

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

Channel

FALL 2015 • VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 02 • BI-ANNUAL

MAGAZINE



A master builder of new universities

President Richard Rush reflects on CI's first 15 years with awe, appreciation and high hopes for the future **PAGE 16**

Leading the way in educational excellence



AS I CONTEMPLATE MY RETIREMENT AS

President of CSU Channel Islands at the end of the 2015/2016 academic year, I find myself hoping that I have been a good steward of your University. CSU Channel Islands (CI) has always belonged to this community in a way no other university can claim. I have played my part in growing this campus, but it was because of all of you that the youngest university in the CSU system is leading the way in educational excellence.

CI marked another milestone in late spring when the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) approved re-accreditation for our undergraduate and graduate degrees for the next nine years. Re-accreditation is crucial as we work to build a university that can accommodate the more than 10,000 students we expect to enroll in 2025—twice as many as we serve now.

This year we also blazed a new trail for CI's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students and faculty with the opening of Sierra Hall, our three-story, state-of-the-art science building.

Sierra Hall is a model of sustainability, and is equipped with cutting-edge laboratories, multi-modal classrooms, cloud-based technology, offices, lecture halls and an open-air garden terrace for informal gatherings. It also houses our unmanned aerial and underwater technology laboratory, an area of research where CI is leading the charge.

Additionally, CI entered an unprecedented agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that will allow our students and faculty to operate our unmanned technology in protected marine areas, and link our campus with public and private companies doing research into the unmanned technology frontier.

With CI ready to launch into such a dynamic chapter in its growth, it will be bittersweet to leave my office for the last time on June 30, 2016. I will do so with sadness, but also with gratitude and with confidence that our faculty, staff, students and community will carry on CI's legacy. Ours is a legacy of innovation, collegiality and excellence, and I know this campus will continue to thrive if we keep these values at our foundation, even as we double in size.

I would need more than one academic year to thank all of the people on campus and in the community who have helped build this University from the ground up, but I will do my best during my last months as President of your University.

On behalf of the entire CI community, I wish you a safe and delightful holiday season!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard R. Rush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard R. Rush
President



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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send correspondence to: ci.news@csuci.edu or CSU Channel Islands, Communication & Marketing, One University Drive, Camarillo CA 93012-8599, 805-437-8415.

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Vice President for Technology & Communication

A. Michael Berman

Executive Editor

Nancy Covarrubias Gill '05

Editor and Production Director

Joanna Murphy

Copy Editors

Marya Jones Barlow, Kim Lamb Gregory

Magazine Design & Layout

Sarah Schumacher

Photography & Videography

Kevin Mapp, Allison Clayton, Larry Lytle

Distribution

Kristin Steiner

Contributors

Marya Jones Barlow, Nancy C. Gill, Kim Lamb Gregory, Mary McThomas, Joanna Murphy, Rosalba Rocha, Annie White

Cover: A master builder of new universities: President Richard Rush reflects on CI's first 15 years with awe, appreciation and high hopes for the future

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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.

If you would like to be added to our email or mailing list for University events or special announcements, please submit your contact information to: ci.news@csuci.edu



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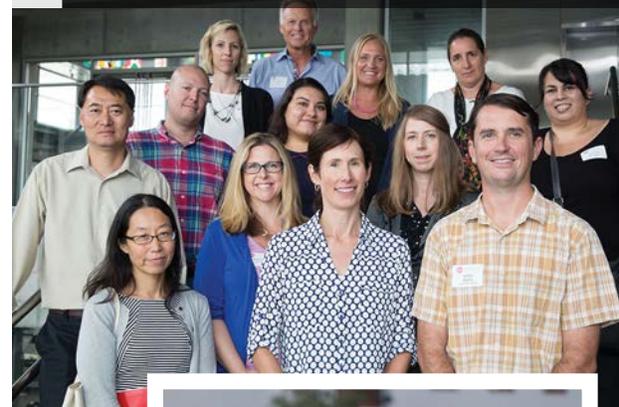


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CI named one of seven universities nationwide to become a GRAMMY Museum® affiliate

CI recently cemented an ongoing relationship with The GRAMMY Museum® in Los Angeles that began five years ago when CI launched an interdisciplinary class called “The Music Museum.” The University became one of just seven universities nationwide to be named an affiliate, which means CI “Music Museum” students will continue to have access to The GRAMMY Museum’s® exhibitions, research programs, internship programs, collaborative marketing and a number of other immersive educational experiences.

Although CI is the seventh to be invited to become an official GRAMMY Museum® affiliate, The

GRAMMY Museum® Executive Director Bob Santelli said the University was actually the inspiration for the Educational Affiliates program.

The museum staff and CI’s “Music Museum” students collaborated so well, the experience inspired Santelli and his staff to create a GRAMMY Museum® affiliates program that would create connections with music-minded universities all over the country.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/grammyaf

VC STEM network spearheaded by CI earns national recognition

Ventura County will be one of 27 regions to pilot a national effort known as a “STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative.” A local network

called VC STEM has just been named as a “STEM Ecosystem” by the STEM Funders Network, a nationwide initiative devoted to creating STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning opportunities for students from pre-school to college.

VC STEM is a network of companies, universities, government agencies, museums and a host of other local organizations that includes CI. The network is aimed at developing ways to enhance STEM education for students from pre-school through college with input from all cooperating schools, agencies, businesses, parks and universities.

VC STEM Planning Director Philip Hampton, Ph.D., a Professor of Chemistry at CI, said Amgen nominated VC STEM for the honor. Nominations were by invitation only and there were more than 70 nominees from all over the U.S.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/vcstemnet



CI will use \$2.6 million grant to launch “Project OLAS”

The more than \$2.6 million grant CI received from the U.S. Department of Education will enable the University to start a program called Project OLAS (Optimizing Learning, Achievement and Success), an initiative designed to help students navigate the first two years of college.

The five-year grant, which will equal about \$525,000 a year, was available to Hispanic-Serving Institutions, which is why CI was able to compete for the funding. CI was given the HSI



designation because more than 25 percent of its students are Latino.

Among those who will benefit from Project OLAS include Ventura County high school students who are first in their families to pursue a college education. Many families in Ventura County are not familiar with the college-going experience so the project will also involve families.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/olasgrant



Nursing alumnus/MBA candidate wins prestigious Trustee Scholarship

Registered nurse Gabriel Guillén was thrilled and relieved to learn he is one of the recipients of the CSU Trustees' Award, the CSU system's highest for student achievement.

The married father of four is attending CI with plans to graduate in May 2016 with a Master's in Business Administration. Guillén graduated from CI in 2011 with a Nursing degree and now works full time at St. John's Regional Medical Center as a Community Health Supervisor. He thought pursuing an MBA would help him be a more effective supervisor.

Guillén is one of 23 students in the CSU system selected for the 2015 CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement based on

each student's superior academic and personal accomplishments. One student is chosen from each of the CSU campuses. Each award comes with a scholarship of \$6,000 to \$12,000. Guillén will receive \$6,000.

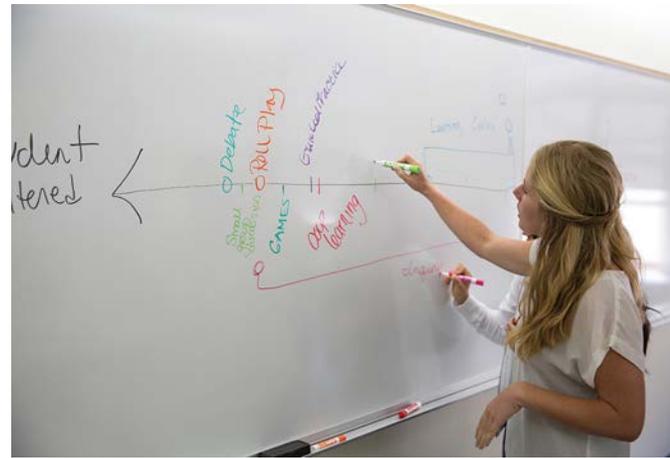
Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/csuguillen

National sustainability award

CI is now one of only three CSU campuses to have been named a STARS Gold Institution by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS, which stands for Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System, has four levels of achievement: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

CI was one of the charter participating campuses in STARS when it received its first rating, Silver, in 2011. The ratings are valid for three years so this is the second rating for CI. The only other CSU campuses with a Gold rating are CSU Chico and Cal Poly Pomona.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/goldstar



School of Education Ed.D. online approved

CI's School of Education received approval from the Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC) for its first doctoral program, a Doctorate of Education or Ed.D. WASC is one of six regional college and university accrediting associations in the United States.

CI developed the Collaborative Online Doctorate in Educational Leadership (CODEL) program in partnership with CSU Fresno. Students wishing to pursue an Ed.D. through the CODEL program, which includes the options of P-12 or higher education leadership, can begin in summer of 2016. The 60-unit program will take three years and include a dissertation.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/codelac

For information on other University news stories visit www.csuci.edu/news/newsreleases.htm

Help for disadvantaged students

Student Support Services

By Marya Jones Barlow

A FIRST-GENERATION commuter student from Santa Paula, Maria “Lupita” Magaña struggled to find her way during her first semester at CI. “I was completely lost, she said. “I felt like I didn’t belong here. At one point it crossed my mind that maybe school was not for me because I didn’t know where I was going in life with school.”

