

CHANNEL

CSU Channel Islands Magazine • Fall 2011 / Volume 15 / Number 2



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COUNTY

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● **You're Hired!**
CI Graduates in the
Workforce

Pages 15 -17

Imagine the Future

A new academic year has begun and CSU Channel Islands has some good news...we will continue to grow our student enrollment. This, indeed, is heartening as you will recall that during the past four years CI's enrollment growth had come to a screeching halt in response to ongoing state budget issues.

We are grateful to the Chancellor and the CSU Board of Trustees as they continue to put their trust in Channel Islands. In turn, we will continue our path of excellence and innovation to provide the highest quality education to students who will become tomorrow's workforce and leaders for our region, state and nation.

As we begin preparing to celebrate the University's 10th anniversary during academic year 2012-2013, we do so with the conviction that a University community of talent and commitment continues to be a beacon for the future! What we had in those early years and what we have today are good people and their capacity to imagine a higher education institution designed to educate for the 21st century; this has become our characteristic.

Imagination has always been our starting point and in this short period of time we have shown creativity and high quality that have placed us on the national map. This is how the future of the past 10 years began, imagining 21st Century programs; renovating buildings, gardens and courtyards; incorporating technology; partnering with the community; collectively producing a "Great College to Work For;" and creating a University of ideas and commitment that has fulfilled the dreams of thousands of students from this region and beyond.

As you will read in the pages that follow, your University continues to garner awards and recognition that exemplify our dedication to preparing an educated citizenry, as well as highlighting alumni in the workforce, and programs and activities that continue to serve all our students.

I hope that you will enjoy reading these and other stories included in this publication and wish you and your family a safe and delightful holiday season.

Sincerely yours,



Richard R. Rush
President





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Naval Base Ventura County Photo: Left to right: Bob Sandoval '11, David Randolph '09, Capt. James McHugh, Rudy Cortez '05, and Anabell Ramos '09

OmniUpdate Photo: In front of desk, rear to front: Lance Merker, President/CEO, Jessica Zimmerman '10, Jimmy Blocksom '10, Behind desk, sitting: Shahab Lashkari '09, Behind desk, arm resting: Chrystalla Tryfonos '10, Behind desk, rear to front: Brandon Avery '10, Robert Kiffe '10, Drew Clinkenbeard '07, Brian Tusi '07, Atena Reyhani (student), and Nicole Conary '09



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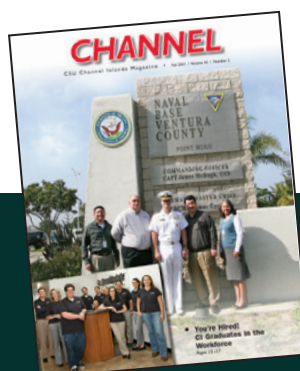
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Cover:

You're Hired!

CI Graduates in the Workforce

See cover story on pages 15-17.



This news magazine is printed on recycled paper.

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.

CI Named a “Great College to Work For”

For a second consecutive year, CI has been named one of the best universities in the nation to work for, according to a survey by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. The results, released in The Chronicle's fourth annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of more than 44,000 employees at 310 colleges and universities.

In all, only 111 of the 310 institutions achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies. Even more significantly, CI was named to *The Chronicle's* 2011 Honor Roll because the University excelled in seven categories, the only university in California other than USC to achieve this distinction. Great Colleges to Work For is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country.

Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with CI included among medium campuses that have between 3,000 to 9,999 students. CI won honors in seven categories this year:

- Collaborative Governance
- Teaching Environment
- Compensation & Benefits
- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Respect and Appreciation
- Tenure Clarity & Process
- Diversity

For more information and to view all the results of the survey, visit *The Chronicle's* Web site at <http://chronicle.com/academicworkplace>.

CI Awarded Stem Cell Research Training Grant

CI has been awarded a \$1.86 million grant from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to help prepare graduate students for careers in stem cell research. The CIRM Bridges to Stem Cell Research Training Grant will support research training for 45 graduate students enrolled in the master's program for biotechnology and bioinformatics with an emphasis in stem cell technology and laboratory management. Professor Ching-Hua Wang, director of the graduate program in biotechnology and bioinformatics, sought and obtained the grant.

The grant allows students in their second year of study to pursue year-long internships with one of more than 50 different research laboratories at 10 research institutions that are working to advance stem cell research and develop new therapies for chronic disease and injury. CI students have participated in research to treat problems ranging from Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and cancer to heart attack, macular degeneration, and spinal cord injuries at institutions including USC, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, The Scripps Research Institute, City of Hope Beckman Research Institute, and Amgen.

Each CIRM-funded student will receive a \$37,750 scholarship, internship stipend and travel fund. Additionally, each lab that provides an internship will receive \$4,000 per student for research mentorship and supplies. A research institution that offers the students an advanced training course will receive \$2,500 per student.

CI offers the only graduate degree program in biotechnology and bioinformatics with an emphasis in stem cell technology and lab management in the CSU system. Students receive a well-rounded

professional program that combines science and business with theories and practical skills, allowing them to transition easily to the workforce.

Sustainability Efforts Earn a Silver Rating

CI has earned a silver rating for its environmentally friendly practices from the nation's leading advocacy group for sustainability in higher education. The rating, awarded by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's STARS® (Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) program, signifies that CI is doing a good job of going “green” in areas ranging from curriculum to construction to conservation of resources.

The University's rating was the result of a thorough, year-long self-evaluation process that involved staff, faculty and students. CI is one of more than 250 universities participating in the STARS program – and among the first 70 to complete the evaluation. STARS is the only sustainability self-assessment tool that helps colleges evaluate and publicly report how they're doing, where they can improve, what peers are doing and mark progress over time.

Examples of some of CI's highest-rated sustainable practices include:

- Water conservation
- Energy efficiency
- Curriculum and research
- Waste reduction
- Human resources, diversity and affordability

CI joins 52 other institutions that have completed the STARS assessment in receiving a silver rating, including Yale University, the University of Oregon, and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. For more information on the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's STARS program, visit <https://stars.aashe.org>.

NASA Grant to Teach Climate Science in Local High Schools

A grant obtained from NASA will help engage Ventura County high school students in the science behind global climate change. CI Science Education Professor Bob Bleicher secured the \$593,000 grant to help biology and earth sciences teachers incorporate NASA climate change data, research and curriculum into their classrooms. Teachers at eight schools in the Oxnard Union, Ventura Unified and Santa Paula Union High School Districts will receive professional development and resources under the grant.

CI was one of only 14 institutions across the nation awarded the funding through NASA's Minority University Research and Education Program. The first-time grant targets schools with a high percentage of Hispanic students, who are underrepresented in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The grant supports professional development for up to 20 teachers over two years at all six schools in the Oxnard Union High School District and at Ventura and Santa Paula High Schools. It includes honorariums for the teachers, instruction from nationally recognized experts on climate science, access to NASA satellite data and resources, printed and online support materials and lesson plans, on-site instructional assistance, and a two-day global climate change summer camp for students. The teacher instruction and student summer camp will begin in the summer before the 2012-2013 school year.

Faculty Members Awarded Google Grant

Three CI School of Education faculty members who were awarded fellowships and a grant from Google are developing a program to help teachers use technology more effectively in the classroom. CI's Professor Jeanne Grier, Associate Professor Jill Leafstedt, and Adjunct

Lecturer Catharine Reznicek of the Ventura County Office of Education earned fellowships to take part in Google's first-ever Faculty Institute, held over the summer at its Mountain View headquarters. The three-day institute explored ways of using new technologies to enhance student learning. It brought together Google staff with 39 faculty members from 19 CSUs, Stanford and UC Berkeley, along with innovative teachers from across California for expert advice hands-on workshops, case studies and brainstorming. Google focused on CSU because CSU programs credential 60 percent of California's teachers – or 10 percent of all U.S. K-12 teachers.

While at the Institute, Grier, Leafstedt and Reznicek developed the idea for UDTech, an online program that helps teachers create lesson plans using technology to engage all different types of learners in the classroom.

