

Channel

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS / 2023-24 Winter Magazine



Serving up support

Connections with custodians and food service workers help students succeed.

page 20

Channel

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CSU Channel Islands Mission Statement

Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU Channel Islands



SAGE HALL BANNER

Artwork created by Art student Haidyn Reynolds was installed as a banner on the exterior of Sage Hall on the east side of the building where students access a variety of student services.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our identity for the next decade and beyond

Simultaneously honoring the foundational work and values of those who envisioned and developed CSUCI while leading the evolution of the University's institutional and academic identity into the campus's third decade is a responsibility I welcome. My vision for achieving this balance – a challenge aptly named in our 20th Anniversary tagline last year, “Honoring the Past, Building the Future” – was described in my Convocation Address from August of this year. Ensuring that this evolutionary process remains rooted in our history while ensuring responsiveness to the changing needs of our times is a central responsibility for all of us at CSUCI as we work in service to the diverse region and communities that provide the University's reason for being.

“One Health for 2030+,” in short, is an aspirational and strategic approach to CSUCI's third decade of being, unambiguously identifying the University's ultimate purpose as contributing to the overall wellness of the region's communities, environments, and economies. Increasingly becoming known as “CSUCI for 2030+,” this vision amplifies and builds on our unique sense of place as a Central Coast university, located in one of the most resource- and culturally-rich environments in the nation. It combines our historic strengths in providing liberal arts education (i.e., focusing on the knowledge and skills required for self-governance) and experiential education (e.g., undergraduate research, internships, service learning, field placements, study abroad) with an invigorated emphasis on our unique place-based assets for teaching and learning.

In this context, understanding what distinguishes CSUCI from other universities becomes clear. At CSUCI, students do not just have hands-on learning opportunities. Regardless of a student's major, they can have powerful place-based learning experiences on the Oxnard Plain, on the beach and along the coast, at our Santa Rosa Island Research Station, at our Boating Center, on sacred Chumash land, and throughout a region that is teeming with activity of so many different kinds – agricultural, biotechnical, for-profit, nonprofit, educational, environmental, social services, health-related, and more – given the unique combination of rural, suburban, and urban areas that are ours to serve.

Through this “One Health”/“CSUCI for 2030+” lens – by taking more focused and comprehensive advantage of our incredibly unique place-based assets and opportunities to better serve the environmental-, economic-, and community-wellness needs of our region – I see so very clearly a solution to the problems of depressed enrollment in the only public comprehensive university in Ventura County and the ensuing regional deficits that enrollment pattern foretells if not reversed.

Over the past two years we have taken several steps to study, clarify, and communicate CSUCI's identity for the purpose of positioning the University as a destination campus. These efforts began through the creation and implementation of an integrated marketing communication plan (IMC) – a multi-phased action plan of conducting and using market research to establish a new brand foundation and message strategy, and a visual rebranding and website redesign to ensure that our most visible and consistently accessed marketing communication tools can also serve as effective strategies for capturing the attention of prospective students and their families and publicizing the achievements of our outstanding faculty and staff. We anticipate completion of these rebranding efforts by Fall 2025 through a consultative process involving our campus community, alumni, donors, and other partners in the community.

We have much work ahead of us, but with your continued participation and support, we can ensure CSUCI's future as a destination campus, providing a transformative education for students from our region and elsewhere in California, from other states in the nation, and from around the world.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, Ph.D.
President

In the Issue

IN THE NEWS

- 4 In the News
- 6 Legacy mural captures the heart and soul of CSUCI
- 8 CI Solutions partners with local businesses and nonprofits

FEATURES

- 9 Delta Alpha Pi builds an aDAPtable world
- 10 Diagnosing the ailing workplace
- 12 Peers helping peers with mental health
- 13 Embedded Peer Mentors
- 14 Rediscovering the last ranch of the Central Coast
- 16 Virtual reality takes learning to another level
- 20 Serving up support

ADVANCING THE UNIVERSITY

- 18 Larraburu \$30 million gift bestows a lasting legacy
- 19 Yardi Scholarship forges a pathway for first-generation success
- 24 Laura McAvoy receives the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award
- 25 Gabrielle Vignone is the Distinguished Alumni Awardee
- 32 Foundation Annual Report
- 34 Donor Honor Roll

ALUMNI PROFILES

- 23 Biotechnology alumnus has his eye on curing blindness with stem cell therapy
- 26 Alumna supervises fingerprint and crime-scene investigations
- 28 Teacher bringing positive change to Port Hueneme
- 29 CSUCI support enabled Netflix manager to find herself
- 30 Psychology alumnus paying it forward as a positive force
- 31 Class Notes

ON THE COVER CSUCI Service workers support students in many ways. From left to right: Islands Cafe employee Kennedy Jones, Mathematics student Spencer Mack, Islands Cafe employee Silvia Valencia with her daughter and '23 alumna Yolanda Amador, and Islands Cafe employee Jonathan Amador.

CSUCI NEWS



Nursing student Serena Palaroan

Nursing student chosen as CSU Trustee Scholar

Third year Nursing student, Serena Palaroan, is one of 23 students selected as a 2023-2024 CSU Trustees' Scholar. The CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement, which is the highest student distinction within the university, grants students scholarships based on academic achievements, financial need, and excellence in community service. One student from each CSU campus is chosen. Each scholarship awards a different amount; Palaroan's will be \$7,000 as a Trustee Emerita Debra S. Farar Scholar. To read more visit: go.csuci.edu/channel-palaroan

Faculty will use national fellowship to research needs of aging population

Ventura County's senior population (age 65+) is expected to increase 14% this year to 224,812, outpacing the overall growth of the county population, which is projected to increase just 2% to 884,148 in 2023. CSUCI Assistant Professor of Health Science Ron Berkowsky is researching ways to address the increased need for caregiving this

will require, as well as the unique needs of the county's older Americans, including the aging LGBTQ+ population. To read more visit: go.csuci.edu/channel-berkowsky

Archives from former Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez donated

Part of the legacy of former Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez can be found in the thank you notes from the school classrooms she visited. The children's letters are included among the 15 boxes of documents, planners, diaries, proclamations, and even favorite cartoons collected by Ramirez during 45 years of service to the region before her life was cut short in a pedestrian accident on Aug. 12, 2022. Ramirez's husband, friends and family organized the archives and donated them to CSUCI this past summer. Ramirez's husband, Roy Prince, believes CSUCI is the ideal place for the archives as she worked from the very beginning to advocate for establishing a CSU campus in Ventura County. To read more visit: go.csuci.edu/channel-ramirez

Grant to fund pre-K teacher preparation program

CSUCI has received \$250,000 to develop an affordable program through which students can complete a bachelor's degree and preparation requirements for California's new early-childhood teaching credential in four years. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing awarded the grant as part of an effort to support fast-tracked teacher-preparation programs in fields where there are workforce shortages. CSUCI's program will help fill the critical need for transitional kindergarten, or prekindergarten, teachers, particularly those with bilingual education credentials. To read more visit: go.csuci.edu/channel-prek-grant





CSUCI's Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, and Chemistry/Biochemistry programs are all involved in the research project.

NASA awards grant for student-led research project

Faculty and students from four CSUCI academic programs are working together on a research project that has been awarded \$80,000 by NASA. Faculty and 10 students from CSUCI's Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, and Chemistry/Biochemistry programs, are involved in the research project, which is aimed at developing a way to predict how quickly various metal structures corrode in different environments. To read more visit: go.csuci.edu/channel-nasa-grant

Administrator learns about agricultural careers as US Fellow

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the world of agriculture in general needs workers, and not always in the realms of crops or livestock. Workers are needed in scores of other areas

outside of the farm, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture itself.

"You don't have to be a scientist or a farmer," said CSUCI Assistant Vice President for Student Academic Success & Equity Initiatives, Michelle Hasendonckx. "The USDA needs people with experience in human resources, communication specialists, accountants, project managers — people from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds make up this huge department. And these are career opportunities nationwide." Hasendonckx learned about the current needs of the agriculture industry when she was selected as one of 30 staff and faculty members from Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) around the nation to be a part of the 2023 class of E. Kika De La Garza fellows. To read more visit: go.csuci.edu/channel-mh.

CSUCI named a Tree Campus USA and earns Gold rating for sustainable practices

Commitment to the roughly 1,600 trees on the CSUCI campus has earned the University a Tree Campus USA designation for the 11th year in a row. In addition, CSUCI's rigorous sustainability practices have earned the University Gold status under STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System), a program run by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). To read more visit: go.csuci.edu/channel-tc-usa

Below: Artwork created by '15 Art alumna Jessica Chiang and a graphic designer in CSUCI's Communication & Public Relations office, was reproduced on a banner to welcome the campus community, future students and visitors. The banner is 55' wide and 7' high and was installed at San Luis Ave near Sage Hall where buses drop off and pick up students and visitors to the campus.



Legacy mural captures the heart and soul of CSUCI

by MARYA BARLOW

EACH TIME SEA TELLEZ WALKS BY THE VIBRANT, panoramic mural overlooking the Student Union courtyard, the junior Psychology student feels “warm and welcomed.”

“The mural really captures a sense of belonging no matter what your background may be,” Tellez said. “I feel that everyone can find a little piece of home or themselves in this work of art that really captures the heart of CSUCI’s community.” The only sentence in the mural, “All of you is welcome,” communicates this idea impactfully – though it typically requires a second read to catch the intended message, that every aspect of every student’s identity belongs at CSUCI.

Created by Los Angeles-based artist Myisha Arellano with broad participation and input from the CSUCI community, the legacy mural stands as a tribute to the lands, history, people, and cultures that continue to shape the campus. Tasked with designing the mural last year by the Center for Multicultural Engagement, Arellano worked closely with students, faculty, staff, and the Ethnic Studies Council to ensure that it would reflect the diverse perspectives and contributions of the rich array of people and populations who are CSUCI.