Then, she found CI’s Student Support Services (SSS) program, which provides academic support and counseling to college students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Today, Magaña is a highly engaged senior psychology major who works as a SSS student assistant, advising others who are low-income, first-generation or have disabilities.

Thanks to a \$1.1 million, five-year federal TRiO grant from the U.S. Department of Education, CI provides Student Support Services to approximately 160 students a year, with outstanding results. Of the 355 students who entered the program since 2011, 42 percent have graduated. That’s a graduation rate almost three times the national

average for the lowest-income students, according to a 2015 National Center for Education Statistics study.

CI’s SSS participants are also more likely to stay in school—even compared to peers from privileged backgrounds. Ninety-five percent persist to a second year of college, vs. 77 percent of students overall. Ninety-six

❖❖❖ “SSS provided me with mentorship, information and resources I needed to succeed as a first-generation college student.” —Alex Yepez

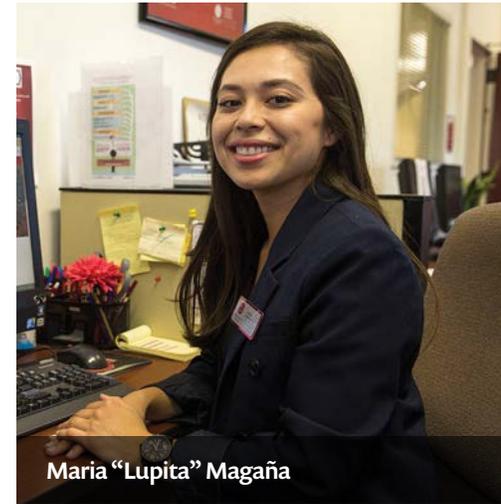
percent are in good academic standing.

“SSS and TRiO level the playing field for bright students who lack the familial and financial resources to navigate the process of college application, enrollment and graduation,” said Director of Student Success Programs Leah Alarcon. “Without TRiO funding and services, many talented students would fall through the cracks.”

Alarcon and Assistant Director of Student Success Programs Venus Tamayo know this all too well. Both are first-generation college graduates who went on to obtain master’s degrees in counseling and guidance. Their own backgrounds help them guide CI students through the university experience.

“My parents came to this country and worked in the fields,” said Tamayo. “They always told me, ‘You’ve got to get an education. That’s the way you’re going to succeed in this country.’”

Through initiatives such as CI’s Educational Opportunity

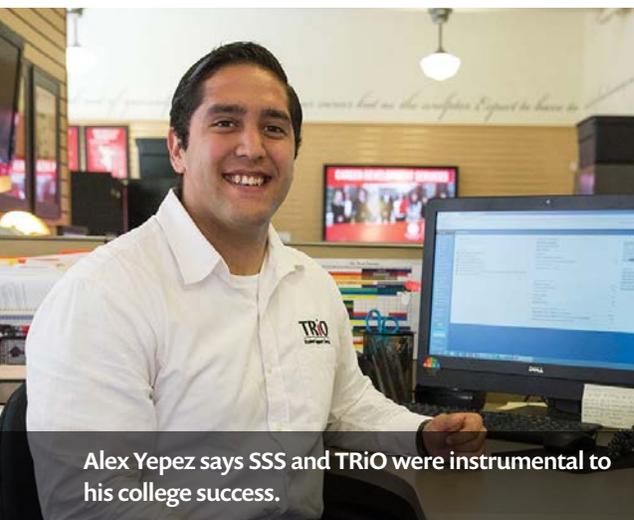


Maria “Lupita” Magaña

Program, University Outreach, and Promoting Achievement Through Hope, CI works to improve the retention and graduation rates of these students. SSS participants receive personal, academic, career, financial, and tutorial assistance, as well as mentoring, and graduate and professional school counseling. At the on-campus SSS Center, students can study, seek help, hang out, and connect to peers and campus resources.

More than 70 percent of CI’s student population meets the criteria to be served by SSS. The program receives over 200 applications each year.

“SSS provided me with mentorship, information and resources I needed to succeed as a first-generation college student,” said Alex Yepez, a senior Sociology major, Student Senator and ASI Board Chair. “I always knew I wanted to go to college, but no one in my family knew how to get me there. From the beginning, the counselors at CI went above and beyond to make sure that I stayed on track and connected to the university.” ❖c



Alex Yepez says SSS and TRiO were instrumental to his college success.

CI's Vision 2025 focuses on 21st century learning

By Kim Lamb Gregory

THE VISION FOR CI'S FUTURE IS COMING MORE sharply into focus.

"We are at a very exciting time where we are looking at our growth and assessing what the University's needs are for space across the campus, and from there, looking at opportunities to grow the campus in new and innovative ways," said CI's Director of Planning, Design & Construction, John Gormley.

Gormley is leading the charge for CI Vision 2025, a dynamic plan to develop the University so that it can best serve the expected doubling in size of students over the next decade. By 2025, campus enrollment is estimated to be approximately 10,000 students, so CI must be prepared with more support and more space.

"We need a variety of types of spaces that will accommodate our growth including instruction and administrative space, student support and student life, to name a few," Gormley said. Plans are still fluid, Gormley said, but new construction will likely include areas dedicated to spaces to accommodate classes, academic advising, and student support services such as financial aid and food service.

"We're doing campus planning in a new way that looks toward 21st century learning and how to best support that as we grow," Gormley said. "It's interactive and experiential team-based learning. There will be traditional, formalized instruction with an instructor lecturing in front of a room of 40 students, but learning can also include a space where four students can gather to discuss their project."

Tied to the mission of growing the campus is the evolution of University Glen, a community of affordable homes, townhomes and apartments in the East Campus that was developed as a financial support mechanism to benefit the University.

CI will continue to vigorously pursue state support, but resources to fund capital facilities is very limited, so CI's Vision 2025 proposes the support of philanthropy and public/private partnerships.

In October, the University's Site Authority Board approved the concept to seek proposals from developer/operators interested in purchasing the existing 328 apartments in the East Campus University Glen Community. The apartments would be sold and the proceeds would benefit the University's continued growth.

"We're going to the CSU Board of Trustees in November to get their approval of concept," Gormley said. "Then we will issue a request for proposals



Construction of Santa Rosa Village, CI's third phase of student housing.

afterward." Once the board approves the concept, Gormley said the actual solicitation will likely occur early in 2016.

"We are also in the process of developing another request for proposal for the development of the remaining 32-acre parcel of University Glen that was approved by the CSU Board of Trustees in March," Gormley said. "We are looking at options to develop the site to generate revenue for the Site Authority which in turn supports the University." Gormley said the type of dwellings that will go up is still under review, but "we are exploring development opportunities that fit within the University's master plan and that are consistent with the existing neighborhood," he said.

The existing University Glen neighborhood, which houses faculty, staff, and other members of the community, consists of two-story detached single homes, townhomes and apartments. Meetings with the residents of University Glen have been ongoing, Gormley said, and will continue as CI's Vision 2025 progresses.

Through all of the planning, Gormley said he keeps the needs of CI's present and future students as his compass. "We're looking at what does it really mean to teach the next generation of leaders in this state," he said. ♦c

Researching Mexican mobility

By Rosalba Rocha, '16 Sociology

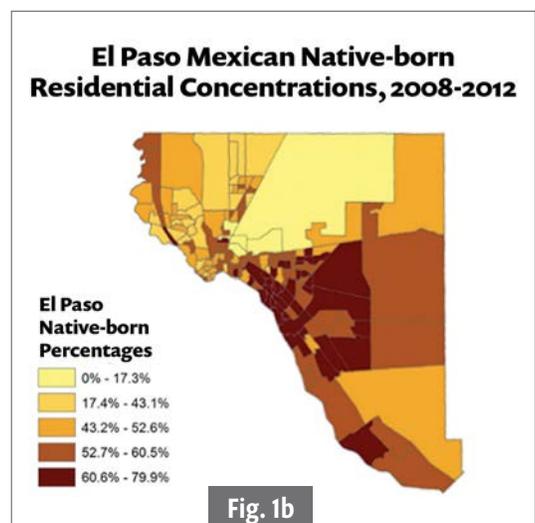
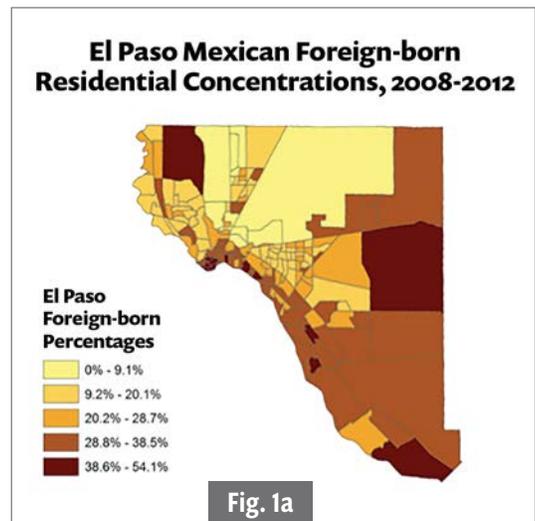
LAST YEAR I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK on research with Assistant Professor of Sociology Luis A. Sanchez. My research project examines social and economic outcomes among the Mexican population in two border cities, San Diego, California, and El Paso, Texas, utilizing data from the 2012 American Community Survey.

