

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

Channel

SPRING 2015 • VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 01 • BI-ANNUAL

MAGAZINE



Creating a College-Going Culture

How CI's status as a Hispanic-Serving Institution serves Ventura County Page 18

Our future is bright

EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ONLY HALFWAY through 2015, your University has reached many milestones that I am proud to share with you. The University recently graduated more than 2,000 students—our biggest class yet—and celebrated over 10,000 CI alumni. Our graduates join the CSU's "Class of 3 Million," the number of alumni from the 23 campuses in the CSU system.

The University Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 guides us as we celebrate each milestone. The University's Strategic Plan Steering Committee developed three student-centered priorities to help our campus meet the demands of the 21st century global market.

First, we will facilitate student success by providing University access to students who offer diverse perspectives, provide mission-driven education that prepares each student for individual success as they become contributing members of society, and provide support for student persistence toward degree completion and opportunity for timely graduation.

Next, we will hire and support high quality faculty and staff who are committed to the University's mission and will use integrative approaches that provide community engagement, multicultural learning and international perspectives into all aspects of learning, as well as engage undergraduate and graduate students in research and creative activities.

Finally, we will build our infrastructure capacity, leverage the use of technology and seek, cultivate and steward both private and public resources to help us meet that goal. We will implement collaborative planning and accountability processes as we realize our future.

This plan is crucial as we build a university that will accommodate the 10,000-plus students we expect to enroll in 2025—twice as many as we serve now.

As you are well aware, CI is in need of additional classrooms, labs, dining and student housing facilities. As part of our future growth, we are planning for enhanced student health facilities, a wellness and recreation center, performing arts venue, conference center and an athletics program. To that end, we have conceived the CI 2025 Vision Plan, which will enable us to build our University without primary reliance on state funding.

The CI 2025 Vision Plan entails forging a variety of partnerships, including both private and public, in order to facilitate a bright future for our students and University community. We plan to develop the rest of University Glen and use the revenue generated to help alleviate debt and fund future growth. This growth is an investment in the future of our University and the region.

CI fortifies area businesses, the Naval base, schools, hospitals and a multitude of other organizations by graduating students who are prepared for jobs, which ultimately create a vibrant and dynamic community. Of special note, nearly 87 percent of our students remain in Ventura County after graduation, entering careers in nursing, science, technology, education, business or the arts just to name a few.

When I speak to others across the State, I am reminded that CI enjoys a synergistic partnership with the community that is rare. CI strengthens the community and the community strengthens CI. It is a partnership I will continue to value as the University grows into all it can, should and will be.

Sincerely yours,



Richard R. Rush
President





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

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Cover: Creating a College-Going Culture: How CI's status as a Hispanic-Serving Institution serves Ventura County

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**CSU Channel Islands
Mission Statement**

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

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



This news magazine is printed on recycled paper.

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Graduate wins award for bilingual education

Victor Rodriguez, a 2015 graduate, was awarded the Peter Chacon Teachership Award from the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) during the association's annual convention in San Diego in March.

The awards are given out for each of the five regions in the state. Rodriguez won for Region 5, which includes Ventura County and the High Desert area.

Named after the first California lawmaker to introduce a bill backing bilingual education, the Region 5 award comes with a \$2,000 scholarship.

Rodriguez plans to use the scholarship toward his goal of earning his master's and doctorate in education. He graduated May 16 with his Multiple Subjects/Bilingual Teacher credential.

Read the full story at: go.csuci.edu/caberodriguez



Division of Student Affairs earns national distinction

The Division of Student Affairs has been named one of the "15+ Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs 2015" by a national research and policy center based in Ohio. The Center for Higher Education Enterprise (CHEE) at Ohio State University published

the list in the Feb. 26 edition of "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education."

The commissioned study examined the extent to which diversity and inclusion is practiced in all aspects of Student Affairs, including administrative structures, work environments and staffing practices, among other areas.

Read the full story at: go.csuci.edu/dsaaward

VP for Student Affairs earns national association's top honor

Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Vice President for Student Affairs, has received national recognition for his 35-year career as a mentor and student advocate, providing a genuine opportunity to "pay it forward."

Sawyer was recognized as a 2015 Diamond Program Honoree at the annual convention of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) held in Tampa, Florida. The national association's highest honor, the Diamond Honoree Program is a philanthropic award that pays tribute to recipients by collecting donations for the ACPA Foundation in the honoree's name. The funds support scholarships, research, and professional development opportunities for other ACPA members.

Read the full story at: go.csuci.edu/acpasawyer



Graduate wins national fellowship

CI 2015 graduate Daisy Carranza made time to volunteer to help other first-generation college students. That recently earned her a 2015 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows Award from the KPMG Foundation, a charitable institution seeking to change business and society through the diversity of ideas.

Carranza, 22, is one of 201 college students from across the nation chosen as a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, a national coalition of nearly 1,100 college and university presidents committed to improving community life on campuses and educating students about the importance of civic and social

leadership. The fellowship recognizes college and university students who have emerged as civic leaders at their respective campuses.

Her fellowship allows her to join the network of other Newman Fellows, who will brainstorm, share resources, and help one another with each

Fellow's social cause.

Read the full story at: go.csuci.edu/newmancarranza



Professor Sean Kelly appointed to national advisory council

Professor of Political Science Sean Kelly, Ph.D., will serve on a national council designed to help Americans get a deeper understanding of how the U.S. Congress works. Kelly is one of 10 scholars chosen from across the U.S. to be on the Dirksen Congressional Center's National Advisory Council.

Kelly and the rest of the council will help the Center's Board of Directors as they develop programs to help historians, political scientists and others who teach and study the inner workings of the people's branch of government.

Read the full story at: go.csuci.edu/dirksenkelly



Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015

CI joins the City of Camarillo in participating in the Special Olympics World Games Host Town program from July 21-24, 2015. Before the Special Olympics World Games begin on July 25, more than 7,000 athletes from 177 countries will be welcomed to Southern California through the Host Town program. As many as 100 communities from San Luis Obispo to San Diego will have the honor of being selected as an official Host Town.

The Host Town program in Camarillo is a collaboration between CSU Channel Islands, the City of Camarillo and the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce. Together, they will welcome a delegation from the 2015 Special Olympics World Games and show the athletes and coaches all that Camarillo has to offer.

Read the full story at: go.csuci.edu/specialolympics

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

Instructor's book wins acclaim for resurrecting a photographer's place in history

A new book co-authored and edited by CI lecturer, photographer and writer Larry Lytle is winning critical acclaim for helping restore the historical legacy of a disgraced photography pioneer. Lytle recently released "American Grotesque: The Life and Art of William Mortensen," a book he co-edited and authored with Michael Moynihan. For Lytle, the book represents the culmination of 20 years of research piecing together the lost biography and work of trailblazing Hollywood pictorialist photographer William Mortensen (1897-1965).

Since the book's recent publication, "American Grotesque" has earned favorable reviews from the L.A. *Times Book Review*, *The Guardian* and *Smithsonian* magazine and was named to the *Huffington Post*'s "Top 10 Art Books of 2014" at No. 6. The L.A. *Times Book Review* called "American Grotesque" "the most extensive work on one of the strangest and most compelling artists of the 20th century."

The book's publisher, Feral House, ordered a second printing due to its popularity.

Read the full story at: go.csuci.edu/mortensenlytle



Studying media and memory at our nation's war museums

By Christina M. Smith, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication

MY RESEARCH EXPLORES the persuasive impact of images, from historical WWII photographs to contemporary videos produced by soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. In both cases, I investigate how the images are circulated, consumed, and challenged by multiple publics. As a scholar of visual rhetoric, I'm interested in how these forms of persuasion challenge contemporary understandings of rhetorical discourse and civic engagement.

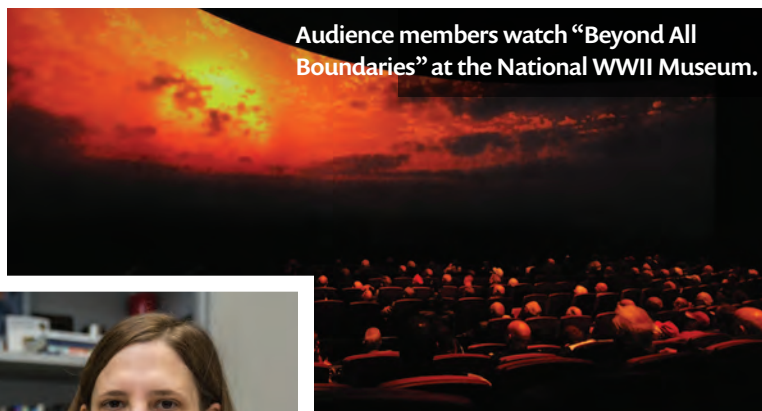
My dissertation project entitled "The YouTube War as Visual Vernacular Rhetoric," examined soldier-produced and official, military-produced videos posted on YouTube. Using a combination of rhetorical and critical/cultural approaches to analyze these texts, I argued that the ubiquity of digital technology on the modern battlefield created unscripted ways for soldiers and the American public to deliberate war and conflict.

