

# Channel

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS / 2021 Fall Magazine



The Smith family adds to their  
campus legacy page 20



# Channel

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Channel is an official publication of California State University Channel Islands. It is published twice a year for students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and the community at-large by the Communication & Marketing office within the Division of University Advancement.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send correspondence to [csuci.news@csuci.edu](mailto:csuci.news@csuci.edu), mail to: CSU Channel Islands, Communication & Marketing, Channel Executive Editor, One University Drive, Camarillo CA 93012-8599, or call 805-437-8415.

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#### INTERIM PRESIDENT

Richard Yao

#### VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Nichole Ipach

---

#### CHANNEL MAGAZINE STAFF

##### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Nancy Covarrubias Gill '05

##### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Joanna Murphy

##### COPY EDITOR

Pamela Dean

##### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Pamela Dean

Nancy Covarrubias Gill '05

Kim Lamb Gregory

Alex Padilla '17 and '21

##### STUDENT WRITER

Stephanie Villafuerte,

English major, Communication minor

##### GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sarah Schumacher

##### PHOTOGRAPHY

Whitney Howard

##### DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

Kristin Steiner '17

---

#### 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.



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Working together brought us safely back to campus*



We have come a long way since my last message here in spring. Collectively, we have worked tirelessly to bring the University community back together, and our success in doing so is thanks to the remarkable work of our Dolphin pod and our shared commitment to implement the rigorous safety measures we adopted. Throughout the pandemic, I have witnessed the resiliency of our campus and dedication towards realizing our mission — to being of good service to the students, families, and communities of our region. I thank each and every person at CSUCI whose unflagging commitment to this mission is continuing to see us through this most difficult of times.

Since my initial arrival in 2018, our campus has navigated numerous crises, and it is through these shared experiences — encountering adversity, solving problems, communicating effectively, and celebrating the small victories along the way — that we become closer as a campus and hyper-focused on achieving our goals.

The community has recognized our perseverance and dedication to our mission, and through your support, we are able to continue investing in the success of our students and help them achieve their highest academic potential. We are thankful to Mackenzie Scott and Dan Jewett for the largest donation in our campus' history, and to the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation for their ongoing support to be our largest single donor and their gift to renovate Manzanita Hall, which will be renamed Martin V. Smith Hall. We could not be more grateful for the generosity and dedication of our donors and our community.

Looking to the future, our ability to successfully navigate our immediate challenges has allowed us to concurrently focus on the long-term strategic needs of our University, and this is especially relevant as we approach our 20th anniversary in August 2022. This process involves a more rigorous assessment of post-graduate outcomes and evaluating how well we are fulfilling the workforce, industry, and service needs of our communities. Perhaps most importantly, our academic planning process will ensure that academic excellence, first and foremost, will fuel our long-term enrollment and campus growth. As this work continues in the coming year, we will share measurable progress toward achieving our goals.

It is such an honor to serve as your Interim President. Thank you for your unwavering support, commitment, and dedication to our mission. I wish you all a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, Ph.D.  
*Interim President*

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**ON THE COVER** Smith family members: Back row left to right: Margie Tegland and Toni Gardiner; Front row left to right: Vickie Pozzi and Cindi Daley



## CSUCI NEWS

by KIM LAMB GREGORY



### Plaque honoring civil rights icon Dolores Huerta placed on campus

She did not get the same recognition as civil rights leader César Chávez, but fellow activist Dolores Huerta was Chávez's right hand as he fought for farmworkers' rights in the 1960s.

In honor of Huerta's 90th birthday in April of 2020, the CSU Board of Trustees passed a resolution declaring that each of the 23 campuses would honor Huerta with an appropriate plaque, bench or some other permanent gesture. CSUCI campus members dedicated a plaque to Huerta near a well-traveled sidewalk in front of the John Spoor Broome Library. Students were able to see it for the first time when they returned to campus in Fall of 2021.

The plaque reads: "Honoring Dolores Huerta, whose fearless activism has contributed to a more just society rooted in the values of equity, social justice and inclusivity."



### Students write production with guidance from professional playwright

With the help of a professional playwright, the cast and crew of the Performing Arts Fall production researched and wrote their own collection of vignettes about the history of what is now the campus of CSUCI and titled it: "Camarillo Tales: Echoes in the Hills."

"It's inspired by the history, the lore of the land, the Chumash, the state hospital, the people and the campus," said Theater Lecturer Laura Covault. Under the direction of Covault and Performing Arts Lecturer Hugo Carbajal, the students were mentored by award-winning playwright/poet Marisela Treviño Orta.

"I would Zoom in for Thursday evening classes and give mini-lectures about dramatic structure and theory," Orta said. "Then I would give them writing exercises grounded with a theme."

"Camarillo Tales" ran for six shows from Nov. 4 through Nov. 13 — the first show to be performed on the outdoor stage across from Malibu Hall.



# MEXICAN AMERICANS with MOXIE

A TRANSGENERATIONAL HISTORY of EL MOVIMIENTO CHICANO in VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, 1945–1975

FRANK P. BARAJAS



## “Mexican Americans with Moxie” explores Chicana/o activism in the 1960s and ’70s

National issues such as the Vietnam War, civil rights, gender and racial equality and other explosive political causes dominated the U.S. in the 1960s and ’70s and Ventura County was as involved as the rest of the nation.

In his new book “Mexican Americans with Moxie,” Professor of History Frank Barajas, Ph.D., explores the unique brand of activism practiced by Chicana/os in Ventura County — especially the citrus communities of Fillmore and Santa Paula.

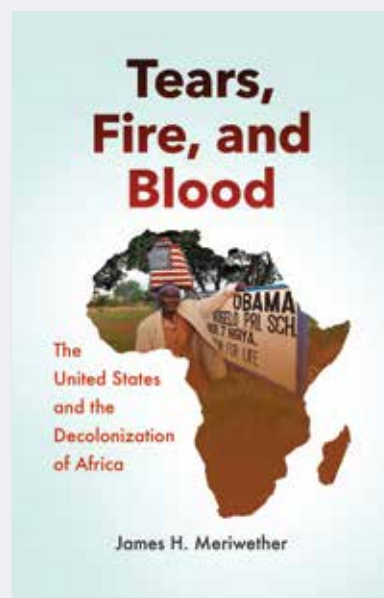
Published in August by the University of Nebraska Press, the book also looks at the more populated cities in the county, and El Movimiento’s ties to suburbanization, freeway construction and the rise of a high-tech and defense industry corridor.

## History professor compares struggles in the U.S. and Africa in “Tears, Fire and Blood”

Having lived in three different African countries and served in the Peace Corps in Botswana, Professor of History James Meriwether, Ph.D., has a deep appreciation for this continent of rich and varied cultures.

Published in November by the University of North Carolina Press “Tears, Fire and Blood: The United States and the Decolonization of Africa” explores the relationship between the two continents as 50 African countries declared their independence from colonial rule over roughly 50 years. Meriwether examines how Africa and the U.S. shared transnational struggles to racial equality. He also looks at the limits to U.S. government support for majority rule in Africa while others pushed for freedom and equality.

“I think the entire continent is underappreciated and too often off of people’s radars,” Meriwether said. “This book seeks to elevate people’s understanding and awareness.”



# Search for new CSUCI President underway

by PAMELA DEAN

## University seeks forward-thinking candidate

IN OCTOBER, the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees began the search for a new President of CSUCI to succeed Erika D. Beck, Ph.D., who became President of California State University, Northridge in January 2021.

Richard Yao was named CSUCI's Interim President in November 2020 and is expected to serve in this role through June 30, 2022. He formerly served as CSUCI's Vice President for Student Affairs. Yao, who identifies as a Chinese Filipino American, is the first person of color to lead the campus.

Lillian Kimbell, Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees, and Chancellor Joseph Castro selected a presidential search committee made up of community members, trustee members, and CSUCI faculty, staff and students.

Biology and Chemistry double major Sergio Mercado was chosen to be one of two students on the committee. He is the current editor-in-chief of the *The CI View*, the campus' student newspaper.

"As a member of *The CI View* for the past three years, I have had the opportunity to hear a lot of student opinions on who should represent CSUCI, and I hope to bring that to

the table as a committee member," Mercado said. "CSUCI is still a young campus, and I want us to find a President who has the right vision and drive to bring CSUCI to its full potential."

Renee Fuentes, CSUCI's Title

to have a passion for our unique student body, commitment to our four mission pillars, understanding of the role campus plays in our local community, and ability to bridge who we've become as a university over these past 20

years with who we need to become over the next 20 plus years," added Associate Professor of Organizational Communication Jacob Jenkins, Ph.D., who is also a member of the search committee.

Ideas from the broader campus community on the preferred attributes for the next President were gathered at an open forum held in October.

"We need someone deeply invested in the success of all

members of our campus community. Number one is students, of course, but our staff too," said Jessica Dalton, MS Biology Support Technician and CSUEU Chapter President. "Many of our staff are graduates of CSUCI and they stay to give back. We need a President who recognizes and honors those contributions."

The committee is currently reviewing candidates and conducting interviews. The new President is expected to begin in July 2022.



IX Administrative Specialist, is also serving on the search committee. She believes the campus needs a President who is "a stable, determined, long-term change-maker."

"Additionally, I would hope the new President has a desire to be approachable and visible in and around the entire campus community," Fuentes said. "The foundation for the President must come from a place of transparency."

"CSUCI's next President has



# Honoring Innovation

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

The President's Innovation Awards recognize the significant innovation and contributions of faculty, students and staff in advancing the University's mission and impact.

## **CAMERON BARTOSIEWICZ: President's Award for Student Innovation**

HIS EXPERIENCES IN HIGH SCHOOL AS A MEMBER of the LGBTQ+ community were "not always pleasant," according to Biochemistry junior Cameron Bartosiewicz. When he enrolled at CSUCI, he learned other LGBTQ+ students had similar experiences in high school.

"We started having conversations and doing research, which indicated my experience was commonplace among LGBTQ youth," Bartosiewicz said. "The numbers indicate they are at high risk for considering suicide."

With help from friends and allies, Bartosiewicz launched a youth organization to promote acceptance of

the LGBTQ+ community. His efforts were recognized at CSUCI's Convocation held on Aug. 19, 2021 when Interim President Richard Yao presented Bartosiewicz with a 2021 President's Award for Student Innovation.

"Cameron saw a need in his community and took active steps to address it by beginning a new non-profit 501c3 organization to support LGBTQ students called The Youth Pride Association or YPA," Yao said during Convocation. "We are proud to have Cameron in the Dolphin pod."



## **TALYA DRESCHER: President's Teaching & Innovation Award**

IMAGINE BEING A TEACHER IN A POSITION to have to tell parents that their child has a developmental disability. Imagine having that conversation with parents who speak another language.

Assistant Professor of Education Talya Drescher, Ph.D. was awarded the 2021 President's Teaching & Innovation Award because of how she bridged the gap between learning and doing by arranging for mixed reality simulations in which students could interact with an avatar and practice these sensitive conversations, sometimes with a bilingual translator.



"This was a collaboration across programs," Drescher said. "We worked together to bring mixed reality to our future bilingual educators with how to talk to parents in a culturally sensitive manner."

Drescher stressed that she did not do this alone, but worked with other faculty members in Early Childhood Studies, Credentials and the Bilingual Authorization program.

