

May 23, 2022

Dear Members of Our Campus Community,

It is with great honor and a heavy heart that we come together once again as a community to remember and to share our reflections on this, the eighth anniversary of the tragic events that took place in Isla Vista on May 23, 2014. We remember and celebrate the beautiful lives of the students we lost, keeping them forever in our hearts.

We remember -

- George Chen,
- Katherine Cooper,
- James Hong,
- Christopher Michaels-Martinez,
- David Wang,
- and Veronika Weiss.

To continue to honor their lives and memorialize their lasting contributions, we created scholarships to allow the spirits of George, Katherine, James, Christopher, David and Veronika to live on through future Gauchos who exhibit their same compassion, academic achievement, good humor, dedication, and resilient spirit. Throughout the eight years, we have awarded 48 scholarships in their memories.

We also hold in our hearts the parents, brothers and sisters, family members, classmates and friends of these special students, keeping them in our thoughts and wishing them solace and peace in their memories.

As a campus, we grieved together and found strength in one another. Today, we do the same. This virtual memorial provides us an opportunity to be united in spirit and in our memories of the precious lives we lost. These remembrances also provide us an opportunity to recognize the many ways in which our campus and the Isla Vista community have collaborated and connected. We continue to foster community, and together come to a deeper understanding of what it means to share in our community that we treasure so much. We use this time to pause and reflect, and to appreciate the resilience and spirit of our community with a renewed sense of strength and unity.

I would like to once again thank our Associated Students for their dedicated leadership in providing opportunities for our campus community to commemorate and reflect. We use this moment to continue to build up our community, to be united in spirit, and to keep the light of our six students, shining brightly and eternally, as we carry the torch of their memory.

Sincerely,

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor