and consumption of healthy foods by working with small food stores and restaurants, promoting physical activity through community health worker support, and preventing and controlling obesity, diabetes, and asthma through multi-sector, multi-level changes. She is the principal investigator on last year's \$10 million endowment grant from NIH which will improve the infrastructure that supports population health and health disparities research. Her research has produced over 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts.

In 2015, Dr. Ayala was presented with the Outstanding Faculty Award for the College of Health and Human Services in recognition of her achievements in designing evidence-based interventions to prevent and control a variety of chronic health conditions, including obesity, diabetes, and asthma among Latinos.



**Kim Barrett** (*Community Member*)

Term: September 2016 to September 2019 (third term)

Dr. Barrett is distinguished professor of medicine at UCSD. A native of the United Kingdom, Dr. Barratt obtained her B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the Department of Chemistry at University College London. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, she joined the faculty of UCSD School of Medicine in 1985 and rose to her current rank of professor of medicine in 1996. Her research interests center on the normal and abnormal biology of the intestinal epithelium and their relevance to a variety of digestive diseases including inflammatory bowel diseases, infectious diarrheal diseases, and peptic ulcer disease. She

has received a number of honors for her research including the Bowditch and Davenport Lectureships of the American Physiological Society, and being awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine Science, *honoris causa*, by Queens University Belfast. She has been highly active in professional societies and in scholarly editing. She is also the author or editor of several books and monographs and more than two hundred peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and reviews

**William Brack "Bill"** (*Community Member*)

Finance and Investment Committee Member



Term: September 2016 to September 2019 (second term)

William "Bill" Brack received his Bachelor of Science degree in finance in 1976 from San Diego State University. Mr. Brack was in management in the financial services industry for over 30 years. During that time he managed branch offices for Charles Schwab and Company in San Diego, Fort Worth, Houston and La Jolla and a global call center team in Phoenix. In the community, Bill has served on the board of directors for the Alzheimer's Association of San Diego and is currently serving on the Advisory Board with the Aztec Club. Bill is a registered Certified Financial Planner who works as a consultant within the financial services industry.



**Vickie Capps** (*Community Member*)

Audit Committee Member

Finance and Investment Committee Member

Term: September 2017 to September 2020 (second term)

After Ms. Capps received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration/ Accounting from San Diego State University, she began her career with Ernst & Young LLP and served ten years as a senior audit and accounting professional. Her subsequent work experience included CFO positions at several large multinational corporations, all San Diego-based. She is well versed in executive leadership and mentoring, global strategic business development, corporate finance and accounting, capital markets and investor relations, operations, business integration/restructuring and corporate governance. Most recently, her unique and broad based talents were an integral part of DJO Global, Inc.'s growth story from 2002 through 2013. When Ms. Capps joined DJO, a global orthopedic device company, as Chief Financial Officer in 2002, company revenue was approximately \$180 million. For 2013, DJO's revenues exceeded \$1.1 billion, reflecting a compound annual growth rate of over 20%. Ms. Capps retired from DJO in December 2013.

Ms. Capps is currently a member of the Senior Advisory Board of Consonance Capital Partners, a healthcare-focused private equity firm and she serves on the board of its portfolio company, Enclara Health, a provider of pharmacy services to the hospice industry. She is also a member of the boards of directors and chairs the Audit Committees of RF Surgical Systems, Inc., a private medical device company, Otonomy, Inc., a public biopharmaceutical company (Nasdaq:OTIC) and Connecture Inc., a private healthcare information technology company. She served as a member of the board of directors of SenoRx (Nasdaq), prior to its acquisition by C. R. Bard, Inc. in July 2010. Ms. Capps also serves on the Finance Committee of the board of directors of The Santaluz Club, a non-profit country club. Ms. Capps is a California Certified Public Accountant and was recognized as a CFO of the Year honoree by the San Diego Business Journal in 2009 and 2010.



**Joan M. Coppentrath** (Community Member)

Strategic Initiative Finance Executive  
HSBC Auto Finance

Finance and operations executive Joan Coppentrath has more than thirty years of experience in public accounting and private industry including financial services, mortgage banking and real estate. Her expertise includes strategic asset disposition, financial planning and reporting, financial accounting, operational management and loan system conversions.

Ms. Coppentrath has been with HSBC Auto Finance since 2001, where she has served as Controller, Chief Financial Officer and currently as Strategic Initiative Finance Executive. Prior to joining HSBC, Ms. Coppentrath held positions with GMAC Mortgage (Senior VP, Mortgage Loan Servicing), Wells Fargo Bank (VP, Mortgage Loan Servicing) and KPMG (Senior Audit Manager).

An SDSU alumna with a B.S. in accounting, Ms. Coppentrath also serves her community. She is a board member of Just in Time for Foster Youth and has volunteered with the San Diego Zoological Society, Junior Achievement and National Charity League.



