Persistence Leads to New Beginnings

Springtime brings commencement, celebrating the accomplishments of our students and marking new beginnings. Likewise, your University celebrates the beginning of our next decade with a new entrance road, a record of outstanding accomplishment and innovation for the University, and the dedication of North Hall, our new academic building.

Last month CI welcomed nearly 12,000 family members and guests to recognize more than 930 students for their hard work and dedication in reaching their academic dreams. Some were the first in their family to go to college and to graduate. Others returned to school after years, even decades, fulfilling a dream long deferred. Many had raised children, cared for an ill family member, overcome illness and injury to themselves, or served our country while postponing higher education. For some, it was all of the above!

No matter how we got here, one characteristic has united us all – persistence to achieve in spite of obstacles. Persistence continues to reward CI as recently we marked the grand opening of a new entrance road to the University and soon will celebrate the upcoming completion of North Hall at the start of the fall semester. Additionally, despite the state’s continued budget uncertainty, CI has continued to thrive in delivering a high quality and innovative education to as many students as possible from this region and beyond. No obstacle will deter us in fulfilling our mission.

As the stories in this magazine illustrate, CI looks forward to new beginnings in all aspects of the University’s life as we celebrate our 10th anniversary. With your help, I am confident that our persistence and dedication will allow us to do an outstanding job of serving our students and our community in the coming years. Please enjoy the stories that follow, and I wish you a safe and pleasant summer.

Sincerely yours,

Richard R. Rush
President
Channel is an official publication of California State University Channel Islands. It is published twice a year for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community at large by the Communication & Marketing office.

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

Executive Editor
Nancy Covarrubias Gill ’05

Editor and
Production Director
Joanna Murphy

Copy Editor
Renny Christopher

Designer/Photography
Lupita Gutierrez ’05

Contributing Writers
Sean Anderson, A. Michael Berman, Traceyee Clarke, Janet Ezgiano, Nancy C. Gill, Dennis Muraoka, Joanna Murphy, Dan Wakelee, John Spoor Broome Library Staff, Lori Putnam/putnam Creative and Marya Jones Barlow

Contributing Photographers
Sean Anderson, Franz Tinio-Lopez, c/o Murphy Auto Museum, Oxnard, Joanna Murphy, Paul Paredes, Enora Kelly Tayag, Suharika Thotakura, Michael Urbanek/Architecturalshots.com and Jim Walsh

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.
California State University Channel Islands

Third Year for President's Community Service Recognition
For a third consecutive year, CI has earned a place on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The annual list recognizes the nation’s leading universities that show a commitment to bettering their local communities through community service and service learning. The honor roll is compiled by the Corporation for National and Community Service, federal government agency that encourages volunteerism and public service, in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact, and the American Council on Education.

Service learning and community engagement have been a focus of CI’s curriculum and student life since the University’s inception in 2002. During the 2010-2011 academic year, CI tallied more than 26,500 hours of community service from approximately 1,300 students.


Professor Receives President’s Award
Andrea Grove, Professor of Political Science, has been awarded CI’s second annual President’s Award for Innovations in Teaching and Learning. The award is presented in recognition of an individual who has made unique and significant contributions to the teaching mission of the University.

Grove was selected, in part, for her creation of experiential learning opportunities for her students through her study abroad courses; journey to the New South Africa. Her students spend a semester studying the history and social and political structures of South Africa, then experience the country first hand.

As a teacher-scholar, Grove has published not only in the field of foreign policy, but also has contributed to the school’s success in teaching and learning. She has published an article about creating Model UN teams, and an analysis of how textbooks represent foreign policy. In addition to these accomplishments, Grove has served as the Faculty Director of the Center for Civic Engagement and the Faculty Director of the California Institute for Social Business.


Model UN Team Wins Awards
The Model United Nations Team at CI captured six top awards at two regional conferences. The first event was the Western Model United Nations, which attracted more than 140 participants from 10 colleges and universities to Santa Barbara City College. Senior political science major MacKenzie Garcia, acting as Uganda in the Human Rights Council, received the top award as Outstanding Delegate. Junior economies and political science major Steven Jordan, portraying Ecuador in the Historic Security Council, was named Best Delegate. Senior political science major Kurt Harris received an Honorable Mention as Lijadua in the General Assembly First Committee.

At the second event, CI’s team won three awards at the Model United Nations of the Far West, which draws competitors from all around the U.S., Canada and Russia for a five-day conference near San Francisco.

Led by Professors Andrea Grove and Chris Scholl from the Political Science Program, the 2012 team includes students Matthew Bateman, Kristinna Cervi, Sofia Fard, MacKenzie Garcia, Stephanie Garcia, Kurt Harris, Kyle Harris, Steven Jordan, Robert Lestak, Andre Ross, Sara Sanders, Peter Turkey, David Winston, Markus Wurtz, and Trevor Yusla. Model UN is a simulation of the UN’s committees. Students step into the shoes of ambassadors from UN member states to research and debate current issues on the organization’s agenda. While playing their roles as ambassadors, student delegates make speeches, prepare draft resolutions, negotiate with allies and adversaries, resolve conflicts, and navigate the Model UN conference rules of procedure – all in the interest of mobilizing international cooperation to resolve problems that affect countries all over the world.


For more information on these University news stories visit http://www.csuci.edu/news/newsreleases.htm.
Collecting Ventura: The Gold Coast Collections

By John Spoor Broome Library Staff

CI’s John Spoor Broome Library’s inaugural event, Collecting Ventura: The Gold Coast Collections brought together local museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies to one place on one day to promote Ventura County’s unique collections. The goals of Collecting Ventura are to promote the use of primary sources in the classroom and research and to celebrate local and hidden history.

