

# CHANNEL

CSU Channel Islands Magazine • Fall 2012 / Volume 16 / Number 2



## ● CI Planting Days

Page 6





# A Decade of Distinction

It was with great pride and excitement that we invited members of our campus and local community to join us in August to celebrate a decade of distinction in the University's 10th anniversary year. It seems like just yesterday that faculty and staff were racing to have everything ready so we could open our doors as Ventura County's first and only four-year, public institution of higher education.

We are extremely grateful to serve residents of this region and would especially like to recognize the City of Camarillo for their sponsorship of our 10th anniversary festivities during this academic year. Through these partnerships, we are bringing to your University speakers, faculty and students to engage in world-class research and discussions that enlighten us and broaden our perspectives, and help to make our community, state, nation and world a better place to live.

Likewise, with the success of Proposition 30, we have avoided another devastating blow to higher education and the future livelihood of the State of California. It is our hope that the voice of the citizens of California sends a clear message to Sacramento that supporting education and the CSU is a high priority. We are optimistic that our state leaders will act to reinvest in higher education and access for all students.

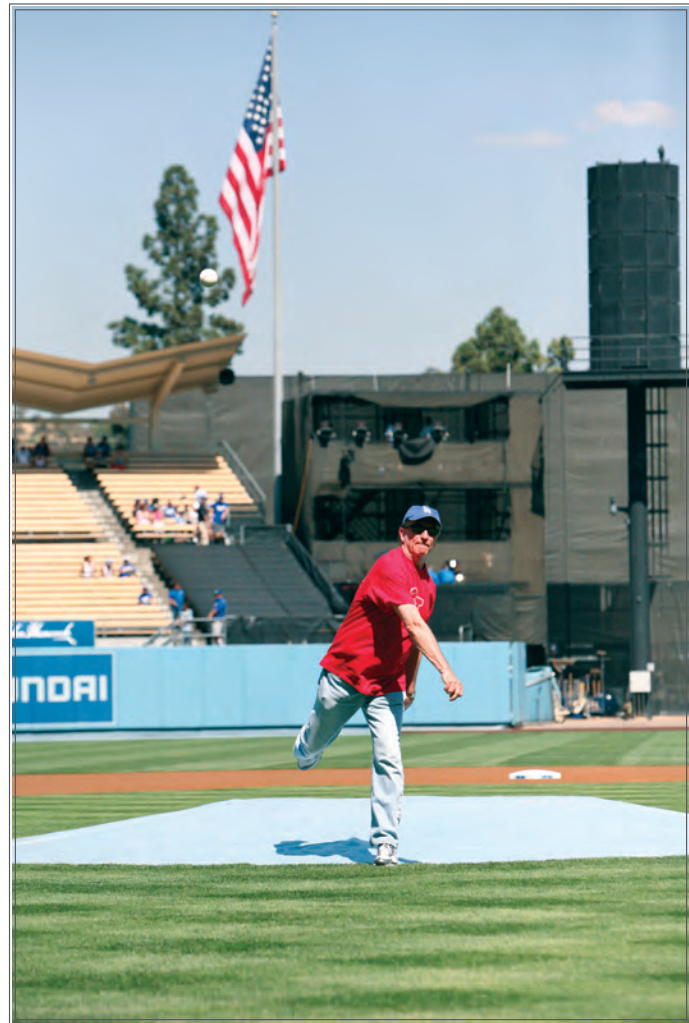
We look forward to welcoming our new CSU Chancellor, Timothy White, and supporting his initiatives for rebuilding California's system of higher education that is envied around the globe.

As you read this issue of Channel, you will be reminded once again that our 10 years of success would be impossible without the CI family – students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners – working together to provide a dream for our next generation of students. We thank you for your ongoing support and wish you a safe and delightful holiday season.

Sincerely yours,



Richard R. Rush  
President



▲ President Rush threw the ceremonial first pitch at Dodger Stadium in September as part of Alumni & Friends Dodger Day



## Departments

3	University News	13	In Focus - Student Research
5	In Focus - News	22	Advancing the University
6	<b>Cover</b> - CI Planting Days	25, 28	Alumni Profile
7	Scholarly and Creative Activities	26	Alumni Events
9	In Focus - Faculty	27	Alumni Updates
11	In Focus - Students	29	Extended University
12	In Focus - Staff	30	Extended University Alumni
		Calendar	..... Back Cover

## 14-21 Features

Celebrating the Past, Envisioning the Future . .	14
CI Celebrates North Quad Expansion . . . . .	17
Examining Politics to the Extreme . . . . .	18
Leaving a Legacy of Service . . . . .	19
The Wondrous Life of Junot Diaz . . . . .	21



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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send correspondence to: [communication.marketing@csuci.edu](mailto:communication.marketing@csuci.edu) or CSU Channel Islands, Communication & Marketing, One University Drive, Camarillo CA 93012-8599.

**Vice President  
for Technology &  
Communication**  
A. Michael Berman

**Executive Editor**  
Nancy Covarrubias Gill '05

**Editor and Designer**  
Joanna Murphy

**Copy Editor**  
Renny Christopher

**Contributing Writers**  
Mary Adler; Ruben Alarcon; Marya Jones Barlow; A. Michael Berman; Janet Egiziano; Nancy C. Gill; Kathryn Leonard; Janeth Moran; Lori Putnam/Putnam Creative; Elizabeth Rubalcava.

**Contributing Photographers**  
Ben Hipple; Michael Urbanek/ArchitecturalShots.com; VCStar.



Cover: Students, faculty, staff and community members take part in CI Planting Days; inset: Connie Kelly, Library  
See cover story on page 6



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



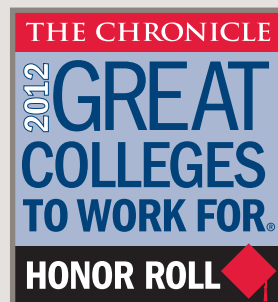
### Faculty Member Earns National Math Teaching Honor

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Kathryn Leonard has earned one of the highest national recognitions for new or pre-tenure math faculty. Leonard accepted the Mathematical Association of America's Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning University Mathematics Faculty Member at MathFest 2012 held in Madison, Wisconsin.

The award recognizes "beginning college or university faculty whose teaching has been extraordinarily successful and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics is shown to have influence beyond their own classrooms." Awardees also must have a Ph.D. and two to seven years of experience teaching full-time math. They receive \$1,000 and a certificate of recognition. Each year, two or three award recipients are selected from a competitive pool of nominees.

In the five years since she arrived at CI, Leonard has transformed previously dreaded courses like Business Statistics into student favorites, mentored dozens of students on research projects, revamped and revitalized curriculum, influenced other faculty and educators through presentations and sharing of materials, and inspired numerous students to pursue graduate degrees and careers in math.

Read the full story by visiting: <http://www.csuci.edu/news/releases/2012-leonardaward.htm>



### A "Great College to Work For" Third Year in a Row

CI has been named a "Great College to Work For" by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for a third consecutive year. A survey released in *The Chronicle's* fifth annual report on The Academic Workplace rates CI among the top 103 institutions nationwide for its work environment. CI also earned a spot as one of only 42 institutions on the 2012 Honor Roll, which recognizes colleges and universities that score the highest across multiple categories that contribute to employee satisfaction.

The 2012 rankings are based on a survey of more than 46,000 employees at 294 colleges and universities. Employees are asked to rate their institutions in areas such as job satisfaction; work/life balance; collaborative governance; confidence in senior leadership; professional/career development programs; compensation and benefits; supervisor/department chair relationship; facilities, workspace and security; and respect and appreciation.

Read the full story by visiting: <http://www.csuci.edu/news/releases/2012-greatcollege.htm>

### President Rush named to California Campus Compact Executive Board

President Richard R. Rush has been named to the Executive Board of California Campus Compact, a coalition of leading colleges and universities working to advance civic and community engagement in higher education.

Rush previously served on the California Campus Compact Executive Board as a member and Chair from 2004 through 2010. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Directors for National Campus Compact, a Presidential organization of more than 1,100 members, from 2005 to 2011 and served as Vice Chair from 2008 to 2011.

