

# Students channel their potential

AST MAY I HAD THE ABSOLUTE HONOR OF congratulating the largest graduating class in CSU Channel Islands' history. It was a powerful and deeply memorable celebration of the acquisition of knowledge. What an extraordinary experience to look each graduate in the eye as they grasped their diploma and beamed with pride and optimism for their future. Commencement is the pinnacle of the work that we do here at CSUCI, and I was so proud of each and every one of our graduates.

CSUCI is a campus with an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit. That spirit is evident in the many accomplishments our faculty, staff and students achieved during the last academic year.

Here are just a few examples of those achievements:



- As part of the Foundation for Student Success Program, CSUCI was selected as one of seven universities in the country to serve as a mentor to other colleges seeking to improve the success of their underrepresented students. We hosted universities from Ohio, Connecticut and Colorado and our work in this program has the potential to impact hundreds of thousands of students from across the nation.
- Our campus was one of two universities from around the world that attained the New Media Consortium's Center of Excellence Award for "an exceptional record of integrating technology with learning."
- Our Computer Science graduate students worked in collaboration with a local branch of the FBI and the Ventura County District Attorney's office to solve the problem of attaining timely forensic evidence from computers in a way that prevents evidence tampering. In just one month, they developed "SEAKER" a prototype of a digital forensic cybersecurity crime prevention tool that allows law enforcement to collect evidence in a matter of seconds.

At CSUCI, we believe in the fundamental potential of our students and we place them at the very heart of our campus community. This was never more apparent than last fall when a campus team opened a food pantry for students experiencing food insecurity. They also established an emergency student loan program and identified potential housing support for students undergoing temporary homelessness or a financial crisis.

At the time this issue of Channel went to print, devastating fires were raging across Southern California. Thousands of members of our communities, including many CSUCI students, faculty and staff, were being evacuated from their homes, lost their homes entirely or suffered deep emotional trauma. Our deepest sympathies go out to everyone affected by these extraordinarily destructive events, and our greatest appreciation go to the firefighters and first responders.

CSUCI established the "Ekho Your Heart" relief fund to collect donations for members of our campus community directly impacted by the fires. If you are able, please consider donating at go.csuci.edu/heart. If you know a CSUCI student, faculty or staff member affected by the fires, please direct them to this website. With your generosity, we can help our community persevere through this extremely difficult time.

Sincerely,

Erika D. Beck, Ph.D.

President



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

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**Cover:** Multifaceted Living and Learning page 18

#### 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: csuci.news@csuci.edu



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# Channel

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# CSUCI among the Top 10 Safest Campuses in the U.S.

By Kim Lamb Gregory

**T**EAMWORK, VISIBILITY AND approachability might be what earned CSUCI a spot among the top 10 safest campuses in the U.S.

According to CollegeStats.org, CSUCI is ranked ninth safest campus in the country based on crime rates from the top 100 most attended schools in the nation.

"We have an amazing public safety staff," said CSUCI's Acting Chief of Police Michael Morris. "I think the cause for this outcome is the fact that everyone on this campus — faculty, staff and students — understand that campus safety is a shared responsibility."

Morris said the department takes extra steps to make sure the officers are available and on alert. "We do make sure that our officers maintain high visibility at all times with a combination of patrols in marked police cars as well as foot patrols," Morris said.

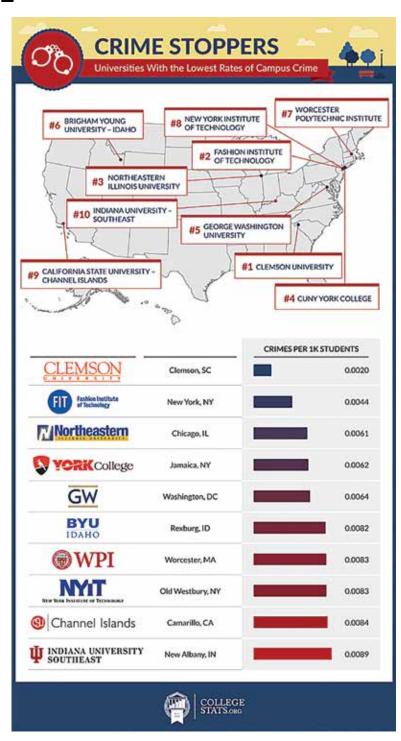
Everybody on campus works to keep the environment safe, comfortable and crime-free, he added, by reporting any suspicious activity and keeping the lines of communication open between the campus and the police.

The CSUCI Police Department reaches out to the campus regularly by sponsoring events like "Coffee with the Cops" and "Cocoa with the PoPo" in which students, faculty and staff can stop by the Student Union for a free cup of coffee or cocoa, snacks and an informal chat.

CollegeStats.org is a nonprofit website that gathers statistics that accredited schools regularly

provide, as required by law. CollegeStats.org collects the information and organizes it into a user-friendly format so students can make decisions based on a school's merit, rather than on that school's marketing.

CollegeStats.org also analyzed survey data from



more than 179,000 students nationwide to find out whether students felt safe overall.

According to the CollegeStats.org website, almost 29 percent of students said they didn't feel as if they had anything to worry about on campus. •c

## The Interdisciplinarian

### Introducing Geoffrey Chase, CSUCI's new Provost

By Zoe Lance

A FEW MONTHS AFTER HE arrived at CSUCI, Geoffrey Chase walked into the hallway of the Bell Tower building to find two students looking for a faculty member's office. In helping them find their way, Chase struck up a conversation with them about their majors and what they wanted to do after college.

"The energy they exuded about what they were studying and what careers they wanted to pursue was incredible," he said. "I'm very impressed with CSUCI students' commitments to their own education. They're excited about what they're doing, and they're willing to work hard."

Chase, who became CSUCI's Provost in July, thrives on these interactions with students, faculty and staff. It's his job to make strategic decisions about the University's academic growth, and in his first months as Provost, he's held office hours to learn about University values, goals and challenges.

"The level of engagement CSUCI students are expected to exhibit contributes to the University's intellectual and academic integrity," Chase said. "Every day, I'm reminded by how many people love this institution and how attached to it they are."

Chase is no stranger to the CSU system. He spent 14 years of his illustrious career in education at San Diego State and has known about Ventura County's public university since its inception. He appreciates CSUCI's interdisciplinary focus.