Analysis of visual texts has been an ongoing theme in my scholarship. More recently, my research has investigated the changing forms of public memory and commemoration



important events such as war and conflict. Official museum and memorial spaces tend to privilege nationalism and patriotism in the representation of historical events, people, and places.

My current project examines public memory through case studies of the National WWI, WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War Museums. In particular, I am focusing on



Audience members watch "Beyond All Boundaries" at the National WWII Museum.

film "Beyond all Boundaries" at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans highlights how the film utilizes "multi-layered environments" consisting of a combination of live and archival footage, material objects that appear onstage, a "mammoth panoramic screen," and seats that physically respond to action on screen.

All these elements are advertised as helping the viewer to "understand, as never before, the price of our precious freedom" (film trailer). Hanks and other museum personnel contend that the various mediums of the film create a unique, and arguably more "authentic" memory of WWII. Connections between digital mediation, embodiment, and "authenticity" are especially relevant in museums that claim some form of "official" memorializing.

Thus, in exploring each museum, I'll be looking for the ways in which the moving images, interactive features, and material objects present in each museum's overall display coalesce to reinforce dominant notions of public memory. ♦c

✦ "Connections between digital mediation, embodiment, and 'authenticity' are especially relevant in museums that claim some form of 'official' memorializing."

brought about by digital media at museums, monuments, and other historic sites. These commemorative spaces construct and reinforce collective national memory of

the increased mediation of public memory via digital mechanisms such as kiosks, films, and other multi-media "experiences." For example, promotion of Tom Hanks'

Consumer psychology

By Susan A. Andrzejewski, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing

MY RESEARCH LIES AT THE intersection of consumer behavior and social psychology. The foundation of much of my work stems from the idea that psychological principles (broadly defined) strongly influence what happens in the consumer marketplace. In this regard, I utilize the marketplace as a forum for better understanding social psychological phenomena and interpersonal interactions. More specifically, my scholarship falls into two main streams of research:

1. Research on nonverbal communication in retail and service settings, as well as general social psychological settings, as a way to inform innovative approaches to managing customer relationships, and
2. Research that examines the role of materialism in relation to consumer culture within and across cultures.

From my perspective, studying consumer behavior not only enables firms to better meet the needs of consumers (i.e., my research on nonverbal communication in retail and service settings), but also allows for the examination of negative consumer characteristics that are inevitably a part of living in a consumption-based society (e.g., my research on materialism).

In this regard, my research branches out from normative approaches to marketing research that seek to maximize profit at all costs. Alternatively, my research explores ways to better satisfy consumers' needs, even if such

practices might be at the potential short-term expense of firms.

For example, my work on nonverbal communication, suggests that the time and effort put into training sales personnel to accurately decode the nonverbal cues of consumers may ultimately cost the firm in the short-term, but create stronger relationships with customers in the long-term. In the same vein, my research on materialism suggests that marketing managers should balance marketing strategy with sustainable strategy. In other

words, firms that recognize that many businesses encourage conspicuous consumption without regard for the negative outcomes associated with such consumption may be evaluated in a more positive light. This positive evaluation may lead to increased likeability towards the firm, and higher repatronage of firms that take an active interest in the well-being of consumers and society at large.

While traditional marketing research has focused on increasing short-term economic gain from consumer consumption, both of my streams of research suggest that firms may find increased benefit through focusing on more long-term sustainable strategies. The utilization of such strategies may enable firms to establish better long-term relationships with consumers that prove more beneficial to the firm over time, and simultaneously encourage a more positive experience for consumers. ♦c





A professor supports his ‘students for life’

Professor of Chicana/o Studies José Alamillo is recognized for cultivating enduring bonds with students and community

By Marya Jones Barlow

ERIKA LANDA HAD A PAINFUL secret and there was only one person she trusted to tell.

The first-year CI student was supporting herself through college and had run out of money for food and housing. As an undocumented resident, she was ineligible for federal aid or legal employment and couldn't afford a \$465 work permit application.

Landa was too ashamed to continue imposing on friends for

a place to sleep. After spending two nights in the North Quad on the CI campus, she thought of one person she would feel comfortable approaching: Professor of Chicana/o Studies José Alamillo.

"I didn't feel safe talking with people about my undocumented status," she said. "But Professor Alamillo was someone I could connect to because he was an undocumented student himself."

Alamillo helped Landa find food,

housing and a job on campus. He also earned a role in Landa's life that made him more than a professor.

"He's not just a mentor, he's a lifeline. He's kind of become the father I didn't have growing up," she said. "Professor Alamillo goes beyond what his job is to help students and does everything in his hands to protect us."

Alamillo, who joined CI in 2008 to build its Chicana/o Studies program, is well-known

in and outside of CI for his extraordinary care and involvement.

"I always tell my students, 'Once you become my student, you become my student for life,'" he said. "I had mentors who went out of their way to help me and show me the path toward achieving my goals. I realized how important that was. I consider that part of my job."

✖ "Once you become my student, you become my student for life." —José Alamillo

Born in Zacatecas, Mexico, Alamillo came to the U.S. at the age of 7, following parents who were workers in the lemon industry. Growing up in Ventura, he took part in University of California, Santa Barbara's (UCSB) Educational Opportunity Program, which encourages minority students to pursue higher education. After graduating from UCSB, Alamillo earned his master's and Ph.D. at University of California, Irvine and taught at Washington State University before coming back to Ventura County in 2008.

"I'm proud to be in my hometown, helping to build a university that empowers students to overcome educational barriers so they can lift their community," he said.

In addition to teaching courses like Chicana/o History and Culture, Transborder Perspectives, and Diversity in Latino/a Communities, Alamillo leads students in community-based projects. His classes have documented the stories of Ventura County's braceros for an exhibition partnering with the Smithsonian, showcased the role of Mexican-American women in baseball and softball, and preserved the history of Oxnard's Wagon Wheel neighborhood. They've also taught English and computer literacy to immigrants and helped Oaxacan refugees facing deportation win asylum.

He volunteers his time to the Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project's Tequio Scholarship Committee, Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice-Ventura County's Advisory Board, and serves as an advisor for CI DREAMers, a campus club formed by Landa to support undocumented students. The club name

is derived from the DREAM Act, which stands for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors.

Alamillo's efforts recently earned him CI's 2014 Faculty Award for Community Engagement, the Ventura County Mexican American Bar Association's Access to Justice Award, and the 2015 El Concilio Latino Leadership Award.

"I try to create home and community wherever I go," he said. "In a classroom, on campus, in any event I organize, my goal is to help people meet, nurture and learn from each other."

A formidable tennis player, Alamillo enjoys focusing his research and writing on Mexican-American athletes and their cultural influence. He recently co-authored "Latinos in U.S Sport: A History of Isolation, Cultural Identity, and Acceptance," the first textbook to deal comprehensively with the topic. He's currently working on a book about the history of Mexican-American baseball in Ventura County and the transnational migration of athletes who brought community pride on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. His co-author is former CI student Juan Canchola, who did research for the book as part of his Capstone project and became so invested, he continued working on it as a volunteer after graduating in 2014.

Alamillo has mentored so many "students for life," like Canchola and Landa that he lost count of their numbers long ago. But he hasn't lost the connections—or the rewards they keep bringing him.

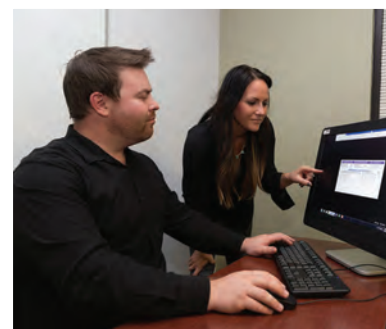
"It's a horizontal mentorship—I learn as much from them as they do from me," he said. "I never stop being surprised by how much they can teach me." ♦C





MBA students shine in international Business Strategy Game

By Marya Jones Barlow



NOT MANY MBA STUDENTS can say they ran a multinational company for 10 weeks and made it a global leader. But Matthew Gobuty and Nicole Bogdanich, 2015 graduates of CI's MBA program in the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics, did just that in a worldwide online business game competition.

Gobuty and Bogdanich scored 10th out of 1,109 teams overall—coming within just two points of first place—in the Business Strategy Game (BSG). The game is an online simulation that places students in the role of CEO and CFO of a multinational company and tests their business knowledge and leadership skills. The pair beat teams from Australia to Bangkok, and ranked first in the key scoring measures of the game, stock price and earnings per share.

"I was fortunate enough to be partnered with a brilliant colleague," said Gobuty, who works as a project

engineer for Taft Electric Company. "The courses leading up to the BSG really paved the way to our understanding of the intricacies of business reflected in the game. We achieved scores that compete not only with nationally-known private universities, but international schools as well. I think that this is an early indicator of the long-term value CI/MVS's MBA program has provided me."

"We were surprised and proud to do as well as we did," added Bogdanich, a restaurant manager. "It's a tough game; nothing like I have ever experienced or done. Our strategy was to make mostly small changes and anticipate our opponents' moves. It was a strategy of economies of scale—and it worked."

The Business Strategy Game is a common feature used in culminating—or "Capstone"—business classes at CI. Each student team competes to make its company the global market leader

by creating and executing a strategy that results in a respected brand image, market leadership, and good financial performance, as measured by earnings per share, return on investment, stock price appreciation and credit rating. Along the way, the teams must make strategic decisions related to plant operations, distribution, warehouse operations, workforce compensation, online sales, retail sales, marketing and finance. Students compete against classmates and teams around the world.

"This is as close as we can get them to a comprehensive, real-life view of business," said William P. Cordeiro, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of the MVS School. "It pulls together all the skills, analysis and techniques they've learned in earlier courses and parallels a real company's operation in a dynamic global market, incorporating teamwork, pressure under deadlines, constant change and integrated decision-making." ❖c

A leader awakened

Student Government President Vanessa Bahena found her voice at CI

By Marya Jones Barlow

VANESSA BAHENA'S PATH TO CSU Channel Islands began almost 12 years ago, on a fifth-grade class field trip to the newly-formed campus.

"I'll never forget the enthusiasm of the CI students who greeted us at the bus and helped us cross the street," she recalled. "They were so excited to share their passion for the University. It definitely made a lasting impression."

As Bahena graduates from CI this year, she hopes to leave an equally lasting impression on the institution that she has come to regard as "family."

The first two-term president to lead CI's Student Government, Bahena bequeaths a legacy of student advocacy and empowerment on issues ranging from campus expansion and sustainability to smoking and sexual assault. Her work to represent CSU students and influence policymakers as a board member on the California State Students Association (CSSA) has taken her from Camarillo to Capitol Hill. As a participant and mentor in CI's Equal Opportunity Program (EOP), she has inspired other students from challenged backgrounds not only to graduate from college but also to become active participants and leaders, earning her Maximus and EOP Student Leader of the Year Awards.

It's a trajectory that sometimes amazes Bahena, a first-generation college student from Echo Park who almost failed her high school government class.

"As a teenager, I struggled through the loss of my mother to cancer," she said. "When I came to CI, I was shy and scared, with

no idea of what to expect. Suddenly, I had mentors who reached out and made me feel significant."

Bahena arrived on campus as a freshman in 2011, planning to major in Performing Arts. But after attending a Student Senate meeting on a whim, she was surprised by how friendly and welcoming it was.

"I saw all these juniors and seniors talking about so many things I didn't even realize existed on campus," she said. "Then the Vice President, Jason Barnes, turned to me and said, 'Thank you so much for showing up to our meeting. If you ever need anything, contact me.' I couldn't believe it was that easy to get involved."

After attending a leadership retreat led by Vice President for Student Affairs Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Bahena had a whole new outlook. She changed her major to Communication and ran for Student Senate in the following election.

"It was then that I connected politics with doing something fun and purposeful to make a positive change," she said. "CI is a place where administrators view students as partners in building a university that we can be proud of. I realized I wanted to make something of my time."

She ran for president as a sophomore, becoming the first EOP student to hold the office, then tackled leadership roles in the CSSA, which represents the interests of the CSU's more than 450,000 students. Bahena completed a coveted Panetta Leadership Seminar at CSU



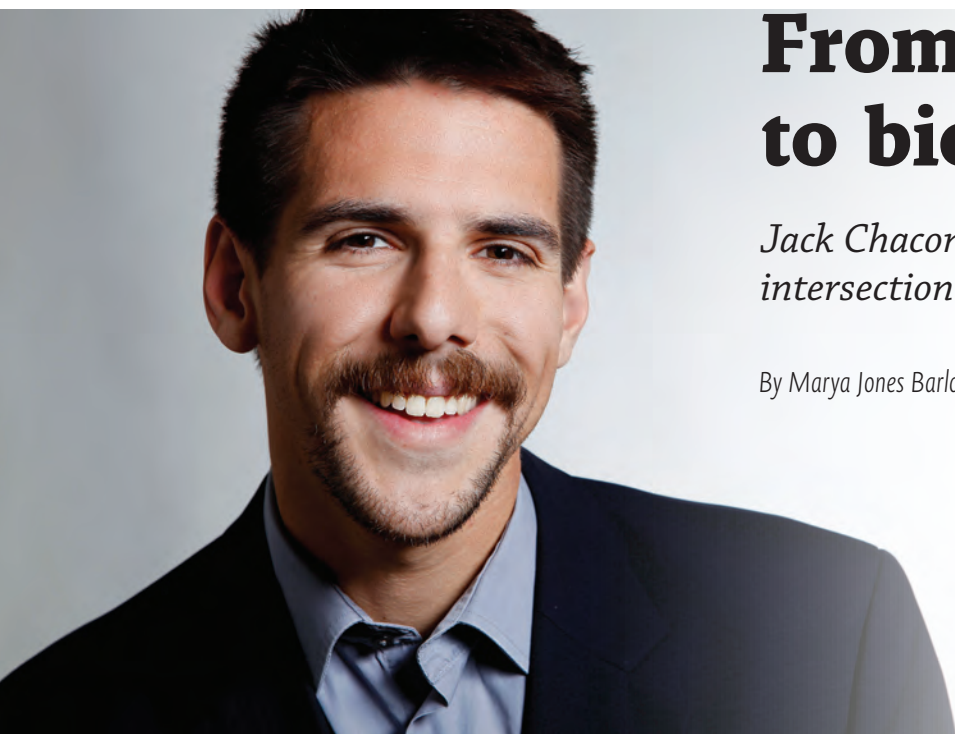
Monterey Bay and was re-elected Student Government President in 2014.

There are other highlights she remembers fondly, like speaking at commencement and taking the field as CI's student representative in front of almost 50,000 cheering fans at Dodger Stadium during a CI Alumni & Friends Association Dodger Day event.

"I grew up right across the street from Dodger Stadium," she said. "To stand on that same ground representing my community and to look out and see 1,000 members of my CI family in the stands wearing red was a powerful experience."

After graduation, Bahena plans to work in the nonprofit sector, pursue a master's degree in organizational communication, and one day obtain a doctorate in education, so she can inspire future college graduates and leaders.

"People with a story and a background like mine don't usually become student body presidents," she said. "It's taught me to never underestimate someone and always be willing to contribute to someone's growth." ♦C



From beer-making to biotechnology

Jack Chacon has always been drawn to the intersection of business and science

By Marya Jones Barlow

BEEER, BUSINESS AND biotechnology might seem like strange bedfellows, but Jon “Jack” Chacon managed successful careers in all three before he was 30.

A former beer brewer in Seattle, the 2015 graduate of CI’s M.S. Biotechnology and MBA Dual Degree program took his chemistry talents in a different direction after moving to Santa Barbara in 2010.

“I realized beer was better suited to a hobby, and science had been my vocation all along,” he said. “The bioscience industry is a whole galaxy of variation and challenge.”

Chacon spent the past three years earning his master’s degree while working full-time at Wyatt Technology, a Goleta-based manufacturing technology firm that makes industry-leading laser light-scattering instruments for biological and pharmaceutical research. He chose CI’s dual-degree program for its innovative blend of graduate-level biological science and MBA courses and its convenience for working professionals.

“I came out of CI’s program a different person,” he said. “I never would have thought myself capable of thinking so analytically—and

working so hard—if it hadn’t been demanded of me. The biotechnology portion of the dual degree has allowed me to speak more fluently with my Ph.D.-level colleagues about the experiments they perform, and the business portion has enabled me to move into a management position at my company.”

✖ “The exposure I’ve gotten in the MBA program has made clear to me that I would like to continue on with management and administration within the biotech industry.”

Originally from Seattle, Chacon attended Seattle University, where he majored in chemistry. After graduating, he spent three years brewing, bottling, kegging and cellaring beer for Pike Brewing Company and Elysian Brewing Company.

Upon moving to Santa Barbara in 2010 with his wife, who’s pursuing a Ph.D. at UCSB, Chacon was ready for a change. After taking a technical support position at Wyatt, he researched various graduate programs and

realized CI’s Dual Master’s in Biotechnology & Business was a perfect match.

While Chacon describes the challenge of juggling the program with a full-time job and a commute between Goleta and Camarillo as a “coup d’etat,” he says the rewards were well worth the struggle.

