One of John Arnhold’s favorite pastimes is also one of his philanthropic passions: tennis. An alumnus and longtime generous donor to several areas on campus, Arnhold and his wife, Jody, upped the ante for UCSB Athletics with their recent $1 million commitment.

The two were honored with Intercollegiate Athletics’ 2014 “Dare to Make a Difference Award” at the department’s annual SB Awards. John Arnhold ’75, a UC Santa Barbara Foundation trustee and New York campaign committee member, was on hand to receive the plaudit in person.

“John and Jody Arnhold have made a gift that is an absolute game-changer,” said Simon Thibodeau, head coach for UCSB Women’s Tennis. “For the first time in UCSB history, our women’s tennis program is fully funded with scholarships, and will be able to bring the most dynamic student-athletes to study and compete at one of the world’s most prestigious universities. John has been a role model, academic mentor, advisor and friend to our team. Our student-athletes have enjoyed the opportunity to spend time hitting on the courts with John, and off the courts talking about life and their futures. We cannot thank John and Jody enough for their continued generous support.”

To be paid evenly over five years, the Arnholds’ pledge will provide $625,000 in scholarship support, $62,500 in program endowment and $37,500 in current-use funds for women’s tennis. Men’s tennis will receive $175,000 in scholarship support, $62,500 in program endowment and $37,500 in current-use funds.

“John and Jody’s commitment to our program truly makes an impact,” said Marty Davis, head coach for UCSB Men’s Tennis. “We cannot thank them enough for stepping up as their philanthropy allows our team to compete for championships on the court, and at the same time achieve in the classroom at one of the nation’s elite universities. The Arnholds’ generous giving and investment in UC Santa Barbara means so much to us all.”