“Students are creating their legacy at CSUCI every day by interacting with each other and shaping the campus community,” Arellano said. “I wanted viewers of the mural to remember that legacy is not only in history but also in how we continue building from it.”

The project started as the vision of Chicana/o Studies Associate Professor Jennie Luna, who was serving as acting director of the Center for Multicultural Engagement in Spring 2022. When President Richard Yao offered a mini-grant to each of CSUCI’s four mission centers (the Center for Multicultural Engagement, the Center for Community Engagement, the Center for Integrative Studies, and the Center for International Affairs), Luna proposed a cam-

pus legacy mural as being most reflective of the centers’ missions.

“I wanted the mural to reflect a commitment to Ethnic Studies and the history of struggle and resistance and looking at education as a liberatory practice for oppressed and disenfranchised communities,” Luna said. “Another important piece for me was that students see themselves

graduating in the mural. It would be a place where students could take pictures on their first day and again on graduation day. Students would see that mural every day and realize that they belong on this campus and in higher education.”

Arellano, who has designed, painted, and led multiple private and public murals rooted in community engagement, said the project’s collaborative nature deeply resonated with her as a queer, migrant artist.

“Ten years ago, I was an art student at CSUN, so in many ways I feel connected to CSUCI,” said Arellano. “At CSUN, I witnessed the creation of a mural on campus in my first year and later participated in designing and painting one

in Profesora Yreina Cervantez’s class. After their completion, these murals became part of my daily experience. I wanted to honor that daily connection for students at CSUCI. This project depicts only part of a legacy that will continue to be formed by students, faculty, and staff.”

Last spring, Arellano teamed up with Christy Teranishi Martinez, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Multicultural Engagement, to bring the mural to life. Over the course of more than two months, many students, faculty, and staff showed up to participate in the mural’s creation.

“It was a collaborative process from start to finish,” said Teranishi Martinez. “We held town hall meetings and open forums to incorporate students throughout the entire campus. Students were given a voice to provide their input on what represents their identities, their cultural backgrounds,



The mural was created by Los Angeles-based artist Myisha Arellano (right) shown with Christy Teranishi Martinez.



Top: Ekho celebrates the finished mural with artist Myisha Arellano. Above: The mural was projected and then painted. Right: Caryl Ann Becerra helps paint details on the right side.

their ancestral heritage, and their experiences, sharing their visions for what would represent their legacy in the mural. It has been a wonderful way to connect our students with something that represents their values and experiences at CSUCI to their families, culture, and community.”

The mural offers the casual observer something new to uncover with each viewing. It imparts a colorful and comprehensive picture of CSUCI, incorporating its earliest indigenous inhabitants, the Chumash, alongside images of local landmarks, like sat’wiwa (also called Round Mountain), native plants, wildlife, farm workers, activists, scholars, families, and critical moments in history, all connected by a sense of place.

“I was amazed by the beauty the artist was able to portray,” said senior Meghan Long, who helped paint the mural. “She captured the history of the land surrounding the campus. I love the vibe of the mural, and the Student

Union patio now has a special place where students can simply look and reflect on our cultures and heritage.”

Because the mural was completed over the summer, many students, staff, and faculty saw it for the first time when Fall classes began. To officially introduce the mural to the community, the Center for Multicultural Engagement held an “unveiling” ceremony at the Student Union courtyard during the campus celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day.

“I absolutely love the way Myisha captured all our voices and meshed our visions to create this grand masterpiece to represent who we are here at CSUCI, a school who welcomes all backgrounds and walks of life with open arms,” said Tellez, who also helped paint the mural. “CSUCI has always made me feel supported and cared for. This mural really captures that spirit.”

To learn more, visit: go.csuci.edu/su-mural

CI Solutions partners with local businesses and nonprofits

by MARYA BARLOW

WHEN CONSORTIUM MEDIA NEEDED TO RESEARCH audience development for TOArts, a nonprofit supporting the three resident performing arts companies at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center, they found a perfect partner in CSUCI's student-run business solutions agency, CI Solutions.

"Working with the CI Solutions team was a great solution and so very much fun," said Denise Bean-White, President and CEO of Consortium Media, a Ventura/Bay area-based brand development and PR firm. "For projects that need to be extremely cost effective, this is a great route. I enjoyed working with them and will do so again."

CI Solutions provides students of all majors with opportunities to work in paid positions on real-life business problems with small businesses and nonprofits. Students gain professional experience by tackling projects ranging from advertising and design to brand development, research, and web marketing. The student organization was founded in 2020 by Professor of Marketing Ekin Pehlivan, with support from the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics and the Entrepreneurship & Small Business Institute.

"This is the best thing I've done in my professional life," said Pehlivan. "I thought we were going to build an experiential learning program for students to work with local employers. It turned organically into this vibrant student community that learns, creates, and hangs out together. This has been better than any teaching experience I could provide."

To join CI Solutions, students must perform a marketing-related exercise that tests their ability to be self-driven learners. The CI Solutions team then brings the candidate in for an interview and makes a coordinated hiring decision.

"It doesn't matter what major they are," Pehlivan said. "We don't look at resumes or CVs. They have to show a willingness to learn by doing and through trial and error."

CI Solutions works regularly with Women's Economic Ventures (WEV), a regional nonprofit that helps empower small business owners. They have collaborated on web marketing and also on evaluating business plans from candidates in WEV's *Emprendimiento* program, which awards grants and training to Hispanic entrepreneurs.



Left to right: Jesus Avila, Yolanda Lara and Associate Professor of Business Maria Ballesteros-Sola

"WEV chose to work with CI Solutions due to the students' accessibility and the excellent value of their service," said Ashley Goldstein, Associate Director of Business Training at WEV. "We would 100% recommend CI Solutions to other nonprofits and businesses."

Students in CI Solutions build a professional portfolio of work that gives them a distinct advantage in the job market. Before graduating in 2023 with a degree in Business, Jesus Avila had participated in more than 17 client projects for CI Solutions. He now works as a teaching assistant for WEV, training small business owners in online marketing. He also continues to serve as an alumni mentor at CI Solutions.

"I'm doing work that's very close to my heart because I'm helping the community," Avila said. "CI Solutions helped me take my learning from theoretical to applied, by providing hands-on experience with clients. It was the best part of my education."

DELTA ALPHA PI builds an aDAPtable world

by KARIN GRENNAN

AN HONOR SOCIETY RECOGNIZING HIGH-ACHIEVING students with disabilities is working to promote greater accessibility and inclusivity on CSUCI's campus.

In its third year, the Eta Zeta chapter of Delta Alpha Pi (DAPI) has 62 members and an unwavering mission to support and advocate for students with disabilities.

"Through Delta Alpha Pi, I've not only found like-minded individuals but also a platform to actively contribute to the ongoing mission of making our campus an inclusive space for all," said DAPI President Ryan Brener, a senior from Los Angeles majoring in Biology.

The CSUCI chapter is one of about 200 DAPI chapters across the nation and is open to undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities who have a GPA of 3.1 or higher. The organization supports the academic achievement, leadership, and advocacy of its members through workshops, guest speakers, and mentorship opportunities. It also works to spread awareness about disabilities and available resources to the broader campus community. The group meets regularly on the first Friday of every month at 1 p.m.

"Delta Alpha Pi is more than a mere honors society," Brener said. "It's a passionate, dedicated community committed to advocating for and supporting students with disabilities. Our goal lies in creating an inclusive campus culture and providing invaluable resources to empower our members to thrive, both academically and personally."

Worldwide, one out of every six people experiences significant disability. In a 2021 survey of CSUCI students, 8% self-identified as having a disability.

"Students with disabilities are a diverse group," said Professor Tiina Itkonen, a DAPI co-advisor. "Some disabilities are visible, and some are invisible. The important thing to show is that students with disabilities are also honor students. Students who happen to have disabilities—that's just one marker of who they are."

Through Disability Accommodations & Support Services (DASS), CSUCI students can access services like note taking, alternative testing and media, ASL interpreters, real-time captioning, lecture recording, and other forms of support. DASS counselor Jodi Kautz says working with the students as a DAPI co-advisor has helped her become a better advocate and ally.

"What I enjoy most is connecting students to one another and seeing them thrive and recognize one another," she said. "I love advocating with them and giving them the empowerment to voice their needs and rally others with them."



Delta Alpha Pi student members include (left to right): Fiona Pearson, Sarah Ysordia, Ryan Brener, Aidan Wood, Ekho the mascot, Caleb Loera, Bridget Janzen, and Jodi Kautz, DAPI co-advisor and DASS Counselor.

DAPI Vice President Sarah Ysordia, a senior Liberal Studies and Political Science major from Oxnard, says CSUCI has been responsive in supporting her journey as a student who is deaf and blind.

"We have seen improvements every semester," she said. "One example: The drivers for Uber and Lyft had a difficult time finding Arroyo Hall and, when they did, were unsure where to drop me off, which caused me to lose my orientation and need help to find my way. This semester there is a large sign with an arrow stating where the DASS Center is. It has a big green flag over it, right next to the accessible walkway. They are doing great lately. I love them all."



Photo by Juan Zaragoza

Diagnosing the ailing workplace

Associate Professor of Sociology Lindsey Trimble O'Connor studies the challenges that working caregivers face on the job while she raises two young children.

INTERVIEW AND EDITING *by* KARIN GRENNAN

What is your research focus?

I'm very interested in what's broken about work. Workplaces are not built around having family caregiving responsibilities. You're expected to come in at 8, stay to 5, be there day in and day out, and work for the entirety of your adult life with no breaks. And that used to be just fine for people when there was a stay-at-home person who could take care of the children when they were small and take the dog to the

vet and mom to her doctor's appointments. But most families don't have that stay-at-home person anymore. Families have changed, but work hasn't.

What led you to specialize in that topic?

