

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

Channel

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MAGAZINE



A Founding President's Farewell

Richard R. Rush leaves CI on a high note PAGE 16

The experience of a lifetime

IT IS HARD TO CONCEIVE THAT THE TIME has come for me to write my final message for *Channel*. These past 15 years have gone swiftly and this last year has been a whirlwind of joyous activity and productivity. Throughout this year, I have done a lot of reflecting on our collective accomplishments and I've enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many of you individually to express my deep appreciation for your excellent work and gratitude for your presence in my life. This momentous act of creating a university was accomplished because I have been surrounded by individuals, like you, who believed in the dream of having a four-year public university in Ventura County. It has been a personal priority of mine to recognize our campus and extended community for these outstanding efforts.

Our collective history started in 1964 when Bob Lagomarsino first introduced legislation to establish a public four-year university in Ventura County and later Jack O'Connell was instrumental in having the University rise from the ashes of the state hospital. Our history also included the effective efforts of Handel Evans in transferring the property from a state hospital to the California State University system. Finally, it included the tremendous efforts of our community to ensure that what is now California State University Channel Islands (CI) would not become a state prison but, rather, a beacon for the future.

I am deeply grateful for the 15 years in which our faculty, staff and students have helped to create something significant for the future. Nobody does it alone and I am deeply grateful for the original faculty members and early classes of faculty who risked their careers on my word. These faculty committed themselves to my vision and they have honored me, beyond measure, by their excellence and dedication. In the succeeding years, again I have been delighted by faculty and staff commitment, as we have continued to attract highly talented and accomplished colleagues who also intensely have dedicated themselves to what we began in 2001.

I have frequently envisioned an idea of what a university could and should be. With intense pride I have witnessed CI become the embodiment of this idea. Our initial vision of placing students at the center of the educational experience and our complete commitment to student success have served and continue to serve as foundations of our University. CI was built to aid an unserved and underserved population that previously had limited horizons. We responded to this need and built a University that created a gateway to peoples' hopes; we have facilitated dreams for a better life for our students, their families, their communities and the State of California.

This has been the experience of a lifetime. I hold deep in my heart the honor that was given to me to be the Founding President of *your* University. I look forward to the best days of California State University Channel Islands, because, surely, they lie ahead.

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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CSU Channel Islands Mission Statement

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

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



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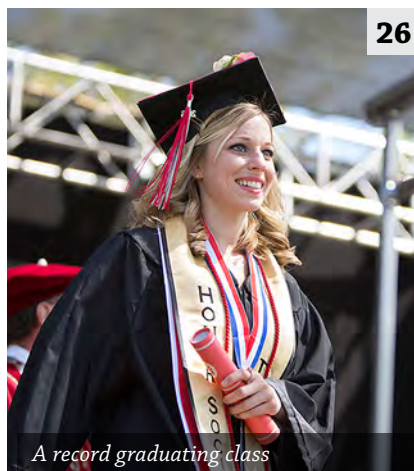
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Senior heads for national surfing competition after taking the state title

Class of 2016 Art major and lifelong surfer Austin Finley, 22, will represent CI in the National Scholastic Surfing Association (NSSA) National Championships in June after taking the state title in the NSSA California State Championship.

Finley and fellow CI Surf Club member Chase Stavron took top honors in the main divisions, which took place March 4 and 5 in San Onofre, California. Finley and Chase competed against about 180 other surfers.

Finley, the CI Surf Club team captain, took first place in the College Men's Division and Stavron placed fourth in the College Men's Longboard Division. The two CI surfers competed against several other colleges in their division, including the University of Southern California, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego and San Diego State University.

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

'Idea to Impact' challenge about California drought inspires nonprofit in Flint, Michigan

A CI and countywide student brainstorming project on California's drought has inspired a nonprofit group in Flint, Michigan, to launch a student project of their own to address the future of Flint's water safety.

'Idea to Impact' is an online collaboration and career skills program created by a company called Northern Rift. Using this program, more than 550 Ventura County students from grades 6 to 12 learned about water and shared ideas on how to ease California's drought.

'Idea to Impact' has been around several years, sponsored by different organizations.

CI took over 'Idea to Impact' in the 2012-2013 year under the direction of Professor of Chemistry Phil Hampton, Ph.D., Director of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Initiatives.

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

National Gallery of Art awards fellowship to CI Assistant Art Professor

CI Assistant Art Professor Alison Locke Perchuk, Ph.D., was thumbing through an encyclopedia years ago when she came across an illustration of a 12th century monastery-turned-parish church clinging to the side of a ravine north of Rome, Italy. It was called the Monastery of Elijah.

Years of research into the art and architecture that is the Monastery of Elijah has helped earn Perchuk the prestigious Paul Mellon Visiting Senior Fellowship from the Center for the Advanced Study of the Visual Arts (CAVSA) at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.