The nine-member Executive Board guides California Campus Compact in its mission of encouraging and helping colleges and universities throughout California to make civic and community engagement an integral part of campus life. The Board recommends programs, plans and budgets, and exercises oversight and stewardship of the organization's resources.

Read the full story by visiting: <http://www.csuci.edu/news/releases/2012-rushcalcampuscompactboard.htm>



### Sophomore wins Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for outstanding achievement

Chloe Keller, a 19-year-old Liberal Studies major from Fillmore, is CI's 2012-2013 recipient of the prestigious William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. The \$3,000 award, given to one student at each of CSU's 23 campuses, recognizes students with financial need who have overcome significant hardships to excel in academics, community service and personal achievements.

Keller maintains a 3.5 GPA while taking 19 units (6 classes), working part-time at a restaurant, and serving as a mentor to underprivileged and underrepresented students through CI's LEAP (Leaders in Educational Awareness) and EOP (Educational Opportunities) programs. A Liberal Studies major, she is weighing future careers as a teacher or doctor.

Keller worked three part-time jobs in high school and was active in her school and community. She participated in student government, 4-H, swim team, softball, cheerleading, volunteered at Big Brothers Big Sisters, and was class valedictorian. She also won the title of Miss Hollywood Teen USA in 2011.

She credits her strong work ethic and desire to help others to being raised in a household that endured financial hardships. Keller says she chose CI because of its small classes, student-centered atmosphere, the beauty of its campus, and the abundance of scholarship, research, travel and community enrichment opportunities.

Read the full story by visiting: <http://www.csuci.edu/news/releases/2012-cihearstaward.htm>

### Doreen J. Putrah Cancer Research Foundation Conference Fellowships

Each year as many as 10 CI students are sponsored to attend scientific conferences related to their collaborative faculty student research at CI, through the generosity of a \$10,000 grant from Bob Lovgren. The Doreen J. Putrah Cancer Research Foundation Conference Fellowship was established by Lovgren to honor his wife who died from cancer when she was only 48 years old.

The fellowships are intended to inspire students to develop as scientists by providing the opportunity to travel to a national scientific conference to present their research, learn about the latest advances in their fields, and network with other students, scientists, potential graduate advisers, and future employers. Up to ten \$1,000 fellowships will be awarded each year. The fellowships are open to all students in the Arts & Sciences division who are involved in faculty-student research in biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, and cancer-related sciences.

Read the full story by visiting: <http://www.csuci.edu/news/releases/2012-putrahfellowships.htm>



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

### Staffer Honored as a "Leading Woman in STEM"

Sandy Birmingham, a STEM Pipeline and Outreach Coordinator for Project ACCESO at CI, has been named a "Leading Woman in STEM" for her work to advance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Birmingham was one of 12 California women honored at the 2012 California STEM Summit held in San Diego. The award, presented by the nonprofit California STEM Learning Network (CSLNet), recognizes "achievements in advancing innovative and effective STEM education initiatives across the state and serving as exemplary role models for California women and girls."

The organization honored Birmingham for her work creating high-quality, hands-on afterschool STEM programs. As Pipeline and Outreach Coordinator at CI's Project ACCESO, she works with area K-12 schools, community colleges, CI faculty and undergraduates, and employers on programs and partnerships to excite students about STEM learning and careers.

Birmingham has been a history teacher, a Spanish teacher, and more recently served as a program director for Moving Beyond the Bell Afterschool Programs, where she was honored for helping structure innovative afterschool STEM programs in the Sierra Sands Unified School District, partnering with the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division and other local employers.

CSLNet created the "Leading Women in STEM" awards to help highlight the dramatic need to increase the number of women in STEM fields and to recognize women leaders who are making a difference. Currently, only 25 percent of STEM jobs in the U.S. are held by women.

Read the full story by visiting: <http://www.csuci.edu/news/releases/2012-birminghamstemaward.htm>



During the Peace Pole unveiling in September, students and campus community members read the engravings in their respective languages: LtoR: Raudel Banuelos/Chumash; Antoine Hage/Arabic; President Rush/English; Juan Carlos Villanueva/Tagalog; Cindy Flores/Spanish; Namiko Tsuchiya/Japanese.



# Inventing New Knowledge: An Invitation

By Kathryn Leonard, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Director of the Center for Integrative Studies

What do you get when you put a firefighter, x-ray technician, deli worker, and dirt bike enthusiast together in one room? A CI student research group! This year, eight students under my supervision are mathematically modeling shapes of objects in images. Some students will develop new mathematical theory, others will predict forest fire growth, still others will archive dance choreography.

After graduation, my research students typically enter graduate programs in mathematics or statistics, or begin work at places like Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Naval Air Systems Command. One student now at Lockheed-Martin spent most of her job interview answering questions about her research project. Indeed, she credits her research experience for landing the job. Why? Because research involves facing a problem with no known solution and figuring out how to solve it. In other words, research is a lot like handling problems in real life. Participating

in research shows employers you are willing to reach beyond standard expectations, and that you can apply knowledge to new situations.

CI offers many opportunities for student research.

- The Hank Lacayo Institute Research Fellows Program funds students up to \$3000 per year to work with a faculty member on a research project of the student's choosing. The first cohort of HLI Research Fellows will be announced in October.
- SPIRaL courses, UNIV 198, 298, 398, engage students in interdisciplinary research starting in freshman year. An upcoming 198 course will tackle an art mystery that developed when a ceramicist famous for his yellow glaze died without sharing the recipe. Students will work to reconstruct the glaze using techniques from chemistry and art.
- UNIV 498 courses involve students in faculty research.

Students in an archaeologist's 498 course retrieve and analyze artifacts from ancient Chumash sites. In a computer scientist's course, students design soccer-playing robots. Education students study the impact of advocacy groups on disability awareness.

- Many individual faculty support research students outside a formal program. In biology, one such group explores bee pollination behavior. Research opens doors for students even before they graduate. A UNIV 298 student cites her research experience as the reason she was selected for a summer internship studying abalone. CI's two Goldwater Scholars earned the honor because of their research success as sophomores. More generally, engaging students in research increases graduation rates, improves grades, and boosts satisfaction with college.

What are you waiting for? Find (or fund!) a project today. ◀ C



## CI Planting Days

By Elizabeth Rubalcava, Presidential Aide and Project Manager, CI Foundation

Students, faculty, staff and community members participated in a series of four CI Planting Days—a volunteer program created to support the Central Mall Renovation Project, the largest grounds beautification effort in CI history. From late October through mid-November, dozens of volunteers installed perennials, bushes, and trees throughout the University's newly converted Central Mall, once a busy two-lane street which has been transformed to an open park area accessible to pedestrians.

The renovation of the Central Mall is an essential piece of the University's campus master plan. The mall area is 302,000 square feet of green space and runs through the heart of campus, stretching from the John Spoor Broome Library to Aliso Hall. The project includes the conversion of the two-lane road to a pedestrian-only thoroughfare, the renovation of existing landscaping, a decorative Spanish Mission style fountain

situated in the center, a large plaza area connected to decomposed granite walkways, benches and lighting, rose gardens, and hundreds of native, drought-tolerant perennials, bushes and trees.

Moreover, landscaping and irrigation are key components to the renovation. A well-designed irrigation system will support the addition of native plants and drought-tolerant trees throughout the mall. When complete, the Central Mall will serve as a gathering place for community and student events, as well as provide students with outdoor seating for study and recreation.

The project is funded through the generosity of students, businesses and community donors. The success of the project depends on community support of all kinds, from cash donations to gifts of time and materials. The University wishes to recognize the generous contributions provided to date: Agromin; The Associated Students,

Inc.; Boething Treeland Farms, Inc.; C.A. Rasmussen, Inc.; Diversified Minerals, Inc.; Freska Produce; Fruit Growers Supply; Gail Materials; Green Thumb Nursery; Leavens Ranches; Limoneira Company; Monsanto; Oshan Trees; Pinkerton Ranches; Performance Gardens; Porterville Citrus; Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; Umina Brothers; and several other gifts of varying sizes.