I've always been interested in inequality in the workplace, but I really got interested in the issues that working caregivers face during my postdoctoral studies at the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford

University. And now, I'm the parent of two, and I live everything I study. We are just in the blender, hanging on for dear life, just barely making it through the day, trying to combine family and work. We don't have family nearby so it's just my partner and me trying to do it all.

Can you explain your experiment that was the basis for the article "Gender and the Disparate Payoffs of Overwork" published this year?

My friend Christin L. Munsch at the University of Connecticut and I were commenting about how everyone always kind of humbly brags about much they work and how problematic this bragging is for changing this overwork culture. So, with our friend Susan Fisk from Kent State University, we designed a study about people's perceptions of people who work a lot. We made a bunch of fake performance evaluations that we tested ahead of time. We picked ones that were rated and judged as equally performing even though they said different things. And then we made these fake Outlook calendars where we chunked off in 30-minute increments how they spent their time and told the respondents they came from the company's employee time-tracking software. Every respondent looked at the evaluations and calendars of two men or two women. One is performing this much work in 40 hours, and one is performing this much work in 60 hours. Then we asked the respondents questions about what they thought about these people and what we call organizational rewards.

What did the results show?

Maybe not surprisingly, everybody loved the person who worked 60 hours a week, who we call the overworker. The overworker was seven times more likely to be chosen for a management training course and promotion than the full-time worker. Overworking also increases the perceptions of commitment, competence and likability.

But we found that the effect of overworking is not as strong as it is for women as it is for men. Everybody gets a boost when they overwork in terms of getting those organizational rewards and the competence, commitment and likeability. But the boost that men get when they overwork is greater than the boost that women get.

Were you surprised by any of the findings?

Yes. We knew that overworking was part of the gender inequality equation, but we just thought it was part of it because women were less able to do it because they are still responsible for the lion's share of child care and housework. But what this shows is that even when



Lindsey Trimble O'Connor is balancing motherhood with research and teaching.

women put in the same 60 hours as men – say they hire nannies and housecleaners to work that much – what this study shows that I think is really surprising is that they are not going to get the same payoff as men.

What changes do you think need to take place to level the playing fields when it comes to gender in the workplace?

We need pretty large-scale, systemic, cultural change, and policy change. We need to get men more involved in shouldering the responsibilities in the home. Part of it is valuing caregiving and seeing the care of children, the elderly and sick people as a public good and not just a private problem. And I don't mean just get-your-mom-a-nice-Mother's-Day-card lip service kind of stuff, but really valuing it through paying people to provide care to their family members.

In the workplace, we need to look for practices, policies and cultural norms that look gender-neutral but are disproportionately women and other people with caregiving responsibilities. Having a stand-up meeting on a Monday morning at 8 a.m. is a gender-neutral practice at face value, but we know that most women are still responsible for child care responsibilities like dropping their kids off at school so that is probably putting extra pressure on women who have kids. So that's an easy thing – move it to 9. And then I think we need to examine ways that we can work smarter so that people don't have to work so many hours.

PEERS HELPING PEERS

with mental health

by MARYA BARLOW

A SENIOR MAJORING IN PSYCHOLOGY, SIERRA Hofman is all too familiar with the mental health challenges that students earning their college degrees can experience. That's why she serves as a trained peer counselor in the Mental Health Peer Program offered through CSUCI's Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS).

"For students experiencing isolation, stress or anxiety, sometimes the best medicine is talking with a peer," Hofman said. "It can be intimidating to go to a professional clinician, especially if it's something you've never done before. A peer can offer a level of comfort and understanding that might encourage students to reach out for help in the first place."

Since Fall of 2022, CSUCI's Mental Health Peer Program (MHPP) has served as a bridge between students and the licensed clinicians in CAPS. In a collaboration between CAPS and the Psychology program, MHPP enables seniors majoring in psychology to gain for-credit internship experience by supporting peers who are navigating school anxiety and other mental health challenges. The program's nine peer counselors are thoroughly trained and supervised by CAPS clinicians Jennifer Maravola, Stacy Udolph, and Senior Director Kirsten Olson, in collaboration with Psychology Professor Kevin Volkan.

Through one-on-one peer counseling sessions and daily drop-in availability at the CAPS Peer Support Center, Mental Health Peers provide a safe and supportive environment for students to discuss feelings, experiences, and challenges in university life. They actively listen, provide helpful insights and coping strategies, and connect students to vital campus resources and CSUCI clinicians when necessary.

Above: Psychology student and Mental Health Peer Hailey Razo speaks with a student.

"For several years, and especially since COVID, students have been reporting an increased sense of isolation and loneliness," said Olson. "Many felt like they were disconnected and anxious and living their lives virtually. Talking to a peer helps them feel more connected and less isolated. It gives us another option to help students."

In a 2023 Gallup poll of more than 2,400 college students, 66% reported experiencing stress and 51% reported feelings of worry "during a lot of the day." A 2023 State of Higher Education report said that emotional stress was among the top reasons students considered dropping out of college. According to a nationwide study by the Born This Way Foundation, one in five college students said they already use peer counseling and, of those who had not used it, 62% said they wanted to.

During the pandemic, Olsen partnered with Nursing faculty member Jackie Sherman and six Nursing students to develop the program. The students presented a full proposal, with training materials, policies, and procedure manuals to University administrators and won an initial \$500 mini-grant from the Center for Multicultural Engagement with which the program was founded.

Karly Eaton, one of the first Mental Health Peer counselors, is now a master's student in UCLA's Social Work program.

"Having social workers and other licensed mental health specialists as my mentors and supervisors was an amazing blessing in my education," she said. "The training I received at CAPS allowed me to learn how to work with individuals who are going through their own personal struggles and has given me the tools and knowledge I need for grad school. I do not believe I would have been accepted into UCLA without this internship."

Embedded Peer Mentors

The “secret sauce” behind first-year success

by MARYA BARLOW

A SA COMMUTER STUDENT and the first person in her family to attend college, Monserrat Patricio entered CSUCI in 2022 with many questions and concerns about assimilating into university life. In her first-year Learning Community, she was able to take classes and meet weekly with a consistent group of peers, while also benefiting from the ongoing support of an embedded peer mentor.

“My embedded peer mentor made that transition so much easier,” Patricio said. “I knew I wasn’t alone because she had been in my shoes and understood me. I was able to gain some amazing friendships and discover a social side I didn’t know I had. It benefited me in so many ways and shaped the person I am today.”

This year 84% of first-year CSUCI students are participating in a Learning Community – a record number that reflects the University’s commitment to



Left to right: student peer mentors part of the Learning Community initiative include Mikayla Hubbs, Sophie Kim, Jirah Jemerson, and Shayonna Huley

ensuring incoming students have the support and encouragement they need to successfully navigate the transition to college.

Learning Communities (LCs) unite students with similar interests or majors in two or more introductory courses, close-knit peer learning groups, and extra-curricular activities. Some offer a residential component and are called Living Learning Communities, allowing students to live and learn with a common group of peers in student housing. All students in LCs have access to the personalized attention of an embedded peer mentor (EPM) and opportunity to develop close relationships with faculty members in their foundational courses. With 16 different LCs based on varied areas of study, affinity, identity, or interest, there’s a place for everyone to find connection.

Studies have shown that students participating in LCs have had higher GPAs, stronger retention to graduation, and a greater sense of belonging. Recent changes within CSUCI’s LC program necessitate ongoing evaluation.

Kathleen Klompfen, the cur-

rent Faculty Director of Learning/Living Communities, describes EPMs as the “secret sauce” behind LC’s success.

“These students work with faculty partners, present interventions in classes each week for about 30 minutes, and then meet with smaller groups of students throughout the week to help them make connections between what they’re learning in their classes and their lives,” she said. “They also help students deepen relationships with each other, locate the resources they need, and find opportunities to enrich their time at CSUCI, like trips to Santa Rosa Island or travel courses that take them around the world.”

Now a second-year pre-nursing student, Patricio is one of 19 embedded peer mentors helping first-year students find belonging at CSUCI. She mentors students in Serve It Up, an LC that promotes service and volunteer projects in the community.

“It makes me so happy to know I’m helping them,” she said. “Just knowing students enjoy coming to me for help makes me feel like I’m making a positive change.”



The Learning Community unites students with extra-curricular activities.



1

Rediscovering **THE LAST RANCH OF THE CENTRAL COAST**



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1 Professor of Anthropology Colleen Delaney speaks about the exhibit based on her book about Rancho Guadaluca.
 2 From left to right: John Broome Jr., Professor of Anthropology Colleen Delaney, CSUCI President Emeritus Richard Rush, and Linda Dullam
 3 Historical photographs of Rancho Guadaluca at the Broome Library exhibit.

Anthropology professor and students unearth a tale of early Ventura County — Rancho Guadaluasca

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

IT ALL STARTED ONE DAY IN 2013 WHEN Professor of Anthropology Colleen Delaney and her students were surveying the hillsides around CSUCI. The Springs Fire had stripped away a lot of foliage, so it was an opportunity for Delaney and her students to explore this land and deepen our understanding of its history.

The mysterious structure they unearthed launched Delaney on an odyssey that resulted in a book, an exhibit, several lectures, and a place in the 150th anniversary celebration of Ventura County.

Delaney and her students were accustomed to finding remnants of Camarillo State Hospital, which occupied the area from 1933 to 1997. On this particular excursion in 2013, the group unearthed part of a structure that intrigued all of them.

“We found an unusual structure that was made out of volcanic rock and concrete,” Delaney said. “Based on some faculty/student research we conducted, it looked like a 1950s work building that didn’t match any of the hospital buildings.”

That day’s find launched Delaney on the trail of the mysterious structure, which she learned was part of a historic 30,000-acre ranch called Rancho Guadaluasca.

“I went on sabbatical in 2019 and I started looking for property records and old maps and aerial photographs,” Delaney said. “I wanted to figure out who lived there, who owned it, and what it was used for.”