"I have always been drawn to integrated approaches to learning and knowledge," he said. "I want to reinforce an institution that has already done great things, and it's a privilege to be here at a time when CSUCI is ready to take the next steps."

Chase began his career as a high school English teacher. He felt a pull back to higher education, and received two master's degrees before a doctorate in 20th-century American and British literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

After a decade in the classroom, he took on administrative positions that gave him a chance to work in a planning role. At several different institutions, he's served as a director, dean and associate provost. Before coming to CSUCI, he was vice president of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission.

"I love being around students and get a lot of energy from them," he said. "At the same time, I like strategizing how an institution can support faculty, students and staff and working across disciplines."

The idea that a university should help its students gain the knowledge and critical thinking skills to excel past the classroom is at the heart of his educational philosophy.

"We need to make sure that students have the skillset to be successful in their field, but that they are also able to deal with the challenges that are inevitably going to rise in their careers and communities," Chase said. "Learning how to work in teams to solve problems that no one person can solve is critical, and when students find the solution that doesn't work we want them to try again."

He also deeply values the faculty and staff's diverse strengths and talents, especially when it's time to solve complicated issues.

"I like to sit down and work with



a group of people and say, 'Let's figure this problem out. I need your strengths as a faculty member from your discipline, and I need this staff member's perspective,'" he said. "I want to learn as much as I can from the people who have been here, and who have helped build this University to the great place where it is."

Chase sees an exciting and fruitful future for CSUCI. His vision includes finding more ways to boost graduation rates and developing a strategic planning culture for instructional space and academic programming, while remaining student-centered and committed to the University's Four Pillars of service-learning, intercultural, multicultural and integrative studies.

"Everyone is asking really good questions about what's next and how to build on our strengths," he said. "That level of commitment is really extraordinary and needs to be celebrated." •c

## **Making Dreams Come True**

### CSUCI's Multicultural Dream Center

By Zoe Lance

**P** OR THE STUDENTS THAT FREQUENT THE Multicultural Dream Center (MDC), it's more than a center and lounge area.

When you walk past the center's new location in the Bell Tower building, you'll see students actively work in groups to complete homework and projects. You'll watch them engage in workshops on how to manage their money and time. And you'll hear them in deep, meaningful conversation about social justice issues.

This is exactly what the Retention, Outreach & Inclusive Student Services team loves to see happening in their space and throughout campus. Its mission is to cultivate a respectful and welcoming community for marginalized

student populations, and to strengthen a campus culture of student success. The MDC does this through offering a communal space and a diverse educational programing calendar to match student interest.

This semester alone, the MDC has hosted critical dialogues around First Amendment rights, diversity in media representation, mindfulness, and student development. Additionally, the center has celebrated National Coming Out Day, hosted a screening of the movie "Get Out" and offered Undocumented Student Ally Trainings.

Hiram Ramirez, Director of Inclusive Student Services and the MDC, says that through these programs and services students have authentic conversations with staff that acknowledge their rich life stories. Since moving to a larger space this







fall, more students are becoming regular visitors.

"The staff engages with students in small ways, but it could have larger implications for the students in feeling that they can come here and ask questions," he said. "We want students to understand that this space is a community."

As a student assistant for the MDC, Lauren

environment where student success is always encouraged."

Charles Osiris, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Retention, Outreach & Inclusive Student Services, says that the staff create and foster a welcoming campus community for all students, with an emphasis on the well-being of marginalized

student populations.

"As staff, we have a responsibility to help all students, particularly those who do not have the social capital to navigate the collegiate experience," Osiris said. "There is power in

aspirational role models for students and this space facilitates opportunities for students to talk with and be mentored by those role models. It's really about having a multicultural perspective and a place that captures the opportunity for all students to fulfill their dreams and goals, and understand issues of equity, access and inclusion." •c

"It is a safe space for students of any identity. The staff truly makes the center the amazing resource that it is." – Lauren Hernandez

Hernandez has experienced the holistic aspects of the MDC's services. The senior Liberal Studies student appreciates how the staff is always willing to lend a listening ear and to talk about life after graduation.

"It is a safe space for students of any identity," she said. "The staff truly makes the center the amazing resource that it is. They ensure an









## A Full Extension

### Gary Berg retires from CSUCI

By Zoe Lance

A FTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS working in continuing education, Gary Berg has retired as CSUCI's Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Extended University. In the roles he held since 2002, he spearheaded establishing the University's self-supported academic programs.

Berg's career started outside of the university setting. After receiving his Master of Fine Art from UCLA, Berg worked for the Directors Guild of America (DGA) and administered continuing education for film and television directors. This sparked an interest in returning to academia, which led Berg to earn his doctorate in higher education administration from Claremont Graduate University.

His research focus has been in distance learning and public policy in higher education, and he authored many articles and six books on these topics. He also co-edited two encyclopedias of distance learning.

"I was especially interested in working with adults and professionals, since the courses at the DGA were often taught by people who didn't have degrees but had extensive knowledge," he said. "I believe in the power of public education to transform people and society."

Before arriving at CSUCI, Berg led extended education at the California School of Professional Psychology and Chapman University. When he joined CSUCI, he knew that building extension programs from the ground up was a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. He saw the challenge of the region's geography and worked to make the University accessible to Santa Barbara and Ventura County residents.

"It was an incredible opportunity to help with the creation of a public university in California, which is an increasingly rare thing," he said. "It was a lot of work, but it was very exciting. There was a really remarkable latitude in the CSU to create a university that specifically serves its region. That's what we've done."

Berg reached out to community partners and sought contracts and grants. Creating public-private partnerships was very important to him, since Extended University responds to a community need.

"The master's in biotechnology, for example, became a real signature program for the University because it's an excellent example of working closely with local industry," he said. "It developed through connections with Amgen and Baxter. The satellite campus in Goleta is a public-private program funded by Cottage Health. These are two programs I'm particularly proud of."

In his retirement, Berg is planning to continue writing and researching. He says he'll miss the people at CSUCI the most.

"The people are what really set CSUCI apart. There's a strong commitment and belief in the institution, and you don't see that much in larger universities," he said. "It's an important institution that does good work every day, and I'm happy to have been a part of it." \*C

## **A Transformative Experience**

### CSUCI faculty roles in the CSU's yearlong study abroad program

By Zoe Lance

HILE THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
International Program (CSUIP) helps students
engage in yearlong study abroad opportunities, it also
gives CSU faculty a career-enhancing experience as
International Resident Directors.

