

Current



A publication from

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

Spring/Summer 2003 Vol. 7 No. 4

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Making, and Honoring, History



First degrees are conferred at inaugural commencement that also honors CSUN graduates and Cal State Channel Islands' ties to them

History was an unofficial but honored guest at California State University Channel Islands' inaugural commencement on May 23. The weight of history was everywhere, from the sounding of a conch shell by a representative of the Chumash to those who spoke of the decades-long journey that brought the University to this moment — the awarding of the first bachelor's degrees and teaching credentials by the first four-year, public university in Ventura County.

While Cal State Channel Islands saluted its quartet of graduating seniors and the 16 postgraduate students who earned their teaching credentials, it also honored the hundreds of Cal State Northridge graduates who completed their coursework through CSU Channel Islands and the legions of

CSU Channel Islands' first class of graduating seniors includes, from left, Sigifredo Cruz, Erich Pearson, and Mark Lara. President Rush called the small class of 2003 "merely a trickle of the flood that will follow."

dedicated people who made the University a reality.

University President Richard R. Rush paid tribute to the first graduates by saying they are "merely a trickle of the flood that will follow" and thanked the community for supporting CSU Channel Islands, which officially opened in August and was the only public, four-year university to open nationally in 2002.

"Your presence at this historic event demonstrates that this is your university," said Dr. Rush, who also gave a nod of appreciation to the President's Advisory Committee, the CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board, and to "everyone who works here and understands students are at the center of everything we do."

Dr. Jolene Koester, President of CSUN, expressed "nostalgic joy and a little bit of relief that our formal role is being eclipsed by this wonderful new University." Cal State Northridge's ties to Ventura County higher education stretch back to 1974, when it first held classes at a satellite campus. CSUN also offered the first classes at Cal State Channel Islands in 1999.

The ceremony also marked the commencement of traditions, including the sounding of the conch shell by staff member Raudel Banuelos, in recognition of the indigenous people who first inhabited the area, and a welcome in two languages, which symbolizes the University's commitment to graduating students with multicultural and international perspectives. Louise Lutze-Mann, Chair of the Academic Senate, welcomed guests in English, and Paul Rivera, Assistant Professor of Economics, did the honors in Spanish.

Ventura rancher and civic activist Carolyn Leavens was honored as "a premier advocate" who worked for more than 30 years to bring a Cal State University to her home county. In presenting the award named after him, former state legislator Robert J. Lagomarsino said, "It is hard to think of this campus without thinking of Carolyn Leavens. ... Today, this University is her hallmark."

Leavens, who said she felt that she represented many people who had a dream of establishing a university, looked out upon the sea of



"I made it!" A grad places a call to the folks back home.

See Commencement on Page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR. RICHARD R. RUSH



The Future Is Now

A year of historic firsts culminated just a few weeks ago with the inaugural commencement at California State University Channel Islands. The ceremony marked a milestone for this University and also symbolized the tremendous effort made by so many people that led us to this point in our journey.

This was a year filled with great progress and many notable accomplishments. We made tremendous strides in the further development of our curriculum, recruited additional highly qualified faculty and staff, and remained on target with major construction projects such as the Science Building, scheduled to be completed in just a few weeks. Work has also begun on the first student-housing complex and will reach completion in the fall of 2004.

As with many new endeavors, this was also a year of challenges. When we opened our doors last August, no one could have foreseen that within months the world would be involved in a major armed conflict. This event affected many Ventura County families, including those from the CSU Channel Islands community, as loved ones were suddenly deployed half a world away.

Here at home, we have prepared for the impact the state budget may have on institutions of higher learning throughout

See President's Message on Page 2

Heavy Demand for Fall Enrollment

First Freshman Class May Be 25% Larger Than Expected; More Professors Hired

Demand for a public, four-year university close to home coupled with a demographic bubble of college-age students are driving a higher-than-expected number of people to apply to California State University Channel Islands for fall enrollment, University officials say.