She then wrote a book released in Spring of 2023 entitled *Rancho Guadaluasca: Last Ranch of California’s Central Coast*, by The History Press.

Delaney researched the first inhabitants of the area in consultation with the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians and learned that the territory later known as Guadaluasca was important to the Ventureño Chumash.

One village that was located in this area, simo’mo, has the oldest evidence of plank canoes, called tomols. The village of sat’wiwa was located near the mountain of that name (also called Round Mountain) that is located on the CSUCI campus. As a mountain shrine, sat’wiwa remains sacred to the Chumash.

After the Spaniards came and the Chumash were removed to missions, the land at Rancho Guadaluasca sat untended until a shrewd woman named Ysabel Yorba was awarded the land as part of a Mexican land grant in 1836.

“She was illiterate because they didn’t educate girls back then,” Delaney said. “She was married at 15 and had a baby girl the day after her 17th birthday. Within the month, her husband was transferred to the Santa Barbara Presidio.” Yorba’s husband served as acting comandante of the Santa Barbara Presidio and was elected to the Mexican Congress in 1828, but died in 1830 when Yorba was 41.

After her husband died, Yorba petitioned the Mexican government for the land and successfully ran it for 35 years, until she died at age 82.

The ranch property, which lay at the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains along the eastern Oxnard Plain, was then occupied by farmers and ranchers, including Basque sheepherders, and Japanese fishermen who ran a sport fishing business.

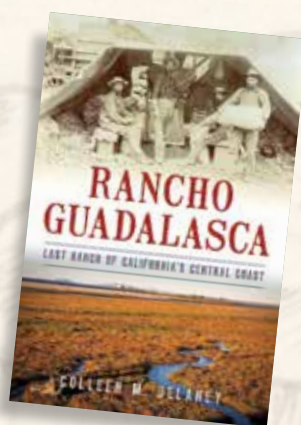
“That fishing business was very egalitarian,” Delaney said. “Painters, electricians and waitresses rubbed elbows with the likes of actor Lionel Barrymore and studio executives.”

In 1906, Joseph F. Lewis bought an 8,200 acre parcel of Rancho Guadaluasca. Then, in 1932, the State of California purchased 1,760 acres of the Lewis Ranch and established Camarillo State Hospital. The property was then conveyed to the CSU in 1998 and ultimately became the CSUCI campus in 2002.

Since the book on Rancho Guadaluasca was released, Delaney has done lectures and book signings around Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles counties, sharing items from an exhibit with various artifacts previously displayed in the John Spoor Broome Library.

In recognition of Ysabel Yorba, Delaney will kick off Women’s History Month on March 3, 2024, with a presentation at the Museum of Ventura County.

Individuals interesting in purchasing her book may contact Professor Delaney at colleen.delaney@csuci.edu or visit: <https://square.link/u/8Xlh9f1o>





Virtual reality takes learning

by KARIN GRENNAN

ONCE CSUCI NURSING STUDENTS STRAP ON A virtual reality (VR) headset and become a man named Hector navigating his first days as a caregiver in a long-term care facility, they never walk into a hospital room the same way.

“They go into the patients’ rooms in clinicals like, ‘Hello, Mr. Smith, I’m your Nursing student today. Can I get you some water? Can I do this?’ rather than, ‘Hi, I’m your student nurse. Bye,” said Assistant Professor of Nursing Julia Chang.

VR — an interactive, three-dimensional, computer-generated simulation — is used in many ways at CSUCI. Students are learning with the help of VR, acquiring the skills to create the simulations and researching their effective uses.

CSUCI became one of the first Nursing programs in the country to use Embodied Labs’ VR scenarios in 2019 after piloting the technology, and CSUCI’s Health Science program followed suit. Students experience being a man as he learns he has terminal lung cancer, transitions to hospice care and dies. They also become a veteran experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder and a trans woman in defining moments of her life.

Along the way, the Nursing and Health Science students learn about diseases and how to communicate with patients and their family members. Most of all, they learn compassion and empathy.

“I think it is really difficult to teach empathy in a classroom setting. You have to experience it,” Chang said.

Experiencing being a man dealing with macular degeneration and hearing loss changed how Health Science and Biology alumna Susie Choe ’22 views people with a variety of challenges.

“It truly opened my eyes to what our older generations must be going through and the difficulties they face when diagnosed with a medical condition,” said Choe, a patient care coordinator planning to apply for medical school.

Research findings on use of VR in preparing nurses show substantial gains in knowledge, confidence and empathy. Associate Professor of Health Science Kristen Linton and her Research Methods students found the same improvements in their own studies.

“Virtual reality is immersive in the feeling of being there and it happening to you makes you think and understand more about the diseases. Students can actually interact and feel the emotions rather than just viewing and choosing some answers,” CSUCI Nursing Simulation Lab Technician Saijal Kapadia said.

In a mixed-reality simulation where Nursing students wear headsets and talk to avatars on a big screen voiced by actors in real time, they get to practice difficult conversations.

“We tell the students, ‘This is a safe space. You are meant to make mistakes. You’re meant to learn. And we want to see how you react if you do make a mistake in a clinical situation. We want you to get that experience,’” Chang said.

>> to another level



Nursing students experiment with virtual patient care in the CSUCI Nursing Simulation Lab using virtual reality headsets and a simulated patient program.

After VR, students have time to process what they experienced. This can help them learn to protect themselves in a very emotional job.

“Having the end-of-life scenario VR experience is probably one of the best things they can do prior to experiencing a patient death on a unit,” Chang said.

While Chang is expanding the use of VR in Nursing, Assistant Professor of Art Simon Quiroz is integrating it into CSUCI's film courses. A pioneer in the field, he is teaching students in introductory film and video production courses about volumetric storytelling, which emphasizes spatial composition to foster a deeper understanding of audience engagement, empathy and immersion. This prepares them for creating immersive VR.

VR also is being incorporated into the proposed bachelor's degree in Cinema and Creative Media Arts scheduled to launch in 2025.

“The relevance of mastering VR concepts is undeniable,” Quiroz said.

One of the valuable aspects of VR is that it allows someone to experience people of various ethnicities, identities and backgrounds. That helps Nursing and Health Science students develop cultural sensitivity and Art students tell more stories through filming.

“VR offers a unique platform for accessibility and amplifying underrepresented voices.”
—Simon Quiroz

“VR offers a unique platform for accessibility and amplifying underrepresented voices,” Quiroz said.

Linton wondered whether VR also could be used to treat people with brain injuries. With guidance from Assistant Professor of Mechatronics Engineering Bahareh Abbasi, CSUCI's Computer Science students created one VR scenario that asked patients from the Brain Injury Center of Ventura County to follow a red ball and another where they needed to remember who wants which items tossed to them.

Health Science students, mentored by Linton and Health Science Lecturer Melissa Gutierrez-Jimenez, collected data. They found the VR sessions improved eye-tracking in 75% of patients with mild and moderate brain injuries and memory in 66%. Ventura County Medical Center is now planning a pilot study on the eye-tracking scenario for patients hospitalized with severe traumatic brain injury.

“I'm very excited about the possibilities,” Linton said.

For Health Science major Savanna Monson, studying the effectiveness of the Alzheimer's scenario in her Research Methods class sparked her interest in the disease and research. She joined the brain injury research team and now is applying to doctoral programs where she can study neurodegeneration.

“This was a turning point for me,” Monson said.

Larraburu \$30 million gift bestows a lasting legacy

by MARYA BARLOW

A \$30 MILLION GIFT FROM the estate of longtime supporters Philippe and Arlette Larraburu is the single-largest donation in CSUCI's 21-year history and a priceless investment in its future.

Supporters since before the University's founding, the Larraburus established a bequest

sonal philanthropy and to the fact that CSUCI is a smart investment for donors, community partners, and students alike."

Born in France in 1927, Philippe trained as a physicist and earned several degrees in optical engineering from prominent trade schools in Paris. His first job was specializing in the manufacture of

dream home in the Clearpoint neighborhood in Ventura in the early 1970s. Philippe created specialized lenses for the film industry, then opened his own optical lab and created lenses for industrial applications and weather satellites.

Philippe and Arlette established a connection to CSUCI from the very beginning and the couple remained strong supporters. When Arlette died in 2014, Philippe donated a spectrometer and other equipment to the University's Physics program. It was only then that he shared the couple's decision to name CSUCI as beneficiary of their estate.

"We are profoundly grateful for the Larraburus' bequest," said CSUCI Vice President for University Advancement Richard LeRoy. "We also appreciate the Larraburus' faith in higher education, and their belief that a strong public university can create priceless returns for its graduates, their families, employers and, in fact, the entire region."

The Larraburu's gift comes at a critical time for the University, when budgetary limitations and possible reductions in permanent, long-term state funding are looming. Yao said the donation will help close the gaps in funding needed to complete several high-demand capital projects, such as the campus-based Early Childhood Care & Education Center.

"Capital projects are my priority for the most impactful, long-term use of the Larraburus' gift," Yao said. "Their gift has enabled us to literally build for the future."

in 2001 naming CSUCI the sole beneficiary of their estate. In the years since, the gift grew to \$30 million.

"Words cannot express our tremendous gratitude to the Larraburu family for their trust in our University, backed by a gift that will provide so much for our students," said CSUCI President Richard Yao. "A gift of this stature is a testament to the power of per-

precision instruments and lenses for the French armed forces. In the early 1950s, he traveled to Germany to take German-language courses and met Arlette Janet Piro, a French translator for the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The couple married in 1955, and emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1960s, eventually moving to Ventura County and building their



Physics students Seth Curtin and Jasmine Torres, along with lecturer Tabitha Swan-Wood explaining how an Atomic Spectra Defractometer works.



Back row left to right: Aura Bryan, Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations; Richard LeRoy, Vice President for University Advancement; Sally Parks, Yardi's Vice President for Human Resources; Helene Schneider, Regional Director of Development; and Eva Gomez, Director of Annual Giving & Special Gifts. Front row left to right: Sarah Bridich, Yardi's Director of Corporate Philanthropy; Yardi student scholars Jarrell-Eden Asuncion and Sarah Subia; and President Richard Yao.

