

Kite Runner Author Khaled Hosseini and Biosite Founder Gunars Valkirs Among Stellar UC San Diego Alumni to be Honored June 7

UCSD Alumni Association to recognize outstanding alumni and students at the 30th Annual Awards for Excellence event to benefit student scholarships

May 30, 2008

May Judy Piercey

Six accomplished University of California, San Diego alumni and students will receive top honors on Saturday, June 7 at the 30th Annual UCSD Alumni Association *Awards for Excellence* scholarship fundraiser to be held in the Price Center Ballroom on campus. Winners include Afghan-American **Khaled Hosseini**, M.D. '93, physician and author of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *The Kite Runner*; **Gunars Valkirs** '74, Ph.D.'82, biophysicist and co-founder of Biosite Incorporated; **Anthony Jackson** '74, physician, undergraduate mentor and education advocate; **David Jordan**, professor emeritus, Anthropology, and former provost of Warren College; and students **Sapna Iyer** and **Jeffrey Mounzer**, selected for their scholarly achievement, student leadership and community involvement.

A 30-year tradition at UC San Diego, the alumni *Awards for Excellence* event recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in a particular field and brought honor and distinction to the university. "Each year, we on the nominations committee are impressed and challenged by the caliber of our alumni engaged in noteworthy pursuits, especially from a university as young as UC San Diego," said Sue Hart, Ph.D. '86, chair of the nominations committee and an event sponsor. "Not only has this year's group of honorees made outstanding contributions to such areas as global relations, healthcare and our local communities, many of them veered from their traditional professions to do so."

The following sponsors have helped to underwrite the 30th annual *Awards for Excellence*, which will benefit the UCSD Alumni Association endowed scholarship programs:

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For more information about the UCSD Alumni Association *Awards for Excellence*, visit www.alumni.ucsd.edu/awards or call (858) 534-3900.

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30th Annual Awards for Excellence 2008