In particular, I was interested in studying social mobility across the immigrant and native-born population as predicated by the straight-line assimilation theory. My research finds mixed evidence for the classic assimilation model. For example, native-born Mexicans are faring better than foreign-born counterparts in terms of English proficiency and educational attainment. However, in some cases I found no significant nativity differences in home ownership and unemployment rates. Furthermore, the process of social mobility and immigrant incorporation varies between the two cities. My findings suggest that geographic context has important implications for how contemporary immigrants and their offspring are faring in American society.

My study also incorporated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyze residential patterns in both cities. I was interested in whether native-born Mexicans resided in neighborhoods outside of immigrant enclaves. Figures 1a and 1b illustrate the mobility being experienced in El Paso.

When analyzing San Diego, I found mixed results, leading me to conclude that integration process of Mexican immigrants varies from place and the context of reception. The maps I created for El Paso largely demonstrate that native-born Mexicans live in neighborhoods that are distinct from their immigrant counterparts. My maps for San Diego (not shown), however, reveal that immigrant and native-born Mexicans are living in similar neighborhoods. This finding suggests that context matters for residential mobility.

My research experience has been the most rewarding time in my undergraduate career. I was able to meet like-minded individuals from various majors when I was invited to the Interdisciplinary Research Learning Community (IRLC) during the spring of 2015. These individuals reaffirmed the importance of asking questions. I am thankful for the opportunities and experiences I have gained from my research and look forward to continuing to do additional research. Without undergraduate opportunities such as these, many people like myself would not have been introduced to pre-graduate research programs. ♦c



Questioning conventional conceptions of citizenship

By Mary McThomas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science

MY RESEARCH IN RECENT years has focused on various aspects of U.S. immigration policy. I have looked at constitutional issues that arise when states pass laws related to migration policy, a domain supposedly left entirely to the federal government.

I have conducted public opinion surveys on attitudes toward various policies involving undocumented individuals living in the United States and have explored how different ethical frameworks impact those attitudes. I have also interviewed members of groups on both sides of the issue: those that advocate for immigrant rights and those that lobby for restrictions on immigration.

My most recent research is more theoretical, grounded in theories of political obligation. I flip the way we think about political obligation and state-granted citizenship. Instead of the conventional understanding that the granting of rights by the state obligates citizens to perform certain duties, I argue that the performance of civic duties and obligations—what I call “performing citizenship”—should trigger corresponding state-given rights and protections.

Settler nations, such as the United States, have reached a point where substantial segments of their population have resided within the nation’s borders for years without documents. This situation challenges our traditional notions of what makes a citizen and requires a reconceptualization of citizenship.

In making this argument, I combine theory and practice, analyzing state-level legislative debates about extending driving

privileges and in-state tuition rates to undocumented residents. State governments in the United States increasingly acknowledge that their “citizens” might extend beyond those recognized by the federal government and that, as a result, undocumented residents should be granted certain benefits.

The debates over the extension of benefits provide insight into how lawmakers conceptualize citizenship and how evolving notions of citizenship and obligation are impacting state policy. To explore this further, I compiled transcripts of floor debates, public hearings and committee meetings in order to track and analyze the arguments on both sides of the issues.

In looking at the debates, there is a clear divide between those that rely solely on nation-state

status and those that believe we should take other actions into account; that is, residents performing civic duties—Americans in every way but on paper—should be granted certain privileges.

The latter form of argument, that those performing citizenship deserved certain benefits, were more successful than other arguments, even in Republican-controlled legislatures in politically conservative states. This has implications for political theory and future immigration policies. ♦C



Teacher and parent collaboration

A pathway to school readiness

By Annie White, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Studies

OFTEN, AS AN EDUCATION researcher in the classroom, I witnessed parents deferring to the teacher as “the expert” on children’s learning and development. This led me to examine the important role of parents being misunderstood or underutilized by teachers.

My research examines early childhood teachers’ and parents’ use of Learning Stories, a unique assessment approach offering teachers and parents an opportunity to collaborate through the sharing of stories that describe children’s development.

Like storytelling, Learning Stories provides occasion for partnership through the sharing of written and/or audio recorded narrative observations; however, the observations are written directly to the child in the first person narrative. Instead of writing about a child, parents and teachers write to the child regarding how they see learning transpire. Learning Stories create a pathway to honor diverse voices and perspectives.

I am principally interested in Head Start, which encourages parent voice and offers ways teachers can support parents as the primary educator of children through use of Learning Stories. In particular, Head Start addresses inequality in both social and economic conditions by working with underrepresented parents and families who live below the federal poverty line and whose



voices are often silenced.

As a scholar practitioner in Education, I have been increasingly aware of social and economic disparity and the need for authentic collaboration between parents and teachers. My dissertation research, titled “Creating New Pathways for Dialogue: Engaging Families in School Readiness,” focused on teacher and parent use of a model derived from Learning Stories, to examine collaboration and enhanced family engagement.

This unique model was also used in conjunction with California’s child assessment tool, the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). Learning Stories observations can be used to strengthen the DRDP assessment as examples of contextual evidence to support the DRDP ratings. I have presented my research

to the California Department of Education, Early Education Support Division, proposing Learning Stories as a means to foster authentic dialogue while engaging parents as leaders in children’s learning.

Currently, I am working with early childhood programs using technology to construct Learning Stories that support STEM learning. Future projects include co-presenting my research on CI’s use of the Learning Stories assessment approach at a conference in New Zealand with two CI Early Childhood Studies students.

Additionally, future projects include instructing teachers and program staff on the Learning Stories assessment approach with a Latino teen father program, homeless shelter, transition home, family childcare homes, Head Start, and local community organizations. ♦c



Mentor of the mind

Beatrice de Oca, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

By Marya Jones Barlow

FOR AS LONG AS SHE CAN remember, Professor Beatrice de Oca has been fascinated by the mysteries and inconsistencies of human behavior.

“I was always curious about how people could be so nice at one time and then not so nice later on,” she said. “It made me think about how people aren’t just ‘good’ or ‘bad,’ but can be both, depending on the situation. Studying psychology helped me reconcile how people could love each other yet still hurt each other.”

Having parlayed those interests into a career as a psychology professor, de Oca now involves CI undergraduates in her quest to decipher human behavior. In addition to teaching courses like Behavioral Neuroscience and Learning, Cognition & Perception, she works closely with four to eight students each year on research projects, examining topics such as the effect of

personality and mood on visual attention, the consequences of emotion on physiology, the influence of emotionally arousing pictures on reaction time and attention, and reactions to crying individuals.

“Biological perspectives and the underlying physiology provide very promising ways of understanding human behavior,” she said. “Understanding the biological basis of behavior connects to so many things that are relevant. For example, it can help in understanding how emerging therapies for psychological disorders may work and why there are sometimes so many side effects and limitations with drug therapies.”

De Oca challenges students in classroom discussions and writing assignments to question the evidence behind popularly accepted ideas, such as whether people are really “left-brained” or “right-brained,” or whether

depression is caused by a chemical imbalance. Students in Learning, Cognition and Perception write a paper applying class theories to societal issues, such as helping at-risk youth or improving automobile safety.

The advisor of CI’s Psychology Club, de Oca is most proud of the scores of students she’s led to regional and national conferences, where they’ve presented research, forged valuable professional connections, and glimpsed what it’s like to pursue a research career in the behavioral sciences. Last spring, she took six students in Directed Study in Psychology to Las Vegas for the Western Psychological Association convention to present their research on “Visual Preference Triggered by Mood Induction.”

“Dr. de Oca loves what she does, which is so inspiring,” said Alejandra Maldonado, a student on the research team that presented in Las Vegas. “She gets students excited about the material and is very clear at explaining hard concepts. Her classes reminded me of why I love science and why I chose this career.”

De Oca has published her research in the *American Journal of Psychology*, *Journal of General Psychology*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, and *Behavioral Neuroscience*, and presented at numerous conferences herself.

Originally from Glendale, Calif., de Oca earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Cal State Los Angeles and her doctorate from UCLA. She joined CI’s faculty in 2003 after five years at Western New Mexico University.

“CI’s small size and student-centered nature is very appealing, as I most enjoy forming mentoring relationships with students and involving them in research,” she said. “It’s wonderful to meet my students after they’ve graduated and see how they are fulfilling their own dreams.” ❖ c

International students enrich CI

By Marya Jones Barlow

WHEN MARCO ANTONIO RODRIGUES ARRIVED on CI's campus for the first time in August, the international student from Brazil had no idea what to expect.

A participant in Science Without Borders, an elite scholarship program offered by the Brazilian government, Rodrigues was 6,000 miles from home, living away from his family for the first time, and hoping to find his way in a foreign culture and language.

He was relieved to find a hospitable home away from home, starting with his American roommates in Anacapa Village

and extending to CI's administrators, faculty and staff.

"I was surprised by the politeness, kindness and respect that Americans have for each other," said Rodrigues, a Computer Science major from University Center of Patos de Minas.

"The most impressive thing is being in an apartment with five strangers, all cooperating with one another for a good coexistence. My roommates are really nice people, always trying help me with everything that I need here in the USA."

Rodrigues is one of approximately 83 international students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses at CI, via partnerships with 68 institutions of higher learning worldwide. An additional 28 international students participate in Optional Practical Training, taking CI courses to build skills that complement their field of study or are needed in their homelands.

International Programs are a crucial component of CI's mission pillar of providing multicultural and international perspectives to students, said Edith Ramos, Programs Coordinator, and Mayumi Kowta, Director of International Programs at CI.