More than 3,600 students applied for admission in fall 2003, the University's second year, and its first with freshmen. About 60 percent of the applicants are seeking a spot in the first freshman class, which may end up with as many as 300 students, or about 25 percent more than was initially forecast.

"We know people are excited about Channel Islands, and folks have really embraced the University, but I am not sure anyone anticipated this much interest," said Dr. Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Vice President for Student Affairs. "We are a very attractive campus that looks like a private university, at state cost."

Overall, as many as 2,100 students are expected to attend classes this fall at Cal State Channel Islands, a decrease of about 170 students over last fall, but with a key distinction: Many more will be enrolled as CSU Channel Islands students.

About 700 are the remaining Cal State Northridge students who are completing their coursework at CSU Channel Islands. About 520 CSUN students graduated in May, and no new CSUN students are being admitted into the program that enables them to earn a CSUN degree through Cal State Channel Islands.

Up to another 1,100 will be upper-division students transferring to Cal State Channel Islands, and the remainder will be the inaugural freshman class.

See Enrollment on Page 2

California. Key University volunteers and I have traveled to Sacramento to visit with our legislators. We have stressed that it is imperative that we maintain adequate levels of funding. With the struggling economy, we will likely be sought out by great numbers of students in the coming years. Students will be searching for the highest quality education possible, but it must be affordable and accessible.

So as issues swirl around us, many of which may be out of our control, our job is to stay deeply focused on our mission. It is incumbent upon us to build on the educational foundation that has been laid in recent years, first by CSUN and now by the dedicated faculty and staff of CSUCI.

So we pause for a moment to relish the accomplishments that were celebrated on May 23rd, and with great enthusiasm we now look to the future. With clear anticipation, we now set our sights on and direct our efforts toward the fall of 2003 as we prepare to greet thousands of students ready to learn and eager to excel, including the first freshman class of California State University Channel Islands.



The First Graduating Seniors: Three Plus One

Officially, the CSU Channel Islands class of 2003 had three graduates, but a fourth — Susan Therese Cook, 52, a senior in art from Ventura — was only three credits shy of earning her bachelor's degree, so she was invited to participate in the first commencement. (Anyone within 10 credits of earning a degree can take part in the annual ceremony.)

Cook, who took her first college class in 1972, said being able to pursue her degree at Cal State Channel Islands "meant the completion of a lifelong dream of graduating."

The other graduating seniors are:

Sigifredo Cruz, 28, of Oxnard, who earned a bachelor's in mathematics. "It feels great to be a part of history," he said. "That was one of the reasons I chose to come here."

Mark Lara, 30, of Santa Barbara received his bachelor's in liberal studies. The caliber of the faculty drew him to Cal State Channel Islands. "I figured they would look for top faculty from around the nation to fill the new positions," he said. "And that would be a great situation for a student to be in."

Erich Pearson, 23, of Simi Valley graduated with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies. "Having the opportunity to be part of the formation of a new school was a real draw for me," he said. "I saw all these opportunities."

Sixteen Future Teachers With No Time to Waste

The 16 postgraduate students who received the first teaching credentials awarded by Cal State Channel Islands appeared to defy the laws of time by completing the program at a record pace.

They finished the usual three-semester program in two semesters by starting the spring session three weeks early and by taking prerequisites during a session last summer. Their student teaching was also broken into two parts, five weeks in the fall and 10 weeks in the spring.

The unique program came about because a group of students last spring said they were interested in finishing their credentials by June 2003. The faculty responded, agreeing to set up an intensive schedule for faculty and students.

The group of students, quickly dubbed "the fast track," were "extremely dynamic and supportive of each other," comments Joan Karp, Coordinator of the Education Program. "They took all of their classes together, so they are a very strong cohort, in every sense of the word. They advocated for each other."

Their race with time also earned the newly-certified teachers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in the University's inaugural commencement.

"The first graduating class of teachers exemplify a sense of collective strength, individual stamina, and a dedication to teaching all children," adds Lillian Vega Castaneda, Professor of Language, Culture and Literacy. "They took a chance with us to pioneer the founding of a university. I am very honored to have been one of their professors."