The CI Foundation's "Leave Your Mark" campaign offers supporters the opportunity to "adopt" trees and pavers in their name. For more information, please feel free to contact Nichole Ipach, Associate Vice President for University Development, at (805) 437-8893 or [nichole.ipach@csuci.edu](mailto:nichole.ipach@csuci.edu). ◀ C

▼ Faculty / Student research, spring 2012





# Bees, Crops and You



By Ruben Alarcon, Assistant Professor of Biology

Most people are unaware of just how important bees are in their everyday lives. That apple you had for lunch is the product of bee-labor. What about steak? Yes that too; bees pollinate the alfalfa that is fed to cattle. Almost 90% of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators for successful reproduction, and it is estimated that 75% of global crops benefit from insect pollination. Pollination is the movement of pollen from the anthers (male reproductive organs) to the stigma (female reproductive organs) of another flower for the purpose of fertilizing and producing seeds. Over 130 fruit and vegetable crops in the United States either require bee pollination, or greatly benefit from the action of bees and other insects.

Most crops in North America are commercially pollinated by the non-native European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. Growers often contract with beekeepers to transport and maintain honey bee colonies in their orchards or fields to pollinate the crops. Every year 1.5 million honey bee colonies are trucked across the country to pollinate the 750 thousand acres of almonds in California's Central Valley. This is the largest pollinator migration event in North America, if not the world!

However, declines in honey bee populations over the last several years due to Colony Collapse Disorder, parasitic mites, exposure to pesticides, and poor nutrition, have resulted in difficulties in securing pollination services. As more acreage is devoted to insect-pollinated crops, the costs associated with securing honey bee colonies will rise, not to mention

the risk in relying on a single species to pollinate most of our crops. This has highlighted the need to characterize the role that native bees, such as bumblebees (*Bombus* sp.), leaf cutter bees (*Megachile* sp.) and mason bees (*Osmia* sp.), can play in agriculture.

As a pollination ecologist I study the interactions between insects and the flowers they visit. Over the last few years I have studied ways to maintain healthy honey bee populations, including the potential benefits of providing them supplemental forage, i.e., growing flowers specifically to feed honey bees. With the help of CI undergraduates, local growers and collaborators at the UC Cooperative Extension, I will embark on studies to determine how native bees can be used alongside honey bees to pollinate crops in Ventura County, including avocados and berries.

Avocado orchards, for example, often require up to 6 honey bee colonies per acre to achieve successful pollination because avocados have a unique flowering system requires that pollen come from a different cultivar. Anecdotal evidence indicates that avocado orchards near natural vegetation require fewer honeybee colonies to achieve adequate pollination. This suggests that native bees might be providing "free" pollination services to growers. By making orchards more attractive to native bees, growers may be able to increase the pollination services that their crops receive, and potentially increase yields.

So the next time you bite into an apple, or that juicy steak, make sure to thank a bee! ◀ C



## Apprenticing Teachers to Strengthen Adolescent Writing

By Mary Adler, Associate Professor of English

At CSU Channel Islands I have the privilege of teaching those who have a dream of becoming English teachers themselves. They walk into my office and classroom as undergraduates unsure of their profession and leave the University with credentials in hand, ready to seek positions in middle and high schools throughout the region. My primary research area is adolescent writing development and classroom discourse—the role of classroom talk. However, recently my work has focused on the learning that occurs when middle school students and CI undergraduates work together toward a common goal.

Last spring I invited a group of six CI seniors to work with me on a writing intervention at two local middle schools. These schools have had trouble succeeding on standardized tests, with less than 40% of sixth graders performing at proficient levels in writing. Research has been slow to address writing needs among urban schools like these that primarily serve students of color. I am particularly

concerned because progress has been very gradual in closing a sizeable achievement gap for Latina/o youth.

The CI seniors accepted my invitation to become tutors for this intervention and decided to make the project part of their Capstone research, under the direction of Professor Bob Mayberry. They gave up time over winter break so that I could train them in how to conduct the intervention. Using rapid, short bursts of instruction, they practiced ways to lead small groups of students in productive learning episodes. The tutor-student relationship was critical because unlike many other interventions, we did not remove students from long segments of valuable instructional time. Rather, building on my prior research with Professor Jill Leafstedt, we provided explicit instruction in particular writing skills that were targeted to student needs and reinforced over time. After only six weeks of instruction—in sessions as brief as 12 minutes, three times per week—results indicated that two of

the interventions were successful in improving students' overall writing quality. Moreover, when I retested students eight weeks later, they had retained the gains they had made without additional instruction.

The most exciting part of this research is that while the middle school students were learning, the CI students simultaneously grew in their teaching knowledge. As one of the tutors, Eddie Rodriguez, put it, "The experience has changed the way I see education and has made me a better teacher." Another, Kristin Pollack, reflected, "The writing intervention was an amazing experience for me." She noted, "I will take the strategies I learned...into my future classrooms."

Data that I am analyzing from a prior project with CI student tutors indicates that much of the learning our future teachers gain seems to spring from the questions they pose during the process. Like any apprenticeship, it is from "the doing" that insight comes. ◀ C





Phil Hampton and Tobin Streamland test the Marshmallow Shooter - one of many experiments planned for the Science Carnival. Photo by Juan Carlo, Ventura County Star

# Sharing a Love for Science

By Marya Barlow

From an early age, Phil Hampton was destined for a career as a chemistry professor. His father, a chemistry professor at a small liberal arts college, shared his love of science with his young son. By the age of 12, Hampton was conducting experiments using his own “souped-up” chemistry set and exploding hydrogen gas in the basement of the family’s Iowa home.

“My favorite was the remote control fire bomb with kerosene,” he said. “It’s a good thing that arm hair grows back quickly.”

Today, Hampton is focusing his efforts on developing a passion for science in future generations – through much safer pursuits. In addition to teaching chemistry and mentoring students on research projects, he spearheads an effort to bring fun, hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs to Ventura County students in grades K-12. With the help of a nearly \$6-million federal Hispanic Serving Institution STEM grant for Project ACCESO (Achieving a Cooperative College Education through STEM Opportunities), he leads a CI initiative providing school outreach, career expos, community programs, and on-campus support for STEM students. He also organizes a popular free annual Science



◀ Hampton gets turned around by Connie Baker, CI research coordinator, before he uses the Dark Knight Radar to find Bane, a cardboard character from the movie Batman. Photo by Juan Carlo, Ventura County Star

▼ Hampton poses with student participants from Oak Park High School at the fourth annual Science Carnival, held November 3 at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School in Oxnard.



“I want students to experience science as play and fall in love with it” - Phil Hampton

Carnival for children and their families with dozens of science activities disguised as play.

“Many kids think science is hard or that it’s just about taking notes,” he said. “But it’s really about doing and exploration – finding out the answer to an open-ended question. If we encouraged every kid to experience science that way, it would transform their views.”

Hampton’s enthusiastic approach has converted more than a few students into career scientists.

“Dr. Hampton’s mentorship and friendship have been the greatest and most positive influence in my life,” said former student Sameh Helmy, now a Ph.D. candidate in Organic Chemistry at UCSB. “He opened countless doors and directed me toward incredible opportunities. I hope to follow in his footsteps after graduating by attaining a faculty position at a teaching university and developing a research program focused on undergraduates – specifically those from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds.”

Hampton came to CI in 2001 as one of the first faculty members, leaving a position as an associate professor at University of New Mexico, a Research 1 University. As CI celebrates a decade of educating students, Hampton looks back with pride on the role he played in helping form the curriculum and student-centered culture.

In his free time, you can still find Hampton conducting science experiments in his garage, with help from his teenage son. His most recent obsession was building a Batman-themed bat sonolocation simulator for the Science Carnival. His device allows children to experience what it’s like to fly as a bat, blindfolded and relying only on sound, to find an object.

“I want students to experience science as play and fall in love with it,” Hampton said.

