“I want to thank our UC Davis family—our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends—for giving shape to our campus’s rich narrative. Share your stories. Write new ones. And keep alive that special Davis spirit that first sparked more than a century ago…. Serving as UC Davis’ chancellor was the honor of a lifetime. As I said at my inauguration and say again today, thank you so much for having me.”

—Chancellor Emeritus Larry N. Vanderhoef in his book Indelibly Davis: A Quarter-Century of UC Davis Stories…and Backstories Spring 2015

CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF CHANCELLOR EMERITUS
LARRY N. VANDERHOEF

MARCH 20, 1941—OCTOBER 15, 2015

Wednesday, November 4, 2015
Barbara K. and W. Turrentine Jackson Hall
ROBERT AND MARGRIT MONDAVI CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
University of California, Davis
LARRY N. VANDERHOEF

A soft-spoken administrator whose management mantra was “listen, listen, listen,” Chancellor Emeritus Larry Neil Vanderhoef led UC Davis for 25 years—first as provost/executive vice chancellor (1984–1994) and then as chancellor (1994–2009). That quarter-century is arguably the period of UC Davis' greatest physical and academic growth.

“Larry Vanderhoef was many things over the course of his richly productive life—a pragmatic visionary, an academic diplomat, a tireless institution builder who devoted himself to realizing the potential of an extraordinary intellectual community,” said former UC President Richard Atkinson.

The first in his family to complete high school and one of the very few in his Wisconsin factory town to make his way to college, he understood the life-changing opportunities a good education can provide. “The best decision I ever made was to get out of the pool hall and into the classroom,” he told Sacramento Magazine in 2006. Overcoming the lack of academic role models and guideposts early in his life, he became an outspoken advocate for access to higher education.

In leading UC Davis through state budget cuts, the aftermath of campus and national tragedies and other challenges, Larry Vanderhoef developed a reputation for being a principled, approachable leader. He was willing to make tough decisions, and remained passionate about the university's mission to make people's lives better.

“The campus has lost a beloved leader, one who gave a quarter-century of his life and more to UC Davis,” said Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi. “He built a strong foundation for our university's service to the state, nation and world.”

At the heart of it, he made sure people knew that they, and their work, mattered. Really, truly mattered. He accomplished so much for UC Davis and took so little credit—Midwest modest to the core. He was extraordinarily, and quietly, kind in ways that deeply touched people.

LARRY N. VANDERHOEF

When the UC Davis family gathers 50 or 100 years from now, you just know they're going to be telling us the same story of dedicated service, but they're going to have a few decades of additional examples. They'll be celebrating 'A Second Century of Doing What Matters.' And they'll be lauding what you've done, on the job, in the classroom, on your own time. They'll be talking about what you've done to make this world a better place. That's you—that's UC Davis—at its very best.”

—Chancellor Larry N. Vanderhoef, Centennial Convocation (his last as chancellor), September 24, 2008

“UC Davis—at its very best.”

—Chancellor Larry N. Vanderhoef, Centennial Convocation (his last as chancellor), September 24, 2008
My very first reaction to President Peltason’s request that I become the fifth chancellor of the Davis campus was quite simple and straightforward. I told him that I was thrilled. I am still thrilled. I have, over the last 10 years, come to love this campus and its people… I am looking forward to it all, and I hope that you are as well.”

—Chancellor Larry N. Vanderhoef, inaugural speech, September 28, 1994

“No one person has made a greater imprint on what we today know as a very special university, a gem in our region,” said State Sen. Lois Wolk (D-Davis). “But his greatest impact may have been on the tone he set for human interaction at the university and our public discourse…. He treated one and all with respect and understanding. This is a legacy we will all need to work hard to continue.”

The Davis Enterprise, in an Oct. 18 editorial, agreed: “More than any single individual, Larry Vanderhoef left his mark on UC Davis, helping to make it the very special place it is. Thank you for everything, Larry. We will miss you so much.”

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Rosalie Slifka Vanderhoef; daughter Susanne Vanderhoef; son Jon (Kim) Vanderhoef; sisters Lois (Christian) Krenzke and Linda (Curtis) McDermott; brother Lee (Debbie) Vanderhoef; brothers-in-law Andrew (Mavis) and Ronald (Janet) Slifka; and numerous nieces and nephews.
CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF CHANCELLOR EMERITUS
LARRY N. VANDERHOEF

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Ralph Hexter presiding

PRELUDE
Mozart: Adagio, from Clarinet Concerto
NICHOLAS YOON, clarinet
Members of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra
D. KERN HOLOMAN, conductor emeritus
Beethoven: Allegretto, from Symphony No. 7

ARIA
J. S. Bach: “Bist du bei Mir”
SUSANNE VANDERHOEF, mezzo-soprano, daughter
PHBEB CRAIG, harpsichord
If you are near, I will go with joy
To my death and to my rest.
O how joyous would my end be,
If your dear hands be the last I see,
Closing that my faithful eyes to rest.

REFLECTIONS
LINDA P. B. KATEHI
UC Davis Chancellor

BRICE HARRIS
California Community Colleges Chancellor

ROBERT GREY
Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor to Chancellor Vanderhoef
Former UC Riverside Acting Chancellor
Former Interim UC Provost

VIRGINIA HINSHAW
Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor to Chancellor Vanderhoef
University of Hawai‘i Mānoa Chancellor Emerita

ZUHAIR MUNIR
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Former College of Engineering Dean

SETH MEREWITZ
Student body president during Chancellor Vanderhoef’s tenure
Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP, Los Angeles

ROBERT SEGAR
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Planning and
Community Resources

ROSALIE VANDERHOEF
CLOSING REMARKS
Provost Hexter

POSTLUDE
Handel: selections from Water Music

A reception will be held following the program in the
Larry N. Vanderhoef Quad.