**Craig Hauser** (Community Member)

Term: September 2015 to September 2018 (second term)

Dr. Hauser is a product of the California education system, graduating from Berkeley High School, doing his undergraduate studies in Genetics at UC Davis, Ph.D. studies in Molecular Genetics at UC Irvine, and postdoctoral training in Gene Expression at UC Berkeley. Following postdoctoral training at UC Berkeley, Dr. Hauser was recruited to the Sanford-Burnham faculty in 1989. His research program, independently funded by NIH and DOD grants, has centered on the interplay between the regulation of gene expression and oncogenic transformation, focusing on the Ets family of transcription factors. In 2004, Dr. Hauser was appointed Associate Director in Sanford-Burnham's NCI-designated Cancer Center. In the following year, he transitioned to a full-time administrative position, becoming an adjunct faculty member. Since 2008, Dr. Hauser has served as Vice President for Scientific Resources, reporting to the President. His responsibilities include overseeing the operations of the Institute's Shared Resources consisting of 32 core facilities and extensive shared scientific equipment. Dr. Hauser also oversees EH&S operations and the Institute's scientific regulatory compliance - chairing the IRB/SCRO committee and coordinating the activities of the IACUC and IBC. Additionally, in collaboration with the Director of Facilities, Dr. Hauser manages the Institute's space and facilities, and plays an active

role in Sanford-Burnham space planning. Overall, Dr. Hauser utilizes his background in grant-funded research and his administrative experience in overseeing operations and facilities, to build an infrastructure that supports outstanding scientific research.



**Joseph F. Johnson, Jr. "Joe"**

Interim Provost and Senior Vice President

Term: June 2018 – present

On June 6, 2018, Dr. Johnson became the Interim Provost and Senior Vice President of San Diego State University. During the five previous years, he served as the Dean of the College of Education at SDSU, working with faculty, staff, and students to build a national reputation for outstanding teaching, influential research, and high caliber service to school districts, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations. Dr. Johnson came to San Diego State in 2005 as the QUALCOMM Professor of Urban Education and the Executive Director of the National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST). NCUST identifies, studies, and promotes the best practices of high-performing urban schools and districts throughout the nation. Specifically, NCUST identifies urban schools that achieve outstanding academic results for every demographic group of students they serve. They award and study those schools and then help other schools pursue similar results. Previously, he served as a teacher in Southeast San Diego, as a school and district administrator in New Mexico, as a state department official in both Texas and Ohio, as a researcher at the University of Texas, and as a Senior Executive Service Director at the US Department of Education where he led the nation's largest federal elementary and secondary education programs. He earned a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Texas, a master's degree at San Diego State University, and a Bachelor of Science Degree (Magna Cum Laude) from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. He has received outstanding educator awards in both New Mexico and Texas. He has published multiple articles, book chapters, reports, and books. He is married to Dr. Cynthia L. Uline, Professor Emeritus in the Educational Leadership Department at SDSU. Drs. Johnson and Uline have three adult daughters who have graduated from college and are pursuing careers related to computer programming/information science, museum administration, and social work.



**Samuel Kassegne “Sam”**

Finance and Investment Committee Member

Term: March 2016 to September 2019 (second term)

Dr. Kassegne obtained his BS from Anna University, India; his MS from the Middle East Technical University, Turkey; and his Ph.D. in engineering mechanics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He joined SDSU’s mechanical engineering department in 2005.

His research interests are in the areas of MEMS (MicroElectro Mechanical Systems), bio-nanoelectronics, and integrated micro- and nano-fabrication technologies. His experimental research work is focused primarily in Organic-MEMS, novel applications of microfluidics/nanofluidics and microarray technology, new bio-nanoelectronics platforms, as well as polymer photovoltaic technology. His lab has a strong focus on developing the next generation of integrated micro- and nano-lithography technology for a variety of application areas.

Dr. Kassegne has extensive industrial experience in MEMS, biotech and computational sciences acquired through his employment at Nanogen, Microfabrica and Bentley Systems in Southern California. He has also consulted for: Corning/Intellisense, SAIC, Nevada Nanotech, OxyHeal, ERC, OmniTech, KeyMark Engineering, Game Changers, Cooley LLP, and Nokia. Dr. Kassegne has a unique engineering background that spans a number of engineering disciplines. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, San Diego Foundation, U.S. Navy (SPAWAR) Department of Education, CSUPERB, AlphaTec, and AMO Co (Korea). He has taught MEMS and finite element analysis (FEA) courses at UCSD and UC Irvine where he was a visiting scientist. Dr. Kassegne is also deputy director of the Center for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering, an \$18.5 million collaboration between SDSU, the University of Washington and MIT.