Three of CSUCI's faculty — Irina D. Costache,

Antonio Jiménez Jiménez and Luda Popenhagen — have participated in this highly competitive program that sources professors from the CSU's 23 campuses and places them in programs across the world. While abroad, they manage course enrollment, organize co-curricular field trips and help their students navigate everyday life in a new culture. All three agree that seeing students evolve into mature and independent critical thinkers is the best part of the job.

## 'THIS EXPERIENCE IS ABSOLUTELY ENGAGING'

In 2012, Costache was the first art historian to helm CSU's Italy program, which has its own campus and faculty. The program is affiliated with the Accademia di Belli Arti and the Università degli Studi di Firenze. The Art professor is currently abroad with the program for the second time. Over the course of the year, she'll help 83 students acclimate to the local culture, as well as take them on educational field trips.

"I see them go from asking themselves, 'Can I do this?' to 'Can I stay another year?'," she said. "It

is very rewarding for me to see how engaging and valuable this experience is for students. We're sharing our knowledge, making a difference and seeing transformations."

The program's location also gives her a chance to deepen her research in 20th century Italian art — she's working on a book project and connecting with Italian faculty, artists, art historians and museum curators.

"It's an incredible opportunity to work with and learn from other faculty," Costache said. "It helps me bring back new teaching ideas to the United States."

#### 'A MULTIFACETED TRANSFORMATION'

Ten years ago, Jiménez Jiménez served as a resident director at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid. Next year, the Professor of Spanish will be back in his home country for another term to help students strengthen their language skills. He still stays in touch with students from his 2007-08 cohort.

"You get to connect with the students at a much

deeper level when you see them every day for a year," he said. "It made me want to be involved again."

His research interest in the language development of students in study abroad programs also aligns with the experience. He sees the progress students make on assignments, but it's even more fulfilling to see them use their skills outside of the classroom.

"You see that in the most optimal scenario," Jiménez Jiménez said. "A year makes them more analytical about the world around them. It's a multifaceted transformation."



Antonio Jiménez Jiménez



## 'IT HAS ENRICHED AND REENERGIZED ME'

"I've lived and worked in France before, but this has been a really wonderful opportunity for professional development and a hands-on learning experience with the CSU IP and its students," said Popenhagen, a Theatre and French professor. She spent the 2016-17 academic year in Paris and Aix-en-Provence, where CSU has two programs.

It was important for her to give her students the chance to culturally immerse themselves and get to know the region well. Popenhagen says that

this gives them an advantage in their professional paths.

"They can say, 'I know the French culture and I have successfully studied and lived and survived there," she said. "They're the cream of the crop because they have this experience on their resumes, and they're ready for professional work."

She also feels these benefits on a personal and professional level.

"Now I can say that I know the south of France well," Popenhagen said. "I was able to reestablish my French theatre contacts. It has enriched and reenergized me." •c

## New Faculty Faces

By Zoe Lance

SUCI HAS WELCOMED

19 new tenure track
faculty members to its University
community this year. This year's
class includes faculty joining us
from Hawaii to New York, as well
as those with strong connections
to Southern California, Ventura
County and the CSU system.

We welcome new faculty with teaching experience at CSUCI and around the world, as well as those just beginning their academic careers. Their expertise and teaching interests range from disability policy design to emerging communication technologies within women's entrepreneurship; from humanoid robots to California ocean and coastal management; from Latin American art to contemporary African science fiction. They are:



Theresa Avila
Assistant Professor of Art
History
Ph.D.
University of New Mexico



Nicholas Centino
Assistant Professor
of Chicana/o Studies
Ph.D.
University of California,
Santa Barbara



Dana Baker
Associate Professor of Political
Science
Ph.D.
University of Texas at Austin



Nina Clements
Information Literacy
Coordinator
-Sr. Assistant Librarian
MLIS
University of Pittsburgh



Raquel Baker
Assistant Professor of English
Ph.D.
The University of Iowa



Houman Dallali
Assistant Professor
of Mechatronics Engineering
Ph.D.
The University of Manchester



Maria Ballesteros-Sola
Assistant Professor
of Management
Ph.D.
IE Business School



Talya Drescher
Assistant Professor
of Education
Ph.D.
University of California,
Los Angeles



Gareth Harris
Assistant Professor of Biology
Ph.D.
University of Toledo



Lance Nolde
Assistant Professor of History
Ph.D.
University of Hawaii at Manoa



Lynette Landry
Chair and Professor of Nursing
Ph.D.
University of California,
San Francisco



Daniel Reineman
Assistant Professor
of Environmental Science
& Resource Management
Ph.D.
Stanford University



HyeSun Lee
Assistant Professor
of Psychology
Ph.D.
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Jacqueline Reynoso
Assistant Professor of History
Ph.D.
Cornell University



Parul Malik
Assistant Professor
of Communication
Ph.D.
Purdue University



Cynthia Sherman
Assistant Professor
of Management
Ph.D.
Claremont Graduate University



Marianne McGrath Assistant Professor of Art MFA. University of Texas at Austin



Taylan Yalcin Assistant
Professor of Marketing
DBA
Harvard Business School



Kara Naidoo Assistant Professor of Education Ph.D. New York University



# CSUCI helps to combat state teaching shortage

By Zoe Lance

### ▲ CCORDING TO THE

Association, the state is going to need to replace more than 106,000 teachers over the next decade just to maintain its current staffing levels.

It will be more important than ever for universities to respond to the needs of local school districts and to help more potential teachers discover the career path and flourish in the classroom — especially those who are interested in Kindergarten through 12th

grade and those pursuing science, mathematics, special education and bilingual education credentials.

CSUCI's School of Education is already hard at work tightening this pipeline in partnership with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE). Ventura County is home to 20 school districts with 210 schools and many CSUCI School of Education alumni often end up teaching in the districts they've grown up in.

To help its students graduate career-ready, CSUCI is developing a four-year program that allows a student to receive both a bachelor's degree and credential in four years instead of five — an approach that more universities across the state are taking to combat the shortage. A \$250,000 grant from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has made this possible for CSUCI.

Bob Bleicher, program chair and Professor of Education, secured the grant that could enable the campus to triple the number of new teachers graduating each year with STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), special education



and bilingual credentials. The first cohort of this integrated program will begin in fall 2018.