Google funded the proposal with a \$20,000 grant and has asked the three faculty members to return in May to present their project. Grier, Leafstedt and Reznicek plan to pilot the program with teaching credential candidates at CI and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in the spring. Ultimately, they hope to make UDTech available to the entire CSU system and the broader education community.

Students Study Abroad

In 2008, CI and Zeppelin University, located in Germany, set out on a common mission: to encourage one another's students to study abroad and develop an international perspective. President Rush invited the President of Zeppelin University (ZU) to visit the CI campus and sign a partnership agreement. Since that time, 17 CI students have visited ZU's scenic lakeside campus in Friedrichshafen, while CI has hosted eight students from Germany.

Jake Reilley, a CI sociology major and native of Castaic, is currently enrolled in courses at ZU. Reilley took a beginning

Jake Reilley ▶



◀ Francesca Pick, Hannah Bahl

German class before leaving the U.S., but appreciates the fact that many courses taught at ZU are conducted in English. Settling into his new surroundings was easy according to Reilley, “Zeppelin University has a really great buddy system to help you become acclimated to life in Germany and the University. My buddy helped me set up all of the necessities of life and invited me everywhere. It was much easier to meet people and become friends because I had access to his social network.”

Hannah Bahl and Francesca Pick, who specialize in the study of culture and communication at ZU are taking courses at CI this semester. Pick values the intimate atmosphere of CI's small and well-integrated campus, an atmosphere that is similar to that of ZU. She also enjoys “the scenic campus and nature that surrounds it.” After spending only a few weeks at CI, Bahl has made many friends and met “incredibly caring people who showed me the American way of life and made my biggest dream come true by taking me to all the nice surfing spots in the area.”

Students with an interest in learning about how they can benefit from the partnership between CI and ZU, or who want to know more about other study abroad opportunities, are invited to visit CI's Center for International Affairs at <http://www.csuci.edu/cia/studyabroad.htm>. ◀

For more information on these University news stories visit <http://www.csuci.edu/news/newsreleases.htm>



Filipinos in Ventura County

By Elnora Kelly Tayag, Outreach Coordinator

▲ Author Elnora Tayag with guest

The project of documenting *Filipinos in Ventura County* started two and a half years ago when I surveyed collections at local public libraries, archives, and historical societies and discovered there was little on the history of the Filipino community. In conjunction with building the Filipino image collection for the John Spoor Broome Library, I wrote *Filipinos in Ventura County*, part of the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing, to tell the history of Filipinos through photographs and highlight all the wonderful contributions they've made to the community.

The biggest challenge was unlocking access to the community memory and identifying families that were still in the area. Tony Grey, Executive Director of the Filipino American Council, generously shared with me his list of local leadership of over 20 Filipino organizations in the area. Charles Johnson, Librarian at the Museum of Ventura County, put me in touch with Tony Baker and

Beatrice Talaugon-Dunn, who graciously introduced me to Nora and Federico Talaugon Jr., the first family I interviewed. Many people helped me identify more members in the chain of families who shared their photos, stories, valuable historical information, and new research leads.

I visited with families all over the county in La Conchita Del Mar, Santa Paula, Ventura, Oxnard, and Camarillo. Communities look to libraries and archives to tell their stories when the community memory fades. Together we were able to (re)capture our Filipino pioneers, their stories, and our place in the history of the region including the pioneering families of the Dela Rosas, the Ineses, the Omos, and the Talaugons, to name a few. We spent hours sifting through albums, capturing memories, and of course, eating great food. This project would not have been possible without the support of the all the families.

This project was funded by the California Council for the

Promotion of History and the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered by the California State Library's Local History Digital Resources Project. In addition to the grant funding, the California State Library will also feature the digital collection in *Calisphere* and the *Online Archive of California*, both primary source databases that are a consortia of California libraries.

The *Filipinos in Ventura County* photo exhibit, which features selections from the image collection, will be on display at the John Spoor Broome Library from Oct. 12 through Jan. 31. The Library is still looking to collect primary source materials for this collection as well as other local history collections. To provide additional information for these collections, please contact Steve Stratton, Head of Collections, at 805-437-8913. ◀



▲ Top: Zipcar subscriber and student Jeffrey Morgan; middle: OP&C staff Rich Paulson and Jesse Dellinger; OP&C student assistant Thao (Jessica) Nguyen. ▶



It Is Easy Being Green

By Lori Putnam

When walking down Ventura Street on the southside of campus, take a moment to enjoy the beauty of the landscaping. Then remember that the ground cover and plants that surround Bell Tower West and Santa Cruz Village have been chosen not only for their aesthetics, but for their drought-tolerant nature. They represent one of the many ways CI is supporting sustainability on campus.

"Our target is to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015," said Dave Chakraborty, Associate Vice President for Operations, Planning & Construction (OP&C). "Already we have reduced electricity consumption by more than 20 percent over the last three years."

Zipcar

This Fall, CI became one of the first West Coast universities to partner with Zipcar to offer the convenience of reserving cars on campus. Students, faculty, staff, and University Glen residents can participate in the program for a

\$35 annual membership fee and an hourly or daily rate that includes gas and insurance. What's more, members can also access Zipcars at other participating college campuses.

"We hope to grow this program," said Deanne Ellison, Community Outreach Administrator for Police & Parking Services. "The fewer vehicles on our campus, the more sustainable we can become." Currently, vehicles are available at the Town Center and in the A5 Parking Lot near Campus Recreation. Ellison hopes to add more cars as demand increases.

Campus Construction

With new building construction, the University looks at conservation first and how best to recycle existing materials. "If we can reuse a building, then we're not demolishing it and creating more waste," said Chakraborty, pointing to North Hall where nearly half of the building will be readapted. In new construction, the University also seeks ways to

promote sustainability, whether through skylights that allow natural light or operable windows that provide natural ventilation. Energy usage is monitored for all campus buildings to identify better ways to conserve.

Recycling

The University currently recycles about 50 percent of its waste, according to Raudel Banuelos, Associate Director of Building & Grounds, and a new outreach program designed by student assistant Thao (Jessica) Nguyen and sponsored by OP&C will focus on increasing participation in the recycling program. "Sometimes people get confused about what they should put in the bins," said Banuelos. He is partnering with student leaders to help educate the CI community in addition to increasing the number of recycling bins on campus.

For more information about CI's sustainability program, visit www.csuci.edu/sustainability. ◀

Tracing Humanity's Trajectory

By Colleen Delaney-Rivera, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Humans are a puzzle. Anthropology informs us that, although all human cultures on Earth have commonalities, the specifics vary widely by society and culture. As an archaeologist, my goal is to document what specific activities occurred in the past, but also to chart long term trends, and apply that knowledge to the present. My particular data sets for tracing our trajectory are wide ranging, but with common themes. My work is made possible with the support of CSU Channel Islands and the group of dedicated and hard core archaeology students I have worked with since 2007.

In California I am documenting human occupations along the coast over the last 7,000 years. Most of my work thus far focuses on land called Rancho Guadaluca. This parcel of land, over 36,000 acres, has been subdivided over the years; today portions are owned by private

individuals, the state of California, and the federal government; CI is also located here. Students and I undertake archaeological surveys and excavations locally to answer questions about the prehistoric Chumash and their resource use and social organization. We delve through the historic record to document how the Chumash persevered through the Mission period, and to understand how the original Rancho Guadaluca landowner, an illiterate woman, managed a 36,000 acre ranch for over 35 years at a time when few women owned property. We also work with contemporary Chumash exchanging ideas and perspectives.

In summer 2011 I began a new excavation project in Illinois with help of a President's Summer Fellows award. In Illinois I am excavating a thousand-year-old village, the inhabitants of which may represent colonists from Cahokia, the largest and most complex prehistoric society north of the Basin of Mexico.

As the roots of humanity extend back for millions of years, I also collaborated on a project examining the activities of our pre-human ancestors two million years ago in eastern Africa. We fed goat limbs to zoo animals and compared the tooth mark damage on the bones. These marks help us determine whether our pre-human ancestors were hunters or scavengers.