“In the past year, I’ve been promoted to manager of my department, which is directly correlative to the progress that I’ve made in school,” he said. “The exposure I’ve gotten in the MBA program has made clear to me that I would like to continue on with management and administration within the biotech industry.”

Chacon says he still brews beer regularly, and to balance out all those calories, he runs marathons. ♦c



A ray of ‘Sunshine’ for students in need

By Marya Jones Barlow

IT MAY BE COMFORTING FOR prospective students to know that financial aid and scholarships at CI are overseen by a woman appropriately named “Sunshine.”

Since 2011, Sunshine Garcia—known for her bright smile and cheerful disposition—has helped thousands of CI students finance their college dreams as Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

“I love my job because we really do get to change people’s lives,” she said.

Though her work affects all 76 percent of CI students who receive financial aid, Garcia manages the process mostly behind the scenes, supervising a 10-person team that administers over \$50 million in federal, state and institutional funds each year. She spends the bulk of her time guiding financial aid policy and procedure and ensuring that CI is in federal, state

and systemwide compliance.

As President of the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA), Garcia also presides over a statewide group representing more than 240 colleges and 1,000 professionals working to improve financial aid access for California students. Her role as CASFAA president occasionally places her in the national spotlight, meeting with legislators and advocating for students, financial aid professionals and federal aid programs on Capitol Hill.

It’s a goal that has personal significance for Garcia, who paid her way through college and graduate school with the help of work study jobs, federal grants and loans. As an undergraduate at Azusa Pacific University, Garcia was hired as a student assistant in the financial aid office and instantly fell in love with her future career.

“I knew this was my calling and where I belonged,” she said. “They treated me like family and mentored me.”

Garcia worked in the financial aid office throughout college and landed a job there after graduation. She continued to climb through the ranks in positions at Everest College, Cal Poly Pomona, Sallie Mae and Cleveland Chiropractic College, and earned her master’s degree before joining CI in 2011.

She brought with her a strong devotion to her staff—one that embodies the nurturing environment that launched her financial aid career at Azusa Pacific almost 18 years ago.

“I would not be where I am today without the constant support of my staff and their brilliant minds, dedication and humor,” she said. “They are like family. We work hard and play hard, eat together, decorate for the holidays and spend many late nights together getting the job done for our students.”

Garcia has inspired more than a few students to follow in her footsteps. Edgar Martinez, a Spanish major who started working with Garcia as a student assistant in 2012, is completing his degree while working as a full-time financial aid specialist at CI.

“Sunshine has made a major impact in my professional and academic undergraduate experience,” he said. “She’s an exemplary leader who works with her team as one and a mentor that I look up to and respect. One of my ultimate goals is to work in higher education and be a financial aid director like Sunshine, who has impacted so many individuals like me.”

Garcia takes that role seriously and seeks out opportunities to counsel students when she can.

“A lot of students say, ‘I don’t want to take out loans,’” she said. “I share my story and tell them, ‘You may have to borrow wisely.’ It helped me to get where I am, so I’m very thankful.” ❖C

A family of 10,000 joins a class of 3 million

By Marya Jones Barlow



THE CI FAMILY KEEPS GETTING BIGGER. In addition to hitting the milestone of 10,000 alumni this year, CI joined the CSU Class of 3 Million, making its graduates exclusive members of the nation's largest, most diverse and well-known public university system.

As CI's accomplished alumni grow in number, they are also making a big impact on their alma mater and in their communities. More than 86 percent of CI graduates stay in the area, filling important roles from educators and entrepreneurs to police officers and politicians.

They're a generous bunch, too. Last year, donations from CI alumni rose 1,000 percent—and alumni participation on campus as mentors, speakers and volunteers also increased significantly.

"The power of that network of 10,000 alumni is strong and continually growing," said Tania Garcia, CI's Director of Development, Alumni Relations. "Everywhere I go, I encounter CI alumni carrying our mission pillars forward and making our community a better place."

Garcia is quick to point out CI's high level of Dolphin pride. In surveys, more than 91 percent of alumni say they'd choose CI again. And, even though it's the newest and smallest CSU, Garcia says CI commands

attendance rates at alumni events "that make other CSUs envious." Last year's Dodger Day attracted a record of more than 1,000 alumni and friends. The University's Mentorship & Networking Night has grown exponentially. Half of all attendees leave the event with a job opportunity.

The perks of being a CI grad continue to grow. CI consistently wins national awards for sustainability, community service, work culture and embracing diversity. Alumni can look forward to expanded enrollment and new programs in the coming years, as CI adds degrees like a doctorate in Educational Leadership and a B.S. in Computer Engineering. New attractions like a Conference & Events Center and intercollegiate athletics will bring even more to cheer about.

Join the CSU Class of 3 Million online yearbook at classof3million.calstate.edu. Stay connected by joining CI's Alumni & Friends Association, making a gift, becoming a mentor, or by attending and volunteering at CI events. Learn more at www.csuci.edu/alumni/. ♦C

A class above: notable alums speak out



JEVON WILKES
'12 Communication

Program Director for Echoes of Hope, Executive Board member for California Coalition for Youth

"Being a CI alumnus improves my life's opportunities through a large external family network. I am able to turn to fellow alumni to give and receive support. Reaching 10,000 alumni means CI has a big and growing family. Those relationships will flourish to make this world a better place."



CHRISTY WEIR
'05 Liberal Studies

Former Mayor of Ventura; City Council member since 2003

"CI provided a good balance and a strong foundation for my new political career. The opportunity for Ventura County residents to take advantage of an excellent institution so close to home has enriched our entire community. I'm excited to be a part of CI's continuing growth as a highly-regarded center for education and culture."



ROBERT LESTAK
'14 Political Science

Founder of Wholly Hemp; social business entrepreneur

"I'm proud to be in on the ground floor of the new wave of education and to see CI growing right before my eyes. Any opportunity I have to involve myself in CI, I'm there. I love the close connection I have with the University; I still text my professors all the time."

Longtime CI benefactor receives honorary doctorate

By Marya Jones Barlow

WHEN WILLIAM “BILL” Kearney helped lay the foundation for a four-year public university in Ventura County more than 15 years ago, he never dreamed he’d end up earning its most distinguished degree.

On May 16, Kearney was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at CI’s 2015 Commencement ceremony, alongside more than 2,000 graduates whose path he helped forge as one of the University’s earliest and most enduring champions.

“There is no way to describe what this honor means to me,” he said. “I feel like an ordinary individual who won the lottery without purchasing a ticket. I have been such a small part of our University’s development that the honor still feels unreal.”

Kearney’s sentiments reflect a humble modesty that is one of his hallmarks. A Senior Vice President of Private Wealth Management at Merrill Lynch in Oxnard, he has donated significant time, talent and financial resources to CI and to organizations throughout Ventura County.

He and his wife, Elise, became founding members of the President’s Circle in 1999 and played an instrumental role in CI’s growth ever since. In 2003, Kearney joined the University’s Foundation Board of Directors, serving as Chairman from 2007 to 2009.

Over the years, he’s secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from local sponsors, resulting in the creation of student scholarships, the attainment of the Robert J. Lagomarsino Archives, the design and construction of the Margaret Tiplady Burgess Courtyard, and the building of the Central Mall Fountain.

Kearney also regularly mentors CI students and graduates and volunteers for campus initiatives and events. Among his many community involvements, he has served on governing boards for Casa Pacifica, United Way of Ventura County, Community Memorial Health System, Rubicon Theatre, Rotary, and the Boys and Girls Club. His service has earned him such honors as Ventura County Philanthropist of the Year, CI’s Lagomarsino Award, and a Merrill Lynch Lifetime Achievement Award.

“In Bill you will find a leader who maintains high ethical standards, actively works for the betterment of humankind, is generous in all areas of his life, is driven for excellence, and brings joy to all who know him,” said CI President Richard R. Rush. “Bill is a humble man who does not seek grand



From left to right: George Leis, Mel Sheeler, Bill Kearney, and Hank Lacayo

recognition or attention. Rather, he finds satisfaction in knowing his service is benefiting those in need.”

Born and raised in Pomona, Kearney earned his degree in economics at UCLA while working in a factory and driving a truck.

“My college experience was one of the most enjoyable and valuable aspects of my life,” he said. “As such, I very much appreciate the availability of an affordable higher education option for our students.” ♦c



CI celebrates Commencement 2015

By Elizabeth Rubalcava, Director of Special Projects

CI CELEBRATED ITS 13TH COMMENCEMENT WITH TWO CEREMONIES ON Saturday, May 16. Over 15,000 parents, families and friends cheered for approximately 1,600 students who received bachelor's, master's or teaching credentials during the morning and afternoon ceremonies.

The CI graduates helped achieve both campus and systemwide milestones for the CSU. With the ceremonies, CI celebrated the advancement of more than 10,000 graduates since the campus officially opened in August 2002. The graduates also became part of the CSU Class of 3 Million, a celebration marking the graduation of more than 3 million students on 23 campuses since the establishment of the CSU system.