In the everyday life of the School of Education, this grant will enhance student experience. Brian Sevier, who joined CSUCI's School of Education as Dean in August, says that this integrated credential aspect of the program will put CSUCI alumni ahead of the said. "This is a game changer."

For VCOE Superintendent Stan Mantooth, an infusion of CSUCI students into the local teacher workforce is a full circle.

"Ever since CSUCI opened, we developed a very close relationship," he said. "Our students go to the University, and in turn they become the teachers for the next generation. This will certainly help more of our

"We're very pleased with the strength of our partnership with CSUCI, and being in education, we're both in the business of the future," Mantooth said. "Without the teaching profession, there wouldn't be any other professions. It's critical that we connect to students so that we have an adequate workforce and keep things evolving."

In looking ahead, Sevier is very optimistic about CSUCI's role in shaping Ventura County teachers.

"Our long-term goal is to tell the story of the School of Education, and to tap into the natural pipeline of people who want to stay and teach in their community because they believe in their community," he said. "This University was formed in response to a community need, and we need to continually check in on that need. We are the pathway." •c

"Our students go to the University, and in turn they become the teachers for the next generation." –Stan Mantooth

curve. At the same time, they are learning theories at the University, that the students will be putting it into practice in their clinical experiences. Having a specialized credential also will help them fill the gaps in teaching needs.

"Having to finish a bachelor's degree and then come back for an additional year can be a burden," he young people consider teaching as a career."

This also directly relates to the efforts of the Ventura County P-20 Council. Mantooth, CSUCI President Erika Beck and other leaders in education, business and community agencies work together to support the academic preparation and success of students in the region.

## A Student-Centered Student

# Karina Hinojosa's journey to Student Government

By Zoe Lance

HEN KARINA HINOJOSA '18 ATTENDED HER first Cal State Student Association meeting in October 2016, so much of what she already felt about student leadership crystallized for her. She met like-minded peers from both CSUCI and other CSU campuses who also were serious about working hard to improve student experience.

"Being able to speak on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves has always motivated me," the senior Liberal Studies student said. "I want to do it to the best of my abilities and the way to do that is to get involved."

Encouraged by this experience and the fulfillment she found in being CSUCI Student Government's director of operations, Hinojosa decided to run for 2017-18 Student Government president and won. Alongside Vice President Alexis Mumford and other senate members, she coordinates programming and advocacy efforts. Bethany Bañuelos, Associated Students Inc.'s student programs coordinator, says that Hinojosa is a collaborative and inspirational leader.

"She leads with excellence and integrity in all she does," Bañuelos said. "Her positivity and desire to build community are demonstrated through her commitment to the Student Government team and the student body."

Hinojosa wants to strengthen student communication efforts and help more of her peers get involved in the Lobby Corps, an advocacy group that

"Being involved in things that are higher than yourself makes you want to be a lifelong learner." -Karina Hinojosa

works with CSSA. She also is working on safety, campus climate and mental-health initiatives.

"We need to let students know Student Government exists and make sure they understand that they have resources," she said.

The aspiring special education teacher came to CSUCI from San Diego knowing that her campus



involvement was inevitable. As a teenager, she spent much of her time in the hospital because of chronic illness. Hinojosa found energy in volunteering with special-needs students, which pushed her to finish high school and enroll at CSUCI.

In addition to Student Government, she's participated in Island View Orientation, the Leaders in Education Awareness Program, the Residence Hall Association, Rotaract and the Latina Leadership Coalition.

"Being involved in things that are higher than

yourself makes you want to be a lifelong learner," Hinojosa said. "CSUCI's student-centered atmosphere was just so special. I wanted to be a part of this community."

And now that she's had a taste of state-level advocacy efforts, she wants to help pass legislation that affects students farther than her own future classroom.

"Student leadership keeps me running," she said.
"I'm so proud to say I'm student government president at one of 23 campuses in the biggest public-university system." •c

# On-Campus Connections

# Katherine Crook's experience with student life

By Zoe Lance

## **K**ATHERINE CROOK '19 RUNS HER LIFE BY THE triple-win method.

"I like everything I do to have multiple reasons to do it and help multiple people," the senior Communication student said. "If we're not winning on three sides, I want something better."

Crook ascribes to this when she's working on a sorority philanthropy project, cleaning up her local beach or giving advice to her peers on how to run a successful student organization. Making connections across the University to better overall student life is very important to her.

"It's so cool how everyone knows everyone at CSUCI," she said. "It's what I really like about it — everyone's always trying to support each other. It helps everyone be more successful and it's such a good environment to be in."

After growing up in Santa Barbara, Crook attended multiple colleges and universities. Her parents, who own Milpas Motors, encouraged her to go to school closer to home. When she started at CSUCI in the 2016-17 academic year, she was immediately drawn to joining clubs and organizations in a way she hadn't felt at her previous campuses. She also found that the Communication program was the place to have meaningful conversations with faculty and develop interpersonal skills.

"CSUCI makes it easy — there's always something going on, and the community is always inviting everyone," Crook said. This year, she's serving as

"CSUCI makes it easy— there's always something going on, and the community is always inviting everyone." – *Katherine Crook* 

vice president of the Green Generation Club and the treasurer for Pokémon Club.

She also met other students who were interested in starting a new sorority chapter. In just one week they co-founded the University's chapter of Kappa Rho Delta and centered their philanthropic efforts on children, animals and the environment.

"We want to provide a space for every type of



person and personality, but still come together to foster friendship and women empowerment," said Crook, who is serving as the chapter's president this year.

After she graduates, Crook plans to go to graduate school to become a veterinarian. She

feels ready to start working in the animal sciences field, which is something both her degree and campus involvement has prepared her for.

"Being a part of so many clubs gives you so many life skills,"

she said. "You learn how to manage your time, be in charge of something, put on an event, and talk to other people. CSUCI does a really good job of creating a well-rounded person." •c

# **Paying It Forward**

### Virgil Adams on University service and being Academic Senate Chair

By Zoe Lance

A SK VIRGIL H. ADAMS III WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A faculty member, and he will tell you that it means being in the life-changing business.

"I believe in the ideal of placing the students at the center of the educational experience," he said. "We have a collective mission to help our students become productive citizens, and that's where my heart and soul is: helping students to move forward."