Yardi Scholarship forges a pathway for first-generation success

by MARYA BARLOW

A GIFT OF \$501,000 FROM YARDI® WILL SUPPORT renewable full-tuition scholarships for at least 20 first-generation students at CSUCI over the next decade.

The Yardi Scholarship builds on a history of support for higher education by the Santa Barbara-based property management software company. An industry-leading provider of software solutions for real estate companies around the world, Yardi has over 8,500 employees globally and more than 1,300 based in California.

"Supporting education is a core pillar of Yardi's corporate philanthropy," said Yardi Senior Vice President Jay Shobe. "We believe in the life-changing impact of a college degree, especially for first-generation scholars, and we are thrilled to partner with CSU Channel Islands to help these students achieve their goals."

Beginning this academic year and extending through 2032, Yardi will support two renewable \$7,000 scholarships a year, up to a maximum of eight renewable scholarships annually.

Scholarship recipients must be full-time, first-generation students who are Pell Grant-eligible and interested in majoring in Applied Physics, Business, Computer Science, Economics, Environmental Science & Resource Management, Information Technology, Mathematics, or Mechatronics Engineering.

"The Yardi Scholarship is a testament to Yardi's long-standing commitment to its community and to providing educational opportunities for the underserved students in our region," said Richard LeRoy, CSUCI's Vice President for University Advancement. "This gift will have a profound impact on CSUCI's first-generation students, who constitute 60% of our total student body and will be the drivers of our region's future prosperity."

The first two Yardi Scholars are first-year students Sarah Subia and Jarrell-Eden Asuncion, both of Oxnard. Asuncion, a graduate of Oxnard High School, is majoring in Computer Science.

"This scholarship will assist me in reaching my goal by eliminating one of the main worries of the world – money," he said. "I deeply appreciate the opportunities it will provide."

Prior to entering CSUCI this fall, Subia spent five years in the U.S. Navy as an electrician and was deployed to the South China Sea and the Middle East. She is pursuing a degree in Information Technology with the hope of becoming a government security analyst.

"I am truly grateful for this opportunity and, one day, hope to give back in the same way," Subia said. "This scholarship helps reduce the financial stress of being able to pay for school expenses. I will be using the scholarship to help with books and supplies to be able to succeed academically."



SERVING UP SUPPORT

Connections with custodians and food service workers help students succeed.

by KARIN GRENNAN



STARTING HIS FIFTH AND final year at CSUCI in August, Spencer Mack faced life on campus without his girlfriend and most of his friends for the first time because they had graduated. But if he ever wanted to chat with a friend, he knew he could find one behind the deli counter at Islands Café, where Silvia Valencia has been serving up sandwiches with a side of support for 14 years.

“She’s always been there, every semester,” said Mack, a Mathematics major from Temecula. “She’d always ask me how I’m doing and stuff, and I ask her how she’s doing.”

Students often connect with the campus service workers they see regularly, particularly those who feed them and clean their spaces.

“Sometimes they are seen as just manual laborers,” said Associate Professor of English Georgina Guzmán. “But they are actually indispensable frontline staff. They are right there on the frontlines checking on students on an everyday basis.”

That connection can be even more important for students who are the first generation in their families to attend college, Guzmán said. It helps when campus service workers are the same ethnicity as students’ family members, speak the language they hear at home, and have jobs similar to those of their parents.

“When first-year first-generation students come to college, they feel alone, maybe alienated,” Guzman said. “It’s really the dining hall staff, campus custodians and housekeepers who serve as a bridge between their home environment and university environment and help these students feel at ease, comfortable and like they belong.”

Guzmán knows from experience. A first-generation college student, she was excited to leave her

working-class immigrant Latino neighborhood and live and study with other high-achieving students at UCLA. But she was negatively judged as a minority by competitive students, and service workers often were the only ones who spoke to or ate with her.

“I wanted to go back home, but when I would talk to the housekeeping staff and the women in the dining halls, I felt they served as kind of parental figures for me and they gave me that support that I needed,” Guzman recalled. “I could allow myself to be vulnerable with the staff.”

Twenty years later, when Guzmán began writing her memoir during the COVID-19 pandemic, she realized these people provided one of the main reasons she stayed in college. Checking with colleagues who were first-generation college students, she discovered campus service workers helped them all get to graduation, yet nothing had been written about it.

“We said, ‘We need to compile our stories,’” Guzmán said. “Nobody ever talks about this.”

The result was the 2022 book *Campus Service Workers Supporting First Generation Students: Informal Mentorship and Culturally Relevant Support as Key to Student Retention and Success*. Guzmán and co-editors La’Tonya Rease Miles, Dean of Student Affairs at Menlo College, and Stephanie Santos Youngblood, a former program director at UCLA, selected the 23 chapters from about 50 submissions.

Guzmán wrote a chapter about how her experiences at UCLA led her to value her family more, get involved in social justice efforts and eventually teach at a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution where she helps other first-generation college students embrace their backgrounds.

A chapter by Jennie Luna, an Associate Professor of Chicana/o Studies at CSUCI, talks about how Black and Latino security and custodial staff members were her first friends in graduate school and how CSUCI Custodian Rubicela Tafolla Morada became a comforting and trusted confidant while cleaning her office.

“It’s really the dining hall staff, campus custodians and housekeepers who serve as a bridge between their home environment and university environment and help these students feel at ease, comfortable and like they belong.”
—Georgina Guzmán

Opposite page top left: Daisy Navarrete visits with Maria Miranda. Top right: Islands Cafe employee Kennedy Jones, mathematics student Spencer Mack, Islands Cafe employee Silvia Valencia with her daughter and '23 alumna Yolanda Amador, and Islands Cafe employee Jonathan Amador. Bottom: Associate Professor of English Georgina Guzmán with Facilities Project Supervisor Rogelio Mendoza at Campus Workers’ Day Luncheon.

Nancy-Jean Pément, an Educational Leadership Lecturer at CSUCI, wrote about how the cultural pride of her father, a man of mixed Indigenous and québécois heritage who was a machinist at her alma mater, influenced her journey to teach first-generation, linguistically-minoritized, working-class students from historically marginalized groups.

The informal support and mentorship detailed in the book plays out across the CSUCI campus every day. Valencia, affectionately known as ‘Silvia the Sandwich Lady,’ is a perfect example, Guzmán said.

Valencia had been training as a social worker in Mexico City before she immigrated to California at 18. After working in the fields and in catering, Valencia put to work her talent for helping people and her desire to see the next generation succeed at CSUCI. The Oxnard resident treats students the way she wants people to treat her children, who now range in age from 22 to 40 and make her proud.

“I know in my heart that I love the students,” Valencia said. “I care about them.”

When she notices they are acting differently, she asks if something is wrong. They tell her when they are tired, or sad, or having problems with a significant other.

“I discovered that the students, especially the girls, are very insecure. So, I tell them the things that I want others to say to my four daughters, like, ‘You are pretty,’” said Valencia, whose youngest daughter, Yolanda Amador, graduated from CSUCI in May with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology. “I tell the girls, ‘Mija,’ don’t you see what you have? ... You need to accept what you have and accept you. If you don’t accept you, who is going to accept you?” I always try to be positive with them.”

Valencia and Custodian Maria Miranda showered first-generation college student Giovanni Rojas ’23 with encouragement, support and advice throughout his time at CSUCI, often in Spanish. Seeing the women work hard motivated him to do the same as he pursued a double major in Business and Psychology and a minor in Communication.

“They have that familial type of vibe. I relate it to a ‘tia,’ an aunt, giving you that type of advice, not just from a Hispanic point of view but also from a mother’s perspective,” the Los Angeles resident said. “Maybe they’ve filled in for some of the conversations I would have had

“Maybe they’ve filled in for some of the conversations I would have had with my actual mother, but I didn’t get the chance to have because I would always be in school and working.”

—Giovanni Rojas



Left to right: Custodian Maria Miranda with Student Government President Daisy Navarrete.

with my actual mother, but I didn’t get the chance to have because I would always be in school and working”

When first-generation college student Daisy Navarrete began her term as Student Government President in June, she quickly got to know Miranda, who did much more than clean her office in the Student Union.

“She’s always saying, ‘Good morning,’ to me. She speaks Spanish, so I’m always practicing my Spanish with her,” said Navarrete, a Health Science major from Oxnard. “It’s like a piece of home here.

After the book was published, Guzmán helped organize a Campus Service Workers’ May Day Luncheon to formally acknowledge their contributions and thank them.

To thank Valencia, Mack launched a GoFundMe campaign for her in Fall 2022. He raised more than \$600 from 34 donors, mostly students, and presented it to her after one of her shifts.

“She’s been a big part of my college life. She’s given a lot to me,” Mack said. “I wanted to show her that she has more of an impact than she might think that she does.”

Mohamed Faynus, '16 M.S. Biotechnology

Biotechnology alumnus has his eye on curing blindness with stem cell therapy

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

STEM CELLS ARE THE LATEST weapon on the horizon in the fight against blindness, and CSUCI alumnus Mohamed Faynus is at the helm of some promising research for blindness caused by age-related macular degeneration.

“We completed a Phase I/2A trial,” Faynus said. “We started with patients who were legally blind. We’re excited about the results because 27% of the patients showed improved vision, and 60% either improved or remained stable.”