The event’s gem is the Archives Bazaar, where attendees can visit local institutions and discover collections that celebrate the cultural heritage of Ventura County’s history. Designed for students, teachers, scholarly researchers, history buffs, and those simply interested in exploring the stories of Ventura County, the Archives Bazaar offers cultural treasures waiting to be discovered. The Archives Bazaar’s inaugural institutions included the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Museum of Ventura County, U.S. Navy Seabee Archives and Museum, Oxnard Heritage Square, Murphy Auto Museum, Rancho Camulos Museum, Stagecoach Inn Museum, E.P. Foster Ventura County Public Library, Camarillo Public Library, and Thousand Oaks Public Library.

“This is a significant first step for creating an important annual event,” stated Charles Johnson, librarian at the Museum of Ventura County. “It was important for the museum to support and be a part of this inaugural program showcasing the county’s historical collections and institutions.”

In addition to the Bazaar, educational sessions included “Using Primary Documents to Teach and Learn About Politics” by Sean Q. Kelly, Associate Professor of Political Science; “Picture This: Teaching Visual Literacy through History” by Elnora Kelly Tayag, Librarian; “Hidden Treasures in the Seabee Museum Archives” by Gina Nichols, Archivist; “Lincoln in the Classroom: A Fresh Look at the Constitution and the Civil War” by Laura Worden, Librarian, and Kaela Casey, MLIS candidate; “The Road to Yerba Buena: The Importance of Primary Documents in Historical Research” by Charles Johnson, Librarian; and “Camarillo State Hospital, CI’s Oldest Collection” by Evelyn Taylor, Archivist, as well as architectural tours of the library.

Presenters spoke about the treasure hunt involved in the research process, and that many primary source gems are found in collections, and not necessarily on the Internet. They also focused on incorporating primary sources to make history come alive in the classroom and engage students in original research. Promoting awareness of these treasures ensures the success of our local institutions, their collections, and future Collecting Ventura events.

If you or your institution would like to present or participate next spring, please contact Elnora Tayag, Outreach Coordinator, at elnora.tayag@csuci.edu or Matthew Cook, Head of Public Services, at matthew.cook@csuci.edu.

Collecting Ventura is sponsored by CI’s Broome Library and the Education Program.
National Park Service Creates a Presence on the CI Campus

By Dan Wakelee, Assistant Provost

CI is now home to two National Park Service centers. The Mediterranean Coast Network (MEDN) and the Southern California Research Learning Center are located on the second floor of Solano Hall. Their web site is www.MEDNscience.org. National Parks provide unique opportunities for scientific research in areas that are preserved and protected, and can be studied as reference points for comparisons with similar, altered environments. Their purpose on campus is to collaborate with CI faculty and students to initiate collaborative research and monitoring studies, educational programs, and service learning activities in National Parks.

Stacey Ostermann-Kelm is Program Manager for the Mediterranean Coast Network of the National Park Service’s Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program. MEDN includes three parks: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Channel Islands National Park and Cabrillo National Monument. The primary purpose of the I&M Program is to establish and implement long-term monitoring programs on a subset of the physical, chemical and biological processes of park ecosystems that represent the overall health or condition of park resources. MEDN monitoring programs include vegetation, island foxes, reptiles and amphibians, deer mice, landbirds, seabirds, water quality, kelp forests, and rocky intertidal communities. The I&M Program collects, organizes, and makes available natural resource data and facilitates the transformation of data into information through analysis, synthesis, modeling, and presentation. The I&M Program seeks partnerships to attain common goals and objectives related to the inventory and monitoring of park resources as well as science communication.

Susan Teel is the Director of the Southern California Research Learning Center, a National Park Service center established to assist scientists and students in conducting research in national parks. The research results compiled by faculty and students then assist park managers in making science-based decisions. Research Learning Centers facilitate scientific information sharing, and provide opportunities for faculty and students to learn about national parks. They are places where science and education come together to preserve and protect areas of national significance.

▲ Park rangers talk with CI students about island ecosystems; CI students participate in restoration project on Anacapa Island.
Documenting and Conserving Turkey’s Vanishing Biodiversity

By Sean Anderson, Associate Professor of Environmental Science & Resource Management

My Environmental Science & Resource Management colleagues and I never set out to stir up controversy, but sometimes simply being a dedicated scientist or objective observer of the world amounts to just that. Take for example two papers I recently published with my colleagues highlighting Turkey’s growing conservation crisis, the worst in this continental and cultural crossroads of a country’s long and fascinating history. “Turkey’s Globally Important Biodiversity in Crisis,” a detailed review of Turkey’s biodiversity, habitats, and conservation issues was published in the December 2011 issue of the journal Biological Conservation. The follow-up piece in Science, “Turkey’s Rich Natural Heritage Under Assault,” highlights the scale and extent of these threats, in particular the myriad of environmental laws that were changed over the past two years to make it easier to replace Turkey’s crucial ecosystems and protected areas with mines, dams, tourist resorts, and other types of “development.”

Turkey’s astonishing amount of biodiversity for a temperate country of its size is quickly eroding, particularly over this past decade. In addition, Turkey lacks the biological “charisma” of many tropical countries and suffers from the international misconception that, as a nation that wants to enter the European Union, it must have adequate funds and priorities to support conservation. These factors, combined with the Turkish public’s general disinterest in conservation and the government’s unrelenting “developmentalist obsession,” have brought to a head a conservation crisis begun in the 1950s. With Turkey’s biodiversity facing severe and growing threats, especially from the government and business interests, the country has now become entirely covered by so-called crisis ecoregions, most of them critically endangered.

Unchecked urbanization, dam construction, draining of wetlands, poaching, and excessive irrigation are the most widespread threats to biodiversity. Preserving Turkey’s remaining biodiversity will necessitate immediate action, international attention, greater support for Turkey’s developing conservation capacity, and the expansion of a nascent Turkish conservation ethic.

We are increasingly called in to manage animal conflicts. This freely-roaming cow in the background is grazing down the last of the fringing wetland plants around the Lake Kayucuk restoration site.

The inset shows our team working with local villagers to rescue a crippled brown bear who had become trapped within a slippery ravine after being hit by a car.
My research interests, informed by both my academic and professional careers, focus on the constitutive nature of communication. I examine the role of dialogue and narrative in the creation of socially constructed realities. Guided by this overarching theme and my interest in interdisciplinary research, my interests fall into three main areas; 1) environment; 2) culture; and 3) conflict. The current research projects I am engaged in incorporate one or more of these areas of interest and focus on the links or intersections between them.

I am specifically interested in the construction and resolution of environmental conflict, specifically with indigenous communities. Building on my dissertation work with the Goshute Indians regarding intertribal conflict about the storing nuclear waste on their reservation, I have published a book titled, “Native Americans and Nuclear Waste: Narratives of Conflict.” I have also published two related articles focusing on the role of voice in nuclear waste policy development and the interplay between the symbolic and the material.

Expanding my scholarly work focused on Native America cultural symbolism and environmental management, I co-authored an article titled “The Weyekin Principle: Toward an Embodied Critical Rhetoric.” I am particularly proud of this article as it received a national award from the International Environmental Communication Association for providing theoretical contributions to the field of environmental communication and the relationship between humans and their environment.

Continuing my research on environmental policy development and conflict management, my current research focuses on water resource management issues and the role of public discourse in collaborative decision-making processes. I feel lucky that I have been able to bridge my professional career as an environmental mediator with my research interests and hope to continue to do so.

For me the most rewarding part of research is engaging with other disciplines to address complex environmental issues. I am presently working with Don Rodriguez, Environmental Science & Resource Management (ESRM) and Jose Alamillo, Chicana/o Studies to understand how to better engage the Latino community with National Park Service programs. Under a grant from the Park Service we were able fund six undergrad students, two from each of our disciplines, to help us with data gathering and analysis. Working closely with colleagues and students on this research confirms why I love academic life: the ability to continually learn from others as we bridge disciplinary knowledge and create new spaces of understanding.
Popular Music 101

By Lori Putnam

What do Jazz in America, History of Rock, The Beatles, and World Music have in common? For CI students, the answer is faculty member Paul Murphy. He is the creative catalyst behind a series of courses at CI that fuse music education with an exploration of history and culture. Through his efforts, CI has played host to artists such as former Paul McCartney guitarist Laurence Juber and musician Eric Rigler.

The live performances began eight years ago when Murphy would invite fellow jazz musicians to perform with him in class. “I think it’s important to see how professional musicians approach their instruments,” said Murphy, who earned his bachelor’s degree in Jazz Composition/Arranging from Boston’s Berklee College of Music and his master’s and doctoral degrees in Studio Guitar and Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California.

“I remember what it was like to be a student. I always appreciated teachers who weren’t just teaching out of a book, and that the topic meant something to them,” he added.

“I think it’s important to see how professional musicians approach their instruments,” - Paul Murphy

Murphy grew up the youngest of six, with a father who was an amateur singer. He can recall a household full of diverse music, and discovered a passion in the guitar. After college, Murphy traded the East Coast for the West Coast, and quickly found professional camaraderie in Los Angeles through the American Federation of Musicians (AFM). Not only did the union give Murphy the opportunity to play with accomplished performers, it led to his playing two seasons as a guitarist for The Muppets Show Tonight, accompanying such featured guests as Whoopi Goldberg, Jason Alexander, Heather Locklear, and Dennis Quaid.

While continuing to perform live and in studio, Murphy also lectured at Pepperdine University, Fullerton Community College, and the University of Redlands. By the time he arrived at CI in 2004, he had begun to envision classes that focused on popular music and culture – something that he experienced as a teaching assistant at USC.

“Now there’s more acceptance in academia of popular music courses,” said Murphy. With the added layer of artist performances, music education comes alive for Murphy’s students. He now brings as many as eight guest artists a semester to perform on campus thanks to the CI Instructionally Related Activities fund.

“You can see the excitement on their faces when they go up and meet the musicians after the performance,” he said. “It’s one thing to see a video, it’s another when you see a performance in person.”

Murphy is both a musician and teacher, but he is also a fan – something that his students can appreciate. “I bring my enthusiasm to class and my students can see I’m passionate,” said Murphy. “I can see their perspective because I’m a fan of music too.”
It was a clear spring evening and the South Quad was aglow with starlight from above and candlelight from below as a stream of lanterns marked a path for runners and walkers participating in the University’s first Relay for Life. The lanterns, each commemorating the name of a loved one touched by cancer, were part of a luminaria ceremony hosted in conjunction with the American Cancer Society fundraiser.

CI’s Relay for Life, held over a 24-hour period on March 2nd and 3rd, honored Dr. Stephen Lefevre, CI professor and administrator, who died of cancer last fall at the age of 67. The event attracted 412 participants organized in 33 teams, and CI volunteers raised $58,743 for cancer research – a significant amount more than their original goal of $25,000.

Fundraising efforts were led by CI seniors Jacklyn Simonson and Veronica Palafox. Among the top three fund-raising teams was Team Steve, comprised of Lefevre’s friends and family.

Simonson, who minored in Political Science, was a student in Lefevre’s class in Fall 2010 and remembered him as personable and energetic. Having the Relay held in his memory offered special meaning to her and other students.

Lefevre was a popular figure on campus, and is credited by many for helping to create the collegial and collaborative learning environment that distinguishes CI. The Relay for Life gave the CI community a chance to celebrate his life and legacy.

“Our family was absolutely honored, on behalf of my husband, to be involved,” said Susan Lefevre. “I think he would have enjoyed the symmetry – that the energy of the campus which he thrived in is now directed into making inroads to beating cancer.” During the relay, Lefevre was stopped a number of times by students who wanted to share memories of her husband. One student expressed how her participation in Lefevre’s political science class was the catalyst for her to pursue her American citizenship.

Steve Lefevre’s brother, Greg, spoke at the luminaria ceremony, and a slideshow celebrated the lives of family and friends of the CI community who have battled cancer. The Relay for Life event also included a Survivor’s Lap, a Caregiver Lap, and a Closing Ceremony.

“It was so wonderful to have Steve honored by students,” added Lefevre. “You couldn’t ask for anything more as a teacher.”