For two months this summer, from June to August, Perchuk will be provided with a work space, an apartment in Washington, D.C., and access to the scholarly community around CAVSA. She will be able to give focused attention to completing her manuscript, "The Monastery of Elijah: A History in Paint and Stone."

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



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

CI receives award for 2025 Vision Plan

A long-term growth plan has earned CI a major award from the American Association of University Administrators (AAUA) (www.aaua.org).

Called the “CI 2025 Vision Plan: Envisioning Our Future,” the multi-layered growth plan is designed to meet the needs of a student population that is expected to more than double in the next 10 years from about 5,000 full-time students in 2015 to more than 10,000 in 2025.

The CI 2025 Vision Plan won AAUA’s John L. Blackburn Award, which recognizes outstanding examples of university leadership that demonstrate creative solutions to common problems in higher education.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/aaua-award

CI biologist solves a whale of a mystery

A whale surging up from the ocean and splashing back into the waves is one of the ocean’s most magnificent sights, but scientists have never understood exactly why whales put on this spectacular show, called breaching.

After five years of study, CI Biology lecturer Rachel Cartwright, Ph.D., has an answer as to why whales



breach—specifically, young whales. Her findings were published at the end of January in the Public Library of Science, an open-access, peer-reviewed online journal at www.plosone.org.

Scientists had long theorized that whales breached as a form of play or socialization, but Cartwright’s research, conducted with Biology lecturer Cori Newton, Ph.D., six CI undergraduate researchers and five supporting organizations, shows that breaching actually strengthens a young whale’s diving capacity.

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

Students launch first student-run radio station: Dolphin Radio

CI’s first-ever student-run radio station is on the air. Visit CI Dolphin Radio at TuneIn.com and you’ll hear CI students airing a mix of music, podcasts, lectures, campus announcements and a wealth of original programming that continues to evolve in this brand new venue.

Dolphin Radio funding comes from a partnership between the Communication program and CI’s Communication & Marketing office, but Communication Assistant Professor Christina Smith, Ph.D., credits student station manager Kayla Garcia for doing the heavy lifting that got the station off the ground.

An open house attended by about 100 people was held outside the Dolphin Radio studios on the second floor of the Bell Tower a few hours after the station went live at 9 a.m. on April 11.

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



Trustees appoint Erika Beck as CI's next president

Reprinted courtesy of CSU Public Affairs

THE CALIFORNIA STATE

University Board of Trustees has appointed Erika D. Beck, Ph.D., as president of California State University Channel Islands. Beck currently serves as the provost and executive vice president of Nevada State College (NSC) in Henderson, Nevada. She succeeds President Richard R. Rush, who is retiring after serving 15 years as the campus' inaugural president.

"I am incredibly honored that the CSU Trustees have appointed me as the next president of CSU Channel Islands, and I am truly delighted to join a university that is singularly committed to serving a diverse student population in the context of an engaged and interdisciplinary campus culture," said Beck. "As the inaugural president of CSU's newest campus, Dr. Rush crafted a vision for an innovative 21st century institution, hired a world class faculty and staff, established deep connections with local educational partners, business and civic leaders, and deftly expanded the campus' physical plant to broaden access and services to students. I relish the opportunity to work with faculty, staff and students and with alumni and friends throughout the region to continue to build on this remarkable foundation with a focus on bringing the campus to new heights of success."

"Dr. Beck's demonstrated achievements and academic credentials make her the ideal next leader of CSU Channel Islands," said CSU Trustee Larry Norton, chair of the Trustees' Committee for the Selection of the President. "Dr. Beck was instrumental in building the academic program at NSC, serving in departmental and campus leadership capacities



President-designate Erika Beck with CI staff.

before being chosen as the campus' top academic leader. She has been responsible for building and sustaining the academic rigor of a new campus, led strategic planning and assisted with the expansion of the physical plant to meet the needs of students. And, she has served in faculty leadership positions, including chairing the Faculty Senate, so she has a keen understanding of the value of shared governance and supports the academic scholarship of faculty. Her career achievements demonstrate her commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students and supporting the research and innovation of faculty."

In her role at NSC, Beck oversees the academic program, student affairs, informational technology, institutional research, admissions and records and all campus retention efforts for the 3,500-student campus, which primarily serves first-generation college students as a Minority-Serving Institution and emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution. She is also actively involved

in advancement initiatives to expand funding opportunities for the campus, and oversees accreditation, assessment and institutional effectiveness. Before her tenure as provost and executive vice president, she served as the dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the director of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a faculty member in the psychology department, and chair of the Faculty Senate. Prior to her service at NSC, she served as a faculty fellow at University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and taught at Grossmont College in San Diego.

In addition to her teaching and educational leadership experience, Beck also has educational research experience, having served as a research associate for the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

She is an alumnus of San Diego State and double alumnus of UCSD. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCSD, a master's in psychology from San Diego State and a doctorate in experimental psychology from UCSD. ♦c

Editor's Note: President-Designate Beck will assume her duties at CI on Aug. 8

From hardship to leadership

By Marya Jones Barlow

As CI's STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

Monique Reyna prepared to address more than 15,000 Commencement guests, she admitted to being more than a little nervous.