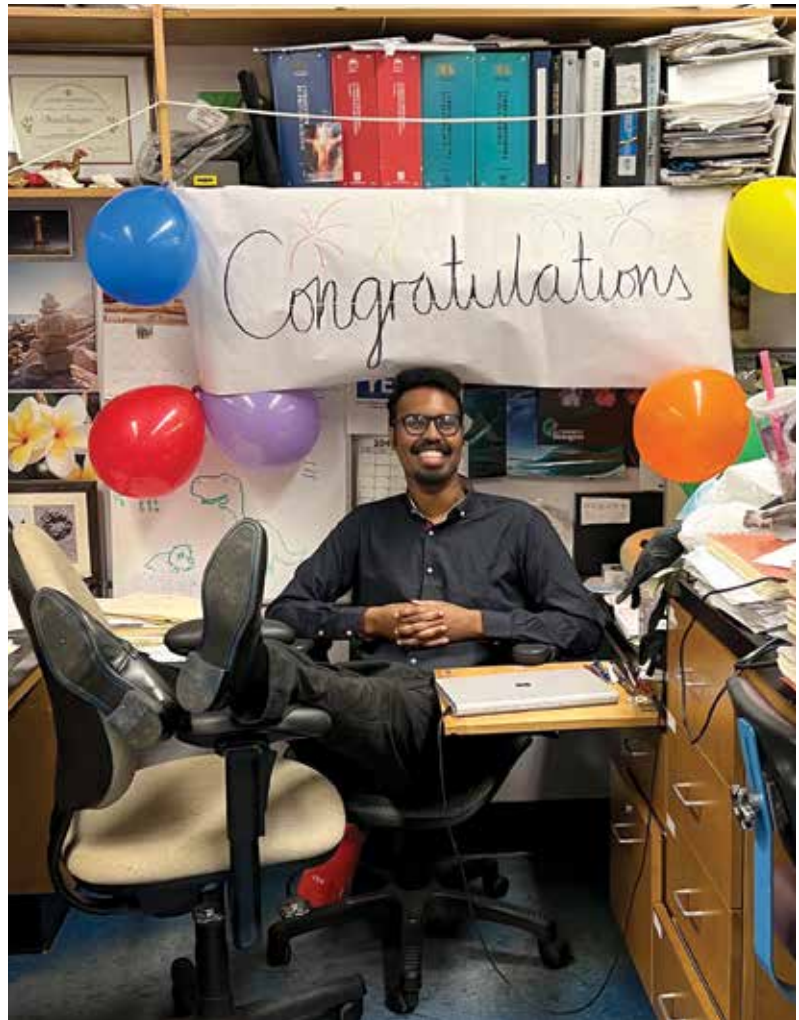
Faynus is part of a team at the Dennis O. Clegg Lab in the UCSB Center for Stem Cell Biology and Engineering. He and his fellow scientists are developing stem cell technology targeting blindness caused by so-called “dry” macular degeneration, which makes up the majority of macular degeneration diagnoses.

“Mohamed is just great in the lab,” Clegg said. “He is so curious about science and so hardworking and enthusiastic. He’s always full of ideas and new projects. It’s been a pleasure to work with him.”

Faynus became intrigued with the possibilities connected with stem cell technology through CSUCI’s Bridges to Stem Cell Research program, which is funded through the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). Launched by Professor of Biology Nitika Parmar, the program allows graduate students to work in paid internships while studying stem cell technology at prestigious medical institutions in California—in this case, the Clegg lab.

Faynus earned a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science from the University of Toronto. His family immigrated to Canada from Somalia when Faynus was five years old. Impressed with CSUCI’s stem cell program, he earned a Master of Science in Biotechnology from CSUCI, and in the summer of 2023, he earned his Ph.D. in Biomolecular Science and Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Faynus is now a post-doctoral fellow in the Clegg lab



Mohamed Faynus in his office after coworkers decorated it to congratulate him on his Ph.D.

working part time for two different biotechnology companies. They are creating a patch made of stem cell-derived retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells. When the cells are healthy, they enable photoreceptor cells of the retina to detect light, but when they begin to atrophy, it can lead to impaired vision or for many, blindness.

The patch can be implanted in the back of the eye to try to stimulate the growth of healthy RPE cells.

“The capability of a stem cell is remarkable,” Faynus said. “With stem cell technology we can study human diseases in a dish—in this case, those that affect the retina. Maybe within the next decade or so we’ll see the next wave of therapy options reach patients.”

Laura McAvoy receives the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award

by MARYA BARLOW

LAURA MCAVOY, A PARTNER IN THE LAW firm of Musick Peeler and steadfast supporter of CSUCI since its earliest days, has been awarded the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award.

The award, named after the former congressman and state senator whose leadership played a vital role in establishing CSUCI, is one of the University's highest honors. It is presented each year to an individual or an organization that has contributed to and supported CSUCI. McAvoy received the award during the 21st Annual President's Dinner held at the campus on October 28.

"Having known Bob Lagomarsino and his commitment to bringing a four-year public university to Ventura County and having been involved with the whole concept of the university before it came to fruition, it's a tremendous honor and I'm delighted," McAvoy said.

McAvoy focuses at Musick Peeler in the areas of business formation and operation, real estate, estate planning, and general business law in a wide variety of industries.

McAvoy, a Camarillo resident, is well-known for creating a legacy over many decades of service and support for nonprofit organizations throughout Ventura County. She was a founding member of CSUCI's President's Advisory Board and served for many years on the University's Foundation Board. She is a former Chair of the Board of the United Way of Ventura County, a founder of Ventura County Community Foundation, and has held or holds volunteer leadership roles for organizations including the Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association, St. John's Healthcare Foundation, Livingston Memorial Foundation, and Interface Children & Family Services, among others.

"Laura is a selfless advocate for community-based nonprofits and has freely shared her time, considerable talents, and treasure with organizations in the areas of education, health care, youth and community services," said President Richard Yao. "From her initial advocacy and support of CSUCI and ongoing commitment to it, Laura continues to advance higher education in Ventura County."



Photo by Bryant Swanstrom

McAvoy grew up in Ventura County, graduated from college and law school at UCLA, and returned home to practice law. As the movement to build a public, four-year university in Ventura County gained traction in the 1980s and early 90s, McAvoy became a leading advocate.

"I'm a big believer in education and the role it plays in creating a better democracy," she said. "It makes everybody in the community healthier, wealthier, and wiser. There were many people in our community who could not leave the area to go to college like I did. Ventura County was the largest county in the state that didn't have a four-year public university, and I couldn't sit on the sidelines; I had to get involved and help make it happen. Along the way I met so many wonderful people and it has been a joy to share the adventure with so many."

As CSUCI, in its 21st year, celebrates over 27,000 alumni, McAvoy says she's proud to be a part of its continuing growth.

"I've always believed there's a compact between the community and CSUCI," she said. "From the beginning, the community was a major player in making this University possible. We have an ongoing commitment to support the University and the University has an ongoing commitment to listen to the community's needs."

Becoming Gabrielle

Gabrielle Vignone named as the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awardee

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

“We all stayed still as stone. The light moved over our faces, but the...walls blocked us from view. The cops left, I whispered, ‘They’re gone, we should go before they come back...’”

—excerpt from *Mi Chaos: A Chola Love Story*

NICKNAMED “GABBY” when she and her friends hung out on the streets of

Santa Barbara, CSUCI 2023 Distinguished Alumni “Gabby” Vignone believes her formal name, “Gabrielle,” now suits her better.

“I think I’ve gotten to that ‘change’ point in life,” said Vignone, who graduated in 2016 with a bachelor’s degree in English. “I think we don’t know who we are for a while as we go through different changes and experiences that bring us to where we are now.”

For Vignone, those experiences have included giving birth at 15, having her childhood best friend killed by a train, falling in love with a man, raising four children with him, and having him die in prison.

“I spent a lot of my life in the survival stage,” Vignone said. “It was, ‘Do we have enough money? Do we have enough food? What do we do next?’” With encouragement from CSUCI Professor (now Emeritus) Joan Peters, Vignone turned her struggles into compelling stories and ultimately, into her first book. When some of the passages from the book, *Mi Chaos: A Chola Love Story*, were published in the Santa Barbara Independent, readers wanted to know where they could read more.

“Joan gave me the gift of seeing how things are strung together,” Vignone said. “I’m very good at short stories, but Joan taught me how to weave the stories into a book.”

Peters met Vignone when Vignone took one of her classes. Peters admitted to being floored at how raw, honest and well-written Vignone’s stories were—especially one of her earlier pieces about her son’s first grand mal seizure.



“Gabby wrote with an energy so fierce that when a computer wasn’t available, she’d write on her phone,” Peters said. “And did this with a full-time job and three children to raise on her own!”

Her children, CSUCI and Peters ignited Vignone’s resilience as she turned her life into a success story.

After graduating from CSUCI, Vignone shifted into the non-profit sector, managing low-income and farmworker housing.

“I took that role and treated people the way I would want to be treated,” she said. “I started a food

share program there. I had residents who didn’t have documents to work, or never had a job before and now they had something to put on a resume.”

She made sure the kids had backpacks and got on the “Toys for Tots” list every Christmas. Vignone continued to advance her education and moved up in the housing world, and two years ago, she became the executive director

at House Farm Workers! a non-profit organization dedicated to finding affordable, safe, and stable housing for farmworkers.

Upon learning she had been chosen as the 2023 Distinguished Alumnus and that she would be speaking at the President’s Dinner on October 28, Vignone was surprised and honored.

“To get any recognition at any level, even if it’s just a thank you...it’s special,” she said. “I did a lot of things going through my life where there was no thank you.”

On Vignone’s web site www.gabbyvignone.com, which contains more excerpts from Vignone’s ongoing projects, Peters sums up the star she discovered in English class one day:

“We’ve seen Gabby grow from a wild-child gang girl to a mother steering her children through a gauntlet of illness, depression and teen pregnancy,” Peters wrote. “As a reflective adult and an immensely talented writer, she offers an immersion into a world that has never been written about by someone who lived it.”