Students from CI and nearby California Lutheran University (CLU) had also formed a friendly competition by hosting back-to-back Relay events. The CLU event raised more than $40,000, double their original goal.
The Problem Solver

By Lori Putnam

As an IT consultant for the Division of Technology & Communication, Hai Le thrives on solving problems for CI faculty and staff. “In my role, I expect problems to come up on a daily basis. I love that through technology I get to solve these problems with all kinds of possible solutions,” said Le. “It’s exciting to start a new problem – it’s like solving a puzzle. I love it.”

It is Le’s natural optimism and go-to attitude that garnered him a CSU Outstanding Professional Award honor in 2008. Judy Swanson, Director of Academic Technology, describes Le as a powerhouse on campus. “He’s been here a long time and he knows how everything works,” said Swanson. “He’s also patient and cheerful. I’m sure anyone who goes to him with a problem thinks that he or she is the only person to ask him for help that day. He treats everyone with respect and when someone has a computer problem, it becomes his problem.”

Le arrived on campus in 2001 and has seen his department as well as the University grow. He is now part of a six-member desktop support team addressing the computing needs of more than 300 people. “I was there at the beginning and it’s been exciting to see CI grow,” added Le.

Unlike some in his field, Le became involved in technology by accident. He was an accounting major at the University of California, Santa Barbara, when he met colleagues in the engineering and science fields who introduced him to computer programming. What started as a hobby has in some ways remained one for Le, who continues to learn as much as he can in an ever-changing field.

Change, in fact, has been a large factor in Le’s life. At the age of nine, his family fled their home in Vietnam to escape the war. “We had gone to visit my grandparents in the city,” remembered Le, when bombing erupted. He recalls walking with his parents five or six miles to reach a harbor where a military ship took his family to the Philippines. Tragically, one of Le’s brothers was left behind in Vietnam.

Eventually, Le and his family would make their way to Camp Pendleton by way of Guam. They were sponsored by a church in the San Fernando Valley and lived there for a number of years. Today, four of Le’s siblings live in the South Bay and another two in San Jose. Le is married to a fellow CI staff member, Judy Le, and they have one son.
CI Partners with The GRAMMY Museum to Offer Students Insights into Music Museums

By Dennis Muraoka, Professor of Economics

The fall 2011 semester marked the initial offering of a new interdisciplinary course entitled “The Music Museum.” This course, the first of its kind, was developed and offered in partnership with The GRAMMY Museum® at LA LIVE. Many class sessions were held at the museum, where the students learned first-hand from museum staff about a broad range of topics including music history, exhibit planning, design and fabrication, marketing, public relations, security, management, finance and budgeting, education, special programs, events, membership, and retail. They also attended special programs featuring GRAMMY-award-winning artists and a behind-the-scenes look at the world of popular music.

An important element of the CI mission is to educate students both within and across disciplines. To promote learning across disciplines, all CI students must complete three interdisciplinary courses, of which “The Music Museum” is an example. At CI, interdisciplinary courses address problems and issues using the methodology of more than one discipline. “The Music Museum” was offered jointly by CI’s programs in business, economics, education, and music. In “The Music Museum,” students demonstrated their mastery of interdisciplinary thinking by designing an exhibit on jazz legend Charlie Parker and presenting their design to GRAMMY Museum® staff. Dr. Ted Lucas and I taught the new course, and selected Parker as the topic of the student projects as Parker is not only a GRAMMY award winner, but also was a resident at Camarillo State Hospital.

The initial offering of “The Music Museum” was a great success for both CI students and The GRAMMY Museum® and the course will be offered again in fall 2012. 

▼ Students Samantha Kern and Moises De La Rosa, pictured left; and members of The Music Museum class with economics professor Muraoka and music professor Lucas, discuss final exhibit presentations, pictured right.
When CI senior MacKenzie Garcia graduates this year, she’ll not only get her diploma, but months of real-world work experience at the American Red Cross. That’s because Garcia is part of the inaugural class of Henry L. “Hank” Lacayo Institute for Workforce & Community Studies (HLI) interns, (pictured at right). This select group of CI upperclassmen have been paired with local businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits to gain invaluable work experience prior to entering the job market.

“I want to work for the United Nations,” said Garcia. “My experience with a nonprofit this semester is a good place to start.” As an intern for the major gifts director at the Ventura County chapter of the American Red Cross, Garcia has been given the opportunity to conduct grant research, help contribute to publications, and work on a block party event.

The internship program is one of the first programs launched by the Institute, founded in 2010 and named in honor of workforce and community leader Hank Lacayo. His decades of national service, as well as his ongoing commitment to CI, were recently recognized when Lacayo was presented with an honorary degree at this year’s commencement ceremony.

“This program gives interns an opportunity to get hands-on experience related to their studies or interests,” said Lacayo. HLI interns are nominated for the program by faculty and administrators, and undergo a screening process through Career Development Services. Students may choose to receive academic credit for the program, and all interns are paid through the Institute. Gary Cushing, a CI graduate and former chair of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, serves as a consultant for the program, by facilitating ties with local businesses from which to place HLI interns. Current participating organizations include the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, Wesley Thomas General Contractors, United Way, PBS Biotech, County of Ventura Climate Protection, and The American Red Cross.

The HLI internship program supports the Institute’s goal of leadership development, according to HLI Director and CI faculty member Dr. Elizabeth Hartung. The other two initiatives are applied policy research through the HLI Social and Economic Research Lab, and policy education and community outreach.

“What the program offers employers are extremely well-qualified students who are matched so they can apply what they’re learning in their field,” said Hartung. Her hope is to see the internship program grow to 50 or more interns a year if funding allows. “This can be an institute for transformation,” she added. HLI interns have been selected already for the Fall 2012 class.
Tenth Annual Commencement Ceremony

The University celebrated its tenth commencement ceremony on May 19 with nearly 12,000 parents, families, and friends who cheered on more than 930 students receiving their bachelor’s, master’s or teaching credentials.