"The best part is watching the students' transformations," Ramos said. "They are usually shy and nervous when they arrive, but they are completely different people by the time they leave. Along the way, they enrich our campus by getting to know CI



Marco Antonio Rodrigues, an international student from Brazil, is studying Computer Science at CI.

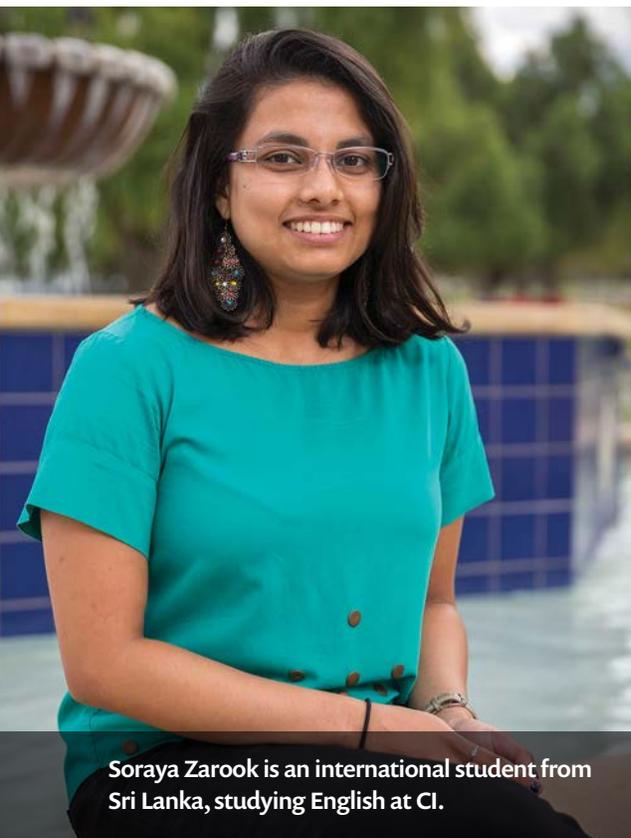
students, faculty and staff and sharing their culture with us."

A senior majoring in English, Soraya Zarook lives in Ventura with a host family. Her parents sold their home in Sri Lanka in 2010 to finance her education in the U.S.

"I wouldn't trade my time with the CI English faculty for any other school," she said. "In Sri Lanka, I only ever knew of an academic career in the sciences, and while I loved biology, chemistry and physics, I always preferred reading and writing. I'm really hopeful that I can make my love of English and teaching worth my parents' sacrifice."

Zarook maintains a 4.0 GPA and has participated in undergraduate research, presented at the SAGE Student Research Conference, and won several scholarships to help finance her education. She's also applying to graduate English programs, in the hopes of earning her master's and doctorate so she can teach other college students.

"I have been on an intellectual high since I began here," she said. "My classes are almost always mind-blowing. My thinking and writing have been challenged, and I have achieved more than I ever thought possible." ✦



Soraya Zarook is an international student from Sri Lanka, studying English at CI.

CI students study internationally, think globally, grow exponentially

By Marya Jones Barlow

IMAGINE BECOMING conversational in a foreign language, trekking through multiple countries, experiencing some of the world's most iconic historic and scenic landmarks, and having the adventure of a lifetime for roughly the same cost as a semester at CI.

That's what Greg Combes and Cara Johnson did last year when they traveled to Florence, Italy, as participants in CI's Study Abroad Program. Now on campus completing their senior year, both plan to return overseas for graduate study, work opportunities, and an expanded knowledge of the world.

"Studying abroad helped me realize that the world is a big beautiful place—one that I plan to keep exploring," Combes said. "The entire process was full of personal growth and discovery. My time away from all the people and comforts of home gave me the opportunity to take a step back, look at myself, and dig into my own interests."

"The opportunity to see other places gave me the tools I needed to decide on my more immediate future," Johnson said. "I went to Edinburgh, Scotland, during spring break and realized that

❖ "Studying abroad helped me realize that the world is a big beautiful place—one that I plan to keep exploring." —*Greg Combes*

I wanted to get my master's at the University of Edinburgh. I'm completing the application process right now, and plan to leave this August. I don't know if I'll ever come back."

Combes and Johnson are two of the more than 150

students who participate each year in international study abroad programs through CI's International Programs and the Center for International Affairs. The options range from short-term UNIV 392 International Experience courses, which give students a two-to three-week "dose" of a foreign country during a class trip, to year-long study as a visiting student in one of approximately 68 CSU partner universities worldwide.

Those options make foreign study more accessible and affordable for many students. Students may use their financial aid, apply for scholarships offered specifically for study abroad, and tap into the resources offered at CI's International Programs and Center

for International Affairs.

"Some study abroad programs even cost less than living and studying at CI," said Anna-Sophie Lee, the Study Abroad Advisor for International Programs. "Helping students apply for study abroad is fulfilling because it gives you the opportunity to make someone's dreams come true. Studying abroad has a lasting effect on a person's character that goes far beyond the exchange year."

"The experience was completely worth it," agreed Melissa Rodriguez, a senior who studied in Canada. "Only 1 percent of university graduates study abroad, which means I'm part of an elite group of students who can put this on my resume. I'm comfortable with the fact that if someone offered me a job across the globe, I would be able to take it without hesitation. I'm no longer limiting myself to jobs or graduate schools in California but opening myself to options around the world." ❖c



Cara Johnson takes in the scenery while studying in Italy.

Serving those who serve

Jay Derrico, Assistant Director of Veterans Affairs & Commuter Programs

By Marya Jones Barlow

AS THE CIVILIAN ASSISTANT Director of Veterans Affairs & Commuter Programs, Jay Derrico has earned the respect of CI's military veterans by doing what comes naturally to him: listening and caring.

A former college career counselor and church pastor with degrees in psychology and student affairs, Derrico draws on that background to help CI's 115 student veterans and their 150 dependents navigate veterans' benefits, deployments, and paperwork, and adapt to college and civilian life.

"We're all thankful to have someone like Jay Derrico at CI," said William Vaughn, President of the Student Veterans Organization, Navy veteran, and fall 2015 graduate. "His dedication to our veterans goes well beyond anyone else I have ever seen. It's people like Jay that help our veteran population transition into the university lifestyle and obtain our ultimate goals in graduation."

Derrico came to CI as a career counselor in 2007. After being asked to start CI's Veterans Resource Center in 2011, Derrico set out to create a place where veterans would feel at home. He interviewed CI's veteran population, researched issues faced by veterans in university settings, and adopted practices from the nation's best Veterans Resource Centers.

"The most important thing was building trust so veterans would see the center as a place where they'd find the answers and resources they needed," Derrico said. "My philosophy is to deal with the whole person and not just the student. I see my role as helping them achieve positive change and reach their goals—whether in their personal lives, academic lives, or their lives after CI."

Partnering with Career Development Services and the Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute, Derrico developed an internship program matching student veterans with



employers for paid internships that often lead to jobs. He helped launch the annual Medallion Ceremony, where graduating veterans are honored by President Rush, the CI community, members of Congress, and military and local dignitaries. He also runs a mentoring program, organizes career development workshops, serves as advisor to the Student Veterans Organization, conducts outreach at community colleges, and hosts a week-long series of events for Veterans Day.

Derrico's dedication has helped CI earn national recognition five years in a row as a "Military Friendly School." It also earned Derrico a 2014 Maximus Award—an honor awarded to one outstanding staff member each year by students. Derrico's most recent efforts include creating a scholarship for veterans and pursuing grants to fund more internship programs and staff to serve veterans.

"It's not just a 9-to-5 job for Jay. He genuinely cares about the well-being and success of every student that approaches him," said 2014 CI graduate and U.S. Marine veteran Mark Scott. "Jay went out of his way to find me an internship with a veteran-friendly employer that matched my career goals. You could say that it changed the course of my career because I am a full-time employee at that same place two years later."

"One of the privileges of my job is seeing people grow," Derrico said. "It's not advising. It's more about listening and bringing the answer out of them instead of telling and suggesting things." ❖C

CI art galleries

Where art, opportunity and innovation intersect

By Marya Jones Barlow

THERE'S NO NEED TO TRAVEL TO LOS ANGELES TO EXPERIENCE the work of internationally recognized and up-and-coming regional artists. CI's four art galleries, all coordinated by the Art program, offer a free forum for students, artists and arts enthusiasts to explore and enjoy art.

Each month-long exhibition kicks off with an opening reception that invites the public to interact with the art and artist. The distinct character of each gallery space accommodates a full spectrum of artistic styles, media and talent. CI galleries also offer opportunities for faculty and featured artists to install exhibits and curate shows, and for students to participate as exhibitors, interns and curators.

Don't miss the remaining exhibitions of the 2015-16 season:

John Spoor Broome Library Art Gallery

On the second floor of the John Spoor Broome Library, the gallery features a variety of innovative art and interdisciplinary exhibitions by diverse regional and internationally recognized artists, as well as works by faculty and students from CI and other universities.

Nov. 16 – Feb. 16, 2016

Santi Visalli: A Life in Pictures

Feb. 22 – April 3, 2016

Recent works by Marie Schoeff and Dane Goodman

April 11 – May 8, 2016

5th Annual CI Art Faculty Collaborations: Leslie Lloyd, Aldo Figueroa, and Peter Harper

May 12 – Sept. 6, 2016

Summer Show

Napa Gallery

Inside Napa Hall on CI's Ventura Street, the Napa Gallery is the Art program's main gallery, featuring work from regional, national and internationally recognized artists.