The world is large, and the questions keep coming. My next research focus is a comparative project in coastal Australia where I will plan to compare coastal California with coastal New South Wales. ◀C

▲ Above and right: CI Anthropology students





▲ Professor Sean Kelly and
PBS Newshour's Judy Woodruff

PBS NEWSHOUR

Book Argues In Favor of Earmarks

By Scott Frisch, Professor of Political Science; Sean Kelly, Professor of Political Science

Cheese Factories on the Moon. What's up with that title? That is usually the first question that people ask us. Our book—provocatively subtitled *Why Earmarks are Good for American Democracy*—is a challenge to the common claim that special congressional appropriations known as “earmarks” are “a corrupt practice, plain and simple.”

Published earlier this year by Paradigm Publishers (Boulder, CO), we argue that the claims made by opponents of earmarks ignore the constitutional structure of the U.S. that endows Congress with the “power of the purse,” and historical and legislative practice. These criticisms are founded on a complete misunderstanding of the appropriations process, how earmarks are generated, and how they are allocated. This is the point of the book, to demonstrate that earmarks are an expression of the exceptional institutional structure of our American government.

This is a book aimed at undergraduates and general readers — a seemingly counter-intuitive

argument that earned praise from both Democrats and Republicans. Representative Connie Morella (R-MD) called *Cheese Factories* “a refreshingly candid book...I chuckled, nodded affirmatively, and in a few instances disagreed. But it needed to be written.” And Democratic Congressman Glenn Browder (AL) commented that the book marries “the benefits of academic expertise and political experience...[it adds] an untold and necessary chapter to the big story about congressional appropriations. Without reservation, this book should be required reading for every course on Congress; it also should be on the desk of every media analyst in the country.”

Our contrarian approach also landed us on a number of state and national news programs, beginning with the PBS News Hour. In an interview with News Hour reporter Judy Woodruff, I (Kelly) was able to succinctly present the argument of the book. Other interviews were not quite as smooth. I did an interview on MSNBC, the Dylan

Ratigan Show, and he seemed more intent on hearing his own point of view rather than engaging in a discussion about the argument of the book. I feel this is typical of most media actors who accept the cynical premise that earmarks are “bad” and dismiss alternative points of view.

Perhaps the best thing about this experience is that it helps put CI on the map as a university where intellectually interesting perspectives are developing. CI is a place where strong teaching and cutting edge research go hand-in-hand.

Readers interested in purchasing the book will find it on Amazon.com or can order it through a local book store. Those interested in learning more about the book, or watching and listening to interviews about the book can visit the *Cheese Factories* web site at: <http://www.cheesefactoriesonthemoon.com>. We also write about earmarks on our blog <http://cheesefactoriesonthemoon.blogspot.com>. ◀





Teaching for Depth and Understanding



▲ Associate Professor Manuel Correia and students from Literacy I: Multicultural/Multilingual, part of the Multiple Subject Credential Program.



◀ Manuel Correia,
Associate Professor of Education

By Lori Putnam

"I think teachers get a bad rap," said Manuel Correia, Associate Professor of Education, when asked about the current state of education. "My experience has been that teachers are bright, inquisitive, and reflective. Teachers are intellectuals, and many are lifelong learners."

A generation ago, Correia's beliefs would have gone unchallenged. Today, however, teachers find themselves caught in the middle of a national debate on student learning and teacher effectiveness. For Correia the answer isn't necessarily found in scripted curriculum, and he tells his own class of future teachers that children are going to develop differently. "You're doing a disservice to children if you're going for breadth rather than depth," added the former elementary school teacher. "We should be teaching for depth and understanding."

"You're doing a disservice to children if you're going for breadth rather than depth..."

-Manuel Correia

Correia remembers his first year in the classroom fondly. "What surprised me and delighted me was how much children developed in just nine months, and that I was part of guiding their development. I couldn't believe I was being paid to do this," he said with a smile.

Although Correia knew he wanted to become a teacher as early as junior high, his shyness could have impeded his career choice. "I was very shy," he recalled. "Even today I'm still shy in new situations. I might get nervous for the first 30 seconds, but then I get into my work. If you do something

that you love, all the barriers will go away. You forget they exist."

Despite his professed shyness, Correia is a model of engagement and involvement at CI. Since arriving in the Fall of 2005, he has served on numerous University-wide committees. He currently serves as Program Chair for the School of Education, program coordinator for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Program, chairs the Institutional Review Board, serves on the President's Scholars Advisory Committee, and co-chairs the Professional Connections for Students

and Alumni subgroup of the Project Vista Learning Community.

He also publishes regularly, with recent journal articles focusing on service learning and reflection. One article examines a writing strategy that encourages students to focus on the details of a "small moment" to deepen understanding. Correia has adapted this approach from early literacy development theory for his own students, having them keep journals about their service learning experiences and then asking them to focus on specific interactions that they participate in or observe in the classroom. This keeps students from feeling overwhelmed when asked to write about their teaching

experiences, according to Correia, and also allows them to analyze these small moments from different perspectives.

Correia's education career began with a focus on language literacy and instruction, a focus that may have found its start in his own childhood. A native of Portugal, Correia came to the U.S. at the age of five. English would become his third language after Portuguese and Spanish. He earned his undergraduate degree in English with an emphasis on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from California State University, Stanislaus, followed by a master's degree in education. In 2004, he earned his doctorate

at U.C. Berkeley in Education: Language, Literacy, and Culture. His dissertation was on children's writing development in dual language immersion programs.

"In our society, literacy is so much a part of our culture. What you read says a lot about who you are." By way of example Correia explained that he likes to cook; he reads the dining section of the New York Times and tosses the sports section in the recycling bin. "It (sports) is not part of my personal culture."

What is clearly part of Correia's culture is a love for teaching, both for depth and understanding, and in many languages. ◀



◀ CI Rotaract members caught in action.

Service Above Self

CI Rotaract Club offers students opportunity to give back.

By Lori Putnam

As a CI freshman, Tanya Yancheson found herself searching for ways to become more involved with the world around her. "I realized I was in my room a lot and I wanted to get out and meet people," she recalled. "I wanted to get that college experience." In her words, she needed to get out of her comfort zone so she decided to attend a Rotaract Club event.

Four years later, Yancheson is the Club's president and an outspoken supporter of the young professionals' arm of Rotary International, an international organization that encourages leadership and community service. The CI Rotaract Club was founded in 2005 and is sponsored by the Camarillo Noontime Rotary Club. The name itself stands for "Rotary in Action" and is geared to young adults ages 17-24.

The CI Club has two advisors, Janet Pinkley and Kaela Casey, who have been helping to guide its

members since 2008. The advisors emphasize that the Club offers both service and professional development opportunities.

"We had one member secure an internship at the Camarillo Hospice simply by attending a lunch meeting," said Casey. Other resources include resume workshops and mentoring opportunities with Rotary members.

Service projects remain at the heart of the Rotaract experience. According to Pinkley, projects are inspired by students and Rotary International, which is known for its national End Polio Now campaign. One of Rotaract's more popular events is an annual carnival for the Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo. Last year more than 200 kids participated. "Many CI students volunteer at the carnival because the kids have so much fun and appreciate what we do," said Pinkley. "Seeing the

benefit of your service, and what an hour of your time can mean to someone else, is powerful."

"It really inspires leadership qualities," added Yancheson of her Rotaract experience. "It also gives you a different perspective." She recalls a project helping to build shelters for the homeless in Ventura, and how rewarding it was to hear the perspectives of other members of the community. Yancheson also points to students who have volunteered abroad, sponsored in part by the Rotaract Club, to assist in providing dental care in Guatemala and education in India.

"All of this, in a sense, is helping you to become a better person after college," she added. "Rotaract not only helps you now, but in the future as well."

There are currently 23 Rotary Clubs in Ventura, and there are more than 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide. ◀



◀ Kathy Musashi among her creative projects – quilting and CI's University Catalog.