Maria Tauber, Director of Academic Personnel, was the honored staff member selected to ring the Navy ship bell to signal the beginning of Commencement; Dr. Marie Francois, Professor of History, led the procession by carrying the Light of Learning; and Dr. James Meriwether, Professor of History and Academic Senate Chair, served as Chief University Marshal; Sophomore Megan Cummings sang the National Anthem, and greetings in Spanish and Romanian were provided by graduating seniors Samantha Kern and Aurelia Serb.

Remarks were provided by CSU Trustee Debra Farar, President Richard Rush, and graduating Student Government President, Dulce Lopez. Honorary doctorate degrees were awarded to Hank Lacayo and Kathy Ireland. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the alma mater led by graduating senior and CI staff member, Raquel De Los Santos, accompanied on keyboard by the alma mater’s composer, Dr. Ted Lucas.
Lewis Carroll once famously wrote, “If you don’t know where you are going, any road will take you there.” Such has not been the case with CI. In fact since its founding 10 years ago, the goal of building a 21st century university has been the CI community’s guiding force. Now the opening of a new campus entrance road marks another important milestone in the University’s growth and success.

“Isn’t it interesting that the new campus entry is open at time when we are beginning our second decade?” observed President Richard Rush of the new three-quarter-mile road that connects Lewis Road to the campus. “The entry gives a symbolic welcome to a new generation of CI students. Here is the road to opportunity, to your future, and to your success.”

The four-lane road, which now will be known as University Drive, is located approximately a mile and a half south of the original entrance, and will serve as the main artery for the CI campus. It has been designed to accommodate additional traffic – up to an estimated 15,000 full-time students – that the former two-lane University Drive could not. The original entrance will revert to its former name, Camarillo Street, and primarily will serve residents and visitors of University Glen while also providing a more leisurely, secondary access to campus.

The new University Drive integrates naturally with its surroundings, featuring an expansive median landscaped in a variety of native, self-sustaining plants and trees such as oaks, sycamores, and toyon. A bike path follows along the main road and a new bridge crosses Long Grade Creek to connect to the main campus. A second pedestrian bridge at Ventura Street leads visitors to a future parking area and recreational playing fields. Environmentally sensitive features include high-efficiency, dark sky lighting fixtures that prevent light pollution, and rubberized asphalt created from recycled tires. Bio swales have been added as well to help clean and filter storm water runoff and avoid contaminating watershed areas.

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Charting a Path

While construction on the new campus entrance began nearly 18 months ago, the project originated with the passage of Proposition 1D (the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act) in 2006, which provided funding for planning efforts. Within a year, Ventura County already had moved Lewis Road to the west of Calleguas Creek and constructed a bridge to cross the creek in preparation for the new entrance. The county paid for the bridge as part of a larger upgrade to Lewis Road, and the University acquired the land where the bridge and the new entrance cross.

In addition to collaboration with county and state government, the entry road project also fostered a variety of partnerships with CI faculty, students, and environmental and regulatory agencies.

Protecting the Wetlands

The location of the new road created the need for an Environmental Impact Report and subsequent planning for restoring native wetlands. Under the direction of such CI faculty members as Donald Rodriguez, Associate Professor and Chair of the Environmental Science & Resource Management program, students were able to use the campus road project as a chance to learn more about sustainability.

“Thought this was a great opportunity to integrate learning into the project,” said Rodriguez. “We treated the University as a learning laboratory and worked closely with Operations, Planning & Construction, who actually hired three students part-time to help monitor the project.”

Rodriguez and his peers led classes of up to 50 students at a time in massive planting of vegetation such as Arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis) and musket (B. salicifolia) to support the wetland habitat. The area is home to a number of migratory birds, such as the endangered Least Bell’s Vireo, as well as fish and reptiles. “I tell students they can be a part of a lasting legacy to improve the ecological integrity and beauty of the entry way,” added Rodriguez. “I would envision some day – when it’s all grown – that this may be a stop on the campus tour where a guide talks about the ecological footprint of campus.”

In addition to planting vegetation, additional work was done on the levy system to help control flooding and protect the wetlands.

Celebrating Milestones

On Friday, May 11, members of the larger community joined CI administrators, faculty, students, and staff for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of the new entrance. In his welcoming remarks, Academic Senate Chair Jim Mierwether observed, “We mark today the idea that a person – a student, a faculty member, a friend from the community – traveling down this road will see, feel, and implicitly understand that they have arrived at a special place, a dedicated space for building and cultivating and sharing the remarkable endeavors of this young university.”

Dulce Lopez, CI student body president, also spoke of the symbolic importance of the new road and recited from Robert Frost’s The Road Not Taken. “Two roads diverged in a wood,” said Lopez. “And I, I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”

Celebrating CI’s 10th Anniversary

It is said first impressions are lasting ones, and for President Rush that has indeed been the case for CI. “My first impression involved looking at the beauty of the site and thinking what a wonderful place to start a university,” he recalled. It was the beginning of summer in 2001, and President Rush had less than a year to turn his first impression into a reality. He had a vision and he was looking for the right team to bring it to life.

“What I told to everyone at the beginning, and continue to say today, is if we’re going to create a university, let’s create one that we believe can exist – a place that is intellectually rigorous, serves student success, and that promotes fundamental human values,” he said. In order to achieve this, President Rush counseled his colleagues to leave previous experiences in academia behind them and, instead, look ahead to the privilege and honor of creating a university for the 21st century.

Over the next decade, that forward-thinking attitude would produce a host of milestones and achievements by faculty, students, and staff that would place CI on the national map. First and foremost, the physical structure of the campus needed to be put in place. By August 2003, construction of a new science building had been completed. A year later, the first on-campus student housing was opened for 450 students. In spring 2008, the University celebrated the grand opening of the John Spoor Broome Library. By 2010, the student body had become actively involved in the creation of their campus and helped to open the new Student Union. Last month, the CI community celebrated a new main university entrance, a fitting closure to 10 years of growth.