CSU Trustee Lillian Kimbell, President Richard Rush, and graduating Student Government President Vanessa Bahena provided remarks, and special presentations honored a prominent supporter and alumnus. During the morning ceremony, William "Bill" Kearney received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, and Gary Cushing ('10 B.A. Political Science) was presented with the Alumni & Friends Association Distinguished Alumni Award during the afternoon ceremony.

Marina Guzman, custodian in Facilities Services, was the honored staff member selected to ring the Navy ship bell to signal the beginning of Commencement. Phil Hampton, Professor of Chemistry and Project Director for CI's Project ACCESO (Achieving a Cooperative College Education through STEM Opportunities), led the procession by carrying the Light of Learning. ♦c

► go.csuci.edu/commencement15





Abriana Diaz mentors first-year students as a University Experience Associate for Project ISLAS, an HSI initiative.

Soaring high as an HSI

Initiatives funded by CI's status as a Hispanic-Serving Institution support a growing body of underrepresented students who will soon become a dominant national workforce.

By Marya Jones Barlow

TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT CAN MEAN TO ATTEND a Hispanic-Serving Institution, one need look no further than the story of Katia Garcia Nava.

The daughter of migrant farmworkers, Nava spent her youth moving from school to school and working in the fields to support her family. Her attempts to attend college were repeatedly sidelined by financial and academic obstacles.

Nava's outlook brightened the day she enrolled at CI, where she found unprecedented support in programs designed specifically for students like her. After earning her bachelor's degree in chemistry last year at age 37, Nava is on the path to a Ph.D. at the University of North Texas. Her goal is to become a professor and encourage the next generations of underrepresented groups in science.

"Without the support I received at CI from programs like Project ACCESO, I probably would have dropped out," she said. "The mentorship was vital and the research opportunities enabled me to work and pay for my education while also building my resume."

With the help of more than \$16.4 million in federal funding, CI is working with students, educators and regional partners to create more success stories like Nava's. One of the 12 percent of institutions

nationwide classified a "Hispanic-Serving Institution" (HSI)—a term used by the federal government to describe colleges that are more than 25 percent Hispanic and that serve a significant number of low-income students—CI is able to compete for coveted federal grants that strengthen and build institutional capacity to better serve low-income, underrepresented and predominantly Hispanic students.

That's a group that's vital to California's—and the nation's—future. According to the Census Bureau, minorities will compose 57 percent of the U.S. population by 2060, with one in every three residents being Hispanic.

Hispanic students are the nation's fastest-growing college population, producing a 240 percent increase in enrollment over the last decade. In 2012, 49 percent of Hispanic high school graduates enrolled at a postsecondary public institution, surpassing white student enrollment for the first time. With one-fourth of all U.S. public school students identified as Hispanic, that trend is expected to grow.

However, Hispanics still lag behind other groups in completing college. In 2012, fewer than 15 percent of Hispanics ages 25 and older had earned a bachelor's degree.

CI is working hard to buck that trend, with targeted academic programs and a university culture focused on helping all students thrive. Its seven federal Title V HSI initiatives (see CI's HSI Initiatives graphic) target students in grade school through graduate study, educators in middle school through college, and parents and community members throughout Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

“Without the support I received at CI from programs like Project ACCESO, I probably would have dropped out.” —Katia Garcia Nava

"Our goal is to reach out to learners of all ages and all walks of life—as well as to their families, instructors, schools and colleges—so we can work together to help the kids in our community get into college, graduate, and become strong contributors to our region and nation," said Amanda Quintero, Ph.D., Director of Hispanic-Serving Institution Initiatives at CI.

Quintero, a first-generation success story herself, now leads CI's efforts to secure federal HSI funding and make CI a nurturing and empowering place for traditionally underserved students.

"The money we get from the federal government allows us to be innovative well beyond the resources we would get otherwise," she said. "It enables us to identify the biggest hurdles to student success and work together as a community to remove those obstacles, share best practices, and collectively create a college-going culture in the region and a culture of academic student success at CI."

In Project ISLAS, which Quintero directs, CI faculty, staff and students do outreach in high schools and community colleges to thousands of students and their parents each year, building understanding and excitement for the college preparation process. Project ISLAS also helps first-year transfer students and freshmen at CI by embedding peer mentors from similar backgrounds, called "University Experience Associates," in the classroom to serve as advisors, refer students to tutoring, and lead peer learning communities focused on equipping students with academic success strategies. Quintero says freshmen participating in this type of high-impact teaching and learning experience consistently outperform those who do not participate on measures of first-term academic performance, academic achievement, and retention.

Kaia Tollefson, Ph.D., Director of Project Vista, which encourages students to pursue graduate and postbaccalaureate degrees, has also seen dramatic results. Since 2011, there's been an 18 percent growth in overall postbaccalaureate enrollment. Credential and graduate students who identify themselves as Hispanic increased 400 percent, and students declining to state their ethnicity declined 60 percent.

"The numbers reflect increased postbaccalaureate enrollment and pride of identity," Tollefson said. "For many families, the post high school conversation has been focused on just going to college. Project Vista has expanded the conversation so we can talk to students

about the trajectory of going to graduate school and the kinds of opportunities it brings—for students and our region."

Phil Hampton, Ph.D., Director of Project ACCESO, which aims to boost the number of students pursuing and graduating from STEM-related disciplines

HSI SUCCESS STORIES

Katia Garcia Nava and Alejandro Benitz, Project ACCESO



Katia Nava and Alejandro Benitz, both first-generation CI 2014 Chemistry graduates, are now pursuing Ph.D.s at University of North Texas.

Nava: "Without the help I received from Project ACCESO and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, I probably would have dropped out. The mentorship was vital in motivating me to finish my undergraduate education and continue on to graduate school."

Benitz: "Project ACCESO helped change me from an unmotivated, below-average student in high school to a college leader. It showed me that the best way I could invest in my own education was not only to succeed in my own classes, but to help other students succeed as well."

HSI SUCCESS STORY



Cynthia Dore, Project Vista

Cynthia Dore, a seventh grade teacher at Briggs Elementary School in Santa Paula, is a three-time graduate of CI, with a bachelor’s, teaching credential and master’s degree. Project Vista gave her inspiration to continue on to her Ph.D. and create similar support programs for students at her school.

“As a seventh grade teacher, I see kids already making the decision about whether or not to attend college. I realized I was in a position where I could change minds, so I might as well go for it. My students enjoy seeing me complete my educational goals alongside them.”

CI’S HSI INITIATIVES

PROJECT TITLE	GRANT AMOUNT AND DURATION	PROJECT DIRECTOR	DESCRIPTION
Project ACCESO (Achieving a Cooperative College Education through STEM Opportunities)	\$5.97 million over 5 years	Phil Hampton, Ph.D. 805-437-8869 philip.hampton@csuci.edu Cindy Wyels, Ph.D. 805-437-3260 cindy.wyels@csuci.edu	Seeks to increase the number of underserved Hispanic and low-income students who are succeeding in and graduating from STEM majors at CI (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and also to support and encourage underserved students in the region in developing critical STEM skill sets and interest in STEM education and careers.
Project ALAS (Aligning Learning and Academic Success)	\$3.25 million over 5 years	Amanda Quintero, Ph.D. 805-437-3285 amanda.quintero@csuci.edu	Works to increase successful student transfers from community colleges to four-year institutions through faculty development and collaboration.
Project ISLAS (Institutionalizing Student Learning, Access and Success)	\$3.24 million over 5 years	Amanda Quintero, Ph.D. 805-437-3285 amanda.quintero@csuci.edu	Fosters a university-going culture through outreach and mentoring for high school and community college students in the region and promotes a culture of student success for first-year students at CI.
Project Vista	\$2.8 million over 5 years	Kaia Tollefson, Ph.D. 805-437-3125 kaia.tollefson@csuci.edu	CI initiative to increase the number of underrepresented students pursuing graduate and postbaccalaureate study.
Project iPath	\$1.1 million over 5 years	Amanda Quintero, Ph.D. 805-437-3285 amanda.quintero@csuci.edu	Collaboration between Santa Barbara City College and CI to improve transfer success and degree completion.
Project ASCENSION (Articulating STEM Cooperatives to Enhance Needs, Success, Integration, Outcomes & Networking)	\$683,000 over 5 years	Amanda Quintero, Ph.D. 805-437-3285 amanda.quintero@csuci.edu	Partnership between Oxnard College and CI to increase STEM academic support and graduation rates.
Engaging Latino Students for Transfer and College Completion	—	Amanda Quintero, Ph.D. 805-437-3285 amanda.quintero@csuci.edu	Partnership between Oxnard College and CI to enhance transfer success.



Community events like the Science Carnival are made possible by CI’s Project ACCESO, an HSI initiative.



(Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), reports similar signs of success. From 2011 through 2013, the number of STEM majors at CI increased 37 percent, and Hispanic STEM majors increased 72 percent.

Hampton also points to benchmarks like 4,500 hours of student STEM tutoring last year and the Science Carnival, which drew more than 3,000 young children and their parents to a fun, free night of science activities.

“One of the great gifts of these initiatives is that they benefit everyone,” said Cindy Wyels, Ph.D., Project ACCESO’s Co-Director of Student Success. “They’re geared toward people who need those financial resources most, but they’re open to their classmates and community. Everyone wins.”

That success is helping CI emerge as a leader among HSIs. This year, Quintero was elected President of the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE), the national organization dedicated to sharing best practices of HSIs. The group selected CI as the host campus for its 2016 national conference. Earlier this year, CI was named a “Top College for Hispanic Students” by BestColleges.com, which ranked it 19th in the nation for enrolling, supporting and graduating Hispanic students. And President Richard Rush was invited to be an expert panelist at both the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ 2014 national conference and ASHIE’s 2015 Best Practices Conference.

While the recognition is rewarding, Quintero and other HSI project directors say their focus is on maintaining, improving, expanding and sharing CI’s most effective practices.

“We can’t leverage federal funding forever, so we have an institutional responsibility to make sure the initiatives we’ve put in place are always there for our students,” Quintero said. “We have an opportunity now to pay it forward and share our successes and innovations in the national forum.” ♦C

▶ go.csuci.edu/hsi



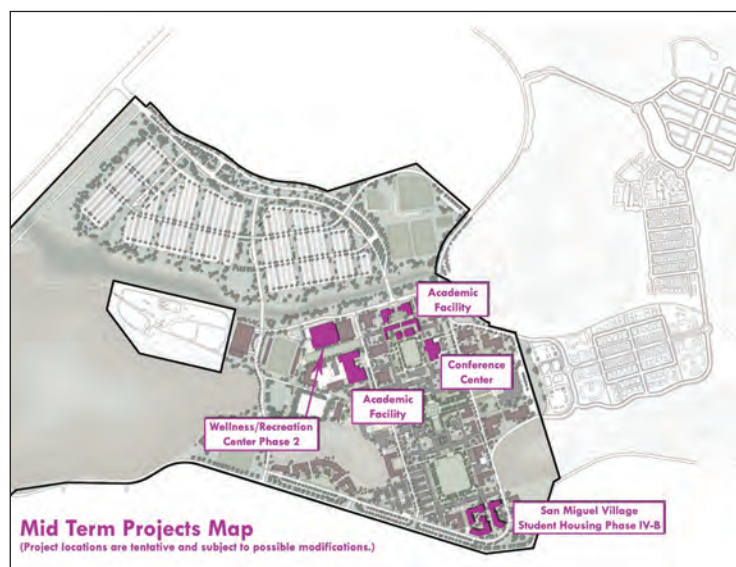
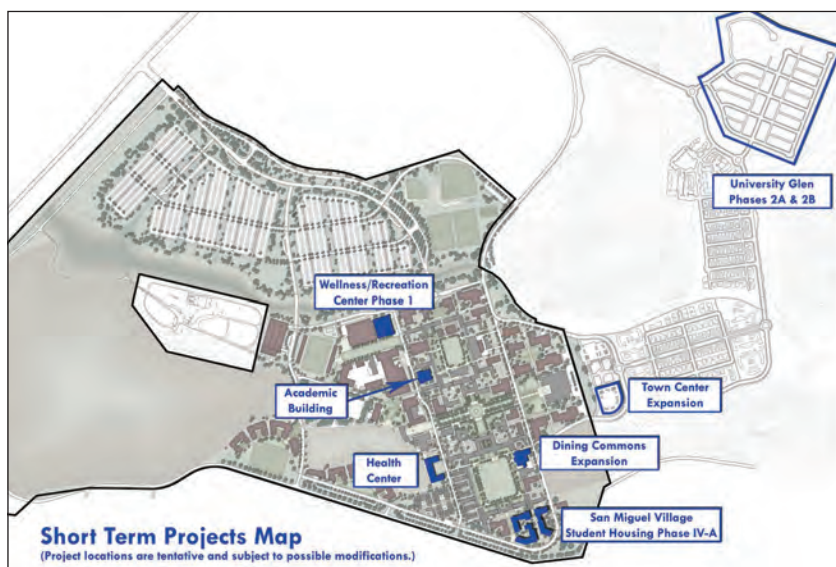
HSI SUCCESS STORY

Kimberly Fuentes, Project ISLAS



Kimberly Fuentes, a first-generation student from North Hollywood, credits Project ISLAS for her transformation from “uninvolved” and “feeling like I didn’t belong” to student leader. Now a University Experience Associate, Fuentes provides similar guidance to new students.

“Project ISLAS is making a difference by breaking down the barriers that many students encounter in their first year of college. The impact is more than just statistics and retention rates. Students are shifting their way of thinking and engaging in the university experience at CI. The students I mentor are now in leadership roles on campus. Being a mentor has a domino effect, as now I see my own students helping others.”



Vision 2025 on the horizon

By Kim Lamb Gregory

THIS COMING FALL, THE UNIVERSITY WILL welcome about 2,000 new freshmen and transfer students. By 2025, that number is expected to be 4,600, with a total enrollment of 12,500. In order to keep pace with the increasing student enrollment, the CI campus must grow.

"We need to expand academics, student life, student housing and other support facilities," said John Gormley, CI's Director of Planning, Design & Construction and Campus Architect. The steps required to realize CI's future are outlined in the CI 2025 Vision Plan, a long-term strategy to meet this demand.

The plan includes more classrooms, dining commons, wellness/recreational facilities, child care, a conference center and student housing. "We're currently housing 1,100 students in on- and off-campus housing," Gormley said. "Most of the students in the Santa Cruz and Anacapa Villages are triple-bunked."

Also in the pipeline are plans for new academic degree programs, both graduate and undergraduate, which will require financial backing. "New faculty must be hired to develop the curriculum," said Associate Provost Daniel Wakelee. "Startup costs also include the acquisition of lab and other equipment used for research and instruction, as well as funding to support internships, students and faculty research activities."

The environment of decreased public spending means CI Vision 2025 will have to be funded with private and public partnerships, donations and the development of the final phase of University Glen. University Glen is a community of affordable townhomes, single-family homes and apartments adjacent to the campus on property owned by the state.

The University Glen development is for CI faculty, staff and some other residents from outside the

University. "University Glen was planned and developed to be a financial support mechanism for the University as well as an amenity to encourage the recruitment of faculty and staff to a region where many can't normally afford housing," Gormley said.

Preliminary plans for the undeveloped property on the east section of University Glen were originally intended to include 242 for-sale detached homes, but when the housing market collapsed in 2008, the plans had to be suspended and, ultimately, adjusted. Now that the economy is improving and demand for housing is intense in Ventura County, University leaders need to identify, through exploration, which option for the undeveloped phase of University Glen is most preferable.

In March, the CSU Board of Trustees approved CI's concept for the expansion of University Glen. This summer, a working group will be assembled to provide input on what the appropriate mix is for the development. The group will include faculty, staff, University Glen residents and others from the community. CI plans to return to the CSU Board of Trustees in the fall of 2016 with its recommendation. It hopes for approval of the final plan and engagement of a yet-to-be-chosen private development partner shortly thereafter.

"The investment made in the University will reward the community for decades to come with well-educated, well-prepared graduates ready to fill the jobs that our region needs to thrive," Gormley said. "We are an economic engine and one of the largest employers in the county and as we grow, that will just continue. More importantly, our graduates give back many times over to the economic health of our communities."

For additional information about CI's 2025 Vision Plan, visit: www.csuci.edu/ci-2025 ♦ c

Math student takes her research to Capitol Hill

By Kim Lamb Gregory

CI MATHEMATICS GRADUATE STUDENT DANA Cochran rarely works with numbers. “You tell someone you’re a math major and they immediately want you to calculate the tip in your head,” said Cochran, 24. “The more advanced you are in math, the more you realize there’s not a single number on our whiteboards.”

That’s because advanced level math students like Cochran are working with abstract concepts, which they can use to help solve real world problems. Cochran used her mathematical skills to help streamline a diagnostic procedure in the world of medicine. The research she conducted impressed the Council on Undergraduate Research enough to earn her a trip to Washington D.C. in April to participate in the Council’s “Posters on the Hill” event.

Cochran was one of 60 participants chosen from more than 500 applicants from colleges and universities around the nation. “I was really excited,” said Cochran’s mentor, Associate Professor of Mathematics Kathryn Leonard, Ph.D. “I don’t ask all of my students to apply to ‘Posters on the Hill’ but she’s a wonderful student with a great attitude and great work ethic.”