Jan. 25 – Feb. 17, 2016

Emily Thomas & Shannon Willis: UCSB MFA

Feb. 29 – March 10, 2016

Karin Swildens: Retrospective

March 17 – March 25, 2016

The Adolfo Camarillo High School Arts Expo

April 11 – May 6, 2016

Annual Student Show

Grad Wall

The Grad Wall, CI's newest gallery in Napa Hall, showcases the work of outstanding senior art students selected by their instructors.

Nov. – Dec. 2015

Megan Johnson: Chambers of the Heart

Jan. – Feb. 2016

Andy Lepe

Palm Gallery

Located this season inside Napa Hall, the Palm Gallery presents curated shows of works from faculty, students and alumni.

Jan. – Feb. 2016

Student video exhibition

March 2016

Sharon Coughran: solo exhibit





A master builder of new universities

President Richard Rush reflects on CI's first 15 years with awe, appreciation and high hopes for the future

By Kim Lamb Gregory

AFTER ALMOST 15 YEARS AT THE HELM OF CSU Channel Islands (CI), President Richard R. Rush will be retiring at the end of the 2015/2016 academic year. Rush surprised most of those gathered in the Grand Salon when he made the announcement during the annual fall convocation address on Aug. 20, 2015.

"I have been privileged to serve as the president of CSU Channel Islands and am honored, more than I can say, to have held in trust, for the once and future students and the good people of Ventura County and the region, this marvelous idea of a university," Rush said.

Rush told the audience that CI was at a "tipping point," having received re-accreditation for the next nine years from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), which will enable the University to "soar beyond its initial achievements," he said.

In addition, the University this year was granted the authority to develop the campus without relying solely on the state of California. "This gives CI a unique flexibility to respond to defined needs and even to anticipate the demands of a rapidly-evolving world," Rush said.

Rush said he wanted to pass these two milestones before retiring, secure in the knowledge that CI was on a steady course to thrive. "That was a major part of it. And the other part of it is...it's time," Rush said. "My wife and I need to spend time together and do some things that we want to do."

Rush said it will be a nice change not to have someone else managing a tight schedule so he and his wife, Jane, can travel and enjoy a sense of spontaneity elusive for university presidents. "I've waited a long time to do things on impulse," he added with a grin. President Rush's last official day as president will be June 30, 2016.

"I'm sad," said Professor of Secondary Education and Academic Senate Chair Jeanne Grier, Ph.D. "It's one of those things where you knew the day was coming, but you hoped you'd never see it. He is so much the identity of the University."

"Dick Rush is the best President in the CSU system," said Vice President for Student Affairs Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Ph.D. Both Sawyer and Grier were among the first to be hired by Rush when the University was more of an idea than a reality.

“It all started with the merry band of fellows and fellowettes in 2001, and we opened in 2002,” Rush said. “We were, at the time, the largest underserved population in the state. That’s why people were pushing for a public university here in Ventura County.”

❖ “I have congratulated the staff and faculty on more than one occasion on living significant lives, because they are changing other people’s lives. At the end of it all, one of the things I will say to myself on July 1st is, yes, I’ve lived a significant life, I hope.” —President Rush

When Rush was first hired to build CI from the ground up, it didn’t take long for him to realize his work was cut out for him. During his fall commencement speech, Rush recalled that day in 2001 when he first toured the grounds formerly occupied by Camarillo State Hospital. “I was introduced to the campus on the first day... in a building uncomfortably ventilated at 98 degrees with one naked bulb hanging from the ceiling of the corridor and debris scattered everywhere in the darkness,” he said to the audience, drawing laughter.

Rush spent the next 15 years creating partnerships

with business and community members, hiring faculty and staff, and helping the University to evolve, sometimes in a challenging economic climate. The University grew, offering courses of study that would lead to careers needed in Ventura County.

In 2010, CI was designated a Hispanic Serving Institution, meaning that more than 25 percent of the student body identified as Latina/o. Offering a quality education to a diverse student body is one of the cornerstones of the University

that Sawyer credits to Rush’s leadership. “He was so committed to making sure this campus was accessible to all people,” Sawyer said. “And he truly has met that need.”

Underscoring the need for a public university in Ventura County are the 20,000 applications for admission the campus has been receiving over the past few years, with the University student body on track to double over the next decade. The Chronicle of Higher Education named CI the fastest-growing university in the nation.

“The best part about growing is we are going to serve another 5,000 to 6,000 students—people who



President Rush celebrates the Sierra Hall groundbreaking with students in March 2014.



want and need an education,” Rush said. “People the state of California needs, so it’s a combination of serving individuals and serving the common good.”

But growth has its drawbacks, he said, which is why Rush made a point to meet with every single department on campus just before he announced his retirement. He reminded staff and faculty of the “CI Way,” which is a spirit of compassion, collegiality and cooperation.

“The thing I’m most concerned about is, that as you get larger, you can lose your soul,” he said. “If we lose our value system, it won’t be the same place.”

Those who know him well spoke about how Rush encouraged calculated risk-taking in order to exercise creativity and innovation to the fullest.

“Two things run through President Rush’s professional life,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Gayle Hutchinson, Ed.D. “His entrepreneurial sense of adventure and his sense of place.” Hutchinson said the combination of the two made him a “master builder of new universities.” Rush also played a key role in the founding of CSU San Marcos, where he served as the vice president-in-charge, and later as the executive vice president.

Grier remembers the first time she met Rush in Oxnard where he was holding a group interview. “There were 25 people all interviewing for faculty positions,” Grier said. “I still remember he asked me if I was willing to build a university and take risks.”

Rush said he’s proud of so many things when it comes to CI, but the caliber of CI’s faculty and staff has remained at the top of his list. “I have congratulated the staff and faculty on more than one occasion on living significant lives, because they are changing other people’s lives,” he said. “And at the end of it all, one of the things I will say to myself on July 1st is, yes, I’ve lived a significant life, I hope.” ♦C

▶ go.csuci.edu/rushretire



Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean and President Rush at the 2015 Dodger Day.



President Rush at a United Way event.



Scholarship recipients and donors gather.

Fall semester starts with a celebration of scholars and donors

By Kim Lamb Gregory

THE NEWS WAS SO GOOD, PRESIDENT RICHARD R. Rush repeated it twice at this fall's CSU Channel Islands Scholarship Awards Reception. "This year, we are awarding \$467,000 dollars in scholarships to our students. That's a 72 percent increase," Rush said, then paused, and smiled. "I want to be sure you heard that. A 72 percent increase over last year due to the generosity of these donors and others."

Applause filled the Grand Salon where more than 300 scholarship recipients, donors, staff and faculty gathered to celebrate the spirit of generosity that has fueled the CI campus from the beginning.

"This community wanted this University for 40 years and now it's here," Rush said. "And those of us who are holding it in trust for this community recognize that without the community's involvement, the University would not have been able to achieve all that it has over the past 14 to 15 years."

Scholarship amounts ranged from hundreds to thousands of dollars, with many corporate or private donors giving in the name of a relative or a field of study.

Local philanthropists Nancy and Carl Wesely, for example, provide the Marie Wesely Nursing Scholarship in honor of Carl's mother, Marie, who worked as a practical nurse in the Midwest.

Edison International awarded a grant to fund scholarships for selected STEM (science, technology, engineering and science) students through the Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute for Workforce & Community Studies at CI.

"It's always been part of their corporate responsibility,"

Lacayo said of Southern California Edison's parent company, "but I also have found them to have a heart."

Among the CI staff and faculty donors were Assistant Provost Elizabeth "Beth" Hartung and her husband, Ignacio Mendiguren, who set up the Mildred Hartung & Beatriz Nuñez International Scholarship for a student wanting to travel abroad.

"Our mothers believed in the value of experiencing more than one culture," Mendiguren said, "a perspective travel can provide."

"My mother was never able to travel, except through books," Hartung said.

Scholarship award recipients thanked their benefactors by participating in a video, and some, like Psychology major Yesenia Garcia of Santa Paula, expressed their gratitude from the podium.

"Being a first generation student—and coming from parents whose job is working in the agriculture fields—is not easy," she said.

Garcia's father found work where he could, often leaving her mother and sister alone for months at a time, she said. When the time came for her to attend college, her heart sank.

"My parents said, 'keep trying to pursue your dreams,' but I knew money would be an issue because their jobs would never be able to pay tuition," she said.

Thanks to the Rosenkrantz Family Scholarship, Garcia is able to attend CI, and is an honors student. "Thank you to my parents for believing in me," she said. "Thank you to all the donors for believing in all of us." ♦c



Sierra Hall: a state-of-the-art space for science

By Kim Lamb Gregory

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC Affairs Gayle E. Hutchinson, Ed.D., stood before more than 100 people gathered in Sierra Hall for the building's grand opening on Sept. 15, 2015, and recalled a time when she and many others stood near the same spot with hard hats and shovels.

"Many of us stood across the mall right about there for the groundbreaking ceremony of this magnificent building," she said. "I remember that morning on March 14, 2014, as if it was yesterday. The construction site was bare."

Eighteen months later, the three-story, 66,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art science hub was teeming with students and faculty marveling at images of Pluto on ceiling-mounted projectors; examining prehistoric bones from Santa Rosa Island under a microscope; or watching sand crabs scuttle in glass beakers.

Sierra Hall is the new home to the Computer Science, Anthropology, Psychology, Physics, Geology, and Environmental Science & Resource Management (ESRM) programs.