Academically, the University has grown just as quickly. Accreditation, which is critical to any new university, began with the first Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) site visit in 2003. Just four years later, CI achieved initial accreditation. New programs continue to be added as faculty garner state and national awards for their research, Just last February, CI Professor Siung Won Oh was named among the top three economic forecasters in the nation by The Wall Street. Other faculty have been awarded grants by the National Science Foundation and the Keck Foundation, to name just a few. And this has all been achieved in an environment distinguished for its collaborative and collegial nature, earning CI the honor of being named “A Great College to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Looking ahead, President Rush imagines even more for the University. “What do I want for CI? I want us to be a place that is significant, meaningful, and innovative.” I want us to serve students so they can realize their dreams, change their lives for the better, and by extension, have an enormous impact on the regional and state level,” he said.

Now I suppose that’s an awful lot to hope for – it’s what I wanted then and what I want now. We didn’t aspire to be mediocrity, we aspire to be great.”
It’s an election year, which means there’s no shortage of opinions on what direction the nation needs to take and who should be leading it. Or is there? Norma Maidel, former president of the Camarillo branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), would like to see more college students speak out on issues in time to make a difference in November.

“Young people are smart,” said Maidel, who is currently collaborating with Terry Ballman, Professor of Spanish at CI, to create a greater connection between the AAUW and the University. “However, I’m concerned that young women of today who have experienced certain rights do not recognize that it is a continuing effort to sustain these rights.”

For example, Maidel recalls that when she first started teaching in the early 1960s women weren’t allowed to wear slacks to work. She also remembers being questioned as to why she was teaching in the classroom and not at home with children. “You don’t want it to happen again,” she added. Maidel points to recent events such as the defunding of California’s Commission on the Status of Women and the failure of equal pay legislation to pass in Congress as troubling signs.

The AAUW was founded in 1881 to advance equity for girls and women. Such issues as women’s health, education, and equity in pay are priorities in 2012. “We want to educate the millennials about politicians’ platforms and help them understand how these issues are important to their own lives,” said Maidel. “We’re making a strong effort to encourage the millennial-age person to vote.”

That’s where Ballman enters the picture. The CI professor has always had a strong commitment to equity, and views the AAUW as a powerful vehicle for research as well as strategies in this area. “I want to see everyone empowered and treated fairly,” said Ballman. One case in point is the continuing need for more women in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. The AAUW currently sponsors Tech Trek summer camps on college campuses nationwide to help engage and inspire 8th grade girls in STEM subjects. Approximately 800 girls attend each year.

Ballman and Maidel see other opportunities for the CI community to get involved including participation of faculty, staff, and students in events and panel discussions. The AAUW of California has nearly 13,000 members in 140 branches including Camarillo, Ventura, and Thousand Oaks. CI faculty, staff, and any student with an associate’s degree can join the organization. For more information, visit www.aauw-ca.org.
Eighth Annual Business & Technology Leadership Dinner

The University congratulates the following student recipients of $4,500 scholarships awarded at the eighth annual Business & Technology Leadership Dinner. Shown left to right:

Also honored for excellence and innovation were Ronald Werft, President and CEO of Cottage Health System, named Business and Community Leader of the Year; Casey Houweling, Proprietor of Houweling’s Tomatoes in Camarillo, named Technologist of the Year; and Dr. Blake Gillespie, Associate Professor of Chemistry, named Faculty Leader of the Year.


Eighth Annual Business & Technology Leadership Dinner

The University congratulates the following student recipients of $4,500 scholarships awarded at the eighth annual Business & Technology Leadership Dinner. Shown left to right:

Join us as we celebrate CSU Channel Islands’ tenth year anniversary at the University’s premier annual fundraising event, The President’s Dinner.

The gala features a VIP reception, celebrity entertainment, fabulous silent auction and the presentation of the Robert J. Lagomarsino award to Mike Curb. Mr. Curb is a former lieutenant and acting governor of California and is one of the most prominent figures in the entertainment world. He presides over his own independent record label which has launched the careers of numerous stars and has received a star on the historic Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Proceeds from the event will support the highest priority needs of the University.

For inquiries contact Alissa Larreta, Advancement Events Specialist at (805) 437-8916 or email alissa.larreta@csuci.edu

Save the Date
The President’s Dinner
Saturday, October 6, 2012
Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village

This year’s Robert J. Lagomarsino award recipient
Mike Curb
MVS Series Spotlights the Business of Collections

From vibrant paintings to rock and roll memorabilia and some wild animals thrown in the mix, the spring 2012 Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics Speaker Series explored the business behind building and maintaining collections. The trio of guest speakers included actor and author Cheech Marin, Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens CEO and Director Rich Block, and The GRAMMY Museum® Executive Director Bob Santelli.

Art Collector

Best known for his work in the irreverent comedic duo Cheech and Chong, Cheech Marin has spent 20 years building one of the nation’s finest private collection of Chicano art. In the process, he has also become a patron and supporter of emerging artists. According to Marin, his interest in art began as a child. “I was raised Catholic and I can remember looking at the ceiling in church and seeing angels and clouds. By 10, I started to check out art books at the library,” he said. “I had this idea that I wanted to be sophisticated as this little kid growing up in East L.A.”

From Boyle Heights to El Paso, Texas, the Chicano art movement reflected immigration patterns in the U.S. Marin describes it as “traditional Mexican meets American Pop”.

“Chicano art reflects what it means to see the world through Chicano eyes,” said Marin. “Some people thought it was just a phase, but I said one day I’m going to put all these pieces in the same room and you’re going to see the story.” Marin has played a pivotal role in promoting Chicano art and now shares his collections with the larger public through traveling exhibits.

Cheech Marin

Animal Collector

“A living collection is really different,” observed Rich Block in describing his work, which began at the Kansas City Zoo and ultimately led him to the Santa Barbara facility in 1998. At the top of his priorities is the welfare of the animals and maintaining the facilities for such residents as the 9,300-pound elephant named Susy and her roommate, 8,600-pound Little Mac. An estimated 45,000 visitors come to visit Susy, Little Mac, and 160 other species of mammals, reptiles, and birds annually.