The Face Behind the Catalog

Kathy Musashi guides courses from concept to catalog.

By Lori Putnam

Growing up on a 300-acre farm in the Coachella Valley, one of the eldest of an extended family of 14 children, you learn a little something about juggling chores. “We handled things on our own,” recalled Kathy Musashi of her childhood in a rural valley east of Palm Springs. She often found herself supervising her younger siblings and cousins and, when required, even teaching class when teachers weren’t available.

Those early experiences serve Musashi well now as Academic Programs & Planning Coordinator. In this role, she supports the University’s Curriculum Committee and helps guide through changes to the University’s 23 academic programs. Last year alone, she tracked changes to more than 300 courses. She then ensures those changes and additions are communicated to the greater academic community through her work in overseeing the University’s course catalog.

And it is in this meticulous work, putting together various pieces of information, that you may find hints of what Musashi likes to do outside of the office. “I’m a mad, obsessive quilter,” she confessed. “I’ve sewn all my life, but I’ve been quilting for maybe six years now.” According to Musashi, it would take a year to make a quilt by hand. “I quilt by machine. I don’t have a year to complete projects.” Comparatively speaking, she begins the process of producing the catalog in the Fall and completes it by Spring.

It’s hard to slow Musashi down. Even when she suffered a broken kneecap last April, she was back to work mid-summer. Unfortunately the injury has kept her from her quilting. “I’ll get there,” she said of her recovery. In the meantime, as she puts it: “I’ve resorted to embroidery to keep me sane.”

Her return comes at a time of changes. She is now part of a new department headed by Dr. William

P. Cordeiro, recently appointed Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. Previously she had worked with Dr. Stephen R. Lefevre, a beloved member of the CI community who passed away in late September.

Prior to joining CI in 2003, Musashi served as the registrar at St. John’s Seminary College. While this was her first experience in academia, Musashi had already served 12 years in the corporate world at Power-One, Inc. Hired as the administrative assistant to the Controller, Musashi would ultimately assume the role of Vice President of Administration (Offshore Manufacturing) and would help build the company’s operations in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Musashi lives in Camarillo with her husband of 30 years, Robin Morin, and her mother. Her family includes a son, her husband’s two daughters, and five grandchildren. ◀c

Grant to Encourage STEM Pursuit



▲ Professor of Chemistry
Philip D. Hampton

A \$6 million federal grant will be used to help inspire and educate the next generation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates at CSU Channel Islands (CI) and nearby community colleges. The grant, awarded to CI by the U.S. Department of Education, will be disbursed over five years in installments of \$1.2 million. It targets Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)—which designation the University received in 2010—with the goal of enhancing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) opportunities for Hispanic and low-income students.

The grant was secured through the efforts of CI Professor of Chemistry Phil Hampton and his colleagues: Sadiq Shah, Associate Vice President for Research & Sponsored Programs; Cindy Wyels, Professor of Mathematics; and Don Rodriguez, Associate Professor of Environmental Science & Resource Management.

"It's important that we prepare the next generation of graduates to tackle the changing world environment and make scientific and technological advances," said

Hampton, the grant's principal investigator. "With the tight economic times and challenges of growing as an institution, this grant gives us the resources to reach out to students, increase their knowledge of science and fulfill our mission of being student centered."

The grant will enable CI to partner with Oxnard College, Ventura College, Moorpark College and Santa Barbara City College, as well as with Ventura County K-12 schools, to inspire Hispanic and low-income students to pursue STEM disciplines and support them with services to transfer, graduate and succeed. Though the grant targets underrepresented minorities, the activities and services it funds will encourage interest and success in STEM disciplines among all students of all ethnicities.

"This grant will benefit many students throughout Ventura County and enable CSU Channel Islands to continue to provide an outstanding education to students pursuing bachelor's degrees in STEM disciplines," said CI President Richard R. Rush. "Moreover, the additional funds

will strengthen our partnerships with community colleges to help students transfer to CI and be successful in STEM majors."

The effort, dubbed "Project ACCESO" (Achieving a Cooperative College Education through STEM Opportunities), will provide tutoring, peer mentoring, research and employment opportunities, STEM equipment and facilities, outreach into local schools, analysis of STEM curriculum and student performance, and collaborative efforts on all campuses to engage, retain and graduate STEM students. Outreach programs will include hands-on science demonstrations in local classrooms and "Science Nights" where students and parents will learn about STEM career paths. A STEM center for students is scheduled to open on the CI campus in January and a campus greenhouse is also planned.

"We're excited that this grant will help encourage and educate the next generation of innovators, scientists and mathematicians right here in Ventura County," said Hampton. ◀

▼ Ventura County K-8 school children learn from CI students at the CI Science Carnival.





▲ Back, left to right: CME members - Julia Balen, Janet Pinkley, Marie Francois, Jennifer Chapman, Andrew Garcia (student), Jose Alamillo, Stephen Clark
Front, left to right: Kirsten Moss-Frye, Franchesca Brown (student), Christine Thompson, Kari Moss, Tacey Burnham, Pilar Pacheco

Creating a World of Inclusion and Respect

By Lori Putnam

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Center for Multicultural Engagement (CME), one of four centers that support the University's mission of a student-centered learning experience. The CME, in particular, reflects a commitment to building a learning community where diversity is valued and respected, and civic engagement is encouraged.

The vision of collaboration begins with the CME's own unique leadership structure which includes co-directors from faculty and Student Affairs. "Our partnership fosters collaboration across divisions to infuse multiculturalism throughout student experiences—in and out of the classroom," said Kirsten Moss-Frye, CME Student Affairs Director.

Together, Moss-Frye and Julia Balén, Associate Professor of English and Faculty Director, share information, coordinate initiatives, and leverage resources. "It's the synergy of thinking together that makes a difference," observed Balén. "I see the relationship as akin to the work we do with diversity," added Moss-Frye. "It is a form of cross-cultural communication."

One outcome of the successful partnership has been the Women's Recognition Lunch which honors women who foster the growth and development of the CI community through their leadership and service. The event, now in its 10th year, is sponsored by the Multicultural and Women's & Gender Student Center.

Other recent initiatives include Balén's work with anti-bullying and aligning her efforts with Student Affairs' CI Civility Campaign. "It started great discussions on how to engage others," said Balén of our students' classroom presentations on bullying to local religious and education leaders. "So one project in a class, which in other places might have stayed in the class, can now be shared with a larger group."

The CME also encourages faculty to incorporate multiculturalism in their instruction through awards and stipends. For the last three years, the CME has focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) faculty to help address cultural differences that may stop some students from seeing themselves as scientists or mathematicians. "As a kid from a working-class background, I never saw myself as a professor," remarked Balén. "Other people saw me in that role and believed in me. Part of our STEM initiative is to help our students see who they could become."

As with other University centers, the CME has been impacted by the state's budget crisis. "Without funding, none of this happens," said Balén. So the directors continue to collaborate on what Balén describes as a labor of love, and through their partnership they hope to amplify their impact in the CI community and beyond. ◀

You're Hired! CI Graduates in the Workforce

By Lori Putnam

It has been 75 years since Dale Carnegie published his seminal book *How to Win Friends & Influence People*, and yet his strategies still offer relevance for a nation facing one of the worst job markets since the Great Depression. For CI alumnus Austin Walker, in particular, his introduction to Carnegie led him to a rewarding new career.

"I had been at my job for about a year and doing well, but I was looking for other opportunities," recalled Walker, who graduated from CI in 2008. "I wanted to get in the community more and connect with people." So he decided to attend the University's Alumni Mentorship & Networking Night. Now in its sixth year, the event to be held on Dec. 1 is sponsored by the University's Alumni & Friends Association and the Business & Technology Partnership. It typically attracts 30-40 mentors who are paired with CI students and alumni.