When presenting Drescher with the award, Richard Yao read part of a colleague's nomination letter aloud:

"Talya worked with instructors to plan, develop, prepare, implement, study and reflect upon mixed reality experiences that allowed close to 100 students to interact with an avatar and apply their learning within a safety net of support from their instructors and peers."

## **KRISTI O'NEIL-GONZALEZ: President's Staff Award for Excellence**

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIST and Accessibility Lead Kristi O'Neil-Gonzalez credits her grandmother with her passion for making sure those with disabilities are represented.

After Richard Yao presented O'Neil-Gonzalez with the President's Staff Award for Excellence, O'Neil-Gonzalez talked about her grandmother and how she navigated numerous disabilities.

"I didn't think of her as disabled. She was just my grandma, but our time together instilled in me the importance of taking action to help others,"

O'Neil-Gonzalez said.

O'Neil-Gonzalez won the recognition because of her efforts to design digital courses and learning software to be more accessible to all people with an eye toward equity for those with disabilities.

"Accessibility and inclusive design are exciting for me," O'Neil-Gonzalez said. "This is something we all should care about."





# *Celebrating Collaboration*

*Courtyard is named for longtime CSUCI friend Linda Dullam, who made the “Collaboratory” a reality*

*by* KIM LAMB GREGORY

THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN TWO TIMES THAT CSUCI Liberal Studies major Leonel Cleto removed the gold necklace that reads “Leonel” from around his neck.

The first time was when it was blessed by a priest and the second was when Cleto created a digital photo of the necklace using the Mobile Archive Collaboratory, a new addition to the John Spoor Broome Library.

“The Collaboratory opens up our University archives and special collections, making them more accessible for research, explained Digital Curation and Scholarship Librarian Elizabeth Blackwood. “Additionally, with it being more mobile, we’re going to be able to do outreach to the communities to build more interest in the history of our area.”

The Collaboratory was made possible by a \$100,000 gift from a longtime friend to the University, Linda Dullam, her latest contribution in a legacy that dates back more than 20 years.

On November 5, a library courtyard was officially christened the Dullam Courtyard during a reception attended by about 40 guests.

“Linda Dullam is a friend to this campus that we are incredibly fortunate to have,” Interim President Richard Yao said during the ceremony. “When I first arrived to campus and attended my first event with the community, Linda was the first person I interacted with. She introduced herself and asked me all kinds of questions about myself, and told me what a good decision I made to come here in service of our campus and students. That moment meant a lot to me, and it’s an honor to recognize her generosity to our campus and dedicate this courtyard in her name.”

Dullam and her late husband, John, helped lead the charge to establish a public university for Ventura County. As former owners of Mandalay Berry Farm in Oxnard, the Dullams’ roots in the county ran deep.

ABOVE From left to right: CSUCI President Emeritus J. Handel Evans, Interim President Richard Yao, Linda Dullam, President Emeritus Richard R. Rush.





As one of the original CSUCI Foundation board members, Dullam helped launch CSUCI's most significant fundraising event, the President's Dinner, and created the University's first scholarship awards. She also served on committees that renovated and beautified many campus courtyards in the early 2000s.

In 2006, Dullam received the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award, one of the University's highest honors, for her support of CSUCI and higher education.

"Our library is growing as part of a state-of-the-art 21st century University," Dullam said during the Dullam courtyard dedication. "We provide access to the tools of learning that students need. To be part of this growth at CSUCI is both an honor and a challenge. I always think how lucky I am to be part of this institution. To quote Ghandi, I welcome the chance to 'be the change I wish to see in the world.'"

A new partnership created by Blackwood and Assistant Professor of History Hanni Jalil, Ph.D., enabled Cleto and other students in a class called "Historian's Craft" to learn to archive letters, birth certificates and family artifacts. During

the Dullam reception, Blackwood said plans are to continue integrating the Collaboratory into other majors.

Before the ribbon cutting ceremony for the courtyard, Dullam expressed what a joy it was for her to help establish the Collaboratory, and to support the University throughout the years.

"It's changing people's lives," she said to the guests, who later gave her a standing ovation. "And that's what happens out here—lives change."



LEFT The Collaboratory at the Broome Library offers a mobile scanning unit for archiving digital materials and photographs of objects.





# To the Amazon





# ... and back

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

**A**RMED WITH A BAG AND A SNAKE hook, CSUCI Assistant Professor of Biology Rudolf von May, Ph.D., and another scientist followed the light from their headlamps as they walked slowly through the Amazon rainforest.

“We would scan every possible tree trunk and plant,” von May said. “When we would find something moving or the eyes would shine, we would catch it, take a quick look, and put it in a bag.”

Then, the scientists would take the specimens back to camp to study them.

Von May was cataloguing the species of amphibians and reptiles in the Peruvian Amazon, part of an international multi-year, multi-disciplinary research project aimed at providing evidence for protecting more areas of the Amazon.

“Most of the areas rich in biodiversity are part of the ancestral territories of Amazonian indigenous people,” von May said. “The formal protection of these areas helps conserve the biodiversity and the traditional ways of life of local communities.”

From 2000 to 2016, scientists from around the world conducted what’s known as a “rapid inventory” — a fast survey of remote areas — in 14 different regions covering more than nine million hectares (one hectare contains about 2.5 acres). This process involved a team of biologists who studied plant and animal species, while a team of social scientists researched indigenous communities.

The rapid inventories involved hundreds of scientists and indigenous partners from different ethnic groups. Von May himself hails from Peru, which is home to about 13% of the Amazon rainforest. Von May conducted field study in 2009 and 2010 and then continued to collaborate with his colleagues.

The research team concentrated on Loreto, the largest state in Peru. Loreto has few roads, so researchers traveled by boat and helicopter, then camped for three weeks for each inventory.

The project was funded by a number of organizations and donors, and was coordinated through the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois.

Field Museum ecologist Nigel Pitman, Ph.D.,

who was lead scientist on the project, wrote a blog for the New York Times about the Amazon experience, including one piece about what it was like to follow von May and fellow herpetologist Jonh Jairo Mueses-Cisneros of Colombia one night after the moon rose over the trees.

“As they work, the beams of their headlamps go sweeping restlessly through the forest,” Pitman wrote. “They go on working through the leaf litter with their snake hooks, turning over rotting logs, searching around the bases of buttressed trees, and wading off the trail now and then to investigate some

intriguing eye shine.”

“Peru is a developing country and faces many challenges,” von May said. “While the government is interested in attracting investors, it must remain committed to protecting the Amazon and the rights of indigenous people.”

Pitman, von May, and their colleagues recently published a report in “Science Advances,” the open access journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Since the team presented the research to local policymakers nine of the 14 landscapes — about 5.7 million hectares (an area larger than the Central Valley of California) — have been designated as protected areas.



LEFT CSUCI Biology professor Rudolf von May adventuring by plane and boat through the Amazon and interacting with the wildlife and native inhabitants.

Photographs courtesy of Álvaro del Campo



# BACK IN PERSON,

by PAMELA DEAN

**I**n August, CSUCI eagerly welcomed students, faculty and staff back to campus for the Fall semester after operating in a virtual capacity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

“We are thrilled to bring back in-person instruction, activities, programs, and student support services,” said Interim President Richard Yao.

Math major Jessica Tapia is happy as well. “It feels so good to be back. I didn’t realize how much I missed being on campus.”

The senior is grateful to be attending classes in person, living in her dorm once again, and having lunch with friends in the Student Union.

Tapia is just one of many students glad to return to the normalcy of life on a college campus.

“I feel so happy that I am back on campus where I am around all my fellow students and I can get my work done with my classmates,” said Communication major Charles

Heaney. “It’s been a struggle readjusting to the in-person and wearing a mask, but I’m so happy to be back.”

Biology major Sarah Byrd is pleased to be getting the hands-on experience she will need to land a job upon graduation. “I can finally go back to lab and get the skills people want when I leave the school. It’s nice to see classmates too and work with them instead of being stuck behind the screen. It’s especially nice to talk with the professors.”

Since the pandemic began, the University’s COVID-19 case management team has worked closely with Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) to meet requirements that ensure the safety of the entire campus community.

To prepare for the Fall semester repopulation, COVID-19 hazard assessments were conducted all over campus. Classrooms and offices were evaluated for spacing. High traffic customer service areas, such as Student Business Services, Broome Library, Student Union, and Islands Cafe were





# BACK ON CAMPUS

assessed and safety measures such as plexiglass were installed where feasible. Hand sanitizer, wipes and masks were made available around campus. All air handling systems were checked and upgraded where necessary. Classrooms and common areas are sanitized nightly.

Fortunately, since the semester began there have been limited COVID-19 cases among students, faculty and staff.

“It’s been a really awesome collaboration between areas across campus that has made this effort so successful,” said Director of Environmental Health & Safety Joyce Spencer.

In accordance with the state of California mandate, the CSU requires all faculty, staff and students to be vaccinated or have a medical or religious exemption. Those who are not vaccinated must undergo weekly COVID-19 testing. Masks must be worn in all indoor spaces except when actively eating or drinking.

The majority of CSUCI faculty and staff — 98.5 % — are vaccinated and 96% of all enrolled students and

99% taking at least one in-person class have certified their vaccination status.

The University worked with VCPH to plan for the repopulation of student housing. Residence halls are at 75% capacity.

“Since the start of the semester we’ve had about a dozen or so students in Housing with COVID-19, some went home until the end of their isolation period, and some remained on campus. No students experienced serious, debilitating illness,” said Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Cindy Derrico.

“I think our overall repopulation strategy has worked pretty well,” said Provost Mitch Avila. “In the Spring semester for sure, CSUCI will be the safest place in Ventura County. We do testing. We do contact tracing. It’s safer than any big box store. It is safer than the gym I go to. I’m pleased to see the high level of vaccination among our faculty and staff. It’s very impressive.”

*Stephanie Villafuerte also contributed to this article.*

ABOVE Students and staff celebrate first day of the school year.



# TEACHING THROUGH THE LENS OF THE BLACK AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

by PAMELA DEAN

THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD IN MAY OF 2020 and the uprising it sparked against the unjust treatment of African Americans in this country, drove many in the CSUCI campus community to act. Faculty and staff from a variety of disciplines called for the examination of systemic racism on the CSUCI campus, the amplification of the voices and experiences of Black faculty and students, and for the incorporation of curriculum examining the experiences of Black communities in the United States.

According to Chicana/o Studies Associate Professor Jennie Luna, Ph.D., the social uprisings that erupted after Floyd's murder propelled many departments across campus to scrutinize their curriculum, including how and what was being taught, and the effects of that instruction on its student population and communities.

"Many departments also wrote statements affirming their commitment to Black Lives and supporting efforts to actively address racism and building an anti-racist campus community," Luna said. "They also acknowledged their departments have all or predominately white faculty. Many committed to educating themselves and diversifying their faculty and curriculum."

"Although CSUCI has always been committed to equity, the summer of unrest was a flash point that made us all come together to embrace that commitment in a real and more tangible way," said Sheila Grant, Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs, Success and Equity.

As a result, former CSUCI President Erika D. Beck authorized the hiring of three tenure-track faculty members, called a "cluster hire," experienced in teaching,

conducting research and/or service with anti-racism and Black/African American communities.

Programs from all academic disciplines interested in hiring a faculty member with this background and a commitment to incorporating the Black experience into their teaching were invited to submit proposals to the steering committee in charge of the new initiative.

"We gathered input from faculty, staff and students from across the campus," said Luna, who along with Grant, is a member of the steering committee. "Models from universities across the country for the best way to conduct a cluster hire were examined and best practices were incorporated into this hiring effort."

One of the three new faculty to be hired will teach courses in a brand-new Africana Studies minor. The other two may teach in Africana Studies or any of the seven other disciplines whose proposals were accepted including Anthropology, Chemistry, Chicana/o Studies, Health Science, Performing Arts, Political Science, and Psychology.

Luna said a wide net has been cast to find the potential hires who are expected to be on board starting in Fall 2022. "We want to find the best candidates who will meet the needs of our campus and our students. We also want to lay the foundation for these new faculty members to thrive here at CSUCI."

According to Grant, currently all tenure-track hiring is conducted utilizing the best practices of equity-minded recruitment.

"We want to brand CSUCI as a campus that values and welcomes diversity," Grant said.

"We want to brand  
CSUCI as a campus  
that values and  
welcomes diversity,"  
—SHEILA GRANT



# Breaking New Ground

*The 32-acre development, named Anacapa Canyon, is the next phase of the University Glen residential community*

by PAMELA DEAN

**T**ucked away in the northern foothills of the CSUCI campus, bulldozers and earthmovers are busy at work on the second phase of the University Glen residential community.

In October, the CSUCI Site Authority signed a long-term ground lease with global real estate investment company Kennedy Wilson to develop the next segment of this leafy, tranquil neighborhood. Work began in November.

The new development will include 310 market-rate apartments, 109 for-sale homes, 170 income-restricted apartments for seniors, as well as community-serving amenities.

“We are thrilled to see the site’s redevelopment process begin, and to move ahead on a pioneering public-private partnership that will also generate a significant revenue stream to benefit our campus’ future growth for years to come, as well as provide housing options for our faculty, staff and other community members,” said Interim President Richard Yao.

The agreement will generate more than \$5 million in payments to the Site Authority during the project’s initial development and homes sales phases

and will provide an ongoing revenue stream from the market-rate and senior apartments over the full life of the leases, which runs through June 30, 2098.

“This development will meaningfully contribute to a community short on high-quality apartments and homes for faculty, staff, and local residents,” said Kennedy Wilson Managing Director Nick Bridges.

Kennedy Wilson has also provided CSUCI a gift of \$1.5 million to be applied toward the future construction of an Early Childhood Education Center on the CSUCI campus to provide affordable, high-quality early childhood education to the community, local farmworker families, and student parents working to earn a college degree. At the same time, the center will serve as a training experience for students in the University’s School of Education.

“Affordable and accessible childcare and education is a critical need among both CSUCI students who are parents and among regional farm workers,” said Nichole Ipach, CSUCI’s Vice President for University Advancement. “Kennedy Wilson’s gift brings us one step closer to offering much needed childcare slots to Ventura County and an outstanding educational experience for our aspiring early childhood teachers.”

The CSUCI Site Authority provided the financing and support for the transition of the Camarillo Hospital site into the CSUCI campus. The area east of campus is ground-leased by the CSU to the Site Authority to establish a residential community to help facilitate the recruitment, retention and productivity of faculty and staff, and to generate funds for campus development.



courtesy Kennedy Wilson

**LEFT** Plots and roads are mapped out on the land of the new phase of University Glen

**ABOVE** An architectural rendering shows the final phase of the University Glen construction



# Investing in the **NEXT GENERATION**

*Residency program provides stipends and tuition for student teachers*

*by* KIM LAMB GREGORY

**A** new teacher residency program at CSUCI has enabled teaching credential student Julieta Silva to return to her elementary school alma mater.

“I’m teaching at Washington Elementary School in Santa Barbara where I went as a child,” said Silva, who expects to graduate in 2022. “It’s awesome to be part of this program and I live in Santa Barbara, so I don’t have to commute to Ventura County.”

Plus, she doesn’t have to pay tuition and she gets a \$10,000-a-year stipend, thanks to the residency program, which was spearheaded by Dean and Professor of Education Brian Sevier, Ph.D.

“Most teachers will tell you they worked an additional job during their student teaching. I worked two additional jobs just to survive,” Sevier said. “If we’re going to truly live up to our mission to create pathways that get impediments out of students’ way, we have to change this practice.”

CSUCI’s School of Education has established residencies for student teachers at the Oxnard School District; Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD); the Rio School District, and the Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD).

There are currently 41 teaching residents. The 20 in the OUHSD are being funded by the district. The 19 in

FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT CSUCI alumna Julieta Silva Garcia leads her class out of the classroom; Garcia reads to her class at Washington Elementary School in Santa Barbara.





the Oxnard or Rio School district are being funded by a grant written in partnership with CSUCI and the Ventura County Office of Education.

The two residents in Santa Barbara are funded through the SBUSD and the James S. Bower Foundation, which seeks to enrich the social and cultural environment in Santa Barbara, with support for education high on the list.

Bower Foundation President Jon Clark said the foundation's missions are closely aligned with CSUCI's dedication to making sure first-generation, low-income students have a pathway to college.

SBUSD has seen tremendous success with a SBUSD initiative called Program for Effective Access to College or PEAC — a college readiness and access program for low-income, first-generation high school students — and sees the teacher residency program as the next step.

"If you're a PEAC student from Santa Barbara and you want to go to CSUCI and come back to teach in your district, we want to show you there's a pathway to get there," Clark said.

The residency program also allows for more diversity in the teaching pool, Sevier said.

"Residencies allow us to reach a much more diverse pool of candidates because there are candidates who will

not go through the student teaching experience because it is so cost-prohibitive," Sevier said. "The districts want to create pathways for their alumni to return to teach in the schools they came from. And recruiting locally helps the teaching corps better reflect the demographics of the diverse student body."

Credential candidate Christopher Guevara is student teaching at Rio Rosales Elementary School in his native Oxnard. He is currently working as a resource specialist for children with learning challenges and plans to go into special education after he graduates.

Guevara believes being from the area has a distinct advantage.

"It comes down to the majority of the population in Oxnard being Chicana and being able to communicate not just their language, but to understand where they came from and how it is in their homes," Guevara said. "Knowing the culture really helps me connect with the families and keep them in the loop."

If the residents are offered a job after completing the residency program, they sign an agreement to work in the district for two to four years — which Sevier sees as a win for the student, and a win for the area educational system.



Courtesy of PBWS

# A gift that gives back

CSUCI receives \$15 million gift from philanthropists MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett

by PAMELA DEAN

**A** \$15 million donation from MacKenzie Scott and her husband Dan Jewett will help CSUCI expand proven initiatives that support student success, engage in robust academic planning, and grow the physical campus by subsidizing new and renovated building projects.

The gift was announced last June as part of a round of \$2.7 billion in funding Scott and Jewett gave to 286 charitable and educational organizations. Scott noted it “would be better if disproportionate wealth were not concentrated in a small number of hands, and that the solutions are best designed and implemented by others.”

The unrestricted donation is the University’s largest one-time gift to date.

“This gift could not have come at a more critical time in our history,” said Interim President Richard

Yao. “The generosity of MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett is a testament to the data that reflects the incredible work our faculty, staff and administration are doing every day to eliminate equity gaps and increase the social mobility of our students by creating powerful academic and co-curricular programs that support student success and graduation. We could not be more grateful for their generosity as we recognize the transformative power that this level of support has for our students and campus.”

In a recent blog post, Scott wrote, “Higher education is a proven pathway to opportunity, so we looked for two- and four-year institutions successfully educating students who come from communities that have been chronically underserved.”

It is not surprising that the only four-year public university in Ventura County caught the attention

ABOVE A conceptual rendering of CSUCI’s Early Childhood Education Center  
RIGHT MacKenzie Scott and her husband Dan Jewett



of Scott and Jewett. Over the past decade CSUCI has worked to close equity gaps among its students, half of whom are Pell Grant eligible and identify as Latinx, making the University eligible to compete successfully for Title V grant funding as a federally recognized Hispanic Serving Institution. Some of that funding has been used to focus on improving the transfer pipeline and coordinating the transfer process with local community colleges. This is a significant goal given that transfer students make up half of CSUCI's student base.

"Through attending to the needs of our transfer students, we are on track for achieving graduation targets for this population established for our campus by the CSU system," Yao said.

Serving the needs of CSUCI's diverse student body, as well as the workforce needs of the region is exactly what the Scott and Jewett gift is intended to do, in part by investing in initiatives that can attract additional donor support. According to Yao, the gift is one of the most transformative and monumental in the history of the University, with an impact extending beyond the dollars. As he observed, "It brought a national spotlight to the work CSUCI has done to advance diversity, equity and inclusion and the social mobility of our students. It also presents CSUCI with an incredible opportunity to inspire, leverage, and secure additional philanthropic interest in our work that is so essential to the region."

Because the gift is unrestricted, the University can choose to utilize the money however it sees fit to best meet the unique needs of its students. After much contemplation and analysis, Yao has decided to invest the funds in three areas:

### **Student Success**

Funds will focus on efforts around the CSU's Graduation Initiative 2025 which aims to shorten the time it takes students to finish their college degrees and eliminate equity gaps. According to Yao, the University will invest in programs that have preliminary data suggesting they help improve student success. Examples include deep-



Photo courtesy of givingpledge.org

ening the University's investment in peer mentoring and piloting a program to give incoming first-year students a leg up on earning college credit the summer before their first Fall semester to prepare them for college success.

### **Academic Planning**

The University is setting aside the bulk of the gift for academic programs and planning, which will be informed through the development of an academic master plan. This process will help shape the academic identity of CSUCI moving forward and inform how the University can best meet the region's industry, community, and workforce needs. A portion of the gift will be used to augment state funding CSUCI received to enhance and expand Ethnic Studies curriculum and programming. The funding could be used to expand existing programs and examine the development of dedicated spaces on campus for student groups historically under-represented in higher education.

### **Capital Planning**

Directly tied to the academic planning process, funds will be used to support the capital needs of academic programs, as well as the priorities identified by CSUCI's Foundation Board, which include a performing arts center, student wellness center, and a potential Early Childhood Education Center.



Smith family and board members representing the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation  
Front Row (left to right): Brando Pozzi, Vickie Pozzi, Cindi Daley, Margie Tegland, Toni Gardiner, and Nick Joseph  
Back Row (left to right): Steve Shinsky, Bob England, Kelly McWilliams, Stacy Cannon, Dick Faussett, and Doug Shaw



# Honoring a *Namesake*

*Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation becomes  
CSUCI's single largest donor*

by PAMELA DEAN

**T**he family of former Ventura County philanthropist and real estate developer Martin V. “Bud” Smith has generously donated \$10.5 million to his namesake—the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics (MVS School).

With this gift, the Smith family has given more than \$19 million to CSUCI since their first donation in 1999, making them the University’s largest donor.

A portion of the gift, a little more than \$3.5 million, will be used to finish construction on the MVS School’s new facility. The remaining \$7 million comes as the Smith family closes the foundation Bud and his wife Martha created to support community organizations.

“After a strong 20-year relationship between CSUCI and the Martin V. Smith and Martha K. Smith Foundation, our family has decided to sunset the Foundation this year and move the legacy of our work that was started by my grandparents to the University,” said Stacy Cannon, Smith granddaughter and co-chair of the Foundation’s board. “This plan will keep \$2.5 million in a donor advised fund with the Ventura County Community Foundation and move the remaining assets valued at \$7 million to CSUCI to establish a new endowment to support the MVS School through enhancing the quality

of the educational programming and experience for its students and faculty.”

The couple’s four daughters, Antoinette Gardiner, Marjorie Tegland, Victoria Pozzi, and Lucinda Daley, along with several of their children and trusted advisors on their board, have overseen the Martin V. Smith and Martha K. Smith Foundation and have been long-time supporters of CSUCI. The family and board believe the biggest impact they can make in Ventura County is through their support of public higher education and workforce development.

Since 2017, 56% of CSUCI alumni have said they plan on remaining in Ventura County after graduation, thus contributing to the viability of the region.

“I think one of the best things we have done as a family and a Foundation is invest in CSUCI,” said Pozzi. “Since Dad’s bequest and the subsequent donations by the Foundation to name the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics, the University has taken diligent and prudent care of our contributions. The MVS School has distinguished itself through its



RIGHT Martin V. Smith and Martha K. Smith in the 1970s



growth, the excellence of its professors and its innovative programs.”

The \$3.5 million will be used to complete the renovation of the school’s new home located in the former Manzanita Hall.

Large sections of the building were unused and in disrepair before construction began in 2019 to turn it into the business school’s new location. The University invested \$7.3 million into the renovation of the middle section of the building’s first and second floors, providing office space for faculty, staff, and administrators along with a conference room.

The gift will extend the MVS School’s footprint to the building’s west wing where two classrooms and a lobby, as well as a mixed-use space for the Institute for Global Economic Research (IGER) and the Entrepreneurship & Small Business Institute (ESBI) are being built. The gift also allows for the renovation of a large adjacent courtyard.

The new space will be called “Martin V. Smith Hall” in honor of Bud Smith. The renovated courtyard will be called the “Martha K. Smith Courtyard” after Smith’s wife.

“The renovations in Martin V. Smith Hall and Martha K. Smith Courtyard will enrich our students’ educational experience by providing numerous spaces for collaboration, hands-on learning and opportunities to engage with our talented and dynamic faculty and industry partners,” said Susan Andrzejewski, Ph.D., Dean of the MVS School.

The \$7 million endowment will be used to enhance the quality of educational programming for students such as internships, hands-on projects with local companies, student competitions, and participation in research with faculty, while also providing support for scholarships and cutting-edge faculty research.

“Mr. Smith was a pioneer in building the economic vitality of Ventura County — and that same pioneering spirit has benefited CSU Channel Islands from the campus’ inception,” said Interim President Richard Yao. “Mr. Smith and his family were among the earliest supporters of the University. Their investment made a powerful statement that the CSU was indeed a pillar of excellence in the community, one that would benefit many generations to come. We are deeply and profoundly grateful that his vision and generosity continue today.”

“My father firmly believed in the importance of having a four-year university in the county. With the next phase of funding for the construction of the Martin V. Smith Hall and for the endowment, the Smith Family Foundation is honored and privileged to support the continued growth of Cal State Channel Islands and the MVS School,” Pozzi said. “This gift not only carries on our father’s legacy but contributes to the development of the area’s future business leaders who will ensure the region’s strength and vitality continues.”

The Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics is expected to move into Martin V. Smith Hall by the Fall 2022 semester.

ABOVE The future Martin V. Smith Hall in the early renovation phase





# Programmed for Success

*Robots built by Mechatronics students advance to the finals of an international competition*

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

**W**ith a headlamp lighting its way, a robot hardly bigger than a child's wagon rolled through the dark over rocks, through mud and up uneven slopes in search of a helmet, a cell phone or a mannequin lying on its side.

The robot was one of several built by CSUCI Mechatronics Engineering seniors Sara Centeno, Andrew Herdering and Hugo Quintero for the finals of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Subterranean (SubT) challenge, which was held Sept. 21 through 24 at the Louisville Mega Cavern in Louisville, Kentucky.

DARPA Tactical Technology Office of Public Affairs spokesman Randy Atkins explained that DARPA organizes this competition each year in a quest for cutting edge technology that can be used in subterranean rescues and other situations requiring unmanned remote-controlled vehicles in underground situations.

"DARPA is trying to push the boundaries of what's possible when there is a need to go into underground environments and explore," Atkins said. "Most of our technology is for the military, but there are other times we need to go into underground environments and help the first responders, such as the soccer team in Thailand that got stuck in the cave."

The CSUCI team, called "Coordinated Robotics," was one of eight robotics teams from around the world who made the finals of the competition.

"The objective of the competition was to send the robots into dark underground areas with lights, cameras and underground sensors in order to make a map of this underground area," explained Associate

Professor of Computer Science Jason Isaacs, Ph.D., the team's faculty mentor.

Coordinated Robotics won a spot at the finals by competing in an "urban circuit" in January of 2020 — a competition in an urban setting — and submitting qualifying videos of their robots at work.

Newbury Park robotics enthusiast Kevin Knoedler was competing for the \$2 million first prize and asked Isaacs and Mechatronics students to be part of the team. Mechatronics Engineering seniors Mishell Beylik and Mariah Stewart along with several first-year Mechatronics students also helped build the robots.

Centeno, Herdering and Quintero admit they were a little intimidated at the other teams who showed up from as far away as Spain, the Czech Republic, Canada, Germany and across the U.S. to compete.

"It's exciting but also a little nerve-wracking," Centeno said, before the first circuit began. "We will be running about five or six robots, and within 30 minutes, our robots have to correctly identify as many artifacts as possible that represent signs of life in a rescue operation."

The team worked hard, calibrating robots that hit glitches, strategizing after each circuit, and making each run better. In the end, the team didn't take home the prize, but earned something they'll benefit from throughout their careers: experience.

"It was an amazing experience," Quintero said. "We got to see a lot of incredible solutions to the same problem of underground search and rescue."

Isaacs said he could not be prouder of the team, and all of the students who helped build the robots.

TOP PHOTO LEFT TO RIGHT Hugo Quintero, Sara Centeno, and Andrew Herdering

RIGHT PHOTO LEFT TO RIGHT: Andrew Herdering and Hugo Quintero

Photos courtesy of Jason Isaacs

Edward Rodriguez, '21 B.S. Psychology

## Veteran grad's mission is to aid fellow comrades

by STEPHANIE VILLAFUERTE

**W**hen he was a senior in high school, Edward Rodriguez knew he wanted to take on something other than college. He wanted stories to tell his children, to honor a legacy, and to live among a community that he could call family. It wasn't until he heard about his cousin's experience that Rodriguez realized where that could be found: the U.S. Marine Corps.

"My older cousin had been in the Marine Corps at the beginning of the Iraq War and I remember always listening to his stories with such fascination," Rodriguez said. "I wanted what he had."

After graduation, the Santa Barbara native enlisted and was stationed in Twenty-Nine Palms, California. He served as an infantryman in Afghanistan in 2012 and later in Iraq in 2014. The veteran came out of his five-year service with comrades he considered brothers, and a completely new mindset.

"During my time overseas, I learned that our life, our show, could end in the blink of an eye and we have such a small role in it. I try to play my role as best as I can. I served with many great men and now honor the legacy of those who are gone."

But the aftermath also left a heavy toll on Rodriguez. Several of his friends were suffering from PTSD, some of which resulted in suicide. The events led him to start a new chapter of his life. Namely, college.

"I wanted to see what might've led to their decision," Rodriguez explained. "So, I decided to study psychology because I wanted to understand the human mind and how experiences such as war can affect us."

The first-generation student attended Santa Barbara City College before transferring to CSUCI in 2019. Aside from wanting to be near his family, Rodriguez chose the campus because of the positive reviews he heard about its programs.

His experience exceeded his expectations. Psychology Lecturer Susan Beers taught Rodriguez to love the scien-



tific method and objectivity, while History Professors Frank Barajas and Marie Francois taught him about his Mexican heritage and the pride it came with.

"I can honestly say that some of the faculty members I interacted with at CSUCI changed my entire outlook on life for the better," Rodriguez said. "I owe these three individuals more than they may ever know."

Rodriguez graduated in Spring 2021 with his bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in History. He is now studying for his master's degree in Sociology at CSU San Marcos.

The graduate wants to use his education to understand and help others. It's a mission of his that has grown exponentially in the last year and a half, amidst the global pandemic.

> READ MORE AT [GO.CSUCI.EDU/CHANNEL-ER](https://go.csuci.edu/channel-er)

Photo Courtesy of Edward Rodriguez



Elibet Valencia Muñoz, '20 B.A. History

# THE POWER OF A CAMERA LENS

by STEPHANIE VILLAFUERTE

When she was a teenager, Elibet Valencia Muñoz took up photography with one goal in mind: to capture human existence. The first-generation student grew up in Oxnard and Guadalupe, Jalisco, Mexico, where life was quiet, and traveling outside of her hometown wasn't easy. Yet Muñoz knew she wanted to record the world she lived in and grow from there.

Muñoz attended CSUCI, majoring in History and minoring in Communication/Visual Media, choosing fields of study that allowed her to express herself artistically and academically.

"I wanted a foundation in research. Creativity comes naturally to me, but [it] needs discipline," Muñoz said. "I knew my artistic approaches could be beneficial in other fields."

The open community at CSUCI also helped Muñoz stay motivated in her studies.

"Everyone I had a conversation with made a substantial mark in my academic path. Each gave me unique



gifts of perspective and encouragement that I strive to implement into everything I do," she recollected.

Following graduation, the 2020 alumna began working on her first photographic collection titled "La Danza De Los Diablos" or "The Dance of the Devils," a traditional dance from the Mixteco culture, after catching a performance done by Los Elegidos de Asís, the largest group in Ventura County that practices the danza (dance).

"They performed at a Black Lives Matter Pride celebration in Oxnard, an event I video documented, and so I built up the nerve to ask them if I could photograph them and they agreed," Muñoz said.

Capturing the history of the popular indigenous danza, Muñoz's project shows how Mexican and indigenous culture is prominent in Southern California. She hopes her collection will help the public appreciate the art and beauty of the danza just as much as she does.

"The fact there are so many people in the United States, in California, in Oxnard who take time, energy, and effort to share gems from their culture with the rest of us has been lighting a fire within me," Muñoz said on her website. "I see the dancers as superheroes, in particular the women and kids. The danza is abundant with meaning, and I hope to catch a glimpse of it via photography."

Muñoz's danza collection gained support through a fellowship program run by the Social Justice Fund of Ventura County, as well as mentorship by the Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), which taught her more about the culture in order to capture an accurate representation.

"I knew there were resources to support this type of work, so with some encouragement from community members, I decided to go for it," Muñoz said. "The project is also serving as an opportunity to build bridges between artists, scholars and organizations."

> READ MORE AT [GO.CSUCI.EDU/CHANNEL-EVM](https://go.csuci.edu/channel-evm)

LEFT A piece from Elibet Valencia Muñoz's *La Danza De Los Diablos*  
Photos Courtesy of Elibet Valencia Muñoz





# CHAMPION OF THE ARTS

*Carnegie Art Cornerstones endows \$50,000 scholarship for Art students*

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

**A**n Oxnard non-profit organization designed to support and encourage aspiring young artists has endowed CSUCI with a \$50,000 scholarship fund for students majoring in Studio Art or Art History.

Carnegie Art Cornerstones evolved out of the Carnegie Art Museum, which closed in summer of 2019 because of Oxnard city budget cuts. As a non-profit, Cornerstones will continue to promote art and art appreciation but will now do so through college scholarships.