"It's intimidating," the 29-year-old said. "When I give a speech, I'm still afraid I sound 'ghetto.' But it means so much to stand on that platform in front of my family and CI classmates. This never seemed possible to me."

Not long ago, Reyna would have scoffed at the idea of being Student Government President or even attending college. Raised by a struggling single working mother on the outskirts of Fresno, she grew up surrounded by poverty and gang violence, and at times knew hunger and homelessness. To help out, Reyna and her brothers picked oranges, sold nopales and cleaned lunch tables at school to earn free meals. When she graduated from high school, Reyna entered clerical work and found a comfortable secretarial job at a law firm.

But then two events shattered her world. Reyna was hit by an SUV, leaving her temporarily wheelchair-bound and unable to work during recovery. A year later, her younger brother, Johnny, was killed in a drive-by shooting.

"I reached my lowest point," she said. "One day, I was sitting across from a park where all the neighborhood kids played. It just hit me: These kids had the odds stacked against them. They had nobody who believed in them. I didn't want that. I knew I had to do something."

Reyna enrolled in Fresno City College, determined to become a teacher for disadvantaged children. A speaker in one of her classes encouraged her to try student government. Much to her surprise, she interviewed and was appointed Student Senator, then later promoted to President, representing more than 24,000 students.

"I realized that I could be a voice for struggling college students," she said. "It was amazing, eye-opening; I loved it."

After transferring to CI—living away from home for the first time in 26 years—Reyna flourished in campus life. She majored in Liberal Studies, minored in Political Science, founded Tomorrow's Teachers and participated in the Leaders in Educational Awareness Program.

She also found herself drawn back into to Student Government. She became President of the Student Programming Board in 2014 and was elected President of CI in 2015.

Reyna's proudest moments include working with



peers to create a campus food pantry, highlighting social justice issues in the Noon Forum panel discussion series and promoting student wellness with #FitCI.

"I'm most proud of the organization we've built," she said. "Amazing, passionate people who care about the students. Student government is rewarding, even if people don't say 'thank you.' To see someone taking advantage of the opportunity that higher education presents—that's the reward."

After graduating, Reyna plans to work for a nonprofit focusing on education and poverty while studying for the GRE and the LSAT. Her goal is to obtain a Master of Public Administration and Juris Doctor degree so she can run her own nonprofit serving low-income communities.

"Losing my brother, being hungry, being homeless—I consider all of that something I had to go through to get where I am today," she said. "CI has been a bigger blessing than I ever thought imaginable. The people here believed in me and made me believe in myself. I know I can get through anything because now I have a greater sense of purpose in helping my community." ❖ c

Using math to mitigate traffic

By Zoe Lance

WHEN MAYRA SAHAGUN IS DRIVING to the CI campus, she pays special attention to the road. She notices which freeway entrances have ramp meters and where lanes merge. She glances at the clock when traffic seems particularly heavy or light, and makes a mental note of where the bottlenecks are.

While Sahagun knows traffic as well as any Southern Californian, she has a vested interest in traffic flow. For her master's thesis in mathematics, Sahagun is using applied principles to research traffic control in her own backyard. Using Caltrans data, she's figuring out where traffic controls would alleviate congestion on Highway 101 from Woodland Hills to Hollywood.

Sahagun finds her thesis's real-world connection exciting. "People use freeways, especially if you live in Los Angeles," she said. "If we could find something to monitor traffic so there wouldn't be as much or make it smoother, people in the area would be really happy about it. It's important for not just my project, but other people that enjoy math and want to find something to apply math to."

For as long as she can remember, Sahagun has loved math and wanted to be a teacher. As an undergraduate math student at CI, she had her sights set on a teaching career. She also started teaching remedial math classes at the university in 2014, her first year as a graduate student. But her thesis, with the help of her advisor Cynthia Flores, brought up the idea of using math outside of the classroom.

❖ "I like how there's math in anything. You get to apply it to your everyday life."
❖ —Mayra Sahagun

"Dr. Flores said, 'You can do these other things with math.' I didn't think about it because I've always had my mind set on 'I want to be a teacher,'" Sahagun said. "She's opening my mind with other career opportunities."

The faculty support has empowered Sahagun throughout her academic career. As a first-generation college student from Oxnard, she's



appreciated the encouragement to explore her love for math.

"The grad program has definitely been a good influence," she said. "The Math program definitely prepares you for any scenario in the real world. Any job, you'll be prepared for that."

Sahagun is exploring a career in traffic modeling and analysis. But teaching isn't off the table — when she graduates in June, she plans to return to CI for her credential and teach at local community colleges. But wherever she goes, she knows she'll be using her math degrees.