"We are the program that's been surviving literally in kitchen areas and makeshift laboratories for the last 10 or 11 years," said ESRM Chair Don Rodriguez, Ph.D. "So to have legitimate laboratories and space dedicated to what we do will make a lot of difference not only to the students but to the faculty who are doing research. The undergraduate involvement will be enriched."

President Richard R. Rush underscored the celebration of science by sitting down at the grand opening and signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The memorandum, which is unprecedented between NOAA and a university, will allow CI's unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles to explore the protected Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary.

"This MOU will allow us to stay on the frontier of unmanned technology," said CI's Senior Research Officer Jason Miller, Ph.D., who heads the unmanned aerial vehicle program. "It will help us build our program like no other university in the CSU, or probably the state."

Faculty, staff, students and area dignitaries who gathered in Sierra Hall's sunny lobby area for the grand opening applauded and laughed as Academic Senate Chair and Professor of Secondary Education Jeanne Grier, Ph.D., shared conversations she had with representatives from departments housed by the new building.

"Having two lab rooms means we can offer more courses, sections, projects and extra credit labs," said Geology Lecturer Christopher Wheeler, Ph.D.

Computer Science Lecturer Anna Bieszczad, said the cloud-based and multi-modal classrooms enable her to use different teaching techniques to better address the

▶ go.csuci.edu/shgo

different ways students learn. “The classroom has only 24 seats, which means I can give individual attention and immediate personalized feedback to each and every student,” Bieszczad said.

“Gone are the days of seeing our dusty anthropology

“While Sierra Hall will be this University’s science hub, it is so symbolic that it also serves as a model of sustainability,” Brownley said. “Not only does Sierra Hall meet some of the highest standards for green building and design, it was also built with recycled and reclaimed materials.”

Brownley noted that although CI is the newest member of the CSU system, it has evolved into an integral part of the future of the county’s economic growth owing in no small part to its commitment to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

❖ “While Sierra Hall will be this University’s science hub, it is so symbolic that it also serves as a model of sustainability.”
 –Congresswoman Julia Brownley

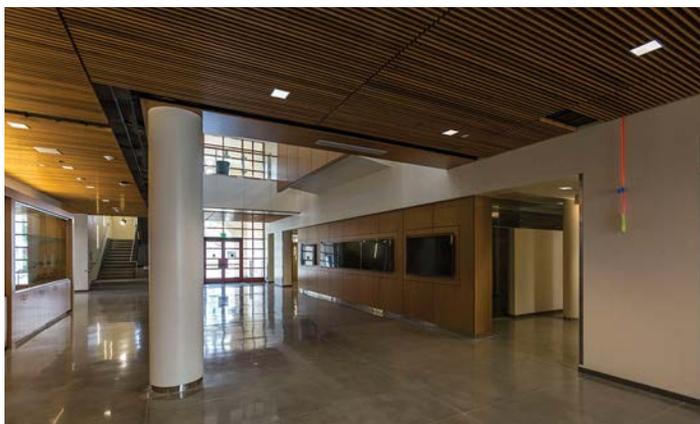
colleagues carting materials and archaeological artifacts in squeaky carts,” Grier said. “They, too, now have dedicated lab space and storage, although I suspect they will still be dusty.”

The \$42.7 million project was funded with lease revenue bonds, which are long-term bonds issued by the state to finance public improvements to California universities and other state facilities.

Among the representatives who attended the grand opening were Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, who has been lobbying in Sacramento for an engineering program for CI, and Congresswoman Julia Brownley, who made certain funding for Sierra Hall was secure in the state legislature.

“This is a university that has listened to its community and regional needs and responded accordingly,” she said. “With President Rush’s leadership and the talented faculty he has hired, we now have a university in our county that is an academic trailblazer.”

Speaking last, President Richard R. Rush stressed that he played only one part in seeing Sierra Hall through to fruition, pointing out that he had support from everyone from the University level right on up to the state legislature. “All of us have done this in one way or another. You are the reason this University exists, so let me thank you individually and collectively, because without you, this place wouldn’t be what it is today,” Rush said. ❖C





New faculty faces

THE DIVERSITY AND DEPTH OF CI'S EXPERTISE CONTINUES TO GROW AS YOUR UNIVERSITY WELCOMES 14 new faculty members. Among them, you'll meet a former school superintendent; a Mexican labor economist; a dancer/choreographer; an expert writing coach from Stanford University; a computer scientist and engineer specializing in Unmanned Aerial Systems; a former Director of Health Economics at Amgen; and several CSU alumni.



Allison Alvarado
Assistant Professor of
Biology

Ph.D.
University of California,
Los Angeles, 2011



Jasmine Delgado
Assistant Professor of Art

MFA
University of California, Santa
Barbara, 2003



Heather Castillo
Assistant Professor of
Performing Arts

MFA
University of California,
Irvine, 2009



**Miguel Delgado
Hellester**
Assistant Professor of
Economics/Finance

Ph.D.
University of California, Santa
Barbara, 2013



Jason Isaacs
Assistant Professor of
Computer Science

Ph.D.
University of California,
Santa Barbara, 2012



Kiersten (Kiki) Patsch
Assistant Professor of
Environmental Science &
Resource Management

Ph.D.
University of California,
Santa Cruz, 2004



Reha Kadakal
Assistant Professor of
Sociology

Ph.D.
New School for Social Research,
2008



Julia Ornelas-Higdon
Assistant Professor of History

Ph.D.
University of Southern California,
2014



Sohui Lee
Faculty Director, Writing and
Multiliteracy Center

Ph.D.
Boston University, 2002



Melissa Soenke
Assistant Professor of
Psychology

Ph.D.
University of Arizona, 2014



Kristen Linton
Assistant Professor of Health

Ph.D.
Arizona State University, 2012



W. Charles Weis
Assistant Professor of
Education

Educational Leadership

Ph.D.
University of California,
Santa Barbara, 1991



Z. John Lu
Assistant Professor of
Economics/Finance

Ph.D.
University of California,
Santa Barbara, 1986



Annie White
Assistant Professor of
Education

Early Childhood Studies

Ph.D.
University of California,
Davis, 2015



From left to right: Connor Collins, Kimia Moini and Lindsay Thomson.

Internships open opportunities

By Marya Jones Barlow

WHEN CONNOR COLLINS GRADUATES FROM CI in the spring, he has a full-time, salaried job waiting for him as an executive team leader at Target. He landed the position as a result of his participation in Target's Executive Internship Program, where he spent last summer learning to analyze sales trends, oversee product replenishment, and manage a team of about 75 employees at Target's Woodland Hills store.

"This level of leadership responsibility is rare to find in an internship program and truly pushed me to rise to the occasion and become a leader," he said. "I got a crash course in what it means to be an effective manager, allowing me to connect what I learned in my business classes to the real-world workplace."

Collins found his employer and applied using CI's Dolphin CareerLink portal and sought help preparing his resume and polishing his interview skills from the Career Development Services (CDS) staff.

According to a 2015 student survey of CI graduating students, 24 percent reported completing an internship during their education at CI. The CDS team connects employers with students who are eager and prepared for an internship experience—posting over 500 paid and academic-credit internship and job opportunities each month. The team also provides career counseling, workshops and recruitment fairs for hundreds of students each year.

"We receive requests for student interns on a daily basis," said Amanda Carpenter, Ed.D., Assistant Director of Career Development Services and the Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute (HLI) Internship Program. "I feel proud to have the opportunity to impact the lives of students and support our community to thrive through mutually beneficial partnerships. The most rewarding part of my job is hearing success stories of interns

converting to full-time employees."

Carpenter cites a recent survey of HLI interns showing that 72 percent became employees as a result of the internship. Many students have benefited from longstanding partnerships with area employers, such as SAGE Publications, Stellar Biotechnologies and OmniUpdate, Inc.

"CI is providing a quality education in so many different areas and it shows when we take on interns or full-time employees from their programs," said Gabrielle Walker, director of human resources at OmniUpdate, Inc. "These students have a strong work ethic with the skills needed to be successful, productive employees."

Kimia Moini, a 2015 business grad, landed her job as a project manager at Vonazon after attending the CI Career & Internship Fair last spring. An earlier internship with SOHO Prospecting that she obtained as a result of the CI Connection Luncheon also helped her build her skills.

"I'm so thankful for the CI Career & Internship Fair and CI Connection Luncheon because that's how I got my internship and dream job," she said. "I highly recommend that students take on multiple internships in their desired field of work."

Lindsay Thomson, a 2014 graduate now working at LinkedIn as an email and content marketing specialist, says her experience as a digital marketing intern at CPI Solutions and CDS were both instrumental to her success.

"My internship provided me with the hands-on experience that I needed to prove my skills in the software industry, specifically in marketing," she said. "It connected me with professionals in the local community and helped me expand my professional network." ♦C

The real deal

Ann Deal, Founder and CEO of Fashion Forms

By Marya Jones Barlow

AS THE FOUNDER AND CEO OF FASHION Forms, the leading producer of specialty bras and accessories in North America and Europe, Ann Deal has amassed a devoted customer base of celebrities, leading retailers, and women worldwide.

She also has scores of admirers at CI, where she's a longstanding benefactor, providing internships and jobs to students as well as sponsorships for University events and initiatives. Since 2013, Deal has served as a member of CI's Foundation Board, where she helps shape the University's strategic, physical and financial future.

"I'm so proud to see how the University has become an integral part of the Ventura County landscape over the past 13 years," she said. "It's been a thrill to watch CI's students succeed and to see CI emerge as one of California's most influential universities through outstanding leadership and innovation."