“I think this is really going to help students, especially coming out of a pandemic,” said CSUCI Program Chair and Professor of Art, Liz King, M.F.A. “We’ve always had such an amazing relationship with the Carnegie Art Museum. Some of our faculty have had shows there, our students have been interns — it’s a treasured, vital relationship.”

“It’s important we support the young creatives in the area. If we can give them a platform to tell their story and be successful, they can serve as an example to others,” said Carnegie Art Cornerstones Vice President Brian Paumier.

The two CSUCI Art students chosen each year to receive \$750 scholarships will meet several criteria, such as carrying

at least 15 units, making at least a 3.0 grade point average and demonstrate a willingness to mentor other young artists.

“I think our students would make wonderful mentors for high school students or anybody considering going to school to further their education,” King said. “Our students can relate to area high school students. They share the same background, so our college students can interface with high school students and show ‘this is possible.’”

Paumier believes it’s important to champion these young artists to help them believe they can do even bigger and better things.

“We show them how to put work on the walls and how to price the pieces,” Paumier said, “and maybe someday they get the confidence to apply to an art school in New York or Los Angeles.”

But perhaps even more important is what these young artists bring to the rest of us, pointed out Professor of Art History Irina D. Costache, Ph.D.

“Young artists bring new voices, views and ideas that reflect today’s culture and society,” she said. “And their creations enrich us all.”

ABOVE Program Chair and Professor of Art Liz King teaches a Web design course.



Rochele Banayo-Carino, '11 B.A. Biology

## Laboratory automation is Biology major's specialty

by STEPHANIE VILLAFUERTE

**T**he desire to grow and experience new surroundings is what led CSUCI alumna Rochele Banayo-Carino to leave her San Diego home and attend CSUCI.

"Moving away from home was terrifying. I left the only community I had known for most of my life and moved three hours away to a place where I didn't know anyone," said Banayo-Carino. "As hard as it was, I felt like it was the right thing to do — I needed to experience being out of my comfort zone in order to grow."

She believes she couldn't have persevered without the support of her family back home who reminded her of the reason why she was going to college.

"Growing up with a single mother, there was a huge importance placed on education not only for a better life for myself, but to also find my own niche in which I could reach out and help others," she explained.

The first-generation student went on to graduate from CSUCI in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Biology. She credits the University's intimate class settings and caring faculty for helping her navigate through the college experience.

"I really appreciated the small class sizes and that the professors knew us by name," Banayo-Carino said.

She especially credits Associate Professor of Chemistry Ahmed Awad and Biology Lecturer Tom Schmidhauser for helping her feel comfortable.

"They were always willing to go over material and make sure that we understood the concepts and applied them," Banayo-Carino said.

She originally aspired to be a geneticist. After graduating she worked in a clinical toxicology lab and then a clinical proteomics lab studying proteins.

Today, Banayo-Carino works as a senior laboratory automation engineer at Illumina in San Diego where one of her responsibilities includes making the jobs of those in the manufacturing field of biotechnology easier.

"If an operator is required to hand pipette reagents into tubes for eight hours a day, I can come in, find a robotic system that best fits the process needs, and implement it into the area to free up the operator's time so they can do other tasks," she explained.

Banayo-Carino has also been involved with COVID-19 related projects, working on systems capable of discovering any new strains of the virus, as well as overseeing the compliancy of tools that help ensure the accuracy of COVID-19 tests.

Banayo-Carino loves her job and intends to stick with it for the long haul.

"I really enjoy what I do, and I would like to do this for as long as I can. My long-term goals are to be a principal engineer in the field and mentor newer engineers."



Photo Courtesy of Rochele Banayo-Carino



Michael MacDonald '18 B.A. Political Science

# Dedicated to Public Service

by STEPHANIE VILLAFUERTE



## MICHAEL MACDONALD

worked in the service industry for more than 10 years, bartending and waiting tables all over New York City. He always

dreamed of going to college, yet it wasn't until a frequent customer heard of his ambitions that he felt inspired to apply.

"I will never forget this customer — she consistently made an effort to encourage and motivate me to enroll in school every time she stopped by the restaurant," MacDonald said.

That's how MacDonald found himself at Borough of Manhattan Community College. A few years later, during a trip to his childhood home of Ventura County, he decided to transfer to CSU Channel Islands.

"I fell in love with CSUCI when I first visited the campus. I met several faculty members and students and knew it would be a fit for me," MacDonald recalled.

The 2018 grad would go on to receive his B.A. in Political Science, crediting Assistant Professor Matthew Mendez and Lecturer Tim Allison for his memorable time.

"Their professionalism, eagerness to help, dedication, and commitment to the field allowed students to thrive," MacDonald explained.

During his time at CSUCI, MacDonald participated in the Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute program, which allows students to experience the workplace by engaging in various internship assignments. He was selected as an intern for the City of Port Hueneme and then promoted to assistant city clerk post-graduation, launching his career in city government.

"I learned that the city clerk serves as a compliance officer and is responsible for administering democratic processes, such as elections, access to city records, and maintaining the legislative history to provide the public with transparency," said MacDonald. "This experience allowed me to see the impact city government can have on the quality of life for its residents."

Today, MacDonald works as an assistant city clerk for the City of Berkeley where his responsibilities range from managing the city's public financing program, which

provides funds for candidates running for mayor or councilmember, to communicating with his colleagues in and out of meetings.

"I provide city officials with information involving conflict of interest requirements and I advise commissioners, city staff, and the public on regulations regarding city advisory and quasi-judicial commissions," MacDonald explained. "Further, I attend fair campaign practices commission meetings, supervise the public information and research counter, and manage requests for information under the Public Records Act."

MacDonald was also recently appointed to serve as chair of the Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC) — a role which he is grateful to be doing for the public during a dark time.

"I felt like I had the responsibility to ensure that my local government was fair, open, and honest," said MacDonald. "It is my goal to continue the mission of the PEC and advance good governance policies to increase trust and participation from the full community."

Photo Courtesy of Michael MacDonald







# Outstanding research skills earn two students a Lisagor Fellowship

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

Computer Science major Desireé Caldera excelled with her research into cybersecurity during the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program, and Psychology major Kaylena Mann did an outstanding job with her research into psychological testing. As a result, both SURF researchers were awarded a Lisagor Fellowship, which comes with \$1,000. But the creators of the Fellowship, Mark Lisagor, D.D.S and Terri Lisagor, Ed.D., believe there are rewards from the research process itself that will last a lifetime.

“Research awakens their excitement and gets them involved in something they may not have even known they could do,” said Terri, a Professor Emeritus of Nutrition and Food Science who recently retired from CSU Northridge. “Research doesn’t give them answers but helps them discover the tools to find those answers. The feeling of ‘I can do it.’ It’s powerful.”

The couple launched the fellowship because of their desire to support undergraduate research.

“All of this triples up in the pursuit of their careers,” Mark said. “That’s what jobs are about right now: critical thinking and collaboration. These are tools that will serve them so well in the job market.”

Caldera’s research involved helping to create an online cybersecurity testing platform for small businesses in Ventura County that would enable them to test their Information Technology networks and infrastructure.

“The whole eight weeks of SURF and the project challenged me as a student and my abilities as a Computer Science major,” Caldera said. “It was rewarding and I can definitely say I cried when I found out I won the fellowship. It meant a lot to be recognized as a woman of color in computer science.”

Caldera and her fellow researchers worked in an environment similar to that of a high-tech startup company. It was created by her faculty mentor, Assistant Professor of Computer Science Reza Abdoolee, Ph.D., based on his experience in the computer industry.

“This was a great opportunity for students to learn different technical and communication skills required in the job market and industry,” he said. “Desiree learned numerous key skills and showed determination that helped her succeed with this project.”

> READ MORE AT [GO.CSUCI.EDU/CHANNEL-LF](https://go.csuci.edu/channel-lf)

ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Fellowship creator Mark Lisagor, D.D.S., fellowship recipients Desireé Caldera and Kaylena Mann, fellowship creator Terri Lisagor, Ed.D.

# Foundation Annual Report

737

INDIVIDUAL  
DONORS

\$20,170,347

TOTAL DOLLARS  
RAISED

237

ALUMNI  
DONORS

## FOUNDATION BOARD

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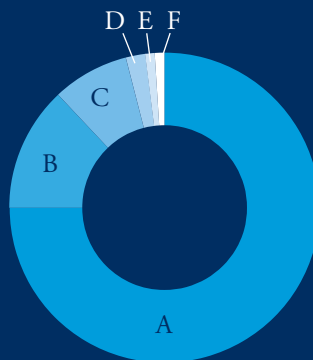
Jonathan Wang

Peter Wollons

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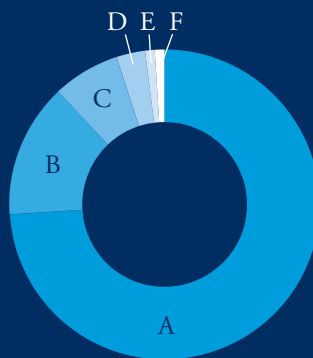
**“We were thrilled to see a 405% increase in philanthropic donations and gift commitments this past year.”**

—CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board Chair Dr. Mark Lisagor



## DONOR IMPACT

A Unrestricted	\$15,335,616
B Student Stipends and Scholarships	\$2,651,647
C Academic Programs	\$1,720,339
D Other Restricted	\$454,864
E Research	\$7,507
F Capital Improvements	\$374
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,170,347</b>



## DONOR GROUPS

A Other Organizations	\$15,108,587
B Other Individuals	\$2,815,191
C Corporations	\$1,544,908
D Foundations	\$674,032
E Parents	\$14,154
F Alumni	\$13,475
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,170,347</b>



ENDOWMENT  
GROWTH



# A Banner Year for Fundraising

THE CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS FOUNDATION had a record-breaking fiscal year in 2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021). Several multimillion-dollar gifts helped boost fundraising totals to heights never before seen in the history of CSUCI.

“We were thrilled to see a 405% increase in philanthropic donations and gift commitments this past year,” said CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board Chair Dr. Mark Lisagor. “We are tremendously grateful to all of our donors for believing in the work that CSUCI does to improve the lives of its students through higher education and improve the communities in which our graduates serve.”

One of the most notable gifts was from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott and her husband Dan Jewett who donated \$15 million to the University in recognition of its commitment to equity and inclusion, the social mobility of its students, and its overall contribution to the greater good of communities, the region and nation. This was the largest unrestricted donation the University has received to date. Representatives for Scott and Jewett informed the campus their decision to make this gift was based on data and a rigorous assessment of CSUCI’s work to reimagine higher education.

## A LOOK AT FOUNDATION ASSETS

THE FOUNDATION manages CSUCI’s endowment funds with the intent of generating additional income from the philanthropic gifts given to the University. As of June 30, 2021, the Foundation’s Endowment had a value of \$19.8 million. The Endowment paid out \$504,469 in 2020-2021, directly supporting academic initiatives such as the Peer Mentor Ambassador program and student research. The Foundation’s total assets at that date were \$47.9 million.