"I like how there's math in anything. You get to apply it to your everyday life," she said. "If you're buying a home, if you're thinking about getting a car or investing in something important, you always need your math." ❖C

Solving mysteries with string algorithms

By Michael Soltys, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Computer Science

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL years, I have become interested in a field of Computer Science known as String Algorithms. It is an area of research that has come to the fore because it provides solutions to three very important applications of computing: analysis of the genetic code, data mining and text processing. The last one is perhaps the most familiar to the typical user of computers, who does text processing such as searching of text, replacing of text and compression of files. All these operations are enabled by applications running SA.

We know from genetics that the blueprint of all living organisms can be encoded with very long words (strings) over a four-letter alphabet, (A, G, C, U). In order to understand how these words define living organisms and how mutations and malformations in these words are responsible for traits and diseases, we need to understand the structure of these words, especially their patterns and repetitions. This is where biology and SA meet, and, in a very real sense, SA provides a glimpse into the secrets of life.

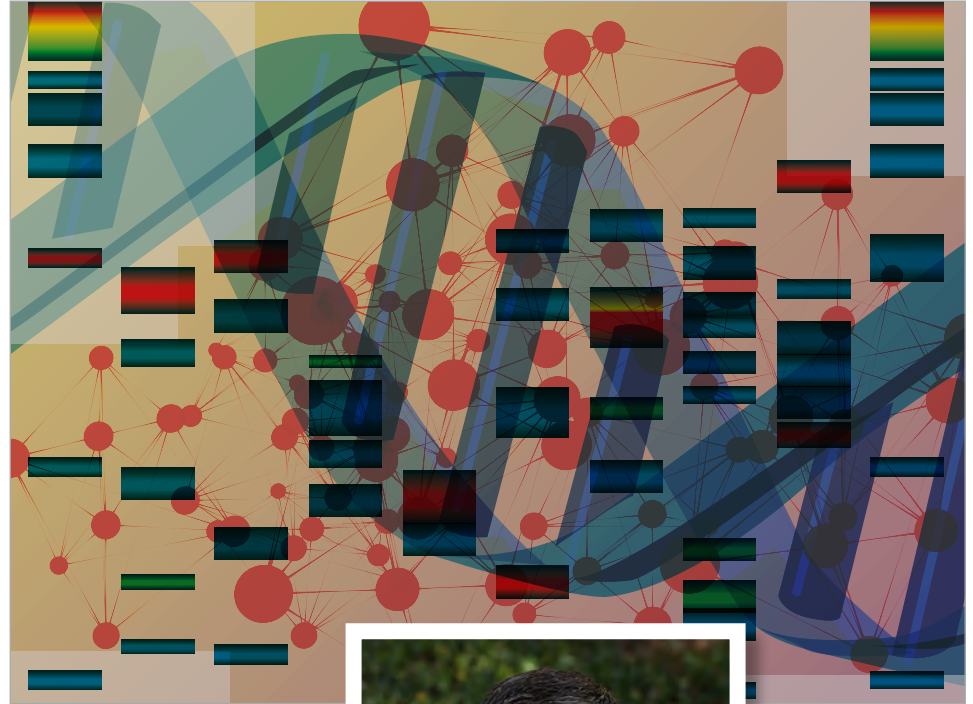
The third application is in the area of big data. We all witness daily that there is an overwhelming flow of information in our knowledge-based society. The question is: How do we interpret this information, that is, how do we extract knowledge out of this relentless flow of bits? This is the problem of data mining and SA provides answers as researchers discover faster and faster algorithms that are able to process extremely long words,

extracting structural information about them and gleaning meaning hidden underneath layers and layers of data.

There are many contributions to be made in the exciting field of SA. Over the past few years I have had the great luck of being able to solve an open problem about one of the most basic operations on strings: shuffle. Shuffle takes two words and combines them into one in such a way that the order of letters in the original words are preserved. For example, the two words aaa and bbb can shuffle into ababab. This seemingly simple operation has countless applications, from optimization to concurrency. Together with Professor Sam Buss of the University of California, San Diego, we were able to give a long-sought impossibility result showing that there do not exist fast algorithms for deciding whether a given word is the shuffle of the same smaller word with itself. That is: square roots are hard for words.



This work and other results created an exciting collaboration between King's College London and CI, and, under the auspices of the British Royal Society, we will be able to have a vibrant exchange program between scientists and students at both institutions. One of the nicer aspects of the field of SA is that it is new, and as such, it is relatively easy to join for newcomers, which is the case of most students. One can quickly start participating in exciting research. As such, the field is ideal for undergraduate research initiatives, but of course it also offers challenging problems for graduate students and faculty. ♦c



Helping librarians become leaders

By Colleen S. Harris-Keith, M.L.S., M.F.A., Ed.D., Senior Assistant Librarian & Information Literacy Coordinator

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN WHAT MAKES for a good leader. My research examines leadership skill development and, in particular, how academic library deans and directors perceive how their careers as librarians prepared them for the crucial skills required of directors.