“In my idyllic future, the State of California and possibly the nation would look to Ventura County as a model of what we can accomplish in building STEM interest and success.” ◀ C



# The Faces of Leadership



▲ Lundon Templeton, David Ashley, and Allie Woerner

By Lori Putnam

For *Nautical* Yearbook Editor-in-Chief Allie Woerner, leadership meant spending the summer carefully choosing images that capture a year in the life of the University. Meanwhile for Student Government President David Ashley, leadership involved engaging the student body in statewide affairs so each student could make informed decisions in the November election. And helping to secure funding for Dodger Day, a favorite CI tradition, is how Student Programming Board President Lundon Templeton applied her own leadership skills.

Since 2003, Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) has provided students like Woerner, Ashley, and Templeton the opportunity to serve as a voice for CI and subsequently find their own voice as leaders. As a non-profit organization, ASI includes four student entities: student government; student programming board; the *Nautical* Yearbook; and the *Channel Islands View* newspaper. Membership in ASI is automatic for any registered CI student, with ASI member fees contributing both to programming as well as campus resources such as the Student Union.

“One of the aspects I most appreciate about ASI student leaders is that they are here to serve the student body, not to necessarily leave a mark for themselves,” said Genevieve Evans Taylor, ASI Executive Director. “They are creative, dedicated, hard working, and innovative.” What’s more, she added, they understand the mission of the University and create programs and events that tie back to that mission.

Since its inception, there have been more than 120 students who have held leadership positions within ASI. Many have gone on to assume leadership roles, such as former student government president Jessica Easterly – who was instrumental in the development of the Student Union – and who now serves as Regional Director for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. There are also former ASI leaders now working on campus including Associate Director for Access, Orientation and Transition Programs Kirsten Moss-Frye and ASI Assistant Director Christine Porter.

Although ASI has achieved many goals in the last nine years, perhaps its greatest contribution has been to give CI students an opportunity to discover the leaders in themselves. “When I first came to CI, I was a shy and timid person for the most part,” said Ashley. “Getting involved on campus, especially in ASI, helped me to get over that. It has given me the courage to speak up.” ◀C

# Driven by Inspiration and Perseverance

By Marya Barlow

CI Presidential Aide Elizabeth Rubalcava is well-acquainted with the perseverance it can take to earn a college degree.

Over the course of 10 years, working full time, she plugged away at that goal, taking two courses a semester through the CSU Employee Fee Waiver and Reduction Program until she earned her Bachelor’s in English from CI in 2007.

“The opportunity to earn my degree was one of the things that drew me to work at CI,” she said. “I was a high school dropout. But as I tried to advance in my career, I saw the importance of higher education and didn’t want to be held back.”

Rubalcava admits there was another powerful source of inspiration: Her boss, President Richard Rush, a longtime English professor, who entrusts her to handle important and sometimes sensitive correspondence.

“In my darkest hours, Dr. Rush was there to cheer me on and tell me, ‘You can do it,’” she said. “The 10-year plan was a long road, but it helped to have such supportive colleagues. When I walked across the stage at commencement, they gave me one of the loudest roars.”

As CI observes its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Rubalcava is celebrating 13 years with the University. One of the earliest staff members, she was hired in June 1999 to answer the phones and support human resources. She quickly learned to wear many other hats as the new campus rushed to open to students in 2002.

“We all rolled up our sleeves to do whatever was needed,” she said. “Even though CI has grown, we’re still like family. People are dedicated and passionate about working here in a way I haven’t seen anywhere else.”



Born and raised in Oxnard by a single working mother and her grandparents, Rubalcava dropped out of high school, earned her GED, and held administrative support positions in several government offices. She applied to work at CI at the encouragement of her mother, a human resources manager at the Camarillo State Hospital until it closed and transferred to CI.

Rubalcava became Rush’s Presidential Aide in 2003. Initially, she handled the President’s hectic meeting and travel schedule and other administrative duties. Over the years, her responsibilities have grown to include more presidential communications and serving as project manager on the CI Foundation Board, where she helps advance key fundraising initiatives.

“This is a special place of opportunity for everyone,” she said. “Whether you’re coming to work here or to school here, this is a hopeful place that helps people improve their lives. I love this place.” ◀C



# Students Cite Valuable Research Experiences



By Janeth Moran, '12 B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science

During the 2011-12 academic year, I created an iPhone application that identifies plant species based on photos of plant leaves. Drawing from mathematics and computer science, I identified geometric features of the leaf shape that allow for effective species classification. The iPhone snaps a photo then queries a leaf database on an external server. The external server uses the leaf features to return the plant species label to the iPhone. Challenges of this project are determining the best features for classification and establishing communication paths between the phone and server.

Participating in research opened my eyes to new possibilities for the future. Because my research entailed understanding mathematical theory as well as programming techniques, I now plan to pursue a career in artificial intelligence. I gained valuable tools from doing research: self-discipline, the ability to find resources, and the ability to use my knowledge to formulate a solution to a previously unsolved problem. Research has built my confidence to work on difficult problems for long periods of time, something that's imperative to make a difference in the world. ◀C

Janeth Moran won first place in the 2012 CSU Student Research Competition for Mathematical and Physical Sciences. She is now in a master's degree program in Computer Science as preparation for a PhD.



SOCIAL POLITICAL PRESENTATIONS PUBLICATION WORK PUBLIC TALK DATA RELATION DEVICE ANALYSIS WORD GLOBAL KNOWN TARGET DIGITAL INFO TRAFFIC KING COMMENTS V KING VOICE SOCIAL POLITICAL PRESENTATIONS PUBLICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNITIES MAKING

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Students Corey Sloane and Isaac Moorthy presented "Media and Political Cynicism" at the 2012 Student Research Competition. Their presentation was awarded first place in the Interdisciplinary category. The SRC draws students from across the CSU.

Under the direction of Dr. Sean Kelly, the students analyzed the effect of televised political media on political cynicism and voter efficacy - the feeling that civic engagement matters. The work that led to this high achievement was based on a concept developed by Dr. Kelly.

Not everyone recognizes that the experiences of conducting and presenting original research can be some of the most important an undergraduate student can obtain. Moorthy explained that "Dr. Kelly's hands-on methods are very effective, and we hope that CI will continue to promote student research in the future. Corey and I would like to thank Dr. Kelly, CI, and the CSU for providing this wonderful opportunity to advance our educations." ◀C



Orientation Leaders, past and present – Welcome Celebration

# Celebrating the Past, Envisioning the Future

## CI Marks Decade of Distinction

By Lori Putnam

Like the first day of class and the final day of commencement, convocation is a special tradition in the life of the University. This year the ceremony was held on August 24, 2012, almost 10 years to the day of the University's inaugural first day of class. A number of special guests joined faculty, students, and staff at the event, including former chairs of the CSU Board of Trustees Jim Considine and Laurence Gould, Ventura County Board of Supervisors Steve Bennett and Peter Foy, Mayor of Camarillo Jan McDonald, and retiring Camarillo City Councilmember Don Waunch.

Continued on next page



“It’s a wonderful occasion,” said Councilmember Waunch of CI’s 10th anniversary. “We as a city are so happy to have the University here, and to have such a good relationship that we hope continues for years to come.” The City of Camarillo served as CI’s 10th Anniversary sponsor supporting year-long anniversary celebrations.

*Days of Wonder*

President Richard Rush addressed guests who were seated in front of the latest addition to the CI campus, the new Del Norte and Madera Halls. In his remarks, President Rush described the CI story as one of vision, creation, and success made possible by a shared commitment by faculty, staff, and community leaders. “The world has changed markedly from those heady days of 2002 when we welcomed our first class of transfer students,” he said, praising the faculty and staff who miraculously put in place programs and processes in less than one year. “Those were days of wonder. Could we really do it? And what have we gotten ourselves into? But the first singular success of the new academic enterprise was significant. We opened the doors on time with quality offerings and with our values firmly in place.”