Walker's mentor that night in December 2009 was Jey Wagner, president of the Dale Carnegie Training of Greater Los Angeles and Ventura County, and the event's keynote speaker. According to Walker, he felt an immediate connection with Wagner, one which the audience seemed to share as well. "After the event I saw the reaction from other mentors, students, and alumni to Jey," recalled Walker. "They gravitated in his direction."

Just a month after the alumni event and after participating in a free Dale Carnegie Training program compliments of Wagner, Walker was hired as a business development manager at the company. Today he works with both individuals and teams to improve performance in such areas as leadership, presentations, sales, and customer service. "It's really common sense principles, things you don't always think about, but when put into practice they yield amazing results," said Walker of Carnegie's tenets.

Growing the CI "Tree"

One of Carnegie's time-honored strategies is to show a genuine interest in other people which, in turn, naturally attracts more people to one's circle of influence. For Brian Tusi, Network Operations Manager at OmniUpdate, that genuine interest in others has also helped to grow the presence of CI graduates at the company. Tusi was the first CI



▲ Seated: Lance Merker President/CEO, Left to right: Brian Tusi '07, Shahab Lashkari '09, Drew Clinkenbeard '07, and Jessica Zimmerman '10



▲ Austin Walker '08 presents at the 2010 Alumni Mentorship & Networking Night.



◀ Capt. James J. McHugh and Bob Sandoval '11



▲ Brian Tusi '07



▲ Nicole Conary '09



▲ Jessica Zimmerman '10

alumnus to be hired at the Camarillo-based web content management system (CMS) provider, and now helps to spread the word about job opportunities to fellow alumni and students.

"At the beginning, I knew the job candidates personally," said Tusi. "Now it's like a tree. The ones I know now hire the CI students and graduates they know. I love having the University just down the street. It's great to have that resource close by."

Tusi is also completing his master's degree in Computer Science, a program that has become a popular source for recruiting CI students like Nicole Conary and Nick Peters. Conary, a Product Specialist at OmniUpdate, graduated with a BS in Computer Science in 2009. "A lot of my friends already worked at the company, so I didn't have to worry too much about who I would be working with," said Conary. "It's a small world here."

Peters, a 2010 graduate with a double major in Computer Science and Mathematics, heard about opportunities at OmniUpdate during a dinner with Computer Science graduates that included Tusi. Peters was subsequently hired as a software developer. "One of the important parts of the college experience is networking," added Peters. "When students get to know each other outside of the classroom it presents more opportunities for jobs."

OmniUpdate President and Chief Executive Officer Lance Merker values the work ethic that CI alumni bring to the company. "CI graduates are a little more hard working, a little more practical, and very down to earth," observed Merker. "A lot of what we do here revolves around being creative and being good problem solvers, and we see that in CI graduates too." As head of a fast-paced and growing technology organization, Merker appreciates the talent available at CI. "We're in the software

industry, so there are virtually no limits to what we do. If you can dream it, we can build it. We have big dreams ourselves," he added, "dreams that could dramatically change the landscape of higher education."

Last year, OmniUpdate was chosen as the CMS provider for CI's web site after an extensive review of other content management products. For CI's Vice President of Technology & Communication, A. Michael Berman, it's a win-win situation: "Ours is a valuable partnership in that OmniUpdate provides a product so good that we want to use it, and at the same time, they provide employment for our students. It's rewarding to see a company that serves institutions of higher education across the country doing so well in our own backyard."



▲ Vanessa Woodward '08 and Mentee Elysse Farnell (student) at the 2010 Alumni Mentorship & Networking Night.

"Develop Our People"

While technology businesses are a growing part of the Ventura job market, government continues to be a primary driver. As the county's largest employer, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) is home to more than 17,000 civilian and military personnel and is directly or indirectly responsible for creating more than 8,200 jobs in the area. With such a workforce at hand, it should be no surprise that one of the base's key guiding principles is to develop its people and CI plays a role in fulfilling that mission.

"There's a great partnership between the two institutions," said Captain James J. McHugh who, as the base's commanding officer, oversees the Navy's facilities at Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island. "From a military standpoint, our sailors and other employees are able to get an education from the University and have access to its facilities. On the other hand, the University is producing an educated workforce that can pursue employment opportunities here at the base." Currently, CI provides guaranteed admission for five active military members or veterans who are nominated personally by McHugh.

Robert Sandoval is a civil engineer who first worked on the base as a Navy intern more than 30 years ago. Last year, he earned his M.B.A. from CI. "I was 46 years old and had long finished up school," said Sandoval, who earned his master's degree in engineering from U.C. Berkeley in 1988. "I like to be challenged with new ways of doing business. I was able to participate in a career development program that offers funds for those who want to get further training." Today Sandoval credits his CI education with helping him better fulfill his role as a coordinator between the Navy's Seabees and the Army.

A Flood of Talent

In May 2003, CI celebrated its first graduating class of seniors. At that historic commencement ceremony, President Richard Rush described the quartet of CI seniors as "...merely a trickle of the flood that will follow." Eight years later, there are now more than 5,400 CI graduates, many who are working in business and finance, biotechnology, education, government, healthcare, and non-profits – to name a few industries. And many, like OmniUpdate's Brian Tusi, are planting seeds of CI networks across organizations and industries. They are waiting for the next class of graduates to grow the CI workplace family. ◀C

Editor's Note: Neither the Department of Defense nor any of its components endorse California State University Channel Islands or its programs.



A Recipe for Job Creation

By Lori Putnam

A day after President Barack Obama addressed a joint session of Congress on a new job creation bill, Andrew Puzder gave his own rebuttal in Malibu Hall as part of the University's *Meet the CEOs Fall Speaker Series* sponsored by the Business Advisory Council of the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics.

"If you have a business environment where businesses are afraid to grow, stimulus spending won't make them grow," stated Puzder, CEO of Carpinteria-based CKE Restaurants. "Stimulus spending is like planting seeds in a barren field instead of fertile field. If you're going to do this spending, perhaps we need to fertilize first."

As head of CKE Restaurants, which includes Carl's Jr. and Hardees, Puzder is on the front lines of the struggle between business and labor. He shares his own recipe for job growth in a new book entitled *Job Creation: How It Really Works and Why Government Doesn't Understand It*. Co-authored with David Newton, a professor at Westmont College, Puzder outlines a three-pronged approach to boosting job creation: reduce taxes, reduce government interference, and expand domestic oil. The result, he believes, is an increased certainty that business demands in order to start hiring again.

Puzder, the former general counsel for Fidelity National Financial, entered the restaurant industry

as the personal attorney for Carl's Jr. founder Carl Karcher. He was then brought in to help turn around a struggling Hardees restaurant chain, and would eventually assume the CEO position at CKE overseeing more than 3,000 restaurants and 75,000 employees.

According to Puzder, every time CKE opens a restaurant it creates 25 new jobs with a multiplier effect of three that encompasses everyone from the person who plants the crops to the driver who delivers produce. Yet he views recent pushes in mandatory healthcare coverage and EPA regulations as a threat to job growth.

"We can make decisions that healthcare or regulating carbon fuel is more important. I'm here to tell you every benefit has a cost — and the cost to this country is economic," said Puzder. He cites California as a prime example of government hampering job growth. According to Puzder, it takes eight months to apply for a permit to build a restaurant. In Texas, by comparison, it takes six weeks.

"Reliance on big government to solve our problems reduces our freedom and diminishes us as a nation," concluded Puzder. "Government needs to get out of the way and let American free enterprise bring this economy back. We can do it, we don't need help." ◀



◀ Numerous planning meetings with dozens of participants are integral in building strong Project Vista programs, services and culture.

Taking a Far-Reaching View

Project Vista hopes to improve graduate services and increase access for underserved students at CI.

By Lori Putnam

The first thing you should know about CI's Project Vista, funded by a federal Title V award, is that its name is not an acronym. It is, in fact, meant to mean vista — a word which connotes a distant view along a stretch of landscape or, in the University's case, a far-reaching mental view of a student's academic career. In Spanish, this would be called vistas del futuro.