DENNISE HERNANDEZ ♦ '08 M.S. BIOTECHNOLOGY & BIOINFORMATICS



Alumna supervises fingerprint and crime-scene investigations

by KARIN GRENNAN

WHENEVER SUPERVISING FORENSIC scientist Dennise Hernandez faces a challenging situation, she thinks back to taking molecular cell biology from Adjunct Faculty Member Bill Tawil while earning her master's degree at CSUCI. It was a difficult class that she thought she was failing until learning that she earned an A in the course, with reassurance from Tawil that she had done fantastically.

"If I can get through that, I can get through anything," Hernandez said. "It was very transformative."

Hernandez grew up in Oxnard, the city where her parents had immigrated to from Mexico as children and where they worked in strawberry fields and a lemon-packing plant. She graduated from Rio Mesa High School and earned her bachelor's degree in neurobiology, physiology and behavior from University of California, Davis.

To see whether she wanted to continue toward her goal of working with animals, Hernandez interned for the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program, training

sea lions and dolphins to locate mines. Deciding that she would prefer a biotechnology research job, she found one with Amgen in Thousand Oaks. She then completed the graduate program in Biotechnology & Bioinformatics at CSUCI and worked her way up at Amgen from making solutions to serving as a senior associate on a team researching cures for blood-related diseases.

Hernandez left Amgen to care for her children for five years. When she decided to return to work, she wanted to find a way to serve her community that gave her a sense of purpose. A job posting for a fingerprint examiner at the Ventura County Sheriff's Office led her to research the field.

"The more that I read, the more I was like, this is really well-suited for my brain," Hernandez said.

She was one of three people hired out of more than 200 applicants in 2016 to restart the Fingerprint Unit with scientifically trained staff. They trained for a couple of years to learn to collect and evaluate fingerprints, and Hernandez now supervises the unit.



Dennise Hernandez's forensic work consists of crime scene analysis in the laboratory.



Hernandez supervises the Crime Scene Investigation Unit.

Much of her job entails lifting prints from objects, making them visible and comparing them to those found on other objects or in databases. This way, she can identify who left the prints and in what manner they touched the objects. While people might be able to claim that they weren't the ones who left their DNA on objects, that's not the case with fingerprints.

"No one borrowed your hand to put the print there," Hernandez said. "It's a little harder to explain it away."

She also supervises and serves on call for the 24/7 Crime Scene Investigation Unit that collects, documents and preserves all types of evidence immediately after incidents.

"We respond to everything from burglaries to mass-casualty homicides," Hernandez said. "It is pretty cool to know what goes on behind the scenes in all of the cities in my community."

The broad science background she developed during her graduate studies at CSUCI and while earning her undergraduate degree informs her discussions with others in the Forensic Services Bureau, whether she is talking to a controlled-substance expert about the chemistry behind a drug interaction or to a medical examiner about what inflammation indicates about organs.

"It gave me a really solid background in the sciences to be able to hold my own," Hernandez said.

When Hernandez was asked to review an outline for an associate degree in forensic science being

developed by Ventura County Community College District, she and other professionals advised that it should focus more on science than criminal justice.

"It's easier to take someone who's a scientist and give them the criminal justice principles versus the other way around," Hernandez said.

Hernandez would love to help CSUCI develop its proposed bachelor's degree program in Forensic Science and perhaps teach in it. She currently draws on the skills she developed at CSUCI to pare down vast amounts of information into engaging reports and presentations and enjoys the process of sharing knowledge.

Hernandez loves her current job, and she feels good about helping her community. But it can be challenging emotionally.

"Some of the stuff that we see is really sad, really bad," Hernandez said. "Anything having to do with family-on-family crime is very difficult. ... Suicides are always tough because you are witnessing someone's last scene, someone's last moment."

After 12 people were killed during the shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks in 2018, she took fingerprints and photos during the autopsies of the shooter and victims. Afterward, it helped her to seek out information about the lives of those who were murdered.

"It was very sweet to see all the stories and pictures that people would share because it was nicer to remember them in that smiling photograph."

Bobby Martinez * '13 Teaching Credential, Single-Subject Mathematics

Teacher bringing positive change to Port Hueneme

by KARIN GRENNAN

BOBBY MARTINEZ WON A LONG-SHOT BID for Port Hueneme City Council in 2020 and became mayor in January 2023. He has successfully pushed for increased investment in parks, the addition of a homeless liaison, and higher raises than workers had negotiated for themselves. He also teaches math full time at Frontier High School, an alternative school in Camarillo, and is launching a business for an app he developed.

But the 34-year-old CSUCI alumnus thinks he should have accomplished more by now.

“I have really high expectations, so it’s always been like it’s never really been enough for me,” said Martinez. “Something that I would be proud of is making world change.”

Martinez’ quest for change started with the city where he has lived most of his life. Even before he ran for the council, he participated in Hueneme community cleanups and tried to get the city to fix the torn-up basketball court where he played.

The Hueneme High School graduate completed an associate degree in math and sciences at Ventura College and then left home to earn a bachelor’s degree in mathematics with an emphasis in teaching from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Wanting to return to his hometown and family, he decided to pursue his teaching credential at CSUCI.

“It’s like a small-knit community and that felt really, really good to me. I felt like I was at home,” said Martinez, who played on intramural volleyball and basketball teams while at CSUCI.

After some of his students at Frontier asked him what he would do if he was in government for a class assignment, they planted the seed that led to his running for City Council.



Bobby Martinez is serving as Port Hueneme’s mayor since January 2023.

“They liked my answers, and they started saying this chant, something like ‘Martinez for president, Martinez for president.’ And so that got me thinking, maybe I could go into politics.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic slowed his life down, he took the plunge. Competing against two incumbents and three other candidates, he used skills he learned while making videos for CSUCI’s Center for Community Engagement to connect with voters and was the top vote-getter.

“I made 20-plus videos, and I pushed them out on YouTube, Facebook, Snapchat, most of the social media platforms, and I think that helped a lot,” Martinez said.

Serving on the council has been incredibly rewarding.

“I’m learning a lot, and then at the same time I’m making a lot of positive change.”



Christina Thiele-Yancy * '10 B.A. Art



Christina Thiele-Yancy credits her supportive instructors in the CSUCI Art program to her success.

Photo by Max Fleury

CSUCI support enabled Netflix manager to find herself

by KARIN GRENNAN

Before transferring from Santa Rosa Junior College, Christina Thiele-Yancy was so shy that she had a hard time raising her hand in class, let alone speaking in public. Upon her arrival at CSUCI, she vowed to follow Eleanor Roosevelt's advice: "Do one thing every day that scares you."

"I would make sure I raised my hand as often as possible, despite the shaking and sweating. By the end of my time there, I was doing stand-up comedy sets on campus and going to every event possible," Thiele-Yancy said.

"Being able to challenge myself so openly there made me who I am today and made all of my future jobs possible. ... I really think I would be a different person if it wasn't for CSUCI. I learned to be myself there and that being myself could and would carry me where I wanted to go."

It helped that the Art program faculty were so supportive and encouraging, particularly the late Kathleen Quaife and Catie Mihalopoulos, with whom she curated an art show.

"Additionally, Peter Harper was a huge influence on me and helped me build my confidence in being able to speak up for myself and make my own path," Thiele-Yancy said of the Art lecturer.

Her professional path started with a summer internship with the soap opera, *The Bold and the Beautiful*, that she saw advertised at CSUCI.

"That internship was huge for me," Thiele-Yancy said. "I learned very quickly that I did

not want to be a part of production. It was too boring for me — a lot of waiting around for something to happen. I loved the action in the production office and knew that I would look for jobs similar to that."

Using communication and leadership skills she developed as a student housing resident assistant during her senior year, she worked her way up from an assistant to the executive vice president for worldwide distribution and delivery at Summit Entertainment to the position she now holds as a dubbing title manager at Netflix. She manages the process of swapping audio in different languages into recordings and communicates with studios all over the world to make sure their needs are met.

"I absolutely love my job. Netflix is an incredible company to work for and grow with," the Glendale resident said. "We strive to be great communicators and problem solvers."



Efrain Cazares ✧ '05 B.A. Psychology

Paying it forward as a positive force

by KARIN GRENNAN

EFRAIN CAZARES' MOM, A SINGLE PARENT who raised four children while holding down a strenuous job at Foster Farms in Turlock, inspired him to work hard.

"I remember her having to get up at 2 a.m. to be at work by 3 in the morning. Then she would get off around 2 in the afternoon to pick us up from school at 3 p.m.," Cazares said. "I think that's where I get all my drive from. I always saw her working and always trying to make our family better."

As the oldest of his siblings and the first in his extended family to attend college, he had to navigate higher education on his own. After earning his associate degree from Merced College, he transferred to CSUCI. The passionate, caring and encouraging Psychology faculty, particularly Virgil H. Adams III, helped him earn his bachelor's degree.

"They were just different than what I had experienced in the past when it came to teachers," Cazares said. "It was really hard for me to pick up things on my own being Hispanic and English being a second language. I struggled at times. Sometimes I didn't have the help I needed. At Channel Islands, you always had the help."

Financial aid paid for Cazares' tuition and books, and he covered other expenses by working a full-time graveyard shift as a Walgreens manager while taking a full load of classes.

"I came out debt-free, so I didn't need to pay back any loans. That was the best thing ever," Cazares said.

He had planned to become a school counselor, but a friend convinced him to try selling insurance after graduation. He uses what he learned from his Psychology classes and experiences at CSUCI to relate to people.

"At times, I feel like a therapist when it comes to this business," Cazares said. "I take pride in helping customers in some of the most stressful times of their lives."

In 2018, he opened his own State Farm office, choosing an Oxnard location so he could serve the city's large Spanish-speaking population with his bilingual skills. He also does what he can to help the entire Latino community – sponsoring scout troops and youth sports, participating in food drives, and helping people connect with services.

"I want to pay it forward by trying to be a positive force and helping provide those resources to young people who may need it."

Efrain Cazares takes pride in helping customers in their most stressful time of need.



Class Notes

Dolphins are natural communicators! We love to hear from our Dolphin alumni around the world—27,000 and counting—so we can help share life changes and achievements.