Held April 22 and 23, “Posters on the Hill” was an opportunity for the chosen student researchers to set up posters detailing their research in a gallery setting. Members of U.S. Congress, staffers, journalists and other invited guests then had a chance to examine the posters and hear about each student’s research. “It’s exciting and also very nerve-wracking because I know I’ll have to talk in front of people,” Cochran said before the event. “I’m going to be very nervous. You never know who’s going to walk up to the poster. A mathematician? A journalist? A senator?”

Cochran’s research involved developing a database for physicians examining patient brain scans for the possibility of schizophrenia. Her goal was to build a database that would allow doctors to feed in the scans and find out whether the mathematical coordinates on the shape of the brain suggested the possibility of schizophrenia.

“Studies have shown that the shape of a part of the



brain called the ‘corpus callosum’ will vary according to whether you have the disease,” Cochran said.

Leonard began the research project and invited Cochran to be a part of it in the fall of 2013, after watching Cochran sail through linear algebra classes

during her sophomore year. “That’s when students transition from computation to abstract thought,” Leonard said. “It’s something most students struggle with, so I asked her to join my research group the following year.” Leonard mentored Cochran as Cochran created the poster for the event in Washington.

The trip, Cochran said, was an inspiration. A highlight for her was looking at posters from other high-achieving students from across the U.S., visiting the National Museum of American History and speaking to scientists and researchers at the Office of Science and Technology. “They were saying ‘Don’t be afraid to take risks. Do things that challenge you,’” Cochran said.

Cochran returned from Washington energized and enthusiastic about continuing her graduate school studies with plans to someday teach math at a college level. ♦C



(Front row, l-r): CI Foundation Board Chair George Leis, Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, President Richard Rush and awardees Priscilla Liang, Lynda Weinman and Christopher Meissner. (Back row, l-r): Scholarship recipients Pieter van Zyl, Vivianna Day, Oanh Tran, Nicholas Montgomery, and Leonard Vigeant.

Business & Technology Leadership Dinner

ON APRIL 16, CI HELD ITS 11th Annual Business & Technology Partnership (B&TP) Leadership Dinner at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach. Housed in the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics, the B&TP is a collaborative effort between CI and community leaders, business and technology executives and professionals, promoting technological excellence among CI students, faculty and staff for the benefit of the region's economy.

Awardees included: Christopher Meissner, founder and President of Meissner Filtration Products, Inc., Business and Community Leader of the Year; Lynda Weinman, Executive Chair of the Board and Co-Founder of Lynda.com, Technologist of the Year; and Priscilla Liang, CI Associate Professor of Finance, Faculty Leader of the Year.

Student recipients of \$6,000 scholarships were: Vivianna Day '16 Chemistry, Nicholas Montgomery '16 Mathematics, Oanh Tran '17 Biology, Pieter van Zyl '16 Nursing, and Leonard Vigeant '18 Nursing.

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The Scott family

Two generations give CI support

By Marya Jones Barlow

LONG BEFORE THERE WAS A campus—or even a name—for Ventura County’s four-year public university, the Scott family was championing it. Early supporters of the University since the 1970s, Gerald (Scotty) and Dorothy (Dotty) Scott passed that zeal to their children, Jerry, Mark and Andrea. Today, the family is a key sponsor of scholarships, events and other gifts, providing assistance personally and through their family-owned and operated vending service business, Canteen of Coastal California.

“CI is an asset to the community,” said Dotty Scott. “When you support the University, you’re supporting the entire community.”

❖ “When you support the University, you’re supporting the entire community.” —Dotty Scott

The family settled in Oxnard in 1972, when Scotty, a Navy veteran of World War II, started his own franchise of Canteen, the national vending company where he climbed the ranks from serviceman to Bay Area General Manager. The family business grew into the region’s largest vending service operator, now with 59 employees serving Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Kern, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Active philanthropists, the Scott family supports causes ranging from children’s charities and food

banks to cancer research, cultural institutions and education. Unable to complete college themselves due to economic conditions and busy work and family lives, Scotty and Dotty wanted to make the opportunity available to needy students in their community.

Along with their three grown children, who are now running the family business,

they established the Scott Family Endowed Scholarship, which sponsors students in their studies at CI. Though Scotty passed away in 2006, the family carries on the business and philanthropic outreach, extending support to more than 50 organizations throughout the region.

“As business owners, we have a stake in creating a healthy community and business environment in Ventura County,” said Jerry Scott, Vice President and General Manager of Canteen of Coastal California. “By

investing in CI, we can be part of the effort to create a more highly skilled, educated workforce and to attract and retain businesses in our region.”

The Scotts and Canteen of Coastal California are keen contributors, providing everything from scholarship and sponsorship funds to water, sodas and snacks for campus relays and events.

They also recently became the lead donors for the Founder’s Court, CI’s newest fundraising initiative to launch an intercollegiate athletics program. Avid golf and sports enthusiasts, the family looks forward to contributing another significant step in CI’s advancement.

“An athletic program is something that will really promote health and wellness and build on CI’s culture of camaraderie and community partnership,” Jerry said. “We love seeing how beautifully the campus has transformed and knowing that something tangible is happening as a result of our involvement.” ♦C



Mother and son donor duo Dotty and Jerry Scott.

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Honor Roll of Donors

Ontario Lacey, '10 B.S. Chemistry

The triumph of a 'late bloomer'

Chemistry grad took a long but impressive road to becoming a doctor

By Marya Jones Barlow

ONTARIO "TERRY" LACEY IS A TESTAMENT to what a self-described "late bloomer" can accomplish. After dropping out of college at the age of 18, he joined the Navy and became an aviation electrician. In his 30s, he finished college and launched a minor-league football career with a championship-winning team. This year, at the age of 40, he's graduating from medical school and starting his residency in internal medicine at the Naval Medical Center San Diego as a lieutenant.

"I never rest on what I've done in the past," he said. "I use failure and fear of failure as motivation. I'm always looking ahead to what I want to accomplish."

Lacey grew up in the Tuxedo housing projects of Birmingham, Alabama, the oldest of four children, raised by his mother and grandmother. He was a gifted student and showed an early aptitude for science and medicine—an interest stoked by his siblings' battles with sickle cell anemia and experiences working in the lab of University of Alabama Professor Gail Cassell, one of the nation's leading infectious disease specialists, now at Harvard University.

Lacey was awarded a prestigious Bausch & Lomb Science Scholarship to the University of Rochester in New York, but adjusting to the foreign environment proved too much for him. He dropped out after a year and returned to Birmingham, where he met his wife and joined the Navy.

Over the next 15 years in the Navy, Lacey moved to New Orleans and California, climbed the ranks to supervisor, welcomed a daughter, and launched a minor-league football career. But he never abandoned his dream of medical school. While on active duty at Point Mugu, he enrolled in community college. In 2008, he transferred to CI as a chemistry major.

"CI was a welcome contrast to my experience at the University of Rochester," he said. "The professors were so approachable and helpful. The campus was beautiful. I loved every minute of my time there. I'm very proud I graduated from CI. I tell everybody about it."

Lacey participated in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, performed Alzheimer's research with Associate Professor of Chemistry Blake Gillespie, played football for the West Coast Sharks and the Inglewood Blackhawks, and graduated *cum laude* in 2010.

He was recruited by the University of Missouri School of Medicine and enrolled in 2011. There he served on the medical school's admission committee for two years, was president of the Student National Medical Association chapter for two years, and received both the Welliver Scholarship in Neurology for Multiple Sclerosis and the American Academy of Family



CI graduate Ontario Lacey talks with a patient at the Cooper County Memorial Hospital, where he worked and volunteered while attending the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

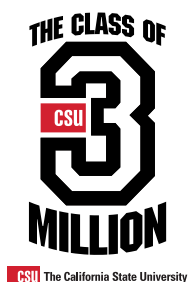
Physicians FHFMM summer scholarship.

"I love internal medicine because it's solving a puzzle," he said. "I enjoy interacting with the patients and figuring out how to solve their problems. It's just like 'House.'"

Lacey and his family are pleased to return to California, which feels like home. But Lacey says that's not the end of the road for him.

"I'd like to be the dean of a medical school one day," he said. "If I can come from the projects to where I'm going, anything is possible." ♦C

Photo courtesy of J. Evan Arnold



Manijeh Motaghy,
'05 B.A. Psychology

Mindful business expert

By Marya Jones Barlow

MANIJEH (KUCHIKALI) MOTAGHY WILL forever remember CI Psychology Professor Kevin Volkan's Asian Thoughts class as the catalyst that changed her life.

"We were studying Buddhism and a thought came to me that said, 'I am a Buddhist,'" she recalled. "Finally, there was some formal teaching that encapsulated what I had always believed and tried to practice. That class was a huge door to happiness."