This conviction drives Adams — who is currently serving as Chair of the CSUCI Academic Senate and Interim Chair of the Psychology program — in all his University service work.

general education and faculty affairs. In his second academic year at CSUCI, he was elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Academic Senate and served in that role for three consecutive years.

Working closely with more than 100 senators, as well as with campus leadership, is a role he deeply enjoys.

"I learned long ago that this is a campus of great people that all share the same common desire, which is to educate students and prepare people for the future," Adams said. "To have the opportunity to be the leader of this group and that mission is very humbling."

For Adams, this service also is personal. He earned his bachelor's degree in the CSU system at Fresno State and remembers the faculty that inspired him to pursue

"We have a collective mission to help our students become productive citizens, and that's where my heart and soul is: helping students to move forward." –Virgil H. Adams III

Elected by his colleagues to serve as Academic Senate Chair, Adams oversees many committees and sets agendas for the official representative legislative body of the University. Its decisions on academic policy and curriculum affect the everyday student's academic experience at CSUCI.

Since joining the University in 2003, Adams has served on, and often chaired, many of the standing committees that make up the Academic Senate. This has included work on student academic policies, curriculum,

a career in academia. He knows that in the Academic Senate's decisions, there's been a vested interest in the University's well-being.

Being a leader, both on campus and in organizations such as the California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education, has been an extension of this service work.

"I can remember the days when I was sitting in the seats that our students are now sitting in," Adams said. "I went back to thank my previous instructors, and they told me it was my job to go on and open the

door for somebody else. The ideal of paying it forward and helping the next generation of students has been my theme."

Over the rest of the academic year, Adams is focusing on how the Academic Senate will contribute to the University conversation around strategic planning.

"CSUCI is at a very unique point in its history," he said. "Being Academic Senate Chair and working on a shared vision of our future is an honor." •c







## **Cultivating Curiosity**

Inside SURF, the living-learning community of undergraduate research

By Zoe Lance

HETHER THEY ARE UNCOVERING A TREASURE trove of political ephemera, doing fieldwork to help the National Park Service or presenting at regional research conferences, one thing is apparent about the students in CSUCI's Student Undergraduate Research Fellow (SURF) program — their curiosity knows no bounds.

Nancy Villegas Sanchez, a freshman Nursing student, feels this thrill of exploring the unknown when she's working on her SURF research project. She and 24 of her freshman peers in the third SURF

highlight the collection.

"My SURF community is very different from my friends and siblings' experiences in college," Villegas Sanchez said. "We are making connections and get to explore the unknown. We get to take advantage of the University's resources."

Since its inception in 2015, SURF has been open to any first-year student who is willing to try an interdisciplinary approach to their studies, says Sean Kelly, a Professor of Political Science and the founding director of CSUCI's Interdisciplinary Student Research Laboratory. In the SURF living-learning community, students live together in

campus housing, enroll in the same courses and build close peer mentor and faculty relationships.

"This program exposes them to what it means to

be a curious person, and the idea that when you go home you don't stop learning," Kelly said. "It breaks down the barriers between where you live and where you learn."

"This program exposes them to what it means to be a curious person, and the idea that when you go home you don't stop learning" –Sean Kelly

cohort are digitizing political memorabilia donated by the family of Jane Tolmach, the late community activist and the first woman to serve as Oxnard's mayor. SURF students are building a website to SURFers also retreat to and conduct research at CSUCI's station on Santa Rosa Island, an opportunity that's usually reserved for upper-division students. The goal for each student is to present an original project at two regional conferences and build presentation skills.

"Getting my hands into all of this research makes me feel better prepared for my Nursing classes," Villegas Sanchez said. "This is all new information for everyone, and we don't know where this is going, but it's a great opportunity for us."

Austin Cauwels, a sophomore Biology student, also has thrived in this educational setting. Before joining SURF, she considered herself an average student who didn't know much about undergraduate research.

Over the course of a year, she developed a research project that helped the National Park Service document invasive species on Santa Rosa Island. She credits this experience with helping her mature and now she's paying it forward by being a research student ambassador for this year's cohort.





"I now consider myself a stellar student. That had a lot to do with the SURF mentors I had in my first year," she said. "A teacher's assistant in an organismal biology class gave me tips on reading textbooks, staying on top of homework and knowing when I was taking on too much. It's a really good platform to start off your first year and I wanted to give back to SURF."

Kelly says that former SURFers come back to tell him how valuable the experience was. He often sees their personal metamorphoses — many go from fearing research to having the confidence to present alongside students from top colleges and universities. This has helped the SURF faculty develop a summer program, where junior and senior students can hone their skills.

"This is transformational," he said. "The students look at themselves differently after the experience. There's deep learning going on and an opportunity to reflect on that learning that you might not get in an ordinary class."

To learn more about CSUCI's livinglearning communities, visit **go.csuci.edu/ living-learning c** 







# AMSA students look the picture of health

By Zoe Lance

A SK THE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN CSUCI'S chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) why they joined the organization, and they'll tell you that the decision was easy. It gives them a network of peers who are all interested in the

them a network of peers who are all interested in the deep satisfaction of becoming a medical professional.

Established in spring 2016, CSUCI's AMSA chapter provides resources for all students who are working towards careers in dentistry or medicine. Its diverse event calendar consists of professional lectures, mock interviews and exam study sessions with Kaplan, an international test preparation company. The roster for CSUCI's chapter of the national association lists more than 90 members.

Brandon Eckert, the chapter's president and a senior Biochemistry and Biology student, wanted a cocurricular experience in his pathway to becoming a medical doctor. He noticed that many of his peers were either reticent to say that they were interested in medical school or that they didn't know how to prepare for applying. The University does not currently offer a specific pre-med emphasis for its science degrees.

"Another student mentioned starting an AMSA chapter and he asked me: 'Is there even another university you could do this at?' The answer was no," Eckert said. "It's been hard work, but it's exactly what

I wanted to do and the University offered me that opportunity."

Now, AMSA gives them hands-on learning opportunities.

"We talk about how we're going to get to medical school beyond doing paperwork and applications," he said. "They have to think outside of that and stay motivated."

Eva Palomares, a senior Biology student, enjoys how AMSA gives her exposure to different medical professions through these events.

"What compelled me to join was to surround myself with people who are motivated to get into the medical field so that I could learn from them and be part of a community with the same goals," she said.