Deal knows a lot about growth, leadership and innovation. Inspired by watching celebrities walk the red carpet in plunging gowns, she started Fashion Forms in her garage in 1993, introducing the first backless, strapless, adhesive bra. The bra was the first hit in a long line of revolutionary Fashion Forms products, including The Original Water Push Up Bra®, Go Bare Backless Strapless Bra®, Strap Solutions™, Breast Petals®, fashion tapes, push-up

❖ "Giving financial support to CI is rewarding because you are giving education to a community and the world." –Ann Deal

pads, enhancers, and sports bras. Today, Fashion Forms is the leading producer of specialty bras and accessories in the U.S., Canada and Europe, with 14 patents, 18 trademarks, and products sold in more than 9,500 stores worldwide.

Deal's professional and philanthropic achievements have been recognized with honors including a 2009 Emmy Award for lifetime achievement, a 2013 Business & Community Leader of the Year award from CI's Business & Technology Partnership, and a 2015 Woman of the Year award from the California Senate.

"Ann Deal is not only a great friend to CI, but also an inspirational figure to our students," said



President Richard R. Rush. "Ann embodies the qualities of entrepreneurship, engaged citizenship, social responsibility, and dedication to learning. She demonstrates the principle that success is achieved by leading with your head and your heart."

Growing up in an era where women were encouraged to pursue professions as secretaries, nurses or teachers, Deal followed a trailblazing path.

"My grandmother was the most influential person in my life," she said. "She drove me in the direction of business, as we have many entrepreneurs and educators in the family."

Deal's regard for education is ingrained in her philanthropic giving and the way she runs her company.

"I like my executive team and my staff to be educated and I love working with people that are much smarter than me," she said.

Among her 50 employees are 2014 CI graduates Margaret Donahue, Fashion Forms' Creative Director, and Heather Switaj, Fashion Forms' Design Director.

"They are both so important to Fashion Forms," Deal said. "I would encourage others to support CI through donations, scholarship opportunities, and employing students. Giving financial support to CI is rewarding because you are giving education to a community and to the world." ❖c



The sold-out 2015 President’s Dinner & Concert, presented by the CSU Channel Islands Foundation and Rabobank, was held on a balmy, late afternoon in Ojai with 300 VIP guests who gathered to enjoy a delicious, three-course meal catered by Main Course California. By sunset, more than 900 guests filled the historic Libbey Bowl to watch President Richard R. Rush present the Robert J. Lagomarsino award to Rabobank, accepted on behalf of the company by John Ryan, President and CEO of Rabobank N.A. Immediately following, Grammy Award-winning jazz trumpeter Chris Botti and his ensemble of talented musicians and vocalists wowed the crowd, who left feeling cool in the heat of the night. Proceeds from the event will support the University’s highest-priority needs. Event sponsors included:

- Title Sponsor:** Rabobank
- Diamond Sponsors:** Gene Haas Foundation, Fashion Forms
- Music Sponsor:** Sage Publications
- Gold Sponsors:** Union Bank, Harrison Industries
- VIP Reception Sponsor:** Montecito Bank & Trust
- Silver Sponsors:** Wells Fargo, SUNDT
- Bronze Sponsors:** Bank of America, Bill and Elise Kearney, California Resources Corporation, Canteen of Coastal CA, Community Memorial Health System, Ferguson Case Orr Paterson, LLP, Follett, Karen and Peter Wollons, OnRamp Communications, Pacific Western Bank, PCL Construction/College Town International, Ventura County Federal Credit Union, Ventura Rental Party Center
- Friend:** CoastHills
- In Kind:** Blue Star Parking, Keyboard Concepts, Main Course California, News Talk KVTA 1590, Pacific Coast Business Times, V3, Ventura County Star, Westlake Village Inn/Stonehaus, Firestone Brewery, Kim Pagano Show, Four Brix Winery, Jordano’s ♦c



Hugh and Keets Cassar



Steve and Barbara Blois



President Rush, Jane Rush, Chris Botti and John Ryan

Banking on progress

Rabobank's 17 years of support are honored for helping CI achieve milestones

By Marya Jones Barlow

IN ADDITION TO ITS STATURE AS A WORLDWIDE banking leader serving over 10 million customers, Rabobank has earned a well-deserved reputation as a community and customer-focused bank. Known for funding local startups and connecting local farmers to global supply chains, the bank and its employees are also active supporters of community events and institutions. Fortune magazine cited the company's culture of community support when naming it one of the "Five companies that make business beautiful" in 2013.

"Supporting and investing in the communities where we live and work is fundamental to our success and integrity as a business," said John Ryan, President and CEO of Rabobank, N.A. "It allows us to help strengthen our region and share our resources as proud employees in our communities."

A privately-held international bank with over 120 California branches, Rabobank has been an instrumental supporter of CI since the University's earliest days of conception. Over the past 17 years, the company has provided funding for critical CI programs, student scholarships, faculty research, campus/community events, and other high-priority needs.

During the President's Dinner & Concert held on Sept. 19, CI showed its appreciation by presenting Rabobank with the prestigious Robert J. Lagomarsino Award, named for the former congressman who first introduced legislation to create the University and fostered its growth.

"It's fitting that Rabobank should receive CI's highest honor with the Lagomarsino Award," said President Richard R. Rush, who presented the bronze dolphin award to Ryan. "Congressman Lagomarsino was a board member at Mid-State Bancshares, which was Rabobank's predecessor, and first encouraged the company to support CI. That gesture has spawned

❖ "Supporting and investing in the communities where we live and work is fundamental to our success and integrity as a business." —John Ryan

a beautiful and longstanding partnership that has deeply enriched our students, University and community."

The award was also a fitting culmination to the 16th Annual President's Dinner and Concert, which has



Rabobank President and CEO John Ryan accepts the Lagomarsino Award from President Rush.

become CI's signature fundraising event, thanks in large part to its key sponsor, Rabobank. The sold-out event at Ojai's Libbey Bowl included a concert by Grammy Award-winning trumpeter Chris Botti.

"Rabobank opened its first branches in California around the same time CI was founded in 2002," Ryan said. "Like CI, we have experienced a great deal of growth and success since we first emerged onto the California landscape. It gives us great pleasure to contribute to CI's growth and to share in its success as gem of education and opportunity for our state." ❖c

Steven Jordan,
'14 B.A. Economics

Social business entrepreneur

By Marya Jones Barlow

BY DAY, ALUMNUS STEVEN JORDAN WORKS AS the interim program associate for WestEd, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that helps schools, districts and states improve education outcomes and equality through research, evaluation and consulting. In his free time, he's working on his other passion: developing an Internet application to alleviate food insecurity.

"There's enough food to feed everyone, but we lack the communication and delivery methods to get the food where it needs to be," he said.

According a 2014 study by Feeding America, approximately one in seven Americans is "food insecure"—or lacking reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 30 to 40 percent of the nation's food supply is wasted.

"I intend to create an application that can help eliminate food waste, reduce hunger, and build community," Jordan said. "Givers can use the app to invite receivers to join in cooking and sharing the meal, or they can simply provide food for receivers to pick up."

As a student at CI, Jordan was active and engaged. An honors graduate of CI's Economics Program with minors in Social Business and Political Science, he served as Student Government Vice President and ASI Treasurer; earned awards as Outstanding Senior Student Leader at CI and Outstanding and Distinguished Delegate at Model UN competitions; attained the rank of Eagle Scout; participated in Green Generation, Bicycle Kitchen, CI View, Island News, the Multicultural Caucus, International Relations Club, Golfin Dolphins, and intramural basketball; and held various jobs and volunteer positions as a tutor, student assistant, barista, and consultant for the California Institute for Social Business and FOOD Share. He also traveled to South Korea, South Africa and Detroit in short-term UNIV 392 courses.

Yet at times, Jordan knew what it was like to be food insecure.

"I have never been in a dire poverty situation; however, as a young, broke college student, I have experienced what is it like to be hungry and the effects it has while you're trying to study or work a job," he said.



With his Internet app, he hopes to connect people at a community and consumer level who have extra food with individuals who will use the food so it doesn't go to waste.

"I live in apartment complex where I would love to have a convenient way to share food I won't use with my neighbors or simply have a reason to meet them," he said.

After an academic path emphasizing social business, Jordan is learning a new skill set to achieve that goal. He takes classes online at Code Academy with his friend and former roommate, CI alum Kyle Jorgensen. As founder of a social media marketing company and an employee of FOOD Share, Jorgensen shares his friend's passion.

"He's doing well connecting what he learned at CI to something entirely foreign in coding," said Jorgensen. "The app will be a long time coming as we continue to develop features and figure out how and why people will be using it."

In his work as interim program associate in the Institutional Development department at WestEd, Jordan helps guide business development, identify funding sources, support proposal development, and build programs' capacity to secure funding. He says the education, leadership experiences, and vast network of friends and mentors he cultivated at CI continue to serve him.

"Dr. Claudio Paiva, Chair and Professor of Economics, mentored me throughout my college career, teaching me to love economics and be a professional," said Jordan. "Dr. Paiva pushes his students to learn outside the box and think critically. The way I studied and interacted with my professors at CI is something I carried to WestEd. I speak up when I do not know something, challenge my supervisors on issues, and find passion and humor in the work." ♦c

Denise Hernandez, '14 B.S. Nursing

Caring for kids

By Marya Jones Barlow

IF DENISE HERNANDEZ HAS A TOUGH DAY AT WORK, she always knows there's a reward waiting just around the corner. A pediatric nurse at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, Hernandez says her interactions with pediatric patients and their families validate her career path every day.

