

Trustee



Dr. Kenneth F. Kroner '88

Ken Kroner's background will undoubtedly prove to be of great value to UCSD Foundation: He's an alumnus (Ph.D. in Economics '88), an investment strategist, and was an associate professor of economics and finance. Add to this backdrop three children closing in on the college years, and you understand that Ken has a very personal interest in making an impact on California's public university system.

Ken reconnected with UC San Diego through the dean of Social Sciences, who knew that Ken had studied under Clive Granger and Robert Engle, professors who would go on to share a Nobel Prize in Economics. Participating in this field of study at UC San Diego during the Engle/Granger years provided Ken not only with an exceptional education, but also with a realization of the impact and influence of extraordinary teachers. "Their area was econometrics – statistical analysis applied to economics. In my work we use this every day for forecasting the stock market.

"UCSD taught me how to think in structured and disciplined ways," he adds. "Economics is a relatively fuzzy science. It's a lot easier when you go from assumptions to implications to decisions. That practice of scientific thought came straight from UCSD."

Ken made the leap from academe to industry in 1994, when he left the faculty at the University of Arizona to join Barclays Global Investors (BGI), which merged with BlackRock Inc. at the end of 2009. At BGI, where he is senior managing director in charge of the Asset Allocation, Currency, Commodity, Client Solutions and Funds of Hedge Funds businesses, Kroner is part of what *BusinessWeek* called "a cadre of highly credentialed brainpower that no university finance or economics department in the land can match."

Ken serves or has served on various academic boards, journal editorial boards and foundation boards. Born and raised in Canada, he earned a B.A. degree in mathematics and economics from the University of Alberta in 1983 and a Ph.D. in economics from UC San Diego in 1988. Although UC San Diego's stellar faculty attracted Ken, he also admits, "I left Canada to get warm, and UCSD was far enough south."