

Two UCSD alumni jazz artists to be honored "Alumni of the Year" award

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UCSD NAMES JAZZMEN NATHAN EAST AND HOLLIS GENTRY "ALUMNI OF THE YEAR"

Two University of California, San Diego alumni who are making their mark in the world of jazz at both the national and international levels will be honored at the UCSD Alumni Association's annual Awards of Excellence dinner on June 15.

Nathan East (Third College '78) and Hollis Gentry III (Third College '76) will share this year's Outstanding Alumnus Award. The honors will be presented by UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson, assisted by Alumni Association President Gary L. Wollberg.

Other alumni association laurels will be awarded to scientist Glen Evans ('73 and '79), professional achievement; businessman William W. Otterson, distinguished service to the university; Stephen Cox, distinguished UCSD faculty member; UCSD athletic director Judy Sweet, honorary alumna, and six student-achievement awards. The public is invited to attend the event, which will begin at 6 p.m. in the UCSD Price Center Grand Ballroom.

Although East and Gentry cross paths occasionally at the professional level, the two have shared a remarkably parallel track through their educational careers. Both attended Crawford High School, all the while taking every opportunity to perform in public with other young musicians. They both are graduates of UCSD's Third College, and both majored in music performance, offered by UCSD's Department of Music.

After receiving his undergraduate degree, East moved on to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music; Gentry continued at UCSD as a graduate student until 1980, when he received an M.F.A. degree in music composition and theory.

East, a jazz guitarist of international status, performs regularly with the Eric Clapton band. He recently finished a 24-night stand with Clapton in London's Royal Albert Hall. He has toured with Kenny Loggins, Al Jareau, and Phil Collins. In 1982, a song he wrote for Collins and Philip Bailey, "Easy Lover," reached the No. 2 spot on the pop music charts. He is a polished sessions guitarist, in demand by artists such as Anita Baker, Barbra Streisand, Lionel Richie, Chaka Khan, George Benson and Quincy Jones. Between performances East produces recordings and composes, working out of a 24-track recording studio he designed in the Los Angeles area.

Gentry, an accomplished classical and jazz musician, performed on the flute and piccolo at UCSD, and for several years was a member of various chamber music groups and the La Jolla Civic-University Orchestra. The saxophone now is his instrument of choice, in all of its ranges. He has toured widely with the Larry Carlton band, in the United States and abroad. He has performed with Stan Getz, Freddie Hubbard, Herbie Mann, Nathan East and Barry White, and has "opened" for jazz artists Dave Brubeck, The Buddy Rich Big Band, Sarah Vaughn, Tom Scott and Manhattan Transfer. His recordings include "Hollis Gentry Neon," and "One of a Kind" with the Fattburger band. He appeared on "New York Exile" with Lamont Johnson and Charles MacPhearson. His future interests include production and creative film-scoring.

Glen Evans, director of the Salk Institute's Molecular Genetics Laboratory in La Jolla, was recently awarded a \$13 million grant for his work on mapping Chromosome 11, the source of genetic material involved in the formation of the brain and immune system. As the principal investigator of the National Center for Human Genome Research grant, he will spend the next five years mapping an entire chromosome region that will allow for greater understanding and treatment of disease. He holds three UCSD degrees, a B.A. ('73), an M.D., and a Ph.D. (both awarded in '79).

Otterson became the director of the UCSD CONNECT Program in 1986. As the "entrepreneur-in-residence" at CONNECT, he has brought together leaders in the community and area businessmen and technology experts to share information, attract venture capital and form partnerships in the San Diego region.

Otterson was named the 1990 CEO/Director of the Year by the National Association of Corporate Directors. Also, he has made a significant contribution to UCSD through his work with the UCSD Cancer Center Foundation as a board member and past president.

Stephen Cox is a member of the UCSD Department of Literature and the director of the Revelle College Humanities Program. A twice-honored Revelle College Outstanding Teacher, he is a member of the UC systemwide University Committee on Educational Policy.

Judy Sweet, director of UCSD athletics since 1975, was the first woman in the country to direct an intercollegiate athletics program for men and women. Sweet made another "first" this year when she was named the first female president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). She is the first NCAA president to come from a Division III school since the division structure was established in 1973.

Tickets for the UCSD Alumni Awards Dinner are \$35 per person. For ticket information and reservations call 534-3900.

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