**Randolph Philipp “Randy”**

Finance and Investment Committee Member

Term: September 2016 to September 2020 (second term)

Dr. Philipp is a professor of mathematics education in the School of Teacher Education at San Diego State University and director of the Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education (CRMSE). Dr. Philipp earned his BA and MS in mathematics at CSU Northridge. While serving as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching mathematics at a junior high school and a teacher training institute in Liberia, West Africa, he discovered that he enjoyed working with prospective teachers. Upon returning to the United States, Dr. Philipp continued his education and received his Ph.D. in curriculum instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Philipp began his career at SDSU in 1990. His research

interests include studying teachers' beliefs and mathematical content knowledge, the effects on prospective and practicing teachers of integrating mathematics content and students' mathematical thinking, mapping a trajectory for the evolution of elementary school teachers engaged in sustained professional development, and studying students' integer sense. In 2006, Dr. Philipp was the first recipient of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educator's (ATME) Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teacher Education. He is now serving as president of ATME.

Dr. Philipp is the recipient of more than \$12 million in grants. He is currently the co-PI on awards from NSF and the California Department of Education.



**Christopher Thomas "Chris"**

Term: Ex Officio 2017-18

Mr. Thomas is president of SDSU's Associated Students. A senior from Inglewood, CA, he is pursuing a degree in Athletic Training with a double minor in Spanish and Leadership. His involvement in Associated Students began when he joined the Recreation and Wellness Commission because of his passion for promoting a healthy lifestyle for all students. Chris served as A.S. Vice President for Student Affairs and:

- A.S. Recreation and Wellness Commissioner (2 years)
- Member of A.S. Community Service Commission
- Student at Large, A.S. University Affairs Board
- Chapter President of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity
- Vice President of Leadership Development of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity
- Vice President of Health and Wellness, Inter-Fraternity Council
- Member of SDSU Rotaract
- Member of FratMANers (Fraternity Men Against Negative Environments and Rape Situations)
- Avid Member of the Aztec Recreation Center



**Jennifer Thomas**

Term: September 2016 to September 2020

Dr. Thomas is a professor and the master's program advisor in the department of psychology. She joined SDSU as an Assistant Professor in 2000.

Her research focuses on reducing the severity of fetal alcohol effects, particularly using choline supplementation as a potential treatment. Dr. Thomas's lab integrates students into all levels of research, enabling them to gain experience with behavioral testing and histological evaluation.

Dr. Thomas is the recipient of \$6 million in grants—primarily from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism—since she joined SDSU in 2000. This includes one NIH award which is in its thirteenth consecutive year of funding. She has also been instrumental in the administration and/or preparation of conference, consortium and training grants.

Dr. Thomas received her B.S. from Iowa State University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.



**Ming-Hsiang Tsou "Ming"**

Audit Committee Member

Term: September 2014 to September 2018

Professor. Tsou joined SDSU's geography department in 2000. His research interests are in human dynamics, social media, big data, visualization, internet mapping, web *geographic information systems (GIS)*, mobile GIS, cartography, and K-12 GIS education. His research has been applied to wildfire tracking, habitat conservation, health care and homeland security. He is co-author of *Internet GIS*, and serves on the

editorial boards of *the Annals of GIS*, *Cartography and GIScience* and *Professional Geographers*.

Dr. Tsou is the recipient of roughly \$4 million in grants; he currently holds three awards from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Tsou is the director of the Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age, a transdisciplinary research area of excellence at San Diego State University that integrates research from GIS, public health, social science, sociology, and communication. Dr. Tsou has served as chair of the Cartographic Specialty Group, chair of Cyberinfrastructure Specialty Group in the Association of American Geographers (AAG), and co-chair of the NASA Earth Science Enterprise Data System Working Group (ESEDWG) Standard Process Group (SPG). He has also served on two U.S. National Academy of Science Committees. From 2004-2007,

Dr. Tsou was co-chair of the NASA Earth Science Enterprise Data System: Standard Process One. Since 2008, he has served as a senior researcher in the GeoTech Center for promoting GIS education in community colleges and high schools.

Dr. Tsou obtained his B.S. from National Taiwan University, his M.A. from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder, all in geography.

### **Robert Zeller “Bob”**

Term: September 2017 to September 2021 (second term)



Dr. Zeller obtained his B.A. from Boston University and his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology. He was hired as an assistant professor in SDSU’s Biology Department in 2001, promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2007 and to full professor in 2013. Since arriving at SDSU he has taught nearly 4,000 students and has trained approximately 36 undergraduates as well as numerous masters and doctoral students in his laboratory. For over 15 years Dr. Zeller has served as a faculty member at the internally renowned Embryology Course of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Research in his laboratory is centered on understanding how the nervous system develops

in the marine animal ascidian. Dr. Zeller’s research focuses on both the basic cellular mechanisms that govern development, as well as more applied experiments related to hearing loss and Alzheimer’s disease. This research has been continuously funded by the National Science Foundation since 2004, starting with an NSF CAREER grant. In addition to his NSF support, Dr. Zeller’s work is also currently funded by NIH.

He is a member of the editorial board for Integrative and Comparative Biology and is currently the Program Area Coordinator for the Cell and Molecular Biology faculty of the Biology Department. Dr. Zeller worked with the College of Sciences, the university and research foundation to design and build the Coastal Waters Laboratory. He is the incoming chair of the biology department (effective October 1, 2017).