Avery Peavy, a senior Biochemistry student who co-founded the chapter with Eckert, says that establishing the organization's presence on campus made him think about how a student organization could help the community.

"What I enjoy about being a part of AMSA is the aspect of knowing I am around like-minded individuals who genuinely have taken an interest in selfless work," he said. "I have seen nothing but happy faces thus far."

In the spring, CSUCI's AMSA members plan to attend regional and national conferences, organize an annual suture clinic and host medical school outreach representatives. •c



# Scholars and donors meet at annual Scholarship Reception

By Kim Lamb Gregory

N URSING AND PSYCHOLOGY DOUBLE MAJOR
Annabelle Alward always knew she wanted to
attend college, but with a drug-addicted mother and
a transient father, Alward didn't know how she would
get there, or how she would afford it.

Because of her hard work and the generosity of scholarship donors, Alward is now in the second year of her Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) degree at CSUCI.

"I can go to class and not worry about where I am going to live, how I am going to get to class, or how I'll ever make it," she said to a crowd of scholars and donors who attended CSUCI's Scholarship Awards Reception on Sept. 8. The annual scholarship awards reception is a chance for scholarship recipients to meet with the donors who are investing in their futures.

"It's really amazing to watch what happens when our donors have the opportunity to interact with our students and to see our students eyes light up when they meet donors who have invested in them," said President Erika Beck when she spoke at the John Spoor Broome Library Plaza, where the reception was held. This year, donors awarded a total of \$465,608 in scholarships to 210 CSUCI students.

Alward was awarded the Margaret E. Garlock Nursing Scholarship, which goes to a student in the CSUCI Nursing program. Garlock was the executive secretary of philanthropist Martin V. Smith, for whom the School of Business & Economics is named. Garlock was grateful for the care she received during the last years of her life and wanted to support CSUCI's Nursing program.

Alward expressed her thanks as she stood at the podium and told her story to the audience of about 300. "My father suffered from anger issues and depression," she said. "My mother was a drug abuser who I never really knew." She and her older brother were in foster care until Alward turned 16 and was returned to her father.

"My father lost his job and we became homeless, staying in family shelters and surviving off state aid," she said. "We did not have a car, so I took online classes and studied for my SATs wherever I could; at a coffee shop, at the library, at church and the shelter."

Her determination paid off and she was accepted to several universities, but chose CSUCI's Nursing program. Alward will graduate in spring 2019.

"I can't thank CSUCI or the scholarship programs enough for allowing me to live my dream and break the cycle of being a first-generation former foster youth," she said. •c



From top left, clockwise: Jose Delgado, Christopher Hodges, Elaine Hodges, Bertrand Nguegang, Kirsty Nguegang, Mariah Stewart, Norma Stewart, Patricia Keller











# A Night of Local Distinction, Excellence and Flair

By Joanna Murphy

SUCI SUPPORTERS AND COMMUNITY attendees were treated to the electrifying sounds of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy - the homegrown swing band that played their way to international fame — at the President's Dinner & Concert at Libbey Bowl on Oct. 14.

Also, honored for their longtime support of the University, the John S. "Jack" Broome Family received the Robert J. Lagomarsino award with three generations of family members on hand (see article pg 26).

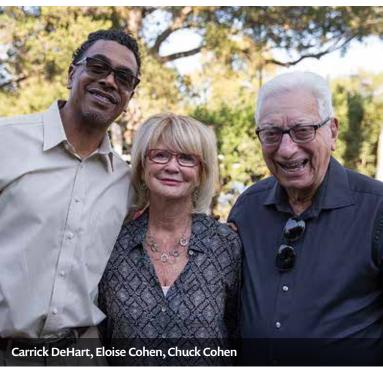
Jack's son, John S. Broome Jr. and his wife, Cheryl have continued Jack's legacy of supporting the University along with Jack's daughter, Betsy Grether, who has joined CSUCI's Foundation Board (see article pg 27).

CSUCI President and event host Erika Beck explained before the concert "The funds raised by the dinner and concert have supported scholarships and new academic programs, giving our students a chance to channel their potential and transform their lives."

The event, presented by the CSUCI Foundation and Rabobank, featured VIP cocktails, appetizers and a four-course dinner crafted by Seasons Catering and an alumni mixer before the event at Casa Barranca Organic Winery & Tasting Room. CSUCI thanks the sponsors of the President's Dinner & Concert:

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# Broome Family Receives Prestigious Robert J. Lagomarsino Award

By Kim Lamb Gregory

NE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S Dinner and Concert held Oct. 14 was the moment when CSUCI President Erika D. Beck awarded one of the University's highest honors to the family of John S. "Jack" Broome, longtime supporters of the University.

President Beck called members of the Broome family on stage at Libbey Bowl in Ojai just before the night's entertainment began to present them with the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award in appreciation for their generous support of CSUCI.

The award is named for the Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino, a former United States Congressman and State Senator who is also a longtime supporter of the University. The award is presented each year to an individual, individuals or an organization that has contributed to and supported CSU Channel Islands.

John Spoor Broome is perhaps best known for the University Library that bears his name. His son John S. Broome Jr. along with his wife, Cheryl, and his sister Elizabeth "Betsy" Grether, and her husband, John, have continued the family's legacy of supporting the University.

John Broome Jr. said, "In addition to the clear benefit of a university education, CSUCI is very important because a portion of the region's population is now able to achieve a college degree by having a campus nearby." Betsy Grether agrees, and said she appreciates how the University formed and grew with input from local residents about community needs. She added, "It's really important to support a public university in our community."

Broome Jr. and Grether said they appreciate the many aspects of CSUCI that make a difference in the area, especially serving the advanced educational needs of thousands of students. Broome Jr. said, "You could probably go to each department and program and see how the research and education benefits the students and correspondingly our world."

President Beck and her team are identifying existing as well as future needs for CSUCI noted Broome Jr. "This endeavor will create the path forward in developing curriculum, studies, and opportunities for students," he said.

Broome Jr. served on the CSUCI Advisory Board, and Grether is currently a member of the University's Foundation Board.

As she presented the Broomes with the Lagomarsino Award, President Beck expressed gratitude for all that the family has given and continues to give to the campus.