Library directors at colleges and universities are expected to serve in a number of roles, not least of which is to help direct and support their institution's efforts in scholarly communication,



informing faculty of their options when it comes to publishing and disseminating their research and making information — and the access to it — easier for faculty, students and the communities we serve. However, these important responsibilities fall to the wayside when new directors must spend the bulk of their time learning basic skills.

Knowing what the crucial leadership skills are, and where library director professional preparation is lacking, means that our professional associations like the American Library Association and the Association of College and Research Libraries can better design professional development opportunities to target leadership skill development, especially in the five areas my research found to be especially lacking: compliance issues, fundraising and donor relations, facilities planning and management, legal issues and school safety.

In January of this year I was awarded the Jesse H. Shera Award for Distinguished Published Research by The American Library Association for my research article in *The Journal of*

Academic Librarianship, one of the top journals in my field. Recently I was thrilled to learn that the May 2016 issue of *American Libraries*, the flagship magazine of the American Library Association, named my dissertation one of the top 10 Notable Dissertations of the Year. While my research continues (I have a new dataset to start examining this summer!), I will be presenting my research and some recommendations for action at the American Library Association annual conference in Orlando, Florida, in June 2016.

As Information Literacy Coordinator on campus, I teach students how to do research. It has been fun to be able to point to my own research as an example of how an idea becomes a passion and how the research process works from idea conception, to researching the problem, designing a study, all the way through to publication. ♦c





Sara Miller McCune



Mark S. Lisagor

Doctor, doctor

CI awards honorary doctorates to two outstanding county leaders and CI advocates

By Marya Jones Barlow and Kim Lamb Gregory

AN ACADEMIC PUBLISHING pioneer and a humanitarian dentist are the eighth and ninth recipients of honorary doctorate degrees from CSU Channel Islands.

Sara Miller McCune—founder and executive chairperson of SAGE Publishing, an independent academic and professional publisher based in Thousand Oaks—was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters at the eighth annual SAGE Student Research Conference on May 14.

Camarillo dentist Mark S. Lisagor received his honorary degree on stage during CI's May 21 commencement ceremonies.

Both McCune and Lisagor were nominated by President Richard R. Rush based on their longstanding support for CI and their contributions both locally and globally as business and philanthropic leaders.

McCune's generosity enabled the SAGE Undergraduate Research Symposium, which allows CI undergraduates to conduct and present research on critical issues that extend beyond the community. SAGE has been a key sponsor of the President's Dinner and Business & Technology Partnership Leadership Dinner, hallmark fundraisers that

support scholarships and programs.

Since she founded SAGE in 1965 at the age of 24, McCune has grown the company into a leading international publisher of academic and professional books, journals, references and electronic media. SAGE employs 600 people worldwide and publishes more than 300 academic journals a year. Among her numerous initiatives supporting the arts, education and social issues, McCune is founder of the McCune Foundation, the McCune Center for Research, Media and Public Policy and Miller McCune magazine.

"I am truly honored to receive an honorary doctorate from an institution that has a global vision, yet is so engaged with our local community," McCune said. "Since its founding 14 years ago, CSU Channel Islands has lived up to its very noble mission of putting students at the center of the educational experience. This focus has had a profound impact not only on individual students, but on the Channel Islands community and far beyond."

Lisagor is a founding partner of the Childrens Dental Group, which led the way to provide pediatric dental care in child-

friendly, spaceship-themed offices in Ventura County since 1977.

A supporter of CI since 1998, Lisagor has served as a founding member of CI's Legacy Society, a board chair for the CI Foundation and has consistently dedicated his time, professional expertise and financial support for the betterment of CI.

Lisagor is widely known for his philanthropic work at home and abroad. Four to five times a year he leads volunteers to impoverished countries to provide dental care to children and families who lack access. Within Ventura County and the state, he has generously donated his services to charitable and leadership roles, including serving as president of the American Society of Dentistry for Children in Southern California, past chair of the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo and dental consultant to the Ventura County Infant and Maternal Oral Health Care Program, to name just a few.

"This recognition is especially meaningful to me because it comes from a very unique place, whose mission statement begins with 'placing students at the center of the educational experience,'" Lisagor said. "This is the culture of CI." ♦C



Living his passion

History Professor Frank Barajas relishes his role as citizen, historian, educator, mentor and activist in his hometown

By Marya Jones Barlow

WHEN FRANK BARAJAS went to Moorpark College in 1983, it was for the noblest of reasons: to please his parents.

"I wasn't sure what one could do with a college degree," he said. "All I knew is my parents wanted me to get a college education and be the first college graduate in our family."

The moment he sat down in his first history class with Professor Joseph Gonzalez, Barajas found an inspiration, a major and a purpose.

"Dr. Gonzalez was dynamic and inspiring," Barajas said. "He was also the first person of Mexican descent I had ever met who was a college professor with the title of 'doctor.' It opened my eyes to the trajectories available to me."

Today, Barajas regards his role as a Professor of History at CI to be more about inspiring students than it is about teaching history.

