Who are the names behind Cal State Fullerton's buildings? - The Orange... http://www.ocregister.com/articles/mihaylo-635457-million-csuf.html

Who are the names behind Cal State Fullerton's buildings?

The Fallen David statue looks towards The Pollak Library. The library is named for June and George Pollak. June Pollak was a professor of English, who specialized in British literature and also served as a member of the Patrons of the Library.

CINDY YAMANAKA, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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WILLIAM B. LANGSDORF

Langsdorf was president of Cal State Fullerton, and his name is given to the buildings of the same name. He served as university president from 1971 to 1993.

With perfect posture, crossed legs and folded hands, a well-dressed gentleman sits quietly in the courtyard just outside of Mihaylo Hall at Cal State Fullerton.

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Day or night, this silent figure is always there to greet students as they go in and out of the hall that bears his name. Many might have already guessed that this “man” is the bronze statue of Steven G. Mihaylo, the namesake of the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics.

Mihaylo, a 1969 alumnus, holds claim to two of the largest donations to CSUF. He gave $4.5 million in 2004. Four years later in 2008, he dwarfed this gift by donating $30 million to the school.

At the Mihaylo Hall 2008 dedication, then-President Milton A. Gordon said the gift was “the strongest possible vote of confidence in this university’s future.”

Mihaylo graduated with a business degree in 1969 and headed to Phoenix where he founded, built and took public telecommunications company Inter-Tel Inc.

Annual revenue at the company climbed from $1 million in 1975 to $458 million in 2006. He sold the company in 2007 for $750 million.

Today, Mihaylo is chief executive of Tempe, Ariz.-based Crexendo Inc.

Many other faculty members and alumni have given to the campus over the years. These individuals are honored through buildings on campus that have been dedicated to them.

Though nearly every student knows these halls and where to find them, not as many would be able to tell you who the buildings were named for.

With some help from Lawrence de Graaf, a founding CSUF faculty member who wrote the book on the campus’ history, we’ve picked out a few namesakes who’ve helped shape CSUF.

Contact the writer: jwinslow@ocregister.com

Miles D. McCarthy

McCarthy Hall was the first building at CSUF. Finished in 1963, the building began its days as the Letters and Science Building. It wasn’t until the ’80s that it adopted the name of Miles...
D. McCarthy, one of the founding faculty members assembled by William Langsdorf. McCarthy also served as interim president from January to October 1981.

Each one of the founding members brought something to the table. In McCarthy's case, it was expansive knowledge of biology coupled with a medical background. McCarthy served as the adviser to all students who were pursuing a pre-med program and continued in this role years after his retirement. The links he forged between the campus and various medical schools continue today.

Perhaps more than anyone else, McCarthy was responsible for shaping the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, where he decided what majors would be offered and the areas of emphasis.

McCarthy Hall has six floors and a basement. Many students may know that the escalators climb only to the fourth floor. This is due to budget constraints during the building's construction in the early '60s. Escalators were a hot ticket back then, but the campus couldn't afford to have them climb all the way up.

The basement was built as a nuclear fallout shelter, standard at the time. It never had to protect anybody from a nuclear blast, but it did house the school's modest library during its earliest years.

During the planning of the...
buildings, McCarthy carefully reviewed blueprints for the future hall, making sure the building would meet the needs of all future students. This was an unusual role for a faculty member and likely served as one of the reasons the hall was named for him 20 years later.

PAULINA JUNE AND GEORGE POLLAK

The Paulina June and George Pollak Library is the heart of research and study for students on campus. Formerly known as just "the library," the Pollak Library of today is named for June and George Pollak, after they made a $1 million donation to the library in 1998. This gift remains the largest monetary donation to the campus by a faculty member.

P. June Pollak was a professor of English at CSUF. She was known for her sharp wit and for being active in faculty government. She specialized in British literature and also served as a member of the Patrons of the Library.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY CSUF NAMESAKES

Cobb Residence Halls – Jewel Plummer Cobb

Cobb is a biologist who served as CSUF president from 1981-1990.

Ruby Gerontology Center - Charles L. Ruby and Rachael E. Ruby

Charles Ruby helped plan and raise money for the $2.5 million center, which opened in 1988.

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Clayes Performing Arts Center - Joseph A.W. Clayes III

Clayes, a 1961 alumnus, was a real estate investor and avocado farmer. Clayes was a member of the first class of students at CSUF in the fall of 1959. He served on the first student council and was student body president, representing about 1,500 students.

Dan Black Hall - Dan Black

Black, a 1967 physics alumnus, was a serial entrepreneur. He and his wife, Kathy, have given more than $4 million in gifts and pledges to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
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