University's Inaugural Commencement

Continued from Page 1

graduates of CSU Channel Islands and CSU Northridge and said, "You are the people we saw in this mind's eye, so now our dream becomes your dream."

Graduating senior Kirsten Moss, president of the CSUN@CI Associated Students, spoke of the ease with which the two student bodies came together. "It doesn't matter who is who," she said. "We are all students of Channel Islands. No matter what your diploma reads, know that you have made history here."

Rebecca Glazier, a junior who is president of the CSUCI Student Government, promised the graduates that she would work "to continue to improve the University ... the University you have helped to create."

Commencement speaker Debra S. Farar, Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees, said she feels an "affinity with this campus" not only because she helped plan it, but because she lived for years in the San Fernando Valley, where she earned her first degree at CSUN, which was near her home.

"I came from a family where no one had been to college," she said. "I have a passionate belief in the nature of public education. I sat where you sat."

By pursuing their degrees through the CSU system, the graduates were able to engage in an American dream filled with opportunity, said Farar, who urged graduates to "become a role model, get involved, become bigger than yourself."

During his speech, Dr. Rush spoke about a fifth-grade teacher, Julie Sanchez, who shared her quest for her master's degree with her Oxnard class. He asked her class to stand, and said, "There are 29 future CSUCI students." Later, when Sanchez received the hood signifying the earning of her master's degree, her class cheered as if they were on a thrill ride.

Her story, like those of every graduating student, "is unique, special," said Dr. Rush. "You were with us at the beginning. Each holds an historic place ... please note that each of you will always have a special place at Cal State Channel Islands."



Meeting Fall Enrollment Demand

Continued from Page 1

To help the University get a handle on the numbers, the administration borrowed an enrollment-management technique used at other Cal State campuses. They sent "intent to enroll" forms to prospective students and asked them to return the forms by mid-May with \$100 — used as a down payment on fall fees — to signal their intent to attend CSU Channel Islands.

"This gives us some opportunity to find out who is serious about coming here," said Sawyer, a member of the Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee that was created in March to help manage the process.

Since the University has a one-year history of admissions, it is hard to predict how many admitted students will actually enroll, said Dr. Steve Lefevre, the Dean of Faculty who chairs the committee.

"Since we don't have university housing, we're thinking that those who applied from a long geographic distance are less likely to come. Those from Ventura County who applied will come at a higher rate," Lefevre said.

Most of the transfer applicants are from the community colleges in Ventura County and Santa Barbara, with a smattering from elsewhere. To cap upper-division enrollment, the University quit accepting transfer applications as of May 1. About half of the approximately 1,100 transfer applicants may end up at the University, Lefevre said.

While a dozen new faculty members have been hired, several more hires will follow to cover the increased number of students. Part-time instructors will be hired to fill any remaining gaps. As the University gathers information on what courses students plan to take, additional sections of classes will be created and brought out if the demand is there.

The addition of two new majors for fall, history and psychology, generated increased interest in the University, as did the single-subject and special-education credential programs that Cal State Channel Islands is offering for the first time, Lefevre said.

Honor Roll of Donors 2002

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff, we gratefully acknowledge the following donors who made outright gifts in support of California State University Channel Islands during 2002.

Planned and Major Gifts

Mr. and Mrs. John Spoor Broome
 Mr. Pierre Claeysens
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lagomarsino
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin V. Smith (posthumously)

Cal State Channel Islands is pleased to recognize these special members of the President's Circle who have made significant financial commitments to our new university.