"I try to instill in them the value of being critical thinkers, good

communicators, effective writers, speakers and listeners," he said. "I tell them, 'We're in a history class, but we are learning more than just history. In the process, we're developing our skills. No matter what career you go into, these skills are going to be useful to you.'"

In courses like California History and Culture, The United States Since 1877 and Southern California Chicana/o History and Culture, Barajas teaches students to seek the "echoes of history" in present-day events, guiding them to draw

parallels, contrasts and future implications. In each course he assigns group presentations in which students research and present lessons about people and topics that are barely mentioned in history textbooks. The exercise is one of his favorites.



"I love it because the assignment impacts their intellectual development as well as mine," he said. "We learn together about influential figures and events that are often overlooked in the chronicles of history."

Outside the classroom, Barajas is working on his second book — tentatively titled "Mexican Americans with Moxie: The Chicana/o Movement in Ventura County" — which examines a transformational time of Chicana/o activism and empowerment during the 1960s and early 70s. His previous book, "Curious Unions: Mexican American Workers and Resistance in Oxnard, California, 1898-1961," explores how the Oxnard Mexican community forged partnerships with other ethnic groups that broadly influenced economic exchanges, cultural practices and labor and community activism.

The topics are near and dear to Barajas, who was born and raised by Mexican-American parents in Oxnard's diverse, working-class I Street neighborhood. Now living in his hometown with his wife, son and daughter, he relishes



in their educations and careers.

"I can say that Frank has been an inspiration and CI is where my aspirations were conceived," said José Antonio Romero, who went on to earn a Master's in Social Work and is now a child welfare social worker. "He trained

in Orange County. While working on his dissertation on the Mexican community of Oxnard in the late 1990s, he noticed a new freeway sign for the future campus of CSU Channel Islands and put in his application. In 2001, he became one of CI's first 13 tenure-track faculty members and a founding member of its History and Chicana/o Studies programs.

Fifteen years later, Barajas is elated at the way CI is growing in both size and diversity. He cites the ever-increasing racial and ethnic mix of its student, faculty and staff populations, national recognition as a Hispanic-Serving Institution and unwavering focus on a student-centered mission.

"I'm grateful to be a part of this great endeavor and continue President Rush's legacy for as long as I can," he said. "I've got the best job in the world. My goal is to learn as much as I can and teach as long as I can. Then I'm going to keel over right there in front of everybody in class with a big old smile on my face." ❖c

❖ "I've got the best job in the world. My goal is to learn as much as I can and teach as long as I can." —Frank Barajas

the role of native son, engaged citizen, historian, professor and activist in his community. Barajas often writes, speaks and demonstrates on behalf of the county's underserved communities and is a regular contributor of columns and opinion pieces in the regional and statewide news. His work was recognized with a 2014 Latino Leadership Award by El Concilio Family Services.

He also maintains close ties to former students who credit him with being a source of inspiration

me to think like a historian, which I believe incidentally led me into the field of social work. To this day, Frank and I have lengthy conversations on how institutional and systemic issues impact communities. In short, he was my professor, who turned into my mentor, who became my friend."

Barajas earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from CSU Fresno. After earning his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University, he taught for nine years at Cypress College



CI Republicans talk and tweet during a viewing party for a Republican debate.

All aTwitter

CI Democrats and Republicans harness social media for the 2016 election

By Marya Jones Barlow

AS SHE JOINED CI's Republicans at a local pub to watch the March 10 Republican presidential debate, Emily Culty looked forward to a night of political jousting and commentary with her peers—those gathered around the table and also connecting on social media.

"Tune in now! #CIDebate #GOPDebate," she posted on the group's Twitter account, kicking off the live debate.

The tweets are part of an effort by CI College Republicans and CI College Democrats to engage more students in the political process. In addition to regular meetings, voter registration drives, charity fundraisers, informative events and campaigning for candidates, both clubs actively promote participation on social media. Throughout the 2016 campaign, they've hosted live tweeting parties, inviting constituents

from both sides of the aisle to weigh in. Club members gather on and off campus to tweet debate highlights and commentary—ranging from observations and insights to jokes and critiques.

"It's a great way for both clubs to see areas of overlap, while also highlighting the differences," said

Culty, president of the CI College Republicans. "I think it will be a very close race, and a brutal one. Whatever the outcome, our country has never seen an election like this before."

"We believe it's important for students to hear both sides of the spectrum in terms of political



CI Republicans discuss how to engage more students in the political process.



Aaron Vad, president of CI College Democrats, registers students to vote during a campus registration drive.



ideology,” agreed Aaron Vad, president of CI College Democrats. “Millennial voter turnout during the 2014 midterm elections was dismally low. A lot is at stake for our future in this election. We hope to register voters, increase turnout, inform students on important political matters and tweet more interesting and funny things than

rights, LGBTQ+ rights, women’s rights and the environment. We all believe that government has a role to play in these issues and that we should help in the political process.”