For Project Vista, that view may very well begin in kindergarten. According to current trends, of every 100 Hispanic students who start school in kindergarten nationwide, only 26 will enroll in college, eight will successfully graduate with a bachelor's degree, and two will go

on to earn a graduate degree.

This pattern, which ultimately leads to underrepresentation in post baccalaureate programs, is structurally created according to Kaia Tollefson, Associate Professor of Education and Project Vista Director. "When we look at the kinds of P-12 school facilities and resources in this country, there can be a dramatic difference in experience in schools where kids are poor and in schools where kids are affluent," she observed. A social justice advocate and former elementary school principal, Tollefson was part of the grant writing team that ultimately secured a \$2.83 million award for Project Vista from the U.S. Department of Education's Promoting Post Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) program.

Project Vista is funded for five years with the goals of meeting

the following needs: increasing Hispanic and low-income student enrollment in post baccalaureate programs at CI; expanding services to graduate students; enhancing faculty development related to graduate students; promoting greater access to higher education through financial aid and distance learning; and building professional and community networks.

"While this grant addresses educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans, it is an institution-strengthening grant as well," added Tollefson. "By improving our programs to enhance student access and success, we strengthen our institution for all students." In fact, the original draft of the Project Vista grant proposal was expanded to include not only the School of Education but all graduate programs on campus, with the goal of attracting and

retaining Hispanic and other underrepresented students in master's degree programs ranging from business and biotech to mathematics and computer science as well as education.

According to Tollefson, the University has been successful in building strong undergraduate programs with well-established student services and campus culture. She'd like to see additional focus placed on developing services specifically for post-baccalaureate students and grow a stronger graduate culture at CI. Project Vista provides an opportunity to create that focus. Plans are underway for a Graduate Studies Center to be housed in the former Hub on campus, now called El Dorado Hall. Graduate services will eventually include such things as admissions, financial aid, and general program advisement in addition to specific writing support to address such things as APA/MLA style and thesis and grant writing.

Professional and career development activities along with scholarships for FAFSA-qualified students are also under consideration. Last year, Project Vista awarded \$22,000 in student scholarships. Tollefson hopes to nearly double that amount to \$40,000 this year.

Pavel Escobedo is a recent recipient of a Project Vista scholarship. Born in Mexico and raised in Ventura County, Escobedo earned his

undergraduate degree at CI last year and is now pursuing a teaching credential. "I'd like to get a master's degree in Educational Leadership with a goal of becoming an elementary school principal one day," said Escobedo. "And then, down the line, I'd like to get my Ph.D." He credits the Project Vista scholarship and other funding with helping him to dedicate more time to coursework. It's that extra push, he stated, that makes the difference between continuing on in school or having to take a break to work more hours.

In the long term, Tollefson hopes Project Vista can help change the terms of what accountability means in education. "What is important enough to count?" challenged Tollefson. "I want to count access, opportunity, and quality for every single student in Ventura County and beyond." Currently Hispanics comprise more than 36 percent of the Ventura County population, yet only nine percent of students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program at CI are Hispanics.

"Public schools exist to serve the public. If they don't look like the public, that's a problem," concluded Tollefson. ◀

Eligibility requirements include:

- **Demonstrated financial need via FAFSA**
- **Acceptance or enrollment in a post baccalaureate/graduate program at CI**
- **Demonstrated reliability as a student and evidence of potential success in graduate studies**
- **U.S. citizenship**



▲ Associate Professor Kaia Tollefson



A Bridge Between Races

Author and educator Gregory Howard Williams shares his multicultural journey as part of CI's Campus Reading Celebration.

By Lori Putnam

Imagine your life changing over the course of a single bus ride. For Gregory Howard Williams, president of The University of Cincinnati, the world as he knew it changed irrevocably during a childhood move from Virginia to Indiana when his father shared a family secret — that he was, in fact, biracial.

As Williams recounts in his award-winning memoir, *Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black*, he boarded the bus white and disembarked in Muncie, Indiana as black. “Even though I was only 10,” he observed, “I knew enough about America that it made a difference whether you’re black or white.”

Today, there are an estimated 6.1 million multiracial Americans, with the number of mixed-race children totaling more than 4 million. Yet when Williams arrived in the Midwest in the winter of 1954, few spoke of a multicultural heritage in a nation still in the grips of segregation. Williams recalled his

father saying at the time, “I want you to remember you’re the same today that you were yesterday. But people in Indiana will treat you differently.”

The CI community welcomed Williams as the featured author of the Campus Reading Celebration at an evening reception on October 3, followed by a student and faculty event the following day. According to President Richard R. Rush, the annual event is intended to help students view books as vibrant entities. “We seek to empower students to become engaged readers who incorporate books into their frameworks of critical thinking,” he remarked in his introduction of Williams.

Williams greeted the CI audience with his own testament of a love for reading. “I would go through the (library) stacks and try to find books that would help me escape the reality of my life at the time,” he said of a childhood plagued by an absent mother, an alcoholic father, and severe poverty. “They didn’t,

but I learned how some folks dealt with adversity in their lives.”

Williams and his younger brother would eventually be taken in by Dora Weekly Smith, a middle-aged black woman who, as Williams put it, was the first to show kindness to the two boys. “When asked how I could become a university president twice,” said Williams, “Miss Dora is the answer to that. I learned a lot getting my degrees, but the most important lessons I learned were from a woman with an eighth grade education.”

“I do believe there was a reason I was called upon to live the life that I was given,” said Williams, reading from the conclusion of *Life on the Color Line*. “Maybe to share it with others in the hope that no child will have to experience what I did. I realize now that I am bound to live out my life in the middle of our society and hope that I can be a bridge between races, shouldering the heavy burden that almost destroyed my youth.” ◀

IGER holds first economic forum in Santa Barbara



▲ Left to right: Eloy Ortega, Bank of Santa Barbara; Gary Zimmerman, Senior Economist, Federal Reserve Bank; Dr. William P. Cordeiro, Director of Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics; CI President Dr. Richard Rush; Dr. Sung Won Sohn; Steve Cushman, Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce.



Our nationally renowned economist, Dr. Sung Won Sohn, Endowed Professor in the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics and Director of the Institute for Global Economic Research (IGER), recently presented “Global Economy Impacts on Regional Business” in Santa Barbara. The forum was held in collaboration with the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce and was sponsored by The Bank of Santa Barbara.

“We are like a spider web,” Sohn said at the Santa Barbara forum with over 150 attendees. “What happens overseas does affect you, and in part because of that our jobless rate is very high, we’re not creating jobs, small businesses cannot get loans and cannot generate income so they are laying people off.” He said a short-term fix includes economic stimulus funding, while spending and tax cuts could bring more corporate money back to the United States.

In terms of Santa Barbara County, Sohn said the good news lies in the tourism sector, single-family home sales and the high-tech sector.

Sohn, a former Wells Fargo economist, was named by *The Wall Street Journal* as the most accurate economist in 2006 and among the five top forecasters in the country in 2010. Sohn currently serves as a commissioner for The Port of Los Angeles and is Vice Chair of the Board for Forever 21. CI’s IGER was launched in April and aims to more closely link local companies to the Pacific Rim countries and develop future industry leadership by providing international perspectives to students and the community. ◀C

Twelfth Annual

President's Dinner

Guests enjoy "Una Bella Sera (a beautiful evening) in the historic orchards of Limoneira Ranch

More than 350 community and campus members celebrated the twelfth-annual President's Dinner al fresco at Limoneira Ranch in Santa Paula. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Robert J. Lagomarsino Award to the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation and the Smith Family (see sidebar).

Guests enjoyed a five-course gourmet feast in the warm, breezy afternoon sun. Fine wines were created exclusively for the event. Unique live and silent auctions, including the Stand-Up for Students pledge, helped raise more than \$119,000 to support the University's highest priority needs.

The evening was emceed by Actress Linda Purl, and CI Alumnus Josue Magaña '11 gave a heartfelt speech telling of his benefit from and support of student scholarships.