CI is living testament to the power of a dream, according to President Rush. The University has grown from its original 500 transfer students to a student body of nearly 5,000, despite economic challenges. Nearly half of current students are from Ventura County, and more than a quarter are the first in their families to earn a college degree. In 2011, nearly 1,300 CI students contributed more than 26,500 hours of community service. It is estimated that the annual earnings of CI graduates, now 6,800 strong, total more than \$48.8 million creating an additional \$302 million in industry activity statewide. However, the success of the CI dream couldn’t rely on public resources alone. In fact, since its founding, CI has embraced a pioneering spirit that has fueled its growth in the face of restricted resources. Key campus projects, including the John Spoor Broome Library and Martin V. Smith Center for Integrative Decision-Making, were the result of the generous private contributions of University benefactors. The CI Student Union was also built without public dollars, pulling funding directly from the students themselves. Through community partnerships with Cottage Health System and Santa Barbara City College, CI also has been able to enhance its degree offerings and expand its geographical reach in new and innovative ways.

▼ Del Norte and Madera Halls dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony



▲ Inaugural Academic Senate Chair Dennis Muraoka – University Convocation

*A Promise for the Future*

“It’s a great thing to celebrate,” observed President of Student Government David Ashley of the 10th anniversary convocation. “It’s incredible to imagine how far along our University has come in 10 years, and it’s a great time to recognize the progress and contributions of all those involved in the planning of our University.” Longstanding CI members Greg Sawyer and Dennis Muraoka were also invited to speak at convocation. “As you can see, at CSU Channel Islands we’ve built more than just a University of bricks and mortar, we’ve created a culture of excellence,” said Sawyer, who is Vice President of Student Affairs and is also the last remaining founding vice president at CI. “The founding of CSU Channel Islands is the achievement of a lifetime,” added Muraoka, who served as the University’s first Academic Senate Chair. “Best wishes to you all as we move together into our second decade.” As the University looks ahead to the next chapter of its story, the state’s higher education system still faces challenges. Yet CI has proven itself a vital contributor to the region’s prosperity. The University has an annual impact of more than \$114 million in the region, including 1,200 jobs and \$6 million in local tax revenue. For every state dollar CI receives, an estimated \$4.34 goes back into the community. Recalling an Athenian quote he shared a decade ago, President Rush reaffirmed what is the CI Way: “We will leave this place not less, but greater,” he said to the CI community at large. “Better and more beautiful than it was given to us. This is the CI way, and we’ve only just begun.” ◀ C



▲ University Preparation School students



▲ CI Choir led by Professor KuanFen Liu



# CI Celebrates North Quad Expansion



Two-story Madera Hall sits behind three-story Del Norte Hall

Photo: Michael Urbanek

By Lori Putnam

The opening of Del Norte and Madera Halls occurred just in time, according to President Richard Rush. In his remarks to more than 100 students, faculty, civic leaders, and University friends gathered to celebrate the North Quad development on September 14, President Rush observed the campus additions would allow CI to “continue to open our doors wide” to an anticipated 5,000 new students and a dozen new faculty members.

“I came here as a fifth grader,” said Vanessa Bahena, a CI sophomore on hand to celebrate the dedication. “Seeing the campus flourish, and how we’ve grown, it’s a great thing.”

The \$31.7 million project is the first state-funded construction on campus in more than a decade. In partnership with CO Architects and HMM Construction, the project involved both renovation and new construction. Del Norte Hall is a new three-story building featuring a 120-seat tiered lecture hall and three computer labs equipped with iPads. It is located adjacent to Madera Hall, which underwent extensive renovation that preserved 80 percent of the original building and made room for 115 new faculty and program offices.

“As we were running out of classrooms, we were also running out of capacity for faculty who would teach these students,” said Assistant Provost Dan Wakelee. The renovation of Madera Hall allows the University to

accommodate new faculty as well as house academic departments and programs in a single building.

Originally Del Norte was also to house staff offices. That changed when Ysabel Trinidad toured the construction site and was struck by the possibilities of Del Norte’s third floor. “Once you see the view overlooking the North Quad, you realize it is a special place,” observed Trinidad, Vice President of Finance & Administration. “I thought it would be a great space for classrooms and other special events.” Believing students would be better served using that area, Trinidad recommended that her staff offices be relocated. “I knew it was the right thing to do,” she said.

And while the third floor remains under construction, students and faculty alike are excited to welcome Del Norte as a much-needed addition to CI’s academic life. In particular, the Arts and Sciences programs will now have dedicated classrooms. “This is going to provide state-of-the-art classrooms for many years to come,” said Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Karen Carey. “Del Norte really gives students the experience they deserve.”

The two buildings represent a significant milestone in the development of the North Quad. With the pending construction of nearby West Hall, which will provide essential lab space, the North Quad is poised to serve as a key academic hub. ◀ C



▲ Thomas E. Mann

▶ Norman J. Ornstein



## Examining Politics at the Extreme

By Lori Putnam

While slinging mud has always been part of American politics, CI faculty members Scott Frisch and Sean Kelly can’t remember when the tone was as partisan and strident as it is today. “We both have studied American government, and have seen and interviewed dozens of politicians over the years,” said Frisch, who is Professor and Chair of Political Science. “And we remember how much better it used to be.”

Frisch and Kelly are not alone. In their new book, *It’s Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism*, co-authors Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein sound the alarm of a growing dysfunction in American politics. Both served on the keynote panel of a two-day conference, “Politics to the Extreme: American Political Institutions in the 21st Century,” held at CI on October 15 and 16.

“We always have had difficulties because we’re a big, diverse country with contrary and conflicting interests,” observed Mann, who serves as a Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution. “Democracy is learning to live with one another and our differences without resorting to violence and coming to arms.”

However, something has gone awry.

While hardball politics has been around for a long time observed Ornstein, who is a resident scholar with the American Enterprise Institute, there was still a time when differing political parties could collaborate. “Democrats could work with (President) Reagan.

But now it’s a different Republican party,” he said. Parties are now more interested in being oppositional, according to the authors, rather than collaborating to solve problems.

The purpose of the event, which was the brainchild of President Richard Rush, is to bring political scientists and practitioners together to explore various factors of polarization. In the end, Frisch and Kelly hope to identify the causes of polarization, the potential consequences to our political institutions, and most importantly, potential solutions in bridging this growing partisan divide.

In addition to the keynote panel, moderated by former *Washington Post* senior White House correspondent Lou Cannon, conference participants included faculty from the University of Texas, Trinity College, University of Southern California as well as practitioners from organizations such as the Aspen Institute and the Washington Media Group.

“Hopefully the next generation of students can think about this and move beyond where we are now,” said Frisch. ◀ C



# Leaving a Legacy of Service

By Lori Putnam

When Maria Tauber joined what was then California State University Northridge’s Ventura campus in 1997, she was hired as a part-time employee. Two weeks later she was asked to manage campus operations and admissions. By 2002, Tauber would be part of a small, but dedicated, group of administrators and staff sharing a vision for a new university in the Ventura area.

“In the early years,” recalled Tauber, “it would not be unusual to find Stephen Lefevre, Dan Wakelee, George Morten, or myself unpacking desk chairs, or any and all those things you need in a classroom. Whatever it took, we did as a team”. Tauber, who is retiring this year as Director of Academic Personnel, feels fortunate to have been part of the CI story from the beginning.

“Imagine the opportunity to build a university from the ground up,” she said. “That is what is so amazing. I’ve absolutely enjoyed all 15 years – every minute of the time I spent here.”

“I see her not just as a colleague, but as a real friend,” said Associate Provost Renny Christopher of Tauber.



▲ Maria Tauber rang the Navy Bell at the 2012 Commencement ceremony.

Tauber is one of a number of CI administrators and staff marking significant milestones in their service to the University. Tauber’s longstanding colleague and now Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. George Morten is also preparing to leave CI administration after more than a decade of service.

Looking back, Morten shares Tauber’s sense of possibility and excitement in helping to build a new university.

“The campus afforded us the opportunity to put together ideas that hadn’t been done in other places,” he observed. “We had that herculean energy that comes with creating new things.”

In his many roles on campus, including serving as Dean of Student Life, Morten helped shape the unique culture that is the CI Way. “What really makes it work are the shared values and beliefs that were established in the early days of the campus,” he said. “We had a belief in building and sustaining a supportive learning environment, in working together as a community across traditional boundaries, and in continuous improvement in all that we do.” According to Morten, they carried that attitude and practice with them as new people arrived on campus.



