

ENTRE AMIGOS – November 2019

Fundraiser pushes scholarship endowment to nearly \$200,000

by Kernan Turner, Monday, November 18, 2019



Four Southern Oregon University presidents, past and present, caught up with each other at Guanajuato Nights. Pictured (left to right) is current President Linda Schott and former presidents Roy Gaigo, Elizabeth Zinser, and Joseph Cox. Photo by Jay Ach.



Amigo Club President Betzabé “Mina” Turner (right) stands with Kathryn and Barry Thalden in front of a banner depicting the Guanajuato mural of Ashland the Thaldens commissioned. Photo by Jay Ach.



Erika Lourdes Gonzalez Rosas of the University of Guanajuato (left) shares a moment with Amigo Club founder Señora Chela Tapp-Kocks. Photo by Jay Ach.



Commander Daniel Barrera Vasquez holds the appreciation award he has received from Amigo Club President Betzabé “Mina” Turner. Photo by Jay Ach.



Award recipient Provost Susan Walsh (left) joins professors Terry and Jennifer Longshore while viewing silent auction items. Photo by Jay Ach.



Amigo Club board members congratulate Denise Baxter (second from left) on her appreciation award. Pictured with her (left to right) are Karen Grove, Betzabé "Mina" Turner, and Lynn Lamoree. Photo by Jay Ach.

Supporters of sister-city relations between Ashland and Guanajuato, Mexico, attended the fifth annual Guanajuato Nights dinner/auction, raising funds for the Amigo Club Endowed Scholarship Fund invested in the Southern Oregon University Foundation.

“We grossed more than \$18,000 this year, which will push the scholarship endowment to nearly \$200,000, including matching funds donated by Guanajuato benefactor Faffie Siekman Romero,” Amigo Club President Betzabé “Mina” Turner said.

The club has granted nine scholarships to exchange students participating in the Amistad exchange program between SOU and the University of Guanajuato. This year’s recipients include the first two from Guanajuato attending SOU and two SOU students in Guanajuato.

The Amigo Club presented appreciation awards during dinner to especially strong supporters of sister city links, including SOU Provost Susan Walsh; Ashland mural artist Denise Baxter and the mural’s sponsors, Barry and Kathryn Thalden; and Daniel Barrera Vazquez, commander of the Heroic Volunteer Firefighter Corps of Guanajuato.