"When I am able to comfort my patient with a hug, provide relief for an exhausted parent, or hear my patients laugh or see them smile, that reminds me why I am a pediatric nurse," she said. "It is amazing how comforting a parent or child can make you feel like you made a world of difference."

Born and raised in Oxnard, Hernandez realized her dream of becoming a nurse early and never wavered from her goal. She attended Ventura College for her associate degree in nursing, worked for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department throughout college as a student aid, and earned her BSN in CI's accelerated program while also working as a Registered Nurse in the Pediatrics Department at the Ventura County Medical Center.

"Although I was already in my career field when I started CI, the Nursing Program gave me better tools and understanding of what it meant to be in a leadership position," she said. "I was inspired to push myself further in my career, and not only to look for opportunities to make my workplace better, but also gain an understanding of how things are accomplished with healthcare administration."

She describes her time in CI's 14-month "Fast Track" BSN program as fun and challenging. She says CI's professors made the rigorous program enjoyable by sharing their practical expertise and sense of humor, as well as by offering students snacks and making them stretch during class. For her final assignment, Hernandez worked with the Director of Education and the Director of Nursing at West Hills Hospital to help develop a curriculum for its new Graduate RN Residency program.

"It was a very stressful assignment, but I had a tremendous amount of help from my preceptors

that allowed me access to all information I needed," she said. "It gave me a vast understanding and appreciation for hospital administration and the amount of resources, coordination, planning, and investment it takes to hire a new nurse or graduate."

At Cottage Hospital since September, Hernandez spends her days starting IVs, collecting labs, taking vital signs, performing assessments, administering medication, and spending time getting to know patients and their families.

An avid traveler, Hernandez volunteered for a medical relief trip last year into the jungles of



Nicaragua, where she helped provide free healthcare for villagers with limited access. She plans to return to school one day to earn her degree as a Nurse Practitioner.

"I have the opportunity to heal not only the body, but the heart, soul and mind of our patients and their families," she said. "I always work with one of my favorite quotes from Patch Adams in mind: 'You treat a disease, you win, you lose. You treat a person, I guarantee you, you'll win, no matter what the outcome.'" ♦C

A driving force

Denise Pehrsson, '06 B.A. Psychology, and Cory Pehrsson, '09 B.S. Business, are the mother-son duo behind Dynaflex

By Marya Jones Barlow

DENISE PEHRSSON ('06 B.A. PSYCHOLOGY) AND her son, Cory ('09 B.S. Business), never intended to run a company together, let alone one that makes diesel exhaust systems. But in 2012, when a planned sale of Dynaflex—the company co-founded in 1972 by Denise's father, Gil Contreras—did not materialize, Cory sought help from the most logical source: family.

Denise took a break from her new career as a psychotherapist to take the helm as president. Cory, who had worked for his grandfather's company since age 15, became vice president, sharing responsibility for over 7,500 products, 100+ employees, facilities in three states, and a grueling travel schedule of client meetings and trade shows.

Today, Dynaflex is in the strongest financial position in its 43-year history. The company has grown over 40 percent since January 2012 and just experienced its best year in both revenues and profits. Under the Pehrssons' leadership, Dynaflex has adopted a data-driven strategy, revamped and expanded product lines, entered new markets, strengthened customer relationships, and solidified its market position as the highest-quality manufacturer of U.S.-made exhaust systems for heavy duty vehicles. While the company's "original monster stacks"—the oversized chrome exhaust pipes it innovated in the 80s—remain a core product and an industry standard, Dynaflex is also gaining ground in new products that reduce emissions in a variety of vehicles.

"It's pretty crazy," Cory said. "Four years ago, the business was flailing and today we're on track to have our best year yet again. Even with an entire company becoming my responsibility overnight at age 25, I never felt overwhelmed, outmatched, or undereducated. I always felt prepared. I think I owe a lot of that confidence to CI and the successes I had in the Business Program."

Denise, a licensed psychologist who also holds a B.A. in Marketing from CSU Long Beach and a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from Pepperdine University in Malibu, says her background proved invaluable.

"I hesitate to think what it would be like to do this job without my psychology training," she said. "My education helped me create an environment in which



we could regroup and move forward as a team. I felt like I was moderating a group therapy session for a while there. We problem-solve as a team and I work daily with the staff to assist them in growing as people and managers."

The mixture of business and family has worked out well. Cory handles product development, sales, marketing and distribution, and travels over 20 weeks a year promoting and supporting the brand. Denise oversees operations, scheduling, production and inventory—duties that come naturally, thanks to a pre-psychology career as a department store buyer and merchandising manager.

"I miss being a therapist and I still see a few patients a week. I'm finishing my Psy.D. and plan to return to psychotherapy full-time one day," Denise said. "But I wouldn't have it any other way. I grew up around Dynaflex and so did Cory. My father always said, 'We owe these people a tremendous amount.' There was no question that we had to put it back together as a family business."

Two other CI alums are instrumental on their management team. Alex Manning ('08 Business) manages production, scheduling and business analytics, while classmate Travis Allen ('08 Business) manages the sales team.

"We're looking for more Dolphins for our pod," Cory said. "CI graduates are different than the average college kids. They have the personalities and skills to dive in and take a big leap. It's in our DNA to succeed." ♦C

FROM
Inspiration
TO
INNOVATION
CELEBRATING VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



A FAREWELL DINNER HONORING THE PRESIDENCY OF
RICHARD R. RUSH

Save the Date

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THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
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Views and opinions expressed by CSU Channel Islands are not necessarily shared by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Foundation.

Alumni

MENTORSHIP

AND NETWORKING EVENT

Join us for this unique event that matches alumni and students with local professionals in their fields.

Thursday, February 18, 2016
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Grand Salon
CSU Channel Islands

Register at:
go.csuci.edu/mnn

Sign-up by:
February 5, 2016

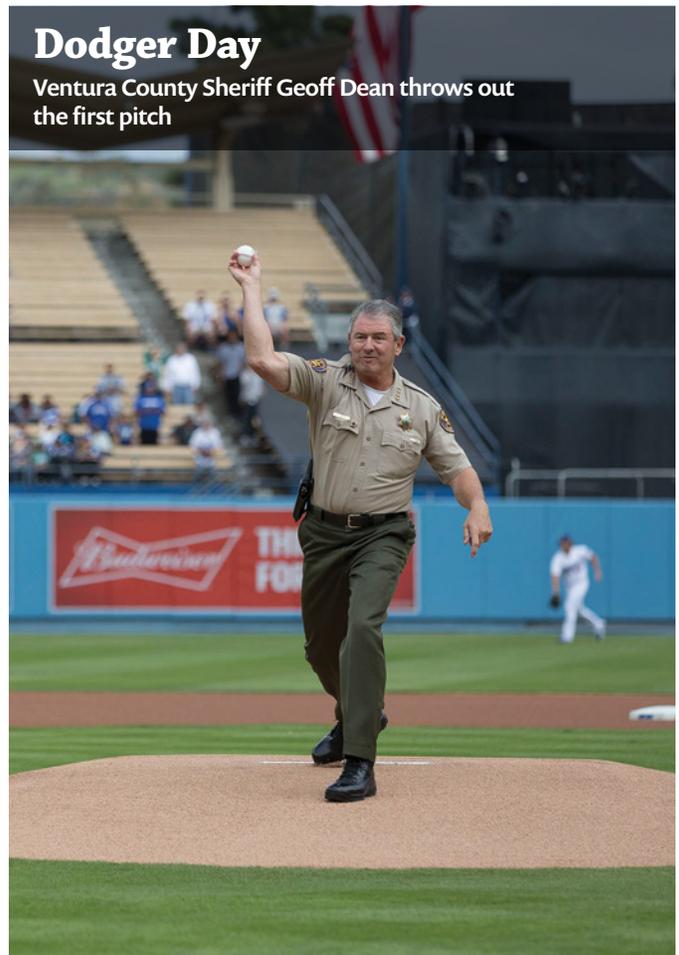


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For more information contact:
steven.guetzoian@csuci.edu 805-437-3622

Dodger Day

Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean throws out the first pitch





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

January 23: Spring semester begins – Saturday classes
January 25: Spring semester begins – Weekday classes

March 9 & 10: **GRAD FEST**
csuci.edu/commencement/precommeneventsinfo

Spring Semester Series:
*(schedules to post
early spring semester)*

- **Arts & Sciences LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES**
csuci.edu/academics/artsandsciences/library-lecture-series
- **Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics – MVS SPEAKERS SERIES** ▶
business.csuci.edu/events.htm
- **MVS CAMARILLO LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES**
csuci.edu/news/releases/2015-camarillolibrarylectureseries



MVS Fall 2015 Speaker
Kristin Decas



◀ **April 9: FROM INSPIRATION TO INNOVATION: Celebrating Visionary Leadership**
A farewell dinner honoring the presidency of Richard R. Rush
farewellrush.csuci.edu

April 21: Business & Technology Partnership LEADERSHIP DINNER

May 14:

- **SAGE Student Research Conference – Broome Library**
- **HONORS CONVOCATION – Broome Library Plaza**

May 21: COMMENCEMENT – South Quad ▶
Ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
csuci.edu/commencement