▲ Dr. George Morten, center, celebrates retirement with President Richard Rush and Vice President for Student Affairs Wm. Gregory Sawyer.

Retiring Associate Vice President of Enrollment Jane Sweetland remembers that sense of community when she first joined CI in 2002. By way of example, she recounted her initial grassroots recruitment efforts which included sending an email to faculty and staff requesting their help in posting CI flyers in local businesses. “The fact that I could send one email, and have faculty and staff from every area respond, speaks to our collegial and collaborative environment,” said Sweetland.

Although she began her CI career in what was then Career, Health, Academic and Personal Counseling, Sweetland transitioned to University communications and eventually was named Special Assistant to the President. In that role, Sweetland had a truly unique perspective in observing the growth of CI. “We were always thinking about how we could build a student-centered University to meet the needs of the 21st century,” said Sweetland.

She now retires after a decade with the University, of which eight years were spent in Student Affairs. When asked what makes CI unique, Sweetland echoes her colleagues’ observations of collegial, collaborative, and inclusive. However she adds another important adjective. “A word that shouldn’t be left out is integrity. I think the CI Way means walking the talk and being who you say you are. It means being engaged in the community both local and global in a way that reflects the values of a heterogeneous, inclusive democracy.”

New opportunities await for Tauber, Morten, and Sweetland. Tauber will be traveling with her father who is now in his 90s, while Morten plans to continue teaching. Sweetland will be undertaking a different career in writing. However their ties to CI remain strong, sustained by treasured memories and enduring friendships. ◀ C



▲ Juana Anguiano, Melissa Silva, Gina Farrar, Jane Sweetland (center), Colleen Forest, Rachel Danielson, Kristen Hronek

## CSU Channel Islands salutes the following current employees who have provided ten or more years of exemplary service and dedication to CI.

William Adams	Linda Covarrubias	Jill Leafstedt	Leticia Romero
Timothy Allen	Jeffrey Cowgill	Edwin Lebioda	Elizabeth Rubalcava
Herb Aquino	Maria Rosario Cuevas	Theodore Lucas	Richard R. Rush
Richard Arias	Chanda Cunningham Spence	Jesse Lucero	Sue Saunders
Harley Baker	Cecilia de Soto-Teunis	Michael Mahoney	Wm. Gregory Sawyer
Terry Ballman	Lorene DiStefano	Nasser Mansour	Tom Schmidhauser
Raudel Banuelos	Jeffrey Donlin	Rogelio Mendoza	Scott Shubb
Frank Barajas	Geoffrey Dougherty	Anthony Mestas	Michael Shuler
Manuel Barajas	Barbara Duffin	Michael Middleton	Louise Siefert
Shawn Bartlett	Thomas Emens	Sylvia Morales	Dawn Smith
Jacinta Bastone	Diana Enos	George Morten	Catherine Strauch
Gary Berg	Rudolph Estrada	Nancy Mazingo	Jane Sweetland
Timothy Berndtson	Dannie Fox	Kristine Muller	Sergio Tafolla
Robert Bleicher	Nancy Covarrubias Gill	Jose Nieto	Maria Tauber
Jon Brooks	Gustavo Gonzalez	Wendy Olson	Evelyn Taylor
Merilyn Buchanan	Jeanne Grier	Richard Paulson	Barbara Thorpe-Cartee
Noel Buena	Ivona Grzegorzcyk	Anna Pavin	Martina Torres
Rainer Buschmann	Arjelia Guillen	Jorge Paz	Cynthia Ulisse
Romulo Calica	Marina Guzman	Robert Perez	Dale Velador
David Carlson	Phillip Hampton	Ray Porras	Kevin Volkan
Lillian Castaneda	Colleen Haws	Maria Elena Ramirez	Daniel Wakelee
Renny Christopher	Martin Hernandez Tapia	Jack Reilly	Jane Wanberg
Kathleen Contreras	Effie Karacali	Ginger Reyes	Laura Worden
Wesley Cooper	Lizabeth King	Martha Reyes	John Yudelson
William Cordeiro	William Kupfer	Toni Rice	Arthur Zumaya
Irina Costache	Judilyn Le	Paul Rivera	



# The Wondrous Voice of Junot Diaz

By Lori Putnam

Just a day after being nominated as a National Book Award finalist for his latest work, *This Is How You Lose Her*, bestselling author Junot Diaz joined the CI community as part of the 8th annual Campus Reading Celebration. He greeted the near-capacity crowd with a reminder that while he teaches creative writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he wasn't speaking as a professor.

"I was asked to come here tonight as an artist," said Diaz, in a conversation peppered with language meant to provoke and engage his audience. "We always bug people. That's the nature of being an artist. If you're an outsider, and always pointing out stuff no one wants to hear, then you have some good training to be an artist."

Diaz is the first author in the University's Reading Celebration series to have been nominated by a student. His critically acclaimed novel, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 2007 and helped build a reputation for Diaz as a writer with a unique voice. In *Oscar Wao*, Diaz shares a collection of character stories that capture the immigrant family experience – an experience that the author and many CI students share.

"Growing up, I didn't realize I needed to have my own dreams," Diaz said. "I assumed the dreams my family had for me were my dreams. It didn't occur to me to be an artist."

According to Matthew Cook, Head of Unique Collections and Scholarly Communication at the Broome Library, Diaz offered students an important opportunity to meet a successful author and realize what we share in common. "For many of us, we

imagine a writer being different from ourselves," said Cook, one of five members of CI's Reading Celebration committee. "This event shows that writers are not as foreign as you may think. It shows that a kid from Parlin, New Jersey, may not be so different from a kid in Ventura County."

As part of this year's event, Cook and the committee worked with faculty to pull out many of the book's themes to discuss in class, such as the main character's interest in computers, politics and political oppression, psychology, and more.

These types of discussions speak to Diaz's own belief in the university as a tool for transformation. "Universities provide a fundamental opportunity for a student to encounter materials, peers, and faculty that open the door to complete transformation," said the author. "That is what getting an education is...an opportunity to be transformed. The person who walks into the university should be unrecognizable from the person who walks out." ◀C



▲ An expressive Junot Diaz captivates and connects with the audience

## Join Us - Leave Your Mark

Celebrating its 10th Anniversary, CI invites you to leave your mark and support your University in a most unique way. Through pavers, benches, or trees, share with others your personal history in the CI story. Your support will renovate open spaces on campus while helping students achieve their fullest potential through scholarships and programs.



### Adopt a Tree

\$1,000

From Jacarandas to Oaks, each tree enhances CI's natural beauty - providing shade and gathering spaces for students, faculty, and community members now, while creating an enduring and lasting gift to future generations. The name of your choice will be placed on a plaque located at the base of either a new or mature tree in recognition of your gift.



### Adopt a Paver

\$250, \$500, or \$1,000

As we approach the successful completion of the Central Mall, we would like to give you the chance to inscribe a paver with your personal message to be permanently displayed at the heart of the campus. Thousands of pavers will be joined together in a stunning design and are available at three giving levels with corresponding sizes.

Please note that all pavers are scheduled to be installed by August 2013.



### Adopt a Bench

\$5,000

Beautiful teak benches are placed throughout CI's open spaces and courtyards, complementing the unique Spanish mission revival architecture of the campus. They are a wonderful way to honor a loved one, remember a friend, celebrate a meaningful occasion, or recognize your organization or group. Your gift will be recognized with a plaque installed on the bench, with the message unique, specific, and created by you<sup>1</sup>.

For more information, contact Nichole Ipach, Assistant Vice President for University Development at 805-437-8893 or [nichole.ipach@csuci.edu](mailto:nichole.ipach@csuci.edu)

<sup>1</sup>Names and messages placed on pavers and plaques are subject for approval by CSU Channel Islands and the California State University System. Due to space limitations, the number of characters allowed for the engraving of pavers and plaque recognition is limited.