ENDOWMENT VALUE ON JUNE 30

**\$19.8 M**

COST OF ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

**\$504,469**

FOUNDATION TOTAL ASSETS AS  
OF JUNE 30, 2021

**\$47.9 M**

# 2021

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE  
YEAR INCLUDE:

- Gifts from Tipper Gore and the Jeff Green Family Foundation to support CSUCI’s Peer Mentor Ambassador program
- A gift from ECMC Foundation to support transfer student success
- An increase in annual funding of scholarships for transfer students from The Crankstart Foundation
- A gift from the Fowler Foundation to support the Broome Library, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and peer mentoring
- A Meissner Filtration Systems gift to establish a University endowment fund
- Two anonymous planned gifts toward scholarships
- The addition of Dr. Irene Pinkard, Richard Rogers and Peter Wollons to the Foundation Board, as well as Cari Shore and Beatriz Stotzer.
- A continuation of the agreement between CSUCI and Cottage Health to support the University’s Nursing program.



## On behalf of the students, faculty and staff, we gratefully acknowledge the following donors:

These charitable gifts in support of CSU Channel Islands were made from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.  
Every gift makes a difference and every donor is appreciated. *Thank you!*

### LEGACY GIVING

Jeanne Adams ◊  
Tim Allison  
Janice and  
Marshall Applegate  
Stephen Arneson †  
Libby Barrabee ‡  
Megan Bell  
Judy and Steve Block  
Jeffrey Boyle  
Jorge Corralejo  
Bob Darakjy  
Linda Dullam ◊  
Grace Durst ‡  
Bijian Fan and Jerry Clifford †  
Kim Lamb Gregory  
and Jeff Argabright  
Catherine Harrington  
Nichole and Dallas Ipach §  
Barbara Johnson †  
Joyce Kennedy  
Terri and Mark Lisagor ◊  
Beckie and Owen Lubow  
Thomas McKiernan

Carole and Douglas McRae ‡  
Pat and Rick Metheny  
Lynda Nahra and  
Claude Dorais †  
Susan Part  
Louise and Neil Paton  
Phyllis Pattison  
Anna and Fletcher Pavin ◊  
May Porter  
Dee Press and  
Marianne Slaughter  
Patricia Richards Dodds and  
Thomas Dodds ◊  
Rhonda and  
Donald Rodriguez  
Karen Romney  
Juan Ros  
Vicki and Richard Sharp  
Marianne Slaughter  
and Dee Press  
Howard Smith  
Sheila and John Suarez ◊  
Barbara Thorpe Cartee ◊  
Tina and Louie Valdez ‡

Laurie and Gary Wartik  
Nancy and Carl Wesely  
Kathleen Wulf §  
Anonymous §

### SOCIETY OF DISTINCTION

Amgen Foundation  
Bank of America Charitable  
Foundation, Inc  
Steven Blois  
Cheryl and John Broome ‡  
Patricia and John Broome  
Margaret Tiplady Burgess  
Canteen of Coastal California  
City of Camarillo  
Cindi Daley  
Linda Dullam \*◊  
Joan and Dennis Gaiser  
Toni Gardiner  
Gene Haas Foundation  
Elise and William Kearney ◊  
Leah Lacayo ◊

Robert Lagomarsino  
Terri and Mark Lisagor \*◊  
Martin V. and Martha K. Smith  
Foundation  
Carolynn and John Nicholson  
John Poe  
Victoria Pozzi  
Rabobank  
Barbara and  
Herbert Rosenkrantz  
Richard Rush ◊  
SAGE Publishing  
Dorothy Scott ◊  
Southern California Edison  
Southern California Gas  
Company  
St. John's Regional  
Medical Center  
Marjorie and Ronald Tegland  
Union Bank  
Ventura County Community  
Foundation  
Verizon, Inc.  
Karen and Peter Wollons

**Legend** \* Legacy Members † President's Circle ‡ Five to Nine Years § 10 to 14 Years ◊ 15 to 19 Years ◊ 20 Years & Above  
Every effort has been made to post a complete and accurate list. Please report errors to the Development office at 805-437-3683.



## MAJOR GIFTS

Linda Dullam \*◦  
Tipper Gore  
Betsy and John Grether ◦  
Terri and Mark Lisagor \*◦  
Dorothy Scott ◦  
Mackenzie Scott and  
Dan Jewett  
Judith and Jack Stapelmann †  
Keith Westcott †

## \$10,000–\$24,999

Jeanne Adams \*◦  
Margo Baker Barbakow  
and Jeffrey Barbakow †  
JJ and Jim Birkenshaw †  
Cheryl and John Broome †  
Christine Garvey and  
George Gelles †  
Elise and William Kearney ◦  
Beryl and Neil Kreisel †

## \$5,000–\$9,999

Erika Beck †  
Marguerite and  
Jeffrey Browne ◦  
Cindi Daley ◦  
Rod Gilbert †  
Mitchell Green †  
Barbara Johnson \*†  
Neil Matsumori ◦  
Colleen and Tom Nevins  
Diane and Doug Off ◦  
Lois Rice †  
Eileen and James Rinde †  
Richard Rush ◦  
Anonymous \*†  
Patricia and Drew West †

## \$1,000–\$4,999

Stephen Arneson \*†  
Libby Barrabee \*§  
Marilyn and Roger Benson §

Celina and Amir Biniaz §  
Nancy and John Borchard ◦  
Nina Butler ◦  
Margaret and Kevin Carey §  
Lauren Cruz '08  
and Kevin Cruz '08 †  
Heather and Milton Daily ◦  
Toni and Curtis DeBoni '09 †  
Carrick DeHart †  
Leonard Dryer †  
Grace Durst \*†  
Vicki Engard §  
Carol and Handel Evans ◦  
Genevieve Evans Taylor and  
Curtis Taylor †  
Therese and  
Peter Eyermann §  
Karen and Glen Farr ◦  
Nancy Gallagher †  
Irene and Jorge Garcia §  
Lydia and Grant Geissman §  
Eva Gomez '09 and  
Armando Gomez †  
Anonymous §  
Carol and Allan Gottlieb †  
Jeffrey Grant †  
Geri and Fred Gretan §  
Brooke and Philip Hampton ◦

## Why I Give ~ ANDREW SALINAS

### Port Hueneme Police Department Chief of Police Andrew Salinas

established a nursing scholarship in honor of his late mother Mayra Aguirre. "The primary reason I established the scholarship was to allow the legacy of my mother, whose shortened life was dedicated to helping others, to be carried on not only by her children but by those who face the same challenges as she did.

She was a single mother of three and put herself through nursing school while maintaining a full-time job. We want those who may come from less fortunate backgrounds to have the resources to advance their education in the Nursing program so they can begin making a difference as my mother did. My mother not only used her nursing degree to help others but used her bilingual skills to assist families who needed help better understanding the medical process."



Sharon and Clint Harper †  
Ruth Hemming ◦  
James C. Henry †  
Sharon and William Hillbrant §  
Carol Holder and  
John Mallinckrodt ◦  
Nichole and Dallas Ipach \*§  
Janet and John Jacobs †  
Kristy and Jonathan Johnen †  
Carol Kiessig †  
Leah Lacayo ◦  
George Leis †  
Jill LeMieux and  
Richard LeRoy †  
Stella and Hillary Ling ◦  
Carolyn Locke §  
John Lu †  
David Maron †  
Brienne McGrath  
Frances McNeill †  
Margaret Meehan and  
Joaquin Nunez ◦  
Salvador Moreno  
Nicki and Michael Morris §  
Peter Mosinskis †  
Mimi and Dennis Muraoka ◦  
Julia Newman †  
Pilar Pacheco †

Brenda and Robert Parry §  
June and Clayton Paschen ◦  
Anna and Fletcher Pavin \*◦  
Berta DePerez and  
Rafael Perez †  
Adriana Popescu  
Andrew Salinas †  
Susan Schaefer and  
Hale Conklin ◦  
Sheila and John Suarez \*◦  
Barbara Thorpe Cartee \*◦  
Alicia Virtue †  
Anthony Visalli †  
Esther and  
Thomas Wachtell ◦  
Richard Wagner ◦  
Joanne and Daniel Wakelee ◦  
Marcia and Earl Wakelee †  
Judy and Jonathan Wang  
Rosalind Warner and  
W. Michael Hogan †  
Cynthia J. Wyels \*†  
Richard Yao †  
Celina Zacarias §  
Johanna and  
Wilhelmus Zwinkels ◦

## \$500-\$999

Stacey and Sean Anderson  
 Victoria and Manuel Arcabos  
 Yvonne and Chris Besvold  
 Barbara and Wayne Davey  
 Raquel De Los Santos '12 '17  
 Scott DeLoach '08  
 Cindy and Jay Derrico  
 Carole and Dennis Dotson  
 Talya Drescher  
 Lauraine Effress  
 Marie and Juan Francois  
 Kathy Howard  
 Angela and Jonathan Light  
 Jennie Luna  
 Sally Matteson  
 Lynn and Neville Ostrick  
 Vanessa Otto  
 Virginia Patch  
 Jennifer and George Rothrock  
 Ysabel and John Jackovich

## \$1-\$499

Tina and Christopher Abe  
 Greg Acuna  
 Ashley Adams  
 Mary and Bryan Adler  
 Elizabeth Aguilar  
 Julia Aguilar  
 Nereida Aguilera '16  
 Alexander Alamillo '20  
 Leilani and Jose Alamillo  
 Victor Hugo Alamillo '10  
 Anahi Alatorre '21  
 William Alderson  
 Natalie Alhabash  
 Elizabeth Allan  
 Caitlyn Allen '11  
 Tim Allison \*  
 Andy Almanza '20  
 Crystal Altman  
 Judith Jenner and  
 Keith Anderson  
 Eberardo Andrade '19

Susan Andrzejewski and  
 Jennifer Maravola  
 Anonymous  
 Elizabeth Arciniega  
 Melissa Ardila  
 Emily Arnbrister  
 Steven Artiga  
 Adrienne Ashley '18  
 Jhoelle Aspuria '16  
 Mary Avila  
 Daniel Avina Ramirez  
 Brillilia Ayon '19  
 Aaron Baer  
 Tyler Baethe '21  
 Dana Baker  
 Connie and Harley Baker  
 Heather Trumbower and  
 Jules Balen  
 Terry Ballman and  
 Brian Morrill  
 Minay Baltazar  
 Ashley Balzer '19  
 Bryant Banuet  
 Jordon Barney '20  
 Kate and Gary Barnhart

Yolanda Barragan '20  
 Savannah Barraza '19  
 Yissel Barrera  
 Karina Barron '18  
 Coleen and Gary Barsley  
 Braven Basler  
 Stacey Beauregard  
 Dorian Beaver  
 Maricela Becerra  
 Lauren Beisel '20  
 Jeri and Maynard Belzer  
 Henry Benavidez  
 Deirdre '17 and Rande Bence  
 Aleasa Bennett-Bouyett and  
 Timothy Bouyett  
 Chelsee Bente Russell '09  
 and Dustin Russell '09  
 Kayla Bentley '20  
 Rebecca and Will Berg  
 Ann Walker and  
 Michael Berman  
 Betty and Blake Berriochoa  
 Daniel Berumen  
 Leslie Bhutani  
 Bonnie and Gunnar Biggs

Jennifer Bledsoe '21  
 Alissa Blough  
 Diane Bornstein-Sanders  
 Nathan Bowden  
 Brenda Bravo '10 '18  
 Sandra Bravo '17  
 Frank Briseno '10  
 Marni Brook  
 Gail Brooks  
 Hailee Brown  
 Steven Brown  
 Carolina Bueno '21  
 Pui and Geoffrey Buhl  
 Jennifer Burkhard '15  
 Catherine and Elaine Burriss  
 Kevin Byrne '12  
 Susan and Dennis Cabral  
 Marilyn and Patrick Cahill '05  
 Holly Calantog '16  
 Kelly Calderon  
 Michael Calonne '21  
 Ilyanna Camacho Luna '19  
 Dawn Canfield  
 Christopher Capaldi '19  
 Milytza Carbajal

## Why I Give ~ SHARON AND CLINT HARPER

**Physics Lecturer Clint Harper and his wife Sharon** are generous supporters of the University. "My wife Sharon and I have been public school educators in California our entire adult lives, Sharon at the elementary school level and me at the college/university level. Our own university educations, followed by our decades-long careers as educators, have given us and our family a wonderful life. Now that we have the financial means to do so, it's time to give back: funding scholarships, purchasing laboratory equipment and supplies, and supporting the CSUCI Dolphin Pantry. Hopefully, our donations are not unusual but become the norm. Sharon and I believe that those of us who have received so much from education are obligated to help the next generations."