Submit a class note to: go.csuci.edu/class-note or scan the QR code on the right.



2006

Evelyn Idania Ruiz (B.A. English) – She’s the founder, children’s advocate, and writer of Magical Corazón Books (bilingual) publisher. She also graduated from Sierra Nevada College with an MFA (@linktr.ee/Magicalcorazon).



2012

Brenda A. Gallegos (B.A. Sociology) – Brenda earned an M.A. in Education from CSU Long Beach in May 2020 and started a new position as a Graduate Programs Recruiter at CSU Dominguez Hills in April 2023.



2008

Tamara Miller Davis (B.A. English) – In 2021, she published an award-winning novel titled *Despite the Buzz* (despitethebuzz.com). Two professors from CSUCI beta-read the colorful book, offering praise included in the front cover.



2013

Sylvia Lenhardt (B.A. Psychology) – Sylvia went on to earn an M.A. in Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Counseling from California Lutheran University. She’s in the process of obtaining her MFT licensure.



2010

César Aldána (B.A. Art) – A skilled artist based in Ventura County who works with oils, acrylics, graphic design, illustration, tattoos, and print-making, César attained the rank of Sergeant First Class in the Army reserve and is a Combat Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was stationed at Abu Ghraib Prison. He represented CSUCI Veterans Affairs as the first student representative in 2008 and is now working as a teacher at Charles Blackstock Junior High in the Hueneme School District.

In Memoriam

*Remembering those who passed away from
Jan. 2022 through Sept. 2023*

Matthew Wennerstrom, Business*
(deceased 2/26/2022)

Bianca Tapia '15 B.A. Psychology
(deceased 3/2/2022)

Wendy Samaan '21 B.A. Early Childhood Studies
(deceased 3/29/2022)

James Moulton, Communication*
(deceased 7/7/2022)

Daniel Dougherty '06 B.A. Art
(deceased 3/15/2023)

Daniel Pawelczyk '09 B.S. Business
(deceased 5/5/2023)

**Students who were unable to complete a degree.*

Foundation Annual Report

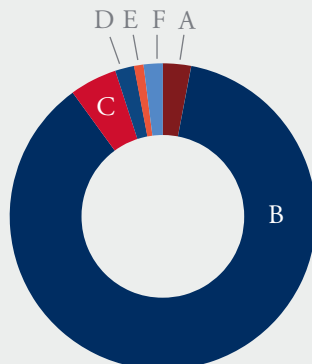
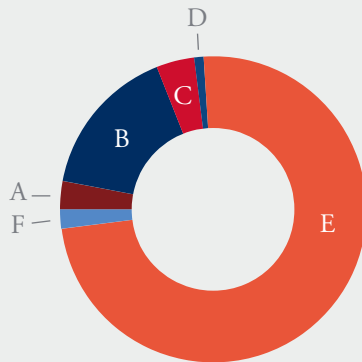
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—CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board Chair Dr. Mark Lisagor



The Year in Review

THE CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS FOUNDATION HAD ITS LARGEST philanthropic fundraising year to date in fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023), with more than \$37.8 million in total gifts, representing an increase of 130% over the previous year.

“We are deeply grateful to our supporters who have powered CSU Channel Islands’ growth as a transformative regional university, providing upward social mobility for over 27,000 alumni—61% of whom were the first in their families to attend college,” said CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board Chair Dr. Mark Lisagor. “Your generosity will be repaid many times over as CSUCI graduates change the trajectory of their lives and positively impact the future of our region.”

State funds alone cannot provide for all the costs associated with providing a life-changing education to our students. The CSUCI Foundation is a catalyst for that process and a conduit through which gifts and endowment income flow to provide immediate and long-term support to the University. As of June 30, 2023, the Foundation’s total assets were \$94.2 million, which represents a growth of 265% over the past four years.

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Foundation’s Board of Directors also welcomed four new members – Martin McDermut, Armando Casillas, Philip Ruston, and Rudy Pereira – and thanked Henry DuBroff for 12 years of distinguished service.

A LOOK AT THE ENDOWMENT

ENDOWMENT VALUE ON JUNE 30

\$34.7 M

THE FOUNDATION manages CSUCI’s endowment funds with the intent of generating additional income from the philanthropic gifts given to the University. As of June 30, 2023, the Foundation’s endowment had a value of \$34.7 million. The endowment paid out \$874,717 in 2022-23, directly supporting scholarships and academic initiatives such as student research.

SUPPORT OF ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

\$874,717

{ A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR IN GIVING }

2023

SOME PHILANTHROPIC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR INCLUDED:

- A \$30 million unrestricted gift from the estate of long-time supporters Philippe and Arlette Larraburu that was the single-largest donation in CSUCI’s 21-year history.
- A \$5.2 million gift from the Jeff T. Green Family Foundation, which will provide scholarships of \$20,000 over four years to approximately 250 first-generation, Pell-eligible students.
- A \$2 million anonymous planned gift.
- A gift of \$501,000 from the Yardi Foundation that will provide renewable full-tuition scholarships for at least 20 first-generation students at CSUCI over the next decade.
- A gift of \$300,000 over three years from the TOLD Foundation that will significantly expand internship opportunities for students.
- A \$200,000 donation from the Bill and Joanne Miller Charitable Trust supporting paid research assistant positions for undergraduate students engaged in faculty-driven research or creative activities with a faculty mentor.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

These charitable gifts in support of CSU Channel Islands were made from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, with the exception of Legacy Giving and Alumni & Friends Lifetime memberships. Every gift makes a difference and every donor is appreciated. Thank you!

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The Benevity Community
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Gino Pauling '19
Marlene Pelayo '17
Devin Perini '18
Apisak Phetprasit '04
Jana Plat '13
Molly Pocock '19
Kellie Prather '17
Stephen Preiss '19
Premier America Credit Union
Kevin Przybyla '17
Jamie Lorraine Pullen '16
Laura Pullen '13
Jonathan Quintana '18
Evelyn Quintero '22
Hugo Quintero '22
Marcos Ramirez-Mendoza '19
Anabell Ramos '09
Kayla Randall '22
Yvette Rayas '15
Moshe Reich '21
Cameron Reyes '15
Kerry Richardson '09
Shawn Richardson '08 '16
Ramon Rios '18
Shawn Riutzel '18
Cynthia Rivera '18

Amber Rivero '19
Michael Roach '22
Karen Rodems '10
Jessica Rodriguez '20
Sandra Rodriguez '18
Cristina Rodriguez Rivas '19
Martha Rubio '14
Kay Runion
Chelsee Russell '09 and
Dustin Russell '08
Hayley Ruttenberg '23
Christian Saad '17
Crystal Salazar '17
Belen Salinas '18
Sandy Sanchez '13 '16 and
Alexis Sanchez '15
Amanda Schumacher '20
Matthew Schumaker '16
Ryan Schwarz '15
Christopher Schwerdtfeger '18
Christopher Scott '15
Mark Scott '14
Tina Secrease '20
Ashley Seery '13 and
David Seery '12
Alexandra Seligman '21
Maximilian Seligman '19 '22
Linda O'Hirok and Mark Sellers
Patrick Shaw '12 '15
Sarah Sherman and
Roy Sherman '09
Elizabeth and Mike Silacci
Samantha Silveira '20
Katlin Simons '18 '22
William Simpson '23
Erik Sitko '17

Tony Skinner
Corinne Smith '17
Rianna Smith '19
Taylor Snow '18
Thomas Snyder '16
Nancy Solis '22
Olivia Springfield '16
Nicole St. Pierre '14
Matthew Stanger '18
Ryan Stevenson '14
Bryan Strehl '22
Robert Stukes '09 '12
Laura Suliga '09 and
Eric Suliga '08
Aurora Sunderland '22
Jane Sweetland
Colleen Tabor '18
Amanda Takhar '15
Brandon Tarnutzer '06
Robben Teufel '18
Catherine Thielst '18
Jonathan Thomas '14
Kathy and Don Tillquist
Caitlin Ting '12
Elvira Topete '22
Matthew Trejo '15
Jasmine Trogman '19
Jose Trujillo '18
Oscar Trujillo '15
Melody Udangamuwa '18
Zachary Urabe '21
Susanne Uribe '20
Harvey Uy '16
Elibet Valencia '20
Christopher Valenzano '04
Erik Vargas '20

Natalie Vazquez-Perez '17
Alejandro Velazquez '23
Martha Ventura Tiburcio '22
Ricardo Villamar
Danielle Vos '08
Nicole Waeldin '17
Richard Wagner
Joanne and Daniel Wakelee
Brittany Walter '17
Anna Wan '04 and
Daniel Brice '07
Nancy and Carl Wesely
Alan West '06 '16
Gerrick White '17
Kamryn White '13
Brian Williams '06
Rachel Williams '19
Andrew Wilson '10
Julia Wilson
Russell Winans '07
Georg Winkler '12
Jessica Woodman '18
David Wright
Natalie Yanez '14
JuliaRuth Young '14
Celina Zacarias
Jessica Zamudio '18
Mary Ellen and John Zaragoza
Robert Zavala '21
James Zavas '17
Melissa Zavas '15
Walter Zetsche '20



An excellent way for you to support the mission of CSU Channel Islands is in your will or living trust, or with a codicil. Making a bequest is a simple act and creates a future gift that is recognized now and can be changed anytime during your life. Your bequest is a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy at our University.

Know your options and opportunities.

There are a number of ways you can make a bequest to CSU Channel Islands. Learn more at csucilegacy.org or contact **Grace Durst, 805-437-3615, grace.durst@csuci.edu**.

Thank you for considering ways to support the CSUCI mission to prepare students for our dynamic and ever-changing world.

CHANNEL YOUR PASSION

 Channel Islands

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CHANNEL YOUR SUCCESS

Art student Haidyn Reynolds created artwork for a banner hung on the front of Sage Hall to greet current and future students.