California State  
University

Division Of  
**UNIVERSITY  
ADVANCEMENT**  
C H A N N E L  
I S L A N D S





President Rush with Lagomarsino Award recipient Mike Curb



▲ Jeff Paul and Carole Davis of Rabobank, Title Sponsor, pull a winning raffle ticket with Emcee Jack Clarke, left, Gold Coast Communications.

CSU Channel Islands Foundation and Rabobank presented The President's Dinner on October 6, 2012 celebrating the University's ten year anniversary. Held at the Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, nearly 400 community members, CI faculty, and staff attended the black-tie gala. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Robert J. Lagomarsino Award to Mike Curb for his support of higher education and, specifically, CI.

Curb, former lieutenant governor and acting governor of California, is one of the most prominent figures in the entertainment world. He presides over his own independent record label, Curb Records, and has received a star on the historic Hollywood Walk of Fame. As a dedicated philanthropist, Curb has provided significant support to CI through the Mike Curb Family Foundation. His generosity enabled the University to create the Mike Curb Studios,

# The PRESIDENT'S DINNER

Presented by the  
CSU Channel Islands Foundation and Rabobank

Guests celebrate the University's  
ten year anniversary at the  
Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village



◀ President Rush with student volunteers and guests

which offers students hands-on experience with the latest state-of-the-art technology in film and video production, post-production, visual effects, animation, gaming and music.

The evening's celebration included a fabulous silent auction, raffle, live entertainment and dancing. CI student Cynthia Duke gave a heartfelt speech about how a CI scholarship has helped her achieve her educational dreams. Proceeds from the event will support the University's highest-priority needs.

Event sponsors include Rabobank as the title sponsor, along with sponsors SAGE Publications, Wells Fargo, Karen and Peter Wollons, Montecito Bank & Trust, Aera Energy, Follett Higher Education Group, Harrison Industries, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Bank of America, Canteen of Coastal California, Elise and Bill Kearney, St. John's Hospitals, Heritage Oaks Bank, Canterbury Consulting, the City of Camarillo (10th anniversary sponsor), Malibu Family Wines, and the *Pacific Coast Business Times*. Raffle Donors include Van Gundy Jewelers and an anonymous donor. ◀C

HONORARY COMMITTEE: Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett, The Hon. Michael D. Bradbury, Mayor Douglas A. Breeze, The Broome Family, Assembly Member Julia Brownley, Congresswoman Lois Capps, Margie Cochrane, CSU Trustee Emeritus Jim Considine, Mike Curb, Barbara and Wayne Davey, Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean, Linda Dullam, Laurie Eberst, Handel and Carol Evans, CSU Trustee Dr. Debra Farar, Ventura County Supervisor Peter C. Foy, Dr. Lori Gaskin, Mayor Robert S. Gonzales, Assembly Member Jeff Gorell, Ron J. Greenwood, Dr. James Harber, Mark Hartley, Mayor Thomas E. Holden, Mayor Bob Huber, Dr. Kathy Ireland and Dr. Greg Olsen, Mayor Jacqui Irwin, John Jacobs, Elise and Bill Kearney, Dr. Joyce Kennedy, Dr. Henry L. "Hank" and Leah Lacayo, The Hon. Robert J. and Norma Lagomarsino, George Leis, CSU Trustee Bob Linscheid, Dr. Mark Lisagor, Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long, Daniel C. Lorenzen, Dr. Peter R. MacDougall, Mayor Jan McDonald, John T. Moore, Fernando Mora, The Hon. Jack O'Connell, Ruby Oertle, Dr. Timothy D. Osslund, Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, Mayor Janice Parvin, Senator Fran Pavley, Ventura County CEO Michael Powers, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed, Pat Richards-Dodds, Mel Sheeler, David M. Smith, Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation and The Smith Family, Assembly Member Cameron Smyth, Senator Tony Strickland, Kathy Swor, Ventura County District Attorney Gregory D. Totten, Mayor Mike Tracy, Ron Werft, Carl Wesely, Robert Westberg, Assembly Member Das Williams, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Wolfsohn, Peter Wollons, Ventura County Supervisor John C. Zaragoza



◀ Foundation Chair George Leis; Nursing scholarship recipient Cynthia Duke; \$25,000 diamond necklace raffle prize winner Debra Dettenmayer.



▲ President Rush, Linda and Mike Curb (center) with Bob and Norma Lagomarsino



Keets and Hugh Cassar, Bill and Elise Kearney ▶





# Scott Boczek '08 Liberal Studies Mentor, Motivator, Minister

By Marya Barlow

Working with teenagers isn't for everyone. For Scott Boczek, it's a calling.

"I see so many teenagers who, for one reason or another, do not believe in themselves, are struggling with low self-esteem, and are settling for just being OK," he said. "My job, as I see it, is to help them become the people they were born to be."

Since graduating from CI in 2008 with a B.A. in Liberal Studies, Boczek has become a sought-after speaker, corporate trainer and teen motivator. The Camarillo resident orchestrates leadership and character-development programs for teens in private and public schools throughout Ventura County. He spends weekdays working as director of fundraising and special events at Ventura's Saint Bonaventure High School, where he's also been a teacher and director of the campus ministry. On weekends, he imparts the Disney culture, history and heritage to thousands of theme

park employees as operations manager and facilitator for Disney University. And two nights a week, he attends classes at Azusa Pacific University, where he's earning his Master of Arts in Digital Teaching and Learning.

Despite the busy schedule, Boczek's passion for teaching keeps him energized.

"I love being part of somebody's journey when they're being molded into the person they want to become," he said. "It's like their success becomes mine."

Boczek traces his interest in motivating teens back to his own participation in a teen leadership summit.

"I realized I did a lot of whining and complaining about how difficult my life was, when in reality, I was blessed with countless advantages and opportunities," he recalled. "From that moment on, I dedicated my life to service."

As a student at Oxnard's Rio Mesa High School, Boczek started an American Red Cross service club

on campus. During his freshman year at CI, he became one of the youngest members of the Board of Directors in the history of the American Red Cross of Ventura County and served as youth minister at his church. He also embraced campus life – participating in the Student Programming Board, speech and debate, theatre productions, and choir.

Today, he's focused on bringing leadership and character-building programs to more teens in need. He's assembled a team of teachers, students and alumni from Saint Bonaventure, CI and Rio Mesa for "The Will It Matter Project," which he hopes to turn into a nonprofit organization that provides workshops for area schools.

"We live in a society where character education isn't taught, yet it's needed more than ever," he said. "I was fortunate to have some great teachers who knew how to connect, inspire and motivate. I want to give back what I received." ◀C



▲ More than 500 CI students, staff, faculty and community friends attended the annual Alumni & Friends Dodger Day.

## UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

### *A Night with CI* Distinguished Alumni Awards

Saturday, February 2, 2013

CSU Channel Islands' Associated Students Inc. and Alumni & Friends Association will host an inaugural all-campus reunion, entitled "A Night with CI", on Saturday, February 2 starting at 6 p.m. Attendees will experience an evening where they can reflect on their experience at CI, reconnect with friends, and celebrate CI's Decade of Distinction. A Night with CI will include a celebratory dinner, awards of distinction and live musical performance by current CI students.

### *Through the Grapevine* Alumni & Friends Wine Tasting

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Through the Grapevine is an elegant evening of wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres in support of CI student scholarships. Location details will be available in the spring.

For more information on these and other Alumni events, visit <http://www.csuci.edu/alumni/index.htm>.



▲ CI makes it onto Dodgervision! L to R: A&FA Board President Fernando Mora; CI Foundation Chair George Leis; Vice President for Student Affairs Wm. Gregory Sawyer; Assistant Provost Dan Wakelee and son, Andrew; Student Government President David Ashley; Student Programming Board President Landon Templeton; Director of Alumni Relations Tania Garcia; CI President Richard Rush.