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Emilie Carvajal	Cheryl Curtis	Jessica '07 and	Christian Foss '19
Nicole Casalnuovo	Colleen Davidson	Bryan Easterly '07 '09	Sean Fought
Maribeth Butler Case and	Daniel Davidson '20	Hannah Eaton	Sherie Frame
Michael Case	Bonita and Gary Davis	Monica Edwards	Kamaran Francis
Colleen Cason-Comeaux and	Pamela and Larry Davis	Tim Edwards	Laurita Franklin
Mike Comeaux	Tamara Davis '08	Wanda and David Edwards	Scott Frisch
Melisa Castanon	Julie De Santi '13	Katherine Elder	Mindy '07 and
Alma Cauch	Michelle Dean	Yacov Elharar	Tom Froelich '05
Aubrie Cavallaro	Shelley and Dan Delao	Diana Enos	Miyuki and Donald Fujitani
Nicholas Centino	Jose Delgado Marquez	Joel Enriquez '07	Daisy Galindo '21
Suzanne Chadwick	Catherine Delorey '17	Laura Escalera '20	Liam Gallant
Seyedeh Abedeh	Francisca Diaz Jimenez	Alexa Espinoza '16	Jasmine Gamino
Chaharsoughi '18	Mel Dick	Patricia and Roger Essick	Alejandra Garcia '19
Jessica Chai '19	Heidi-Dieffenbach-Carle and	Mari Estrada-Gonzalez and	Gabriela Garcia
Nikki Chairez '11 and	Steven Carle	Luis Gonzalez	Jake Garcia '19
Alex Chairez	Lydia Dixon	Douglas Faigin	Jennifer Garcia '20
Carol and William Chandler	Jeffrey Donlin	Tamra Feito	Jessica Garcia
Karina Chavarria	Beatriz Dorado '16	Martha '10 and	Jose Garcia and
Noel Chia	Tom Dore	Michael Ferguson '07	Kimberly Garcia '19
Alyssa Chordigian	Gina Dossin	Sharon Ferrell	Mark Garcia '04
Maleea Christian '19	Dennis Downey	Julia Fertig '19	Miguel Garcia
Ivalee and Michael Clark	Tadashi Dozono	Anjelica Fierro-Villanueva '19	Alejandra Garcia Estrada '13
Tia and Jack Clarke	Ona Bricton and	Yvonne and Carm Finocchiario	Arlyne Garrido
Laura Ashley Coe '20	Henry Dubroff	Sara Fisher '15	Noah Gause
Emily Common '20	Barbara Duffin	Karen Flores	Lynn and Al Geller
Colette Compton '16	Ana Duran	Star Flores	Lindsey Gerardo
Janet Contreras Ruiz	Denise Duran '11	Rhonda and Greg Florick	Sabrina Ghafarzada
Josh Cornett	Kassandra Duran	Marygrace Follero	Jasmine Ghlijkhani '20
Sieanna Corral	Manuel Duran	Alexandria Ford	Nicholas Giannakopoulos '17
Carmen Cortez			
Erik Cortez			
Donna and Michael Coulson			
Joanne Coville and			
Steve Stewart			
Christiane Craig			
Tatiana Craivanu '15			
Harold Creech			
Sebastian Cribbs '21			
John Crittenden			
Melissa Cronin-Brown '20			
Tina Crouch			
Catherine Crowley			
Karina Cruz Manzo			
Carmelita Cuellar '20			
William Cunneen			

## Why I Give ~ LISA RACINE

**Alumni Engagement Coordinator Lisa Racine** donates regularly to CSUCI. "I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work directly with students and student programs for a number of years, including EOP and direct my contribution to support EOP. I'm thankful to be able to continue to help our students by contributing to our vitally important student support programs. I believe in the work we're doing as a campus community to help our students to persevere and graduate. Giving is a way to demonstrate that support. A gift doesn't have to be large to be impactful. The act of giving any amount shows investment in our students, and that means a lot!"



Nancy Covarrubias Gill '05  
and William Gill  
Fernanda Godinez  
Ismael Godinez  
Shirley and Charles Godwin  
Sammy Goehring  
Autumn Goeres  
and Merrill Goldenberg  
Ester Gonz-lez  
Alejandra Gonzalez  
Brenda Gonzalez '19  
Monica Pesantez and  
Javier Gonzalez  
Kristy Gonzalez '12  
Vivian and Tyrus Goo

Jenny Gutierrez  
Viridiana Gutierrez '10  
Taryn Hakala  
Zavia Hall  
Ike Hama  
Alexa Hamel '19  
Krista Hamilton '20  
Jessica and Harvey Harris  
Sharon and Myron Harrison  
Elizabeth  
Hartung-Mendiguren and  
Ignacio Mendiguren  
Carol and Scott Hartz  
Michelle and  
Raf Hasendonckx

Robin Horne  
Riley Houser '15  
Kathryn Howard  
Timothy Huebsch  
Lesly Huerta '16  
Arthur Hunot  
Carolee Hurtado  
Gayle Hutchinson  
Karly Ibrahim '13  
Robert Improta  
Sharon Ingram  
Kay and Lyle Jacobson  
Hanni Jalil  
Melissa and Timothy Jarnagin  
Mark Jepson

Tracy Katchem  
Delaney Kaufman  
Lisa Kaye '15  
Julie and Douglas Kays  
Carly Keas '06  
Kimmy Kee-Rose  
Jerry Khai  
Randy Kiessig  
Lilian Kimbell and  
Nathan Gardels  
Judy King  
Taylor King  
Andrew Kirk '18  
Megan Klebanoff '19  
Destiny Kleca  
Rima and Paul Kleinbaum  
Kathleen Klompian  
Saxon Knauss '06  
Tina Knight and  
Kevin Bauleke  
Theresa Kocis  
Jolene Koester and  
Ron Lustig  
Panda Kroll and Kevin Volkan  
Alona Kryshchenko  
Dennis Kuklin  
Christine Kyeyune  
Thomas LaGrange '16 '20  
Joan Lamb  
Mary Laurence  
Nathalie Lecolley  
Shellena Leftridge  
Madison Leggett '16  
Josh Lemus  
Channing Lenert '11  
Albina Leon  
Kiara Leon  
Julia Newman and  
Saul Lessler  
Roxana Lievanos  
Benjamin Linares '20  
Jim Lingl  
Robert Linscheid  
Li-Mei and Andrew Little  
Juan Liu

## Why I Give ~ **NATALIE BRADLEY**

**Natalie Bradley '14 MBA** donated to CSUCI's Adopt-A-Grad Program in 2020. "I decided to support and donate to the Adopt-A-Grad program for a couple of reasons, one being 2020 had been a complicated year and if anything, I wanted this graduating class to have every resource at their fingertips. Additionally, CI afforded me an excellent education and many life changing opportunities, this was simply my way of paying it forward."



Mary Goodenough  
Hillary Gordon '19  
Laurence Gould  
Paul Goyne  
Regina Granillo  
Kim Lamb Gregory and  
Jeff Argabright  
Sally and Seth Greiner  
Jeanne Grier  
John and Rebecca Griffin  
Linda and Robert Gruber  
Alex Guillen  
Karen Gundelfinger '19  
Donna Gustafson '16

Sarah Hassan '21  
Doreen Hatcher  
Andrew Hauffen-Salgado '20  
Karen Haynes  
Aramis Hegler  
Kimberly Henson  
Jessica Heredia '06  
Rosa Maria Hernandez  
Noemi Hernandez Tirado '20  
Nadine Hiatt  
Christopher Hodges '20  
Martha Hogan '07  
Steven Holdsworth  
Donna and Mel Honda

Idalis Jimenez  
Victor Jimenez  
Danielle Johnson '21  
Kyle Johnson '10  
Lauren Johnson '19  
Shelly Johnson  
Andrew Jones  
Rachael Jordan Fleming '08  
Rick Juarez '14  
Clifton Justice  
Fotini '08 and Taso Karacali  
Josef Katchem  
Maddison Katchem  
Robyn Katchem

**Legend** \* Legacy Members † President's Circle ‡ Five to Nine Years § 10 to 14 Years ¶ 15 to 19 Years ○ 20 Years & Above

*Every effort has been made to post a complete and accurate list. Please report errors to the Development office at 805-437-3683.*



Grace Loeffler '17  
 Kathy and Randolph Long  
 Lourdes and Armando Lopez  
 Diana Lopez '20  
 Morgan Lopez '21  
 Nathan Lopez  
 Norma Lopez Magana and  
 Israel Magana  
 Aquaria Loreda '14  
 John Loreda  
 Andrew Lorenzana '16 '19  
 Aaliyah Njeri Lowe '18  
 Jennifer Lowe-Revell  
 Cassandra Ludwig '15  
 Cynthia and James Ludwig  
 Constantino Lopez  
 Beatrice Lutterbeck  
 Lori Macdonald '05 and  
 Alec Macdonald '12 '19

Carol Mack  
 Elizabeth Mack  
 Brooklynn Magana '20  
 Francisco Magdaleno  
 Nicholas Malinowski  
 Staci Mallett '16  
 Eileen and Michael Maloney  
 Adrianna Martinez '17  
 Claudia Martinez  
 Maria Martinez  
 Matt Martinez  
 Susana Martinez '12  
 Christina Martinez '19  
 Kaycee Matsumoto

Maj-Britt May  
 Misty and  
 David Mayorga '05 '11  
 Brenda Mazariegos  
 Janet and James McAleney  
 Laura McAvoy and  
 Sol Chooljian  
 Kendall McClellan  
 Patrick McCoy '16  
 Marianne McGrath  
 Macon McIntyre  
 Thomas McKiernan  
 Tommee McMakin '19

Anjeannette McRoberts  
 Jessica Medina Magallon  
 Phillip Mellado  
 Edgar Mendez  
 Iris Mendez  
 Celena Mendoza  
 Cheyenne Mendoza  
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 Rogelio Mendoza  
 Yu Meng  
 Phyllis Michaels  
 Cindy Mijangos '20  
 Hannah Mize '15  
 Daniel Mizin  
 Sara Montenegro '19  
 Veronica Montoya  
 Michelle Moon  
 Lauri Moore  
 Angelica Morales