"Thank you to the entire Broome family for channeling your passion into establishing this remarkable University and helping us to transform lives every day," Beck said. •c

## Foundation is six members stronger

By Kim Lamb Gregory

**S** IX NEW BOARD MEMBERS WHO bring experience in agriculture, business, law, the arts and biotechnology have joined the CSUCI Foundation Board.

Former Mandalay Berry Farm owner Linda Dullam, former Ojai Music Festival President Esther Wachtell, and Krause Bell Group founder Thomas Krause were voted in this summer.

MannKind Corp. CEO Hakan Edstrom and Attorney Chuck Cohen were voted in last February while agricultural businesswoman Betsy Grether was voted onto the board in late 2016.

"You're always trying to get people from different disciplines and backgrounds," said the Development Committee Chairperson of the CSUCI Foundation, Zohar Ziv, former Chief Operating Officer of the Deckers Outdoor Corp. "Not just in terms of their business, but also gender as well as ethnicity."

Ziv said the Foundation board benefits from geographic diversity, too, with members from Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties. Wachtell said she appreciates the commitment the University has to bringing first-generation families into the world of higher education.

Edstrom ran a biotechnology business based on access to well-educated employees and credits his own success to education, so he supports CSUCI to give others the same opportunity.

A world-renowned expert in organizational leadership and culture, Krause was inspired to join the board after meeting with President Erika Beck and appreciating her fresh ideas.

Still active land-use and real-estate attorney Chuck Cohen, also the former mayor of Thousand Oaks and former President of the Ventura County Bar

Association, is a 60-year active citizen in Ventura County, Cohen is aware of the positive influence CSUCI has had on the county and wanted to get involved.

Because agriculture is such a significant part of Ventura County, Dullam and Grether believe their agricultural roots will bring an important perspective to the board.

"The agriculture community sees many local issues in a different light than most locals so that perspective is always valuable when discussing important issues affecting all of us in Ventura County," Dullam said.

Grether, who is the director of Grether Farming Company Inc., is a member of the Broome family — a friend to the University since its inception.

The University's library bears the name of Grether's father, John Spoor Broome. Grether said being on the board reminds her of some of his best qualities.

"It's so inspiring," she said. "We used to talk about dad and his contagious enthusiasm. You just wanted to be involved. It's the same here at CSUCI. Everybody is so enthusiastic, you just want to be a part of it." • c









## Jeff Green's support of students

By Zoe Lance

IF YOU ASK JEFF GREEN WHAT DETERMINES A person's success, The Trade Desk founder and CEO will tell you that it's all about two things: grit and perseverance.

"I would never bet against the students of CSUCI because they have these two qualities," he said. "I hire more alumni from CSUCI than any other university that we recruit from."

Green can't remember a time where the University wasn't on his radar. For several years, his Venturabased company has actively sought out the University's alumni to help run its digital advertising platform. CSUCI graduates at The Trade Desk work in 20 worldwide offices and in many roles, including support management, software engineering and operations.

"After we hired a few people, we wondered how we could get more," Green said. "Both the Trade Desk and CSUCI were so interested in making it work that we quickly started a dialogue. The first hires are now managers who now have a bunch of CSUCI alumni on their own teams. It's been cool to watch."

In talking to President Erika Beck about the partnership, Green started to think about how he could



help more CSUCI students access a quality education. The Trade Desk has now established scholarships for rising students, some of which Green is personally sponsoring.

His ongoing commitment inspired CSUCI's Business & Technology Partnership, a consortium of community business leaders that fosters collaborations with the University, to name Green as the 2017 Technology Leader of the Year.

"There's nothing more important to us than having a deeper tie to the community," Green said, who has been a Ventura County resident for more than 20 years. "CSUCI is within reach for so many amazing people, some of which work at The Trade Desk. I'm inspired by them and I wanted to help.

Funding, supporting and promoting the University is crucial."

Green also thinks that it's vital for the technology sector to invest in higher education. He sees it as a very clear return on investment to support those who help funnel high-caliber people into local businesses and organizations.

"I believe deeply that we are better off as a community, a county, a state and a country when the people around us are educated," he said. "CSUCI has been a really important connection to the community, and we're investing in our collective future when we make investments in education. I don't think there's anything more important than doing that." •c



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# **Community Investor**

### Tania Garcia's role on the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce

By Zoe Lance

**T** F YOU ASK TANIA GARCIA HOW SHE ENVISIONS THE future of Camarillo, she'll tell you that it should be a utopia for entrepreneurship — a hub where small business owners thrive, companies put down deep roots and everyone is civically engaged.

"Camarillo is a pretty special place, and geographically the ideal location for county business," CSUCI's Director of Development, Alumni Relations, said. "I love that our community is very supportive of one another, and I hope we never lose that strength."

This perspective is what brought Garcia to the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce as its newest chairperson. Together with CEO Gary Cushing and 27 board members, Garcia supports the city's businesses by providing resources and advocating for their interests. She's been involved in their work since President Emeritus Richard Rush asked her to help represent CSUCI several years ago.

Both the community relations and business pieces of the position come easy to her. She already knew many local leaders through her previous work in CSUCI's Community & Government Relations office. Growing up, Garcia worked at her family's Mexican restaurant in New Mexico. She saw up close what

small businesses do to survive and also how they help towns and cities flourish.

"The chamber is asking, 'How do we encourage, keep and maintain our businesses here, and how do we attract new businesses and more small entrepreneurs?'," she said. "We need to become a place where a company wants to come and live."

She sees the direct tie between the chamber's mission and her interactions with CSUCI students and alumni. Many alumni start their own businesses in the neighborhood and her immersion into local business helps Garcia stay in the know about trends and needs.

"We have talented students, but we have to find ways to connect them to the right people," she said. "I often pass along opportunities to our alumni. We need to continue to help each other and build the success of our young leaders."

And for Garcia, the effort is all worth it to see CSUCI alumni pursuing their passions and engaging in their community.

"When I have the opportunity to see a student arrive at freshman orientation, get to know them over their time here, watch them graduate, and then see them start amazing careers, it's an amazing moment," she said. "I get to watch them grow and develop into these amazing young professionals that carry our mission forward."  $\diamond c$ 

## Dorothy Horn, '16 B.S. ESRM

# A surprise in a sand crab helps carve a career path

By Kim Lamb Gregory

**■** NVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & RESOURCE Management (ESRM) major Dorothy Horn was doing undergraduate research on sand crabs in 2015

when she and a fellow researcher made a startling discovery.