Block manages a staff of 100 and a nearly $2 million endowment. “There is no predictable career path for anyone in music museums,” said Bob Santelli, and he should know, considering he’s held leadership positions with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and Seattle’s Experience Music Project. In 2006, the former Rolling Stone writer and author was recruited to create The GRAMMY Museum® in Los Angeles. Today, the museum has captured some 180 oral histories, 80 live performances, and may soon be featured on a cable series.

Audio Collector

Rich Block

Bob Santelli

“According to Santelli, one of the biggest challenges facing any museum today is sustainability. He’s exploring new business models that leverage unique programming, including “An Evening With…” series that has featured musicians such as Dave Matthews, Brian Wilson, and Annie Lennox. Taking calculated risks is something he learned from his mentor and former boss at EMP, Paul Allen. “He said it was ok to make mistakes and to take risks. But if you make a mistake, make it only once. And if you’re going to take a risk, take a calculated risk that is thought-out.”

The GRAMMY Museum® currently features more than two dozen exhibits including a Songwriters Hall of Fame Gallery, an In The Studio hands-on experience, and a GRAMMY Awards exhibit.
Science Fascination Brings Student from India to Southern California

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

Had Suharika Thotakura been born in her native India decades earlier, she would have lived an entirely different life than the one she enjoys today. As a female, she might have been considered too “delicate” for the rigors of study in a foreign country. Fortunately for Thotakura, the reserved culture of India’s past has changed. “There is much freedom now,” she says.

Born in Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, India’s fourth largest state, Thotakura’s big-city life had a small-town feel. “I lived near my high school and went home every day for lunch,” she explained. Rather than being protective, her father, a deputy electrical engineer, taught her to stand on her own feet, to look for the positive in everyone, and instilled in her a desire to succeed.

Thotakura first ventured away from home to attend India’s Karunya University, in another state 2,000 miles away, where she earned a Bachelor of Technology degree in Bioinformatics. Science is a long-held fascination of hers. “I’m curious about what’s going on inside of us – about how food and drink affect our health,” Thotakura explained. Her fascination with science, as well as a desire to study abroad, is what brought Thotakura to CI.

Through friends in the U.S., Thotakura heard that California was the place for science, and with companies like Baxter and Amgen, Southern California was a hub for biology. CI’s MS in Biotechnology & Bioinformatics made it a perfect choice. Life in Ventura County isn’t what she’d envisioned, though. “I’d imagined it was like Los Angeles, but I found that it’s rural. The remoteness of the campus took a while, but I got used to it,” she said. “Now I find it relaxed and quiet – a good place for studying.”

Thotakura works on campus, assisting a lab technician, prepping for classes, and attending meetings alongside faculty and staff insiders. Upon graduation, Thotakura hopes to land a research position with a large firm and remain in the U.S. for five to six years. When she returns to India, she plans to start her own company and, eventually, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that focuses on community health services for the elderly and orphans. “They are the ones in most need,” Thotakura stated.
Recruitment is underway for the BA in Psychology degree program offered through CI’s Extended University on the Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) campus. Beginning fall 2012, the Psychology program will be the second undergraduate degree offered through the CI and SBCC partnership and will offer students an opportunity to earn a BA from CI entirely in Santa Barbara.

CI’s Psychology Department chair, Dr. Virgil Adams, sums up the program in two words: rigor and fun. “The program is rigorous and intense because our expectations of students are high,” Adams explained, “but it’s also fun in that it provides opportunities for students to learn both theory and application by working on projects alongside faculty members, an experience often lost at larger campuses.” Research topics currently undertaken by faculty that may be open to student participation include emotion and physiological hallmarks, social cognition, hope and well-being, and positive psychology, to name just a few. Depending on demand and interest, students may also have opportunities to earn elective credits through participation in international cross-cultural experiences through short-term study abroad.

While the BA in Psychology affords its graduates a broad skill set that will help them succeed in various careers, the hallmark of the degree is primarily a gateway to graduate school. Program alumni are well prepared to enter into graduate degree programs such as a Master’s degree in Family Therapy or Social Work, Juris Doctorate (JD), and doctoral programs in Psychology. Armed with a graduate degree, career possibilities in Psychology include careers in clinical, counseling, health, or social service as well as traditional opportunities in higher education, forensics, pre-med, consulting, behavioral neurosciences, and industrial organizational psychology.

The BA in Psychology at SBCC is offered in an accelerated format whereby students attend year-round for 18 months. Classes are held on Friday evenings and Saturdays to accommodate working adults. The program consists of 50 upper-division units, and students must transfer to CI with 70 units including program prerequisites and general education.

Information sessions for the BA in Psychology are held monthly on the SBCC campus and at CI’s campus in Goleta. To attend an information session or to learn more, contact Melissa Whitacre, Program Representative, at melissa.whitacre@csuci.edu.
Christina Olaes BSN ’11
The New Face of Nursing

By Lori Putnam

As CI and Cottage Health System welcomes their first bachelor’s in nursing class in Santa Barbara, CI alumna Christina Olaes already will be on staff at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital as a registered nurse. As a member of the second graduating class in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at CI, Olaes is part of the first wave of graduates in the only bachelor’s program of its kind in the Ventura and Santa Barbara area. In just a year after graduation, she is quickly understanding the challenges and rewards of the health care field.

“There is so much responsibility on the part of nurses today,” said Olaes, who will typically work a 12-hour shift on the orthopedics floor of Cottage Hospital. “We are our patients’ advocates. Nothing really happens without us. We learn to work as a team, because we can’t do everything on our own.”

The reward to the hard work, however, is having an impact on the lives of others. Recently, Olaes was faced with a patient who was scheduled to go home after knee surgery. However, Olaes and the physical therapist felt she wasn’t yet ready and wanted to keep her another night. The patient didn’t want to stay since her husband had spent the previous night in the car because they couldn’t afford to pay for him to stay at a hotel. “She was sacrificing her safety for her husband,” remembered Olaes, who then alerted her case manager. Ultimately Cottage Hospital paid for the husband to stay at a hotel the following night.

Prior to accepting her position at Cottage, Olaes was a clinical care extender at St. John’s Regional Medical Center in Oxnard. During her time at CI, Olaes was involved in public safety outreach on childhood burns, in addition to participating in a number of community projects for the ALS Association, Relay for Life, and Habitat for Humanity. She hopes to continue to volunteer and ultimately earn a Master’s degree.

“When I was younger, I didn’t like hospitals but I’ve always wanted to do something with kids. I want to pursue pediatrics and, once my skills are developed, go into teaching,” said Olaes. “I learned so much from my own teachers. You don’t realize how much you know until the new students start asking you questions.”
Bryan Easterly BA ’06- MBA ’08

Following a Passion for Business

By Lori Putnam

Bryan Easterly always had an inclination for business. He liked dressing up in a suit and tie, and numbers made more sense to him. So it is no surprise that Easterly has found his professional stride as Vice President for Community West Bank in Ventura, where he works with local companies in the $25 to $30 million range to grow their businesses.

Easterly was born and raised in Ventura. His father, Jeff Easterly, is Vice President of Operations for Taft Electric Company where he has been for 35 years. The Ventura High Class of 2001 graduate left the region briefly to play football at the University of New Mexico. After sustaining an ankle injury, he returned home and completed his bachelor’s degree at CI. He earned his bachelor’s in Business Management in 2006 and his MBA in 2008, all the while working full-time for County Commerce Bank.

“Earning an MBA is not an entitlement, you need to get it for the right reason,” said Easterly of the importance of education. “If you want people to think you can excel in business, you need an MBA.”

Looking ahead to the next 10 years, Easterly plans to stay in Ventura and grow with the community. “I really enjoy working in banking. Every day I hear a different story – whether it’s a law firm, an orthopedic firm, or manufacturing company. Every day I’m helping these individuals follow their passion in business.”

While the economy has been challenging for commercial banking and real estate, Easterly remains optimistic. “It’s been tough but I think things are turning around for our local economy,” he said. “We are independent from Los Angeles and San Bernardino, and companies are doing well here in Ventura. We just need to have some confidence.”

His latest venture, however, has taken him out of the office. He and his wife, CI alumna Jessica LaRoe Easterly, welcomed their first child, Abigail Mae, on March 19. The Easterlys met as undergraduates at CI and both remain active alumni. Jessica is a former CI student body president and currently works for the American Cancer Society. She was recently involved with the Relay for Life event on campus honoring the memory of Dr. Stephen LeFevre.

Brian is also active in the community, including serving on the board of directors for the Lions Club. However, he anticipates his schedule changing with the arrival of his daughter. “Things are going to change very quickly,” he said with a smile.
Carmen Nevarez ’06
Sociology

Over the past five years Carmen has worked her way up at a company called Path Point. Carmen is currently the HR Specialist and Office Manager for the Santa Barbara division. Path Point’s mission is to provide comprehensive training and support services that empower people with disabilities and disadvantages to live and work as valued members of our communities.

Sandy Waterbury ’06
Liberal Studies

In 2008 Sandy received a Master’s in Special Education: Moderate to Severe. In addition to working in her field, Sandy is currently on the Board of The Arc of California and The Arc of Ventura, which are non-profit agencies in support of people with intellectual disabilities. In a recent trip to Washington DC, she spoke with top-level officials including President Obama regarding issues with people who have intellectual disabilities.

Colin Goodwin ’07
Psychology

Colin got married in 2009, earned a Master’s in clinical psychology at CLU in 2010, and is currently working as an Assistant Director in the mental health field at an adult residential facility. Recently, Colin chaired the committee for cancer survivors for the Relay for Life at CLU.

Craig Martinez ’09
BS Business

A few months ago, Craig accepted a position as a Marketing Coordinator with The Marx Group, a full-service business strategy and marketing communications agency for companies in the automotive and heavy-duty aftermarkets. Craig will assist in the areas of marketing, public relations, and social media.

Crystal Gonzalez ’09
Communication

Crystal is currently working at the University of La Verne as a Planned Giving Administrator under University Advancement. She is also studying for a Master’s in Leadership and Management. Crystal is a first-generation college graduate who is dedicated to higher education, and believes in raising money for students who are less fortunate, to provide them the same opportunities she has received.

Doug Whitesell ’10
Computer Science/ and Political Science

In October, Doug left Aperture Aviation in San Jose as a Pilot and Technology consultant to join American Eagle Airlines as a First Officer based in Dallas TX flying Embraer 135/145. Doug and American Eagle Airlines focus on safety, passenger comfort, and on-time performance.
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As partners in our educational mission our supporters are critically important to the University’s successes. Your support allows for the exploration of new concepts and transformational research that has the power to change lives, strengthen our communities, and produce results with global impact.

We invite you to get to know our students, faculty, and staff. We ask you to support CI Channel Islands and encourage you to learn more about CI. Please contact us at (805) 437-8893 or nichole.ipach@csuci.edu to find out how you can get involved.
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Stub Hub
Judith Swanson
Tours By Mary
Truffelhoud’s Fine Chocolates
Turn Key, LP
Ventura County Credit Union
Robert Wagner
Hartmut Walter
Nancy and Carl Wesely ++
Wheel Fun Rentals
Celebrate our 10th Anniversary with us!

For a list of anniversary events during the fall semester, please see page 19. For details on Alumni & Friends events, please see page 30.

In April, the National Park Service hosted its third annual Science Festival at Paramount Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains. Over 2,000 people participated in hands-on demonstrations and special presentations which included a dive tank, reptile and amphibian monitoring station, and booths showing the hydrologic cycle, fossils, and botany.

All of these activities required 80 volunteers over the two-day event and CI’s Environmental Science & Resource Management students provided 55 of the volunteers to fulfill their course service learning requirements.