CI Republicans also are active in the Get Out the Vote effort, hosting events to register voters, support candidates,

around a common interest, and it’s an incredibly supportive environment. We have members who are moderate, conservative and Libertarian, yet we have a strong bond and sense of family. It goes so much further than politics. I have made so many amazing friendships, both professionally and socially, in this club.”

The students’ passion has earned high praise from campus constituents and political leaders.

“It’s the way every college political group should be run, in my humble opinion,” said CI Communication Specialist Kim Lamb Gregory, who helps facilitate the students’ debates on CI social media. “The candidates could learn from these students. Their tweets are measured, intelligent, thought-provoking and they never stoop to name-calling.”

“That Cal State Channel Islands’ students are so involved in the political process makes me proud,” said U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley, a Democrat representing California’s 26th Congressional District. “They have a role to play in local, state and federal elections and I am so happy that they are taking their responsibilities seriously as members of a democratic nation.” ♦C

“Our club members believe it’s our civic duty to participate in the electoral process.” –Aaron Vad

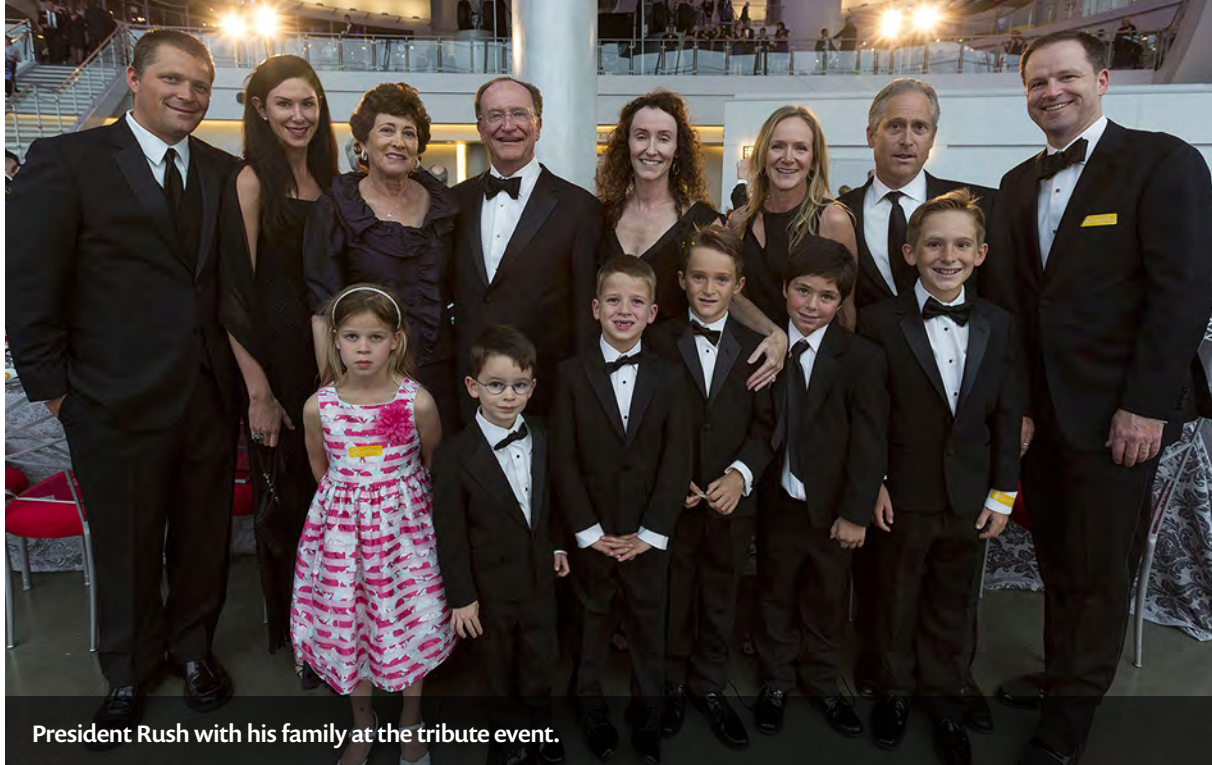
the CI Republicans.”

Both groups are working hard to mobilize voters in a pivotal and provocative election. CI Democrats staff a table on campus twice a month and at the Camarillo farmers market to register new voters. Throughout the year, the group has participated in the California Democratic Party Convention, supported local, state and national officials and campaigns and hosted campus events to highlight candidates and causes.

“Our club members believe it’s our civic duty to participate in the electoral process,” Vad said. “Each of us feels strongly about issues such as economic inequality, civil

assist charities and build unity. The group’s biggest gathering is the annual 9/11 Memorial and Flag Planting Ceremony, in which students and community members join to place 3,000 flags in front of the Broome Library. Members also attend the California College Republican and California Republican Party Conventions and hold roundtable and panel discussions on a range of political issues that showcase the group’s diversity of backgrounds and opinions.

“In many ways, CI College Republicans give new voice to the GOP,” Culty said. “The club brings together very different personalities



President Rush with his family at the tribute event.