Barbara Hedani-Morishita  
 and Leroy Morishita  
 Claricia Morris-Hammer '19  
 Ray Munoz  
 Joanna and Paul Murphy  
 London Murphy '18  
 Jared Musich '17  
 Abdul Nachawati  
 Chelsea Narajos '19  
 David Naranjo  
 Blanca Narvaez  
 Christina Neal  
 Carolynn and John Nicholson

Maria Nogin  
 Hailee Nolte '18  
 Michael Norman  
 Lawrence Norton  
 Cameron O'Brien '19  
 Sara O'Conlon  
 Roberto Ocampo  
 Pamela Ojeda '21  
 Joan and Gerald Olsen  
 Anne and Jim Ondrejko  
 Sean Higdon and  
 Julia Ornelas-Higdon  
 Joanna Orr  
 Isaac Ortiz '20  
 Olivia Ortiz '19  
 Sabrina Ortiz '19  
 Alanna Overturf '17  
 Deborah and Robert Owens  
 Alex Padilla '17 '21

Taylor Phelps '14  
 Fred Phipps  
 Pamela Pina '21  
 Laura Pistonik  
 Imelda Pitones  
 Karla Pitones  
 Lisa Pitts '18 and Dylan Pitts  
 Anahi Plascencia '20  
 Roxana Plascencia  
 Juanita and Ramon Porras  
 Nathan Porter '17  
 Mary and Stuart Proctor  
 Andrew Prokopow  
 Sandra Punch  
 Haleh Rabani '09  
 Lisa Racine  
 Araceli Ramirez  
 Fernando Ramirez  
 Francisco Ramirez

## Why I Give ~ NEIL MATSUMORI

**Neil Matsumori, former Assistant Dean of the USC Rossier School of Education,** is a founding member of CSUCI President's Circle. "As a charter member of the CSUCI President's Circle, it has been my privilege to assist the campus in a small way, in fulfilling its educational mission to the community."



Purna Pai  
 June Palazzo '17  
 Kathy Pantelas  
 Nancy Park  
 Anthony Parra '20  
 Danika Patt '18  
 Barbara and Patrick Patten  
 Chad Patteson  
 Sophia Peniche  
 Ellyn Perez  
 Vanessa Perez Hernandez '20  
 Jennifer Perry and  
 Dave Daniels

Karla Ramirez '17  
 Maria Ramirez  
 Rosemary Ramirez '18  
 Shaune Ramirez  
 Silvia Ramirez '19  
 Tina Ramirez '19  
 Isidro Ramirez Vargas '20  
 Edgar Ramos  
 Cecilia Rangel  
 Konstanze Rausch '17  
 Justin Redemann '20  
 Claudia Reder  
 Debra Reed-Yung

Adrienne and Clarence Reeves Rafael Regalado Moshe Reich '21 Lynetta Ivey-Reid and John Reid Robin Reilly Steve Relyea Ginger Reyes Jose Reyes Reynalou Reyes Jazmin Reyes Ambriz Margery Ricards Amanda Richitt '20 Michael Richman Naomi Laura Rigoni '20 Mari Riojas-Cortez Delila Rios and Zeferino Rios Monica Rivas Valerie Rivera '11 Andrew Roberts Alejandra Rodriguez '17 Devin Rodriguez Federico Rodriguez Jeffrey Rodriguez '20 Kristen Rodriguez	Marissa Rodriguez Marjorie Rodriguez Jo Ann Roettgen '17 Sierra Rojas Karen Romney * Jackie Rose Melody Rose Alan Ruiz Selma Ruiz Shelby and Gustav Ryden Tejas Sachdeva '20 Michael Sales Kateriel Sampang Amanda '19 and Luis Sanchez Ana Sanchez Kamille Mae Sanchez Maira Sanchez Maria Sanchez '19 Neena Sanchez '20 Sandy and Alexis Sanchez Ursula Sanchez '20 Nicole Santibanez '19 Sherri and Peter Sawaya Natalie Saylor Mary and Anthony Scardino Tevin Schmitt '16 Charlene and Robert Scudder	Danielle Seckler '19 Ashley Seery '13 and David Seery '12 Gitana Serna '07 Ansh Seth '19 Brian Sevier Cindy Sherman Emily Sherry '19 Michelle Singer Sarbpreet Singh Halle Sitton Bitten Skartvedt Andrea Skinner '16 Marianne Slaughter and Dee Press * Drexel and Ronald Smiley Rianna Smith '19 Alexis Solis Sinai Soriano Belen Soriano-Morales Zarisbeth Soto-Fabian '21 Thomas Sparks '19 Phoenix Spoor '21 Autumn Steed Connor Stephens Eric Stephens Stephen Stratton	JoAnn Stuermer Judy and Richard Sturdivan Maria Suarez '20 Rebecca Sutcavage '20 Deborah Sutherland-Hocamp and Joe Hocamp Rachel Ochoa-Tafoya '10 '19 Guadalupe Taijeron and Edward Alvarado Amanda Takhar '15 Angelick Tamayo '19 Venus Tamayo Jazmin Tarula Maria Tauber Ramon Tejada Anne and Anson Thacher Dorcas Thille Madison Thomas Miztli Tinajero '18 Kevin Tohill Kaia Tollefson Aaron Tomat Brian Torres Karla Torres Brianna Touquet '21 Matthew Touquet Yvette Touquet Evelyn Trejo Erin Trimble '19 Brenda Tungui '15 Fatima Urbina Noah Urrutia Ashley Valdivia '16 Valeria Valdovinos Deyla and Christopher Valenzano '04 James Van Epps Bryan Vanden Bossche Crystal Vargas '20 Teresa Vega '19 Brittnee Veldman Daniel Ventura '19 Tara Viado '10 Vicki Vierra Susan Villegas-Castro '07 Julie and Framroze Virjee
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## Why I Give ~ **KIM LAMB GREGORY**

**CSUCI Communication Specialist Kim Lamb Gregory** was inspired to start the Dennis Gregory Mechatronics Scholarship at CSUCI in honor of her late husband and raised \$25,000 to endow the scholarship. "Dennis was the first in his generation to graduate from college and struggled to make ends meet with jobs at fast food restaurants, junk yards and moving companies. He had nowhere to live but a metal Airstream trailer in the hot, Tucson, Arizona sun, but graduated from the University of Arizona and became a mechanical engineer. We didn't have children of our own, so I felt he would want me to help other people's children so they wouldn't have the same struggles Dennis had."





Richard Vitelle  
 Sheridan Vititoe  
 Victor Volpe  
 Rudolf von May  
 Kimberly Vose  
 Sally Vose  
 George Walden '17  
 Cynthia Wargo  
 Shelby Wargo  
 Sami Weimer  
 Camryn Weisenberger '19  
 Suzanne Welsh  
 Sharon Brown-Welty and  
 John Welty  
 James Wheeler  
 Travis Wight '19  
 Cordell Williams '16  
 Kevin Williams '15  
 Heather Williams-Baumgart  
 Kobi Colyar-Winans and  
 Russell Winans '07  
 Tabitha and Gregory Wood  
 Rebekah Wright '14  
 Michelle and  
 Marcus Wurtz '15  
 Edward Wyatt  
 Gina Yablow '16  
 Jade Young '18  
 Kevin Yung  
 Benjamin Zander '19  
 Jennifer Zecena '19

## **BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS**

Al Lowe Construction, Inc.  
 American Association of  
 University Women  
 Anonymous  
 Assistance League of Ventura  
 County  
 Bernzott Capital Advisors  
 BP Innovations  
 California Faculty Association  
 Channel Islands Chapter  
 Californians for Energy  
 Independence  
 CarePodz  
 Carnegie Art Cornerstones  
 Catalyst: a division of the Jeff  
 T. Green Family Foundation  
 Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
 Crest-Vest Corporation  
 CSU Foundation  
 CSU Northridge  
 Deckers Outdoor Corporation  
 Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
 International  
 Ekam, Inc.  
 Enterprise Rent A Car-  
 Los Angeles LLC  
 G.A. Fowler Family  
 Foundation  
 Gene Haas Foundation  
 Golden Biotech, LLC  
 Gordon Ross Medical  
 Foundation  
 GRTW TACTICAL  
 ImpactAssets  
 Institute for the Study of  
 Knowledge  
 JP Morgan Chase & Co  
 Lawrence Livermore National  
 Laboratory  
 Leavens Ranches  
 LightGabler LLP  
 Living Peace Foundation  
 Mechanics Bank

Meissner Filtration  
 Products, Inc.  
 Montecito Bank & Trust  
 MWS Wire Industries  
 National Association  
 of Student Personnel  
 Administrators  
 National Philanthropic Trust  
 Ojai Oil Company  
 Oxnard Ambassadors  
 Pacific Western Bank  
 Panda Kroll, Esq. &  
 Associates  
 Patagonia Inc.  
 Polk Bros. Foundation  
 Premier America Credit Union  
 Richard M. Schulze Family  
 Foundation  
 Santa Barbara City College  
 Foundation  
 Schwab Charitable Fund  
 Simms/Mann Institute for  
 Education and Community  
 Development  
 Socrates Biosciences, Inc  
 Student Transportation of  
 America  
 Sycamore Holdings LLC  
 Takeda  
 The Baltoro Trust  
 The Trade Desk, Inc.  
 TOLD Corporation  
 TOLD Foundation  
 Tolman & Wiker Insurance  
 Services, LLC  
 The Mack Foundation  
 Umpqua Bank  
 Union Bank  
 University of St. Thomas  
 Ventura County Community  
 Foundation  
 Ventura County Credit Union  
 Ventura Investment Co  
 Walker Pools, INC  
 West Coast ENT  
 Yardi Systems

## **GRANTS**

Center for American Progress  
 ECMC Foundation  
 June G. Outhwaite  
 Charitable Trust  
 Richard M. Schulze  
 Family Foundation  
 Southern California Edison  
 The Bernard Osher  
 Foundation

## **GIFTS IN KIND**

Follett Higher Education  
 Group  
 Janet Lever  
 Brianne McGrath  
 Gayla and Santi Visalli

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## President's Circle

An annual donation of \$1,000 or more qualifies you for a CSUCI President's Circle membership. Since its founding in 1999, the President's Circle has helped bridge the gap between state funds and the private support required to meet the needs of our rapidly growing University. Your gift goes toward direct financial support for students, enhancing academic programs and addressing CSUCI's most urgent priorities. The impact is profound!



To learn more about our President's Circle, please contact Eva Gomez at 805-437-3271 or [eva.gomez@csuci.edu](mailto:eva.gomez@csuci.edu), or visit [go.csuci.edu/prescircle](https://go.csuci.edu/prescircle).

### Support through the President's Circle has

- Contributed generously to our Ekho Your Heart emergency fund which was designed to support our campus community with emergency situations like the pandemic. Between June 2020 – October 2021, 149 students have participated in the program, allocating a total of \$84,500.
- Provided funding for students to participate in Undergraduate Research – Student research is a high-impact teaching practice and an important element of academic programs where faculty-mentored student research takes place and gives students and faculty the opportunity to engage in strong campus-community partnerships and to solve real world problems.
- Provided support to our Peer Mentor Ambassadors (PMA) programs – these Peer Mentors provide support to their fellow students who need help in navigating all aspects of college life – especially our new incoming students. The PMA program provides student mentors with the opportunity to earn a \$7,000 per year stipend, affording them with the financial assistance needed to cover fees and tuition and the time to do more to support their fellow students.

Visit [go.csuci.edu/prescircle](https://go.csuci.edu/prescircle) to learn more