"We open up this sand crab and we saw a bunch of blue fibers," Horn said. "We were like 'holy cow! Oh my gosh!' We actually texted Professor Anderson."

"Are you sure?" ESRM Professor Sean Anderson texted back. "We better double check this as this is crazy."

The researchers expected some microtrash pollution, but they didn't expect so much. By the time they had sampled beaches up and down the West Coast, not one beach was free of sand crabs that had ingested microplastics.

Microplastics and microfibers are nonbiodegradable pollutants that wind up in the ocean from our shampoo, clothing and other common products. The sand crabs' ingestion of the microtrash introduces the pollutants into the food supply, which makes it a national and global concern.

The Southern California Academy of Sciences asked Horn to present her research at their annual meeting in May 2016 where she earned a "Best Student Presentation" award.

After graduating, Horn took a summer job with U.S. Fish & Wildlife where she educated young visitors to the Santa Barbara Zoo about condors, which were once near extinction. She also helped another scientist research how microtrash affects the baby condors. "It blocks their tiny tummies, they can't eat and they starve to death," she said.

A year and a half after graduating, Horn has channeled her success with the sand crab research into a doctoral project as she pursues a Ph.D. in Earth, Environment & Society at Portland State University.

"What we're doing now is trying to figure out the effects of these microplastics on us and the environment," Horn said. "A lot of scientists are finding that a lot of different organisms are ingesting microplastics. The NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) wants answers and they're driving this research."

As a nontraditional student who arrived at CSUCI after a career in the U.S. Marines, Horn, 39, believes she is proof that any student at any age can go on to a fulfilling and significant career. As she looks back at it





now, Horn credits her success to the ESRM faculty.

"From the first after-class meeting when I went to talk to the professors, their whole attitude was 'How can I help you meet your goals?'" she said. "I feel really prepared. I have been given the tools to be successful." \*c





Allison Clayton, '16 B.A. Art

# Alumna's career path takes her Down Under

By Kim Lamb Gregory

C HRISTMAS OCCURS IN SUMMERTIME, PEOPLE say "cheers" instead of "thank you," and nobody knows what happened on "The Voice" last night. These are some of the elements of the place CSUCI alumna Allison Clayton has called home for a little more than a year now — Sydney.

Armed with a degree in Studio Art with a minor in Business Management, the 25-year-old graduate found a job she loves Down Under.

Clayton is an account executive and content producer for L&A Social Media, a firm that manages social media accounts for 50 to 60 clients. She takes photos, writes copy and interacts with the clients, an ideal fit for the photography and marketing skills she learned at CSUCI.

"We're responsible for not only creating content but a whole range of other things," Clayton said. "The content ranges from beer to muffins to a Malaysian food restaurant."

The Camarillo native's journey to a dream job in Australia began with a camera she got for Christmas as a young teenager. "It sparked something creative in me I didn't know I had," Clayton said. "I started taking pictures and loved it."

She took more photography classes at Rio Mesa High School and realized that's what she wanted to do most. After applying to several colleges as a high school graduate, she decided on CSUCI because of the smaller class sizes and individual attention from professors.

It was an Art professor who suggested she apply to be a student photographer for CSUCI's Communication & Marketing (C&M) office. She got the job and was so good at it that she was hired as a full-time photographer after graduation.

"I learned so much from the C&M staff and they were all so supportive when the opportunity came up for me to make a decision about going to Sydney," said Clayton. "Although they said they were disappointed to see me leave, they really encouraged me to spread my wings."

Clayton then decided to pursue a dream: to explore life in Australia.

"My mom's family is from Australia so we've been going to Sydney every year since I was a baby," she said. "I thought it would be cool to just live there for a year and experience life rather than just three weeks at a time."

Clayton obtained a work visa and landed her job with L&A shortly after she arrived. Her 15 coworkers are from Australia, England and the U.S. The Australians frequently tease her about her "California accent."

Aside from never quite acquiring a taste for an Australian spread called Vegemite, Clayton loves the beauty and diversity of Australia, where the "sand seems whiter, the ocean seems bluer," she said. "Sydney is definitely the type of city I could see myself living in for a long time." • c



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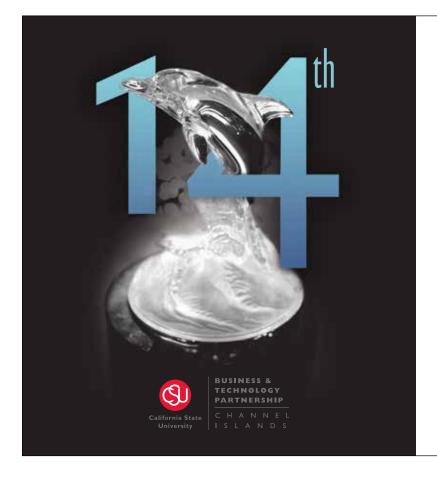
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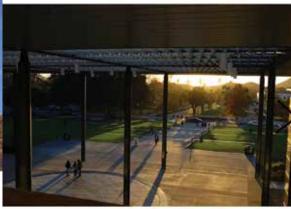
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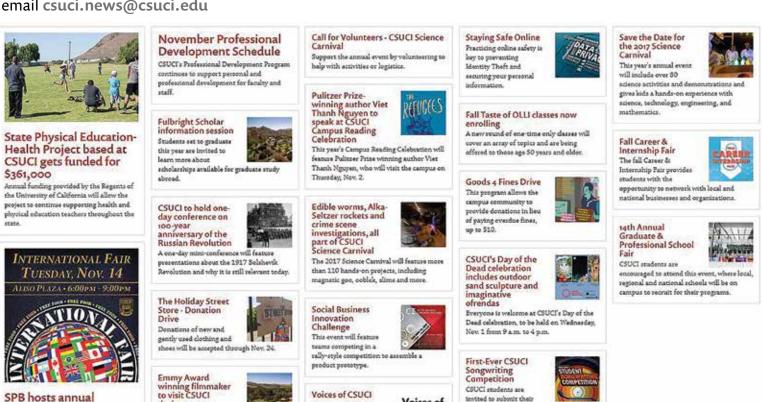
**Education Week** 

Lisa Russell has over 10 years' experience as

a documentary filmmaker and has worked

on creative projects and outreach campaigns with the UN and NGO agencies.

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