A Rush slows down

A retirement filled with spontaneity is the new mission for CI's founding president

By Marya Jones Barlow

AFTER A JAM-PACKED AND STRICTLY SCHEDULED existence as CI's President for the past 15 years, Richard R. Rush has a simple plan for retirement.

"On Aug. 5, I'll walk out of the office and go home," he said. "The day after, I start living on impulse."

It's a foreign concept not only for Rush but also for those who have worked alongside him to build CI

into the nation's fastest-growing campus and a model of 21st-century higher learning.

"I've never seen him take it slow," said Elizabeth Rubalcava, CI's Director of Advancement Special Projects. "I think he'll be challenged by the amount of free time he has, but he'll fill it with productive activities and world travel. He has tremendous energy and I've always been amazed by that."

"I'm looking forward to his doing less but being happy about it," said Jane Rush, his wife of 13 years. "He's such a workaholic. I'm not sure how he's going to occupy his time."

Rush explains candidly that he hasn't had much time to think about it. Even in his final weeks, he maintained the unbridled momentum that characterized his leadership. His parting goals are to leave the University in the best shape possible for his successor, Erika D. Beck, who takes office Aug. 8, and to offer thanks and goodbyes to faculty, staff and students.

"These people are my friends and I'll miss seeing them on a regular basis," he said. "I'll miss talking smack with the students. I'll miss the beautiful environment. I'll miss the continued feeling of collective success."

At the same time, Rush looks forward to retirement as an "adventure." Trips to Alaska and Italy are the first of many planned excursions with his wife. Once back

"Universities never come and go. They last for decades and centuries. They bring greatness to every society, every city, every state, and every country. They educate the future generations, and they create a framework for civility in our past. Thank you, President Rush, for building our future."

— Blaise Simqu
President & CEO, SAGE Publishing

home in Camarillo, Rush intends to resume his hobbies of reading, golfing, cooking, hiking and volunteering in the community. He's also eager to spend more time with his family, which includes Jane, two daughters, one stepdaughter, their spouses, seven grandchildren and a beloved labradoodle, Sophie.

"I want to be spontaneous," he said. "I want to wake up some mornings, hop in the car with my wife, and go wine tasting in Santa Ynez."

A LEADER CALLED TO SERVE

RICHARD R. "DICK" RUSH WAS BORN IN ORANGE, New Jersey, in 1942. When he was six, his parents divorced and he moved across the country with his father, an executive starting up Prudential Insurance's West Coast office. The two lived in a one-bedroom apartment in the Los Angeles neighborhood known today as Little Ethiopia.

Young Dick Rush loved to play sports and enjoyed learning. When he reached Gonzaga University, his "mind really started to open up," stimulated by great professors. Rush triple-majored in philosophy, classics and English. He went on to earn a master's degree in English literature at UCLA, cementing his interest in teaching at a university. He earned a Ph.D. in English Renaissance Literature at UCLA and took his first faculty position at San Diego State University as an assistant professor of literature.

Rush thrived on his interactions with students and enjoyed being in the classroom. Those around him saw a leader.

"I had worked with many University Curriculum Committee Chairs before, but no one demonstrated the leadership and ability to get the job done in an efficient and timely manner as Dr. Rush," said Jane Smith, Assistant Vice President Emerita, Academic Services, at San Diego State University. "There was no question that he was a leader and respected by his peers."

Any time Rush attempted to step down and resume his scholarly work, he found himself elected or appointed to another leadership role.

"Much of what we have built these past many years is a direct result of your leadership, vision and civility. You are without question the best academic leader I have encountered in all my years of rambling across the higher education landscape."

— Sean Anderson, CI Associate Professor of Environmental Science & Resource Management



President Rush receives a plaque from President's Scholars alumni at the tribute event.



“I can’t imagine anyone doing the job as well and with as much caring and interest in the students, faculty and staff. You created a wonderful university that I am proud to be a graduate of.”

—Erika Butler-Ronchietto, CI alum and The Learningden Preschool Owner/Administrator

University mascot, Ekho, along with President Rush and his wife, Jane, and Chief of Staff Genevieve Evans Taylor, participate in the Ventura County Food Share Can Tree Drive.

“I thought maybe this is where I’m supposed to be—in administration,” he said.

CAMPUS CREATOR

IN 1984, SAN DIEGO STATE PRESIDENT THOMAS DAY asked Rush to help build the university’s satellite North County campus as its director and dean. Subsequently, during the transition from San Diego State to Cal State San Marcos, he was appointed Vice President-In-Charge. Rush laid the groundwork for San Diego State North County to become the 21st and newest CSU campus—the first in more than two decades—as San Marcos’ Executive Vice President.

“It was a huge risk because it had never been done before, so there was no model to follow,” Smith said. “He was the creator. He had a profound impact on San Diego State University and the entire California State University system.”

THE PEOPLE’S PRESIDENT

IN 1992, MANKATO STATE University in Minnesota asked