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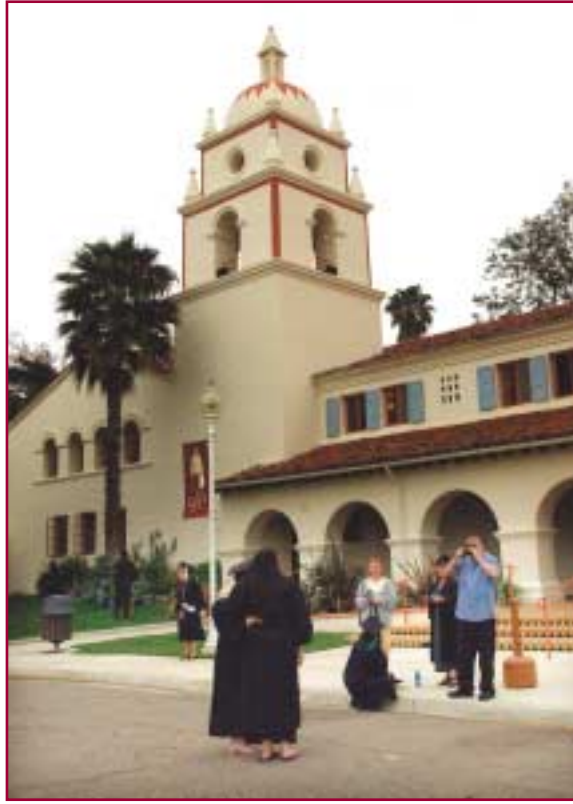
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Cal State Channel Islands would also like thank those who participated in and contributed to our special events.

California State University Channel Islands Historic Inaugural Commencement Ceremony May 23, 2003



CSUN@CI grad and Student Association President Kirsten Moss presents the unity stick to incoming Student Association President and CSU Channel Islands Junior Rebecca Glazier.



Families pose with graduates in front of the historic Bell Tower Building.



Many flowers, posters, and colorful balloons add to the celebration.



Raudel Banuelos, a Chumash representative and member of the CSU Channel Islands staff, assists with a Chumash blessing during commencement.



Chair of the Faculty Senate, Professor Louise Lutze-Mann carries the university mace and leads the procession that begins the ceremonies.



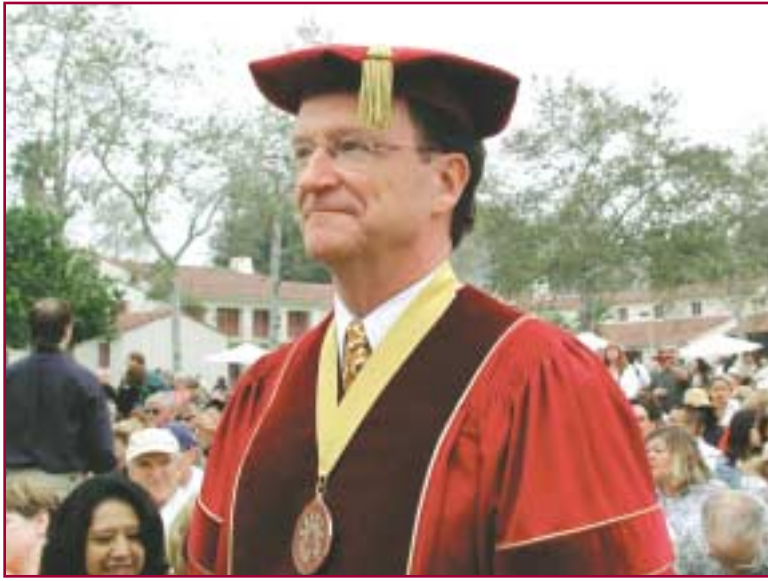
The National Anthem is sung by Officer Felice Thompson, Oxnard Police Department.



Commencement Speaker Debra S. Farar, Chair, CSU Board of Trustees, commends the first class of California State University Channel Islands and all of those from CSUN@CI.



Professor William Cordeiro and faculty process.



CSU Channel Islands President Richard R. Rush enters the historic commencement.



Faculty, in regalia, join in song for the University's Alma Mater.



Students process to receive their long awaited degrees.



Carolyn Leavens shares inspirational comments after being personally presented with the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award by former Congressman Robert Lagomarsino.



Family members share in the joy of commencement.



More than 4,000 family and guests attend the commencement ceremony.