# CI UPDATES

**Arielle Byron '10 Business**

Arielle is currently working at RedBuilt™, a leader in manufacturing and design for the engineered wood industry. With four manufacturing facilities in the U.S., RedBuilt™ produces Open-Web Trusses, Red-IT™ I-Joists and RedLam™ LVL (these building materials are used for structural support in buildings). A company RedBuilt™ recently acquired manufactured the engineered wood for CI's MVS Center for Integrated Decision-Making! Arielle's role as Sales and Marketing Support includes managing RedBuilt's social media as well as other marketing projects and logistics for the industrial group while preparing for an outside Technical Sales Representative role.



**Crystal Cierlak '09 Art**

Crystal is currently in her final year studying for her Masters in Media Psychology. While studying for her Masters she aided in the creation of Oomph! Media Garage. This social media management company helps small businesses or authors manage their image online. Crystal also self-published her first book on Amazon this past September. It is a fantasy and science fiction novel, titled "Zoe Thanatos".

**Kari Hoffman '11 Liberal Studies**

Despite working full time and traveling to Thailand, Kari recently started an independent marketing and public relations business. Her Ventura-based business focuses on helping local businesses connect to media sources, events, and charities. Some of her clients include Crazy Doctor Café, The Window Guys and other offices including chiropractic, salons, and small service businesses.



**Jodi Lukes '06 Business**

After graduation Jodi worked for a local CPA firm for more than four years before deciding to start her own business with her friend Amber Wilde. In September 2010 Jodi and Amber started Bookkeeping Solutions. They offer a variety of bookkeeping and payroll services for small to large businesses as well as individuals; they also offer tax preparation services.

**Miranda Rose Roth Piperata '10 Sociology**

This past May Miranda graduated with a Master of Arts Degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from Chapman University. She received the prestigious educational stipend from Philips Graduate Institute that is awarded to only six graduates in San Diego County. Miranda is currently employed as a Psychosocial Rehabilitation Specialist, and the Housing Coordinator of the Semi-Supervised Living Project at the Areta Crowell BPSR Center in San Diego, which serves adults who have serious mental illness and co-occurring substance disorders.



*Crystal Gonzalez  
BA Communication '09*

## Helping Others Find Opportunity

By Lori Putnam

Just two years after graduating and beginning her career, Crystal Gonzalez is already proudly making alumni donations and volunteering at CI fundraising events.

"Every bit helps – no matter how small," she said. "CI did so much for me. I'll give to the best of my ability."

A former scholarship recipient now working as a planned-giving administrator at the University of La Verne, Gonzalez can appreciate the impact donations have on college students.

"I believe every student deserves to go to college and create their own experience as I did," she said. "Now I get to help provide the same opportunities for students that I had."

A first-generation college student raised in the City of Commerce, Gonzalez said she found unprecedented friendships, encouragement and opportunity at CI. She studied communication, lived on campus, traveled abroad, and graduated in 3 ½ years with a 3.7 GPA.

She also found her future career. After taking a job as a student assistant in the CI Foundation office, Gonzalez saw first-hand the work that went into fundraising, donor cultivation and awarding scholarships.

"It was an eye-opening experience," she recalled. "I got incredible exposure to almost every aspect of University Advancement that set me up for success in my career."

Her solid experience landed her a job at the University of La Verne, where she works with large donors to secure planned gifts. She also earned her Master of Science in Leadership and Management in 1 ½ years while working full-time.

"I love what I do," Gonzalez said. "Every day, I see donors who genuinely care about helping people better themselves and students who are evolving and thriving because of those opportunities."

Though she now lives in San Dimas – 80 miles away from her alma mater – Gonzalez happily returns to volunteer at CI events. She recently helped out at the President's Dinner.

"Donors are interested in seeing where their money is going," she said. "I want to show them that it's being put to good use." ◀C





## Degree Programs Expand at SBCC

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

Beginning Fall 2013, CI Extended University will add two programs to its degree portfolio on the Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) campus. BS Business-to-MBA and BA Early Childhood Studies will join undergraduate degree programs in Business and Psychology that are currently underway. These locally-offered programs, made possible through the CSU Channel Islands and SBCC partnership, afford students additional opportunities to earn an undergraduate or graduate degree from CI entirely in Santa Barbara.

The BS Business-to-MBA program emphasizes graduating business leaders with global and multicultural perspectives. Designed for high achievers preparing to enter the business world, students can complete the entire program in less than four years. Those with excellent academic and career potential transfer at the junior level to CI and take all courses on the SBCC campus. For students who meet its rigorous admission requirements, this unique program guarantees early acceptance into the MBA program, waiving the two-year work experience requirement and GMAT exam.

The Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies (ECS) program prepares graduates to effectively work with young children and their families. This 50-52 unit degree completion program emphasizes the first eight years of life as extremely significant, aligning with research indicating that brain development occurs most dramatically during the early years of life. Because English is a second language for more than 5 million public school children nationwide, ECS has a programmatic focus on the preparation of graduates who possess knowledge and skills in second language acquisition and literacy for young English learners.

The application period for the BS Business-to-MBA and BA Early Childhood Studies programs at SBCC is February 1 – June 1, 2013. To learn more or to register for an information session, visit the Extended University website at <http://ext.csuci.edu/>. ◀ **C**





Lindsay German BA'08 – MBA '11

# Catering with a Conscience

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

Like many self-proclaimed foodies in Southern California, Lindsay German has long been intrigued by food, especially the easy availability of locally sourced fresh ingredients. When, as a CI Business student in 2008, she happened upon a Craigslist ad for a bookkeeper for Main Course California, she jumped at the chance to work for a firm whose owners shared her passion for “food with integrity”. After three years of hard work and commitment, and with an MBA under her belt, Main Course co-owners Robert Jacobi and Rachel Main gifted part of the company to German who, today, is the firm’s Chief of Operations.

Main Course was a start-up during 2008’s dismal economy. In that climate, the owners knew they couldn’t compete head-to-head with dozens of well-established catering companies. Instead, they envisioned a full-service, off-site catering business that would showcase and support a thriving local community of innovative farmers, ranchers and artisans. They introduced themselves by opening a tiny temporary bistro in an industrial complex, relying solely on word of mouth for promotion. Their gamble paid off and, in 2010, the original vision for Main Course took off, and German’s career along with it.

According to German, earning an MBA was key. “A business degree simply wasn’t enough,” said German “The MBA got to the nitty-gritty of business, what works and what doesn’t. I found mentors among my professors, many of whom are also business owners, and I learned so much from (MVS Business Advisory Council) guest speaker discussions about the realities of building relationships; of cultivating and growing employees; and of taking risks.”

Starting Main Course in 2008 was a risk. Yet today, the company provides lunch Monday-Friday for Lynda.com’s 250 employees, and caters corporate events for firms such as Mercedes Daimler Chrysler and Jaguar. The firm has twice been chosen to cater the national roving culinary adventure, Outstanding in the Field, as well as Totally Local VC’s “Dinner at the...” series.

Today, German’s life is happily wrapped around Main Course. She is actively engaged in trade organizations and is a passionate advocate of food awareness. “So much of what I learned in CI’s MBA program still resonates today. I learned that it’s OK to try something different, that it’s important to take risks, and that the decision to grow or not grow is one of the most important decisions a business owner will ever make.” ◀C



Photo: Tom Judah

▲ Main Course California's Outstanding in the Field event



## *Calendar of Events - 2013*

For a complete list of University events, visit [www.csuci.edu](http://www.csuci.edu)

- January 17 Spring Semester Begins
- March 2 Ventura County Star Spelling Bee Contest at CI
- March 5 & 6 Grad Fest
- March 14 Chamber Mega Mixer & 10th Anniversary Exhibit
- April 18 Business & Technology Partnership Leadership Dinner
- April 27 Multicultural Festival
- May 18 Commencement



◀ These new tenure-track faculty joined CI this year:  
top row, left to right: Dax Jacobson (Smith School), Jennifer Perry (Anthropology), Jared Barton (Smith School);  
middle row, left to right: Janet Pinkley (JSB Library), Pauline Hunter (Nursing), William Johnson (Smith School), Erich Fleming (Biology), Alison Perchuk (Art History);  
bottom row, left to right: Monica Pereira (JSB Library), Carola Matera (School of Education), Christina Smith (Communication).