Top: Robert J. Lagomarsino Award recipients - Stacy Cannon, Victoria Pozzi, Antoinette Gardiner, President Richard Rush, Marjorie Tegland, Lucinda Daley, and Tiffany Tegland;



Middle: Robert and Norma Lagomarsino

The University gratefully acknowledges the President's Dinner Committee, chaired by Artist Kathy Swor and the generous sponsors who helped make the evening possible:

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Special thanks to Carla and Harold Edwards, Limoneira, Randy Churchill, Baron Brothers, Kathy Raffelli, Gary Blum, Chef Jason Collis, Ryan Nasalroad, Judy Linton, Stephen Mason, and Roxie Ray.

The Smith Family Legacy

Martin V. "Bud" and Martha K. Smith were known for their philanthropy and support of the community by funding education causes, including the creation and development of CSU Channel Islands (CI). Their instrumental role in the growth of the CI led to the creation of many of its programs. The Smith family named the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics at CI and their gift built the Martin V. Smith Center for Integrative Decision-Making as well as endowed the MVS Professorship of Economics which is now held by Dr. Sung Won Sohn. The Foundation also provided funding that was essential to launching CI's Institute for Global Economic Research.

Prior to their passing, Bud and Martha Smith established the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation within the Ventura County Community Foundation. Since 1994, this foundation has funded nonprofits in Ventura County through an annual grant program. The family's philanthropic and active community participation did not stop with Martha and Bud Smith as their four daughters, Antoinette Gardiner, Marjorie Tegland, Victoria Pozzi, and Lucinda Daley, now continue the work of the foundation and the Smith family legacy. Pozzi and Daley have served as active CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board directors, and all four daughters continue to support CI.



Left: CSU Channel Islands Wine by Malibu Family Wines;

Bottom left: CI students with President Rush; middle: Alumnus Josue Magaña; right: Emcee Linda Purl





2010 Math grad student now ‘ambassador for mathematics’ at Ventura College

By Janet Egiziano, Director, Thousand Oaks Campus; Associate Director, MBA Program

Ask Janine Bundy about math, and superlatives not typically associated with the science of numbers flow from her mouth: “It’s beautiful! Amazing! Exquisite!” Press her further and she’ll make you a believer. “Math is mankind’s way of validating God’s creations,” says Bundy. “Math explains the science behind a recipe and how plants grow, and provides us with a means to find beauty and wonder. And it’s a ‘brain train’ – it keeps the brain sharp.”

To say that Bundy, a 2010 MS in Mathematics graduate, is passionate about math is an understatement. It’s not a stretch, either, to call her a math prodigy. As a young child, Bundy easily recognized patterns of repetition and found numbers endlessly fascinating. Long before elementary school, she’d beat her older brother to the answer as their mother drilled him on multiplication

tables. She dreamed of teaching math. This fall, her dream came true when she landed a tenure-track faculty position at Ventura College over 160 other applicants.

While Bundy arrived at her new career armed with passion, intellect, skill, a degree in electrical engineering as well as an MBA, she credits the CI mathematics faculty for her most recent accomplishment. A math grant provided funding to hire Bundy, then a grad student, as a teaching associate, allowing her to experience mathematics from both a student perspective and a teaching perspective. CI’s math faculty carefully shepherded Bundy through the teaching process, observing her class, offering tips, and sharing techniques. As a new instructor, Bundy says she tries “to model the way my instructors treated me. They were incredibly generous with their time and resources.”

At Ventura College, Bundy’s students include returning adults, college freshmen, and those who are products of failed public schools. “What most students need so desperately to develop is analytical skills, logic, and critical thinking skills,” Bundy states, “Math is the key. Everyone can learn math. It’s just a matter of finding a technique that will work for each student. That doesn’t always happen in a classroom, but it can happen during office hours.” It’s there, in her office, that Bundy pays forward the gift of generosity modeled by the CI faculty.

Bundy clearly relishes being an “ambassador for mathematics,” a role encouraged by CI’s Professor of Mathematics Cindy Wyels. “I am so grateful for this University and its mathematics program,” Bundy states. “It is the epitome of what an educational process should be.” ◀

Graduate Studies Center to Open in Spring 2012

By Janet Egiziano, Director, Thousand Oaks Campus; Associate Director, MBA Program

Soon, an unoccupied building at the north corner of campus will buzz with activity. The Graduate Studies Center, the most visible element of Project Vista, will open in January 2012, at El Dorado Hall. Project Vista, funded by a U.S. Department of Education Title V grant, promotes post-baccalaureate and graduate opportunities for Hispanic and other under-represented students. Its impact, however, has far-reaching, positive implications for all CI students.

"At its heart, Project Vista is an institution strengthening grant," says Associate Professor Kaia Tollefson, project director, "It provides a means to identify institutional barriers that inhibit student access and success." A variety of methods, many of which involve students, are being used to identify such barriers. Last spring, Project Vista committee members conducted several focus group interviews of current and former students in CI's post-baccalaureate and graduate programs. Students were asked to share their experiences and to identify needed services.

What emerged from these interviews was a picture not only of the Hispanic student experience, but also of the non-traditional student experience.

Like most universities, CI student support services and programs are designed to serve traditional college students who tend to be young, live on campus, and attend classes during the day. The traditional model appears to meet the needs of CI's Hispanic undergraduate students, who, in 2010, made up approximately 32% of the undergraduate student population. That figure changes in graduate programs, however, where, in 2010, Hispanic students made up just 9% of the student population. Graduate students attend classes in the evenings and on Saturdays, often working full-time, and can lack access to academic advisors and financial aid counselors. Hispanic students noted these issues as well as a lack of childcare, as significant barriers.

Another issue emerged through an informal study in which



undergraduate students, under the direction of Damien Peña, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, were deployed across campus to identify how students utilize campus space. They counted over 300 students eating lunch in their cars, a finding that suggests many students have not claimed any space on the campus as their own.

The new Graduate Studies Center intends to address such issues. Academic advisors and financial aid counselors will hold later hours and will go off site to assist graduate students enrolled in off-campus programs. With a student lounge, study space, snacks, and coffee, the Center will be a comfortable and welcoming space, one that students will want to claim as their own. ◀C

▲ Left to right: Rosa Alvarez '11, Kaia Tollefson, Angelica Perez (student), and Wendy Olson



▼ OP&C employee Anthony Mestas

New Alumni & Friends Executive Team

The Alumni & Friends Association recently announced the newly elected executive team for its 2011-2012 Board of Directors. The Alumni & Friends' executive team governs a 25-member volunteer board and an association composed of more than 1,200 CI alumni and friends, with the goal of keeping members connected to the University and each other. The association organizes special events, perks and programs throughout the year, focusing on mentorship and career networking opportunities, and including baseball and hockey nights, special member discounts and newsletters. It also strives to increase membership and engagement and showcase the success of CI alumni.

The new executive team members are as follows:



Fernando Mora – President

Mora, of Oxnard, graduated from CI in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish. He is the Western Account Manager for Hygiena, LLC in Camarillo, and has served on boards for the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo and the Camarillo Chamber Young Professionals Group. As President, Mora will preside over board and member meetings, set the tone and key focus areas for the association, and report annually to the University President.



Gary Wartik – Vice President

Wartik is a co-founder and Senior Consultant at Vision Consulting Group in Camarillo, which specializes in economic development, general business planning and business turnaround/Chapter 11 situations. He served as the Economic Development Manager for the City of Thousand Oaks between 1998 and February 2011. He holds a J.D. from San Fernando Valley College of Law, a Master's in Public Administration from USC and a B.A. from CSU Northridge. As Vice President, Wartik will lead the association in the absence of the Board President and help in the day-to-day governance of the group. A longstanding "friend" and board member of the association, Wartik's experience will help balance the talents of the younger committee members.



Austin Walker – Secretary

As Secretary, Walker is responsible for meeting minutes, membership lists and records, and reports and mailings for the association. Walker is a 2008 business graduate of CI who found his career through the Alumni & Friends mentorship program. He works as a Business Development Manager for Dale Carnegie Training in the greater Los Angeles and Ventura County areas and lives in Newbury Park.



Brandon Blake – Treasurer

As Treasurer, Blake will oversee financial records and accounts for the association. Blake is the Chief Operating Officer and co-founder of the Arete companies, which acquire and invest in distressed real estate properties and also work with some of the nation's largest health plans to identify and recover claim overpayments. Blake is a 2005 business graduate of CI and a resident of Ventura.



Leah Lacayo – Immediate Past President

As Immediate Past President with two consecutive terms under her belt, Lacayo will provide institutional knowledge that will carry over into the new executive team. She has been a "friend" of the association and an active supporter of the University since its inception. Lacayo volunteers her time for more than a dozen boards, committees and organizations that benefit the community, including the Congress of California Seniors, Downtown Center for the Arts in Oxnard, Ventura County Community Foundation - Destino, and the Ventura County Fair Foundation. She lives in Newbury Park.



Cathy Lasure '09

Class Is In Session for MA in Education Graduate

By Lori Putnam

For most students, being called to the principal's office is not a reason to celebrate. However at Walnut Canyon Elementary, located in the foothills of Moorpark, an invitation to the principal's office may mean something altogether different.

"I love being able to interact with students," said Cathy Lasure, the school's newly appointed principal and a 2009 graduate of CI's Masters of Arts in Education program. "I invite students to my office for lunch so they don't think this is just the place for getting in trouble."

Although this is her first year as principal, Lasure is no stranger to Walnut Canyon. She was on the teaching staff when the arts and technology magnet school first opened in 1998. That year, recalled Lasure, the school lacked a permanent building so classes were spread throughout the region. The next year the school moved into its current facility, and Lasure stayed on board as a third grade teacher.

"Elementary school is my love. It just gets me right here," said Lasure, pointing to her heart. "The students are fresh and creative. It really hits a spark with me." The arts are another source of inspiration, and her goal is to continue to support her teachers and students in using them to learn and thrive. "The arts give students another way to problem solve and to use their critical thinking skills," she said.

Currently Walnut Canyon teaches more than 530 students, from preschool through fifth grade. The school also offers an afterschool cultural arts program where students can enroll in classes ranging from sewing and ceramic to podcasting and filmmaking. The cultural arts program even staged its own musical where students managed everything from the stage lighting to performing the music live. "The kids never stop amazing us," said Lasure. "The talent that we have at our school — both teachers and students — makes us lucky."

Lasure is also part of the talent of Walnut Canyon. Just months after completing her graduate degree at CI she was approached by the school district to apply for a principal position. Prior to graduation, she had also served part-time as a public relations representative for the district to build awareness of magnet school programs.

As a classroom teacher, Lasure encouraged her students to learn from their mistakes. "I would tell them you could try it, and if doesn't work, try something else." Now as a school principal, she offers the same encouragement and support to an even greater learning community. The result is a magnet school that is truly preparing its students to thrive in the 21st century. ◀C

UPDATES



◀ **Yvette Bocz '02 BA in History**

Yvette welcomed a future CI Dolphin into the world! Her baby boy, Luke Stenner Whitney, weighed 7 lbs. 11 ounces. Luke has already taken a tour of the Channel Islands campus and will possibly walk in his mother's footsteps as a CI commencement student speaker, past President of the CI Alumni & Friends Association, and current Alumni & Friends member.



▲ **Zachary Abbey '08 BS in Environmental Science and Resource Management, Heather Lambert '07 in BA Education, '09 Special Education Credential**

Two first freshmen class alumni Zack and Heather have recently been engaged. Zack proposed in lovely San Diego and they are planning for a fall 2013 wedding. The two started at CI in 2003 and have been dating ever since. Heather is currently obtaining her masters in special education.

Kevin Genovese '11 BA in History ▶

While an undergraduate student, Kevin interned as a research assistant at the Museum of Ventura County. After graduation he accepted a full time position with the Museum's new Agricultural Museum, which opened late September at the renovated Mill building in Santa Paula. He continues to research Ventura County's rich agricultural history from the 1880s to the present.



◀ **Cristina Nette '10 BA in Communication**

Cristina accepted a position as an Assistant Account Executive with Outdoor Media Group (OMG), part of the Omnicom group. She has been working on outdoor advertising including billboards, transit advertising, digital boards and wall scape advertising. Her customers include Apple, Visa, and the CBS Network.



Nicole Shaver '10 BS in Business and Jennie Adams '07 BS in Business emphasis in Entrepreneurial Business

Despite the tough economic times, two recent CI Grads collaborated to create "The Olive Vineyard" located at the Oak Creek center in Agoura Hills. The idea was sparked by a family friend back east and after one year of careful planning and a 65 page business plan, they opened their doors for business! The Olive Vineyard offers a wide variety of 45 different flavors of olive oil, a tasting room, and the olive oil itself is bottled fresh when ordered.

The 8th Annual Alumni Dodger Day!



Jonny Lopez '10

From Getting By to Giving Back

By Lori Putnam

As an aspiring screenwriter, CI graduate Jonny Lopez will tell you any good story begins with a challenge confronting the hero. In the case of Lopez's life story, that challenge began at the age of three when his mother was left on her own to raise him and his twin brother.

"She never gave up on us," he recounted. "It's probably the single most important thing that I carry

with me today. She sacrificed so much to make sure that we had every opportunity that she didn't have."

When Lopez was 11 his mother accepted a job as a housekeeper in Malibu in the hope of providing her boys with a better life. What she didn't anticipate was the cultural divide that would confront her sons as they transitioned from a working class neighborhood

near downtown Los Angeles to the highly affluent coastal enclave. For the first time in his life, Lopez had a greater understanding of what his family had...and what they didn't. The usually outgoing young boy began struggling to make friends.

At this point in any good screenplay, the hero would encounter a helpful guide to show him the way through his obstacles. For Lopez, that mentor arrived in the form of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Monica which had recently opened a satellite facility in Malibu. He spent three to four hours a day at the Club while his mother worked. During his time there, Lopez remembered visits by Oscar-nominated screenwriter William Nicholson and actors Daniel Stern and Mel Gibson.

At the age of 14, Lopez and his brother won the Club's national Youth of the Year award and his passion for the organization grew. "The Club had taken care of me, and many of the staff members were like father figures," said Lopez. "I knew then that's what I wanted to do." He was now ready to move beyond just getting by to helping to give back.

Just days after receiving his undergraduate degree in English, Lopez spoke at the Club's Youth Celebration gala. At the end of the evening, he was offered a position as a teen outreach coordinator. Today he serves as the Social Recreation Director for the Club's Santa Monica facility. In this role, he's helping guide a new generation of kids including teaching a screenwriting course.

"There's nothing quite as rewarding as seeing smiles on the kids' faces," observed Lopez. Ultimately he would like to earn a doctorate degree and teach film while continuing to write. "I believe we transform a lot," said Lopez, "and that our future changes with each transformation. We need to settle on the type of adult we want to be before we can be happy with our choices." ◀



Calendar of Events

For a complete list of
University events,
visit www.csuci.edu

2011

December 1 Alumni & Friends Association
Mentorship & Networking Night;
Business & Technology
Partnership 9th Annual
Holiday Mixer

2012

January 23 Spring Semester Begins
March 6 & 7 Grad Fest
March 12 Ventura County Star Spelling
Bee Contest at CI
April 19 Business & Technology
Partnership Leadership Dinner
May 4 Honors Convocation
May 19 Commencement
August 16 CI 10-Year Anniversary



▲ Dear Channel Readers:

It has been two years since we redesigned the University's magazine, *Channel*, and we would like to hear how you think we are doing. Our goal every issue is to provide news articles on University accomplishments and success stories about students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Please complete a brief survey by visiting <https://csuci.wufoo.com/forms/channel-survey/> or by using your smart phone to follow the QR code shown below.

If you would prefer to complete a paper survey, please email your name and address to communication.marketing@csuci.edu and we will mail you a survey. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Nancy Covarrubias Gill '05
Executive Editor