CSU Northridge President Jolene Koester congratulates one of more than 400 CSUN@CI graduates who participated in commencement.

Alumni & Friends Association Launched

California State University Channel Islands is establishing its Alumni & Friends Association.

All students present and past who have completed at least one course on the CSU Channel Islands campus as well as friends of the University are invited to join as a founding member of this important group.



For more information or to help Cal State Channel Islands establish an alumni and friends association, contact the Office of University Advancement at (805) 437-8803 or mario.deloscobos@csuci.edu.

Bank of America Foundation's \$25,000 Donation

The Bank of America Foundation's donation of \$25,000 to California State University Channel Islands this year was one of the largest gifts it has made to a local group, said Michael Dalton, Senior Vice President, The Private Bank at Bank of America.

"Bank of America sees the need for higher education within the community, and the community it supports," said Dalton. "We see this new university supporting students from Ventura County, Santa Barbara, and the San Fernando Valley.

"We also see a need for an educated work force to support the biotechnology and the finance industry in which we participate," he said.

Over the last couple of years, the Bank of America Foundation has been the largest giver of cash donations in the country.

Inside the President's Circle

Quarterly Receptions Are Held For University Support Group

The President's Circle, which is marking its fourth year, was established by supporters of Cal State Channel Islands who are committed to helping the first four-year, public university in Ventura County thrive.

Currently, there are 270 members in the group who make an ongoing annual commitment to higher education by donating at least \$1,000 a year to the University.

These community leaders enjoy quarterly receptions that feature a wide range of topics. In the spring, Irina Costache and Jack Reilly of the art faculty spoke about art history and technology, while a reception in June featured Physics Professor Geoff Dougherty recounting the decade he spent living and teaching in Kuwait.

Other presentations have touched on marine life along the coast of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties or offered the opportunity to chat with the president and chief executive of the J. Paul Getty Trust. The members of the President's Circle first gathered in September 1999 for a private brunch held before the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the landmark Bell Tower Building.

"It's entertaining and educational to attend these events," said Tanya G. Gonzales, Director of Development. "You never know what's going to be more interesting — the topic being spoken about or the people you meet."

President's Circle membership benefits include a gold lapel pin; invitations to special events as well as presentations hosted by the president; acknowledgement in the "Donor Honor Roll," a list published annually that recognizes contributions; a campus tour; and a subscription to *Current*, the CSU Channel Islands newsletter.

For more information on the President's Circle or for information on estate planning, establishing scholarships, and naming opportunities or special gifts, call Tanya G. Gonzales, Director of Development, (805) 437-8420.

News in Brief

College-Bound, for a Day: More than 220 fourth-graders from Somis and Santa Paula experienced college life first-hand when they arrived on campus this spring for the University's first "I'm Going to College Day." The program simulates the first day of college for young students, some of whom typically might not think higher education is an option for them. Students received an official welcome from University President Richard R. Rush, toured the campus and took their first two college "classes," taught by Cal State Channel Islands professors, in disciplines ranging from biology to history and art.



Math Team Places in Top Fourth in Olympiad: A team of CSU Channel Islands math students placed in the top fourth of all participating universities in the 63rd Annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. As a team, the three juniors from Cal State Channel Islands placed 123rd out of 496 institutions. "In our first trip to what is known as the undergraduate mathematical Olympiad, our team achieved great success," said Ivona Grzegorzcyk, a math professor who put the team together. "Our team scored higher than many other CSU and some UC campuses."

Recruitment Video Wins Award: "Think," a Cal State Channel Islands recruitment video produced by Student Affairs, has won a bronze Telly Award. Nearly 11,000 entries vied for honors in 50 categories in the annual competition that has recognized outstanding television commercials, video productions, and films since 1980. "The recognition puts us in league with some of the top institutions in the country," said Dr. Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Vice President for Student Affairs. Bronze awards are given to all finalists in each category.

Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential Program Accredited: CSU Channel Islands took another step toward becoming a full-service regional teaching preparation center with the recent initial accreditation of its Multiple-Subject Credential Program by the Committee on Accreditation on behalf of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the nation's oldest teaching standards board. Faculty responded to 19 new standards adopted by the commission in response to teacher credential reform legislation. The University is among the first institutions to embrace the new standards.

Lagomarsino Collection Goes On-Line: The Robert J. Lagomarsino Collection, which was donated to Cal State Channel Islands by the former State Senator and U.S. Congressman, is being included in the Online Archive of California and a Getty Museum online database called "L.A. as Subject." These Web-based search engines enable researchers to locate documents, photographs, and artwork housed in state libraries, museums, and archives. Cal State Channel Islands is one of only four CSU campuses to be included in the Online Archive of California, operated by the Regents of the University of California. The archive can be accessed at <http://findaid.oac.cdlib.org>. Cal State Channel Islands will also join 42 other colleges and universities represented in the Getty on-line directory, "L.A. as Subject," which can be found at www.usc.edu/isd/archives/arc/lasubject.

Planned Giving

Giving the Gift of Life Insurance

Much has been written about the tax ramifications of a charitable gift of cash, securities, real estate, artwork, precious metals or stones, and other personal property. Well, how about the simple, old-fashioned concept of giving a life insurance policy to your favorite charity?

An important point to keep in mind: The face amount of the life insurance proceeds would be included in your estate at your death if you own the policy. This could be taxed as high as 50% if your spouse is not the beneficiary or if your spouse pre-deceases you.

Also, you may have been paying premiums for years, and the life insurance protection it offered earlier is no longer needed. Giving such a policy to charity might make excellent financial sense for you and benefit the charity.

The value of the gift of a life insurance policy is generally the cash value at the time of the gift or the total of the premiums paid, whichever is the lesser amount. Either way, you receive an immediate tax deduction of the value of the policy.

It is obviously cleaner to give your charity a paid-up policy or one with no loans. However, future premiums would also be tax deductible if paid by you after gifting the policy to charity.

It is also quite possible that although a policy is not technically paid up, it will carry itself without any additional premiums being paid for the rest of your lifetime. This is something that could be determined by consulting with a professional life insurance consultant.

Bottom line? Your charity receives a policy, which probably has a current asset in existing cash value, and will also receive the tax-free life-insurance proceeds at your death. You, in turn, receive a tax deduction, possibly reduce estate taxes, and have made a worthwhile gift to your charity.

This information was provided by Glen Farr of Farr & Associates.

For more information about giving to CSU Channel Islands, please call the Office of Advancement, (805) 437-8420.

Calendar of Events

Chamber Music Festival: The third annual festival, Aug. 3-7, will enable young string players to study with professional musicians. Past participants have ranged in age from 10 to 18. The festival concludes with a public performance featuring chamber music groups at 1 p.m. Aug. 7 in Lecture Hall 2. (805) 492-4690.

Art and All That Jazz Festival: The work of dozens of artists and craftspersons will be exhibited outdoors at Studio Channel Islands Art Center in the first annual event that also will feature a multicultural lineup of local and international jazz musicians. Open to the public 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Aug. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 17. \$10-\$25; under 12 free. (805) 383-1368.

More History in the Making: First freshman class enters the University when the fall semester begins on Aug. 25.

President's Dinner: More than 450 friends and supporters of the University are expected to join Dr. Richard R. Rush at the fourth annual black-tie fund-raising dinner on Nov. 1 at the Mandalay Beach Resort in Oxnard. For information, call (805) 437-8420.

CSU Media Festival: For the second year in a row, the 13th annual film, video, and new media competition showcasing student work from California State University campuses will be held at CSU Channel Islands from Nov. 10-14.

Campus Tours: Student ambassadors lead recruitment tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The one-hour walking tour is geared toward prospective students. To schedule a tour, call (805) 437-8520. To obtain directions for a self-guided tour, call (805) 437-8400.

Campus Close-Up



Showing Our True Colors

"Get ready to start seeing a lot of red"

At the end of April, the school colors for Cal State Channel Islands officially became red and silver. The red, which is in the University's original master plan, complements the tile roofs of the Mission-style buildings on campus, and the silver is for the dolphin, which is the CSU Channel Islands mascot.

An official logo featuring a stylized dolphin jumping over the words "California State University Channel Islands" will also be making its debut on everything from banners to sweatshirts.

The water-dwelling mammal became the University mascot after the Chumash asked CSU Channel Islands to consider making its mascot the dolphin, which is cherished by the tribe. Along with student leaders, the University warmly embraced the idea that pays tribute to the Chumash, who once inhabited the land upon which the University now resides.

"The Rainbow Bridge Legend," which explains why the dolphin is so revered, tells the story of the journey of the first Chumash people from Santa Cruz Island to the mainland. To help the Chumash cross the water, the Earth Goddess created a rainbow bridge that stretched from the island to the mountains near Carpinteria. As some of the Chumash crossed the rainbow, they looked down, became dizzy, and fell into the ocean. To save them, the Earth Goddess turned them into dolphins, which is why the Chumash always said that the dolphins were their brothers and sisters.

The legend also has a link to the University's name, since Santa Cruz Island is one of the eight Channel Islands.



The new official logo will appear on everything from banners to sweatshirts.

CSUCI *Current* is an official publication of California State University Channel Islands. It is published by the Office for University Advancement.

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New Facilities Director to Oversee Major Construction Projects

As the newly appointed Facilities Director at California State University Channel Islands, Juan M. Beltranena will be responsible for overseeing more than \$70 million in major capital construction projects on campus over the next two years.

Beltranena, a licensed architect, has deep experience in design and construction of laboratory buildings and other educational facilities in California, including 15 years at UC Santa Barbara and, most recently, at UC Merced, expected to open in 2004.

At Cal State Channel Islands, Beltranena is responsible for the construction and renovation of all campus buildings.

Among the projects he is overseeing:

- Student housing: Work has begun on phase one of student housing, scheduled to be finished by fall 2004. Suite-style residences on the Portrero Road side of campus will house up to 350 students. Future housing will accommodate another 1,650 students.
- Reclaimed water project: A water-conservation project is being implemented that will enable the University to use reclaimed water for landscape irrigation. The existing water storage tank and piping are being restored to provide reclaimed water to the campus for landscape irrigation.
- Science and Technology Building: The new, approximately 32,000 square-foot building will be completed in time for classes to be held there this fall. The building will house a 110-seat auditorium, seven science laboratories and one computer math lab, and 16 faculty offices.
- New Administration Building: Renovation of the interior of the new Administration Building, across from the Bell Tower, will be completed during the summer and early fall. When completed, the project will provide offices for the president and university administration, which will move from its present site to make way for the building of the John Spoor Broome Library, set for completion by 2005.
- Fitness Center: The new campus fitness center, in the newly renovated gym, is scheduled to be ready this month. The facility will sport basketball courts, an exercise area with modern fitness equipment, plus renovated locker/shower rooms.
- Bell Tower Building: Yet another wing of the Bell Tower Building will be renovated over the summer to provide two more classrooms and two computer labs by fall.

Employment Opportunities

For information on employment opportunities at Cal State Channel Islands, visit the Web site at www.csuci.edu and click on the Employment link.

Student Spotlight

"I look forward to the freshmen arriving this fall because their presence will add a lot to the atmosphere and as a student, I want the whole college experience – not just academics. I also want to set a strong example for my little sister, who is in grade school in Oxnard. I want her to know that all the hard work pays off, so it's nice that I can attend college nearby."
Emmanuel Víctor Mejía
Junior, Biology



"As soon as I took one look at the campus, I knew I wanted to go here. It feels like home, and it's not a cookie-cutter university. It has the intimate feel of a small campus. You have more of an opportunity to get to know your professors and they get to know you. We learn who we want to become by the people we interact with, and the professors on this campus are just extraordinary."

Kirsten Moss
Senior, Sociology
President of the Associated Students of CSUN@Channel Islands



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