That realization, at age 40, set Motaghy on a fulfilling career path combining her work as an organizational management consultant with the teaching of mindfulness and meditation, long before it gained popularity in the business world.

Motaghy went on to earn her doctorate in Organizational Management Consulting from Phillips Graduate Institute in Los Angeles and attained certification as an Authorized Mindfulness Teacher from UCLA's Mindfulness Awareness Research Center.

Today, she brings her expertise as a trainer, author, speaker and teacher to organizations and individuals throughout Southern California. With her guidance, students and clients learn how to use mindfulness and meditation to manage stress, emotions, thoughts and perceptions, and enhance success and well-being.

As founder of Mindful Business Institute, Motaghy leads workshops, retreats and training sessions for Health Net, the Motion Picture & Television Fund, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Girl Scouts of America, and CSU Channel Islands, to name a few.

As co-founder and executive director of Mindful Valley, she conducts classes and retreats in Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley for people seeking to improve their personal and professional lives through mindfulness and meditation.

And as an instructor at UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center, she teaches six-week Mindful Awareness Practices courses for anyone hoping to apply mindfulness in their daily lives.

Motaghy's services are in high demand in corporate, public, academic and nonprofit settings, where she offers a secular version of mindfulness that teaches the principles and practice of meditation without focusing on Buddhism.



"I feel like I discovered a mountain of gold and there's no end to it," she said. "I love sharing it with others and seeing them learn about their own minds, manage their emotions, and become happier people and employees."

Motaghy moved to the U.S. from Iran during high school and adapted to a new language and culture before earning a fashion degree, getting married, and having two children. After nearly 20 years co-managing her husband's medical lab business, Motaghy still felt unfulfilled. Years of soul-searching led her to enroll in CI's Psychology program in 2003.

"CI was my heaven," she recalled. "I loved every moment of it. Beautiful campus, welcoming people. A truly student-centered mission in action."

Motaghy became president of the Psychology Club, sat on the Diversity, Humanity and Cultural Committee, and was named "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" – all while raising two school-aged boys and commuting from the Valley.

After graduating in 2003, she served on the Board of Directors for CI's Alumni & Friends Association for six years.

Today, she's proud to have high-profile clients while also doing public service—with over 12,000 hours of volunteer work to build Mindful Valley as a nonprofit.

"My students often tell me this is saving their life and allowing them to be happy," she said. "This is when my mission is accomplished over and over." ♦

Where are they now?

By Marya Jones Barlow



Hiromi Arai, '07 B.S. Chemistry

HIROMI ARAI IS COMPLETING AN ALLERGAN-USC POST-DOCTORAL fellowship and helping a global pharmaceutical company create extended and sustained-release drug delivery devices. She earned her Ph.D. in molecular biology and biochemistry from the University of California Irvine in 2012.

Born in Japan, Arai came to the U.S. to attend boarding school in Texas and headed to California to earn her first bachelor's degree in exercise science at USC. She spent her 20s working as a personal trainer, teacher, and in office jobs around Southern California.

After becoming interested in the healing power of science, she enrolled in classes at CI looking for a new career path.

"I started taking a few chemistry classes while working part-time," she said. "The professors made it so interesting, I just kept coming back."

Arai ended up earning a second bachelor's degree—this time in chemistry—while working at CI as a lab assistant, tutoring, participating in faculty research on proteins and Alzheimer's disease, and interning at Amgen.

Through those experiences, Arai says she realized she wanted to go to graduate school and continue doing research.

"CI gave me a tremendous opportunity to get involved and led me to a lot of other great opportunities," she said. "I want to continue on this path combining knowledge of biochemistry and drug discovery. I want to be able to help people by science."



Josh Dennis, '09 B.S. Environmental Science & Resource Management

A 2009 GRADUATE OF CI'S ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & Resource Management program, Josh Dennis is now an attorney focusing on litigation for workers' compensation, OSHA, employment law and other administrative and civil issues.

Along the way, he earned his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *San Diego Journal of Climate & Energy Law*. Following law school, Dennis clerked for a federal judge in San Diego. Since then, he moved to Oregon, passed both the Oregon and Washington bar exams, and joined the law firm Cummins, Goodman, Denley & Vickers, where he represents employers throughout the Pacific Northwest.

"CI helped me develop the confidence to be successful in law school and in my career as a lawyer," he said. "CI's small community and the professors' open-door policies provided me with endless opportunities to speak with professors one-on-one. These interactions required me to

be well-prepared and be able to coherently express my ideas and questions—a skill that has proven very useful during meetings with other attorneys at the firm."

In his free time, Dennis says he enjoys playing golf, hiking, snowboarding, and exploring Portland's food and craft beer scene with his fiancée, Kristin. He is happy to offer advice to CI undergraduates and fellow alumni contemplating a career in law.

THE CLASS OF
3
MILLION

CSU The California State University



Alumni & Friends Wine & Brews Cruise

More than 110 community friends and alumni gathered on the Scarlett Belle riverboat in the Channel Islands Harbor for a beautiful evening cruise on June 18.

LA

VS



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go.csuci.edu/DodgerDay

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015
12:10 P.M. GAME TIME
DODGER STADIUM**

“Ekho” the Sentiment

CI's mascot “Ekho” shares snapshots posted on Instagram from graduating students, their family and friends.

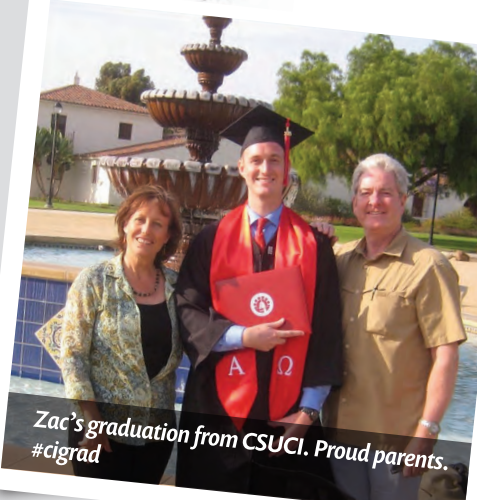


mermal8822
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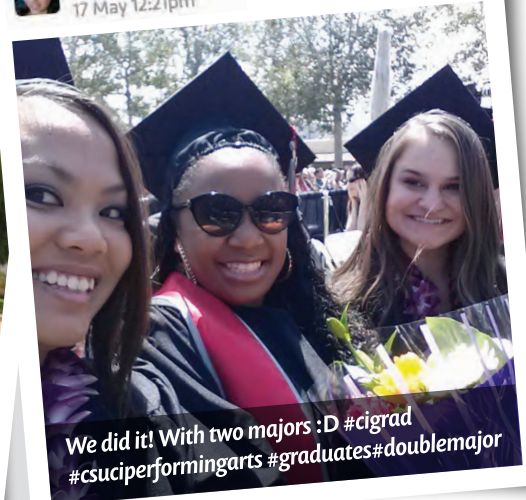
We did it!!! #cigrad

muskay5357
17 May 5:27pm



Zac's graduation from CSUCI. Proud parents.
#cigrad

fergie.creates
17 May 12:21pm



We did it! With two majors :D #cigrad
#csuciperformingarts #graduates#doublemajor

mroshki
16 May 7:57pm



sarahscrivano
17 May 2:02pm



Whaled it! Can't believe we're all done with college! #csuci #cigrad#bsinbiology

choffman0713
19 May 12:02pm



Thank you for helping me through those long days at school. I couldn't have done it without you Microwave! #microwave #csuci #cigrad

cherry_phosphate
16 May 1:00pm



That's all, folks! #cigrad #cigrad2015
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Anna T Bleszczad
@prof_atb



#cigrad congrats to our CS Students!!!!

kevmp
21 May 4:53pm



@meganriley28 and @aclay47 are the best assistants EVER! Thank you guys for everything! Wishing you the best!! #cigrad #csuci

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Summer 2015: **WATERSPORTS CAMPS** at the Channel Islands Boating Center ▶
go.csuci.edu/boating

August 21-26: **DOLPHIN ENGAGEMENT WEEK**
www.csuci.edu/nsotp/welcome-week

August 23: Fall semester—Saturday classes begin
August 25: Fall semester—Weekday classes begin

Fall Semester Series: **LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES**
(schedules to post early fall semester)
www.csuci.edu/academics/artsandsciences/library-lecture-series
Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics **SPEAKERS SERIES** ▶
business.csuci.edu/events.htm

September 19: **FUNDRAISER:** CSU Channel Islands Foundation and Rabobank present
“Chris Botti - Live In Concert” at the Libbey Bowl, Ojai
For tickets and information: www.csuci.edu

◀ September 25: **Save the Date—SIERRA HALL** opening dedication

October 4: 12TH annual Alumni & Friends **DODGER DAY** ▶
Purchase tickets: go.csuci.edu/DodgerDay



MVS Spring 2015 Speaker
Zohar Ziv

