



CHARLES J. SODERQUIST

JANUARY 9, 1947

MARCH 2, 2004

"It's hard to encapsulate everything that my dad was. He had this rich thirst for living, loving, learning and leading. He touched so many people in so many ways, shown through his personal mantra: To empower individuals and organizations to make differences I cannot."

— Chris Soderquist '98

The UC Davis campus community held a tribute and celebration April 23 in memory of the man who revolutionized volunteerism, service and philanthropy at UC Davis.

Charley Soderquist, an energetic philanthropist, conservationist and entrepreneur who provided passionate leadership to numerous university organizations, including the Graduate School of Management, died March 2.

At the campus ceremony attended by more than 500 people, Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef posthumously awarded Soderquist the UC Davis Medal—the highest honor the campus accords to individuals for their contributions to the university or the broader community.

The tribute underscored Soderquist's loyalty to the campus and the number of people he touched. At the heart of all of his activities was an abiding devotion to his alma mater to which he felt intense gratitude. His leadership and support were widespread throughout the Sacramento region, and he made a personal commitment to the business and investment communities, education, art, literature and the environment.

The quintessential entrepreneur, Soderquist founded, helped jump-start and led several dozen high-tech companies. He embraced the promise of science and technology, and worked to transfer discoveries from the university to the private sector.

At the time of his death, Soderquist was serving as chair of the UC Davis Foundation and was an adjunct faculty member at the Graduate School of Management, co-teaching a course on evaluating business opportunities. He also was a member of the UC Davis CONNECT board, acting as a liaison with the business community. In the past, he served on the UC Board of Regents, was president of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association and was a former member of the GSM Dean's Advisory Council.

Soderquist was also active in numerous causes and organizations, including the California Historical Society, the California State Library, The Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy.

His family requests that donations be made in Soderquist's memory to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, the Yolo Basin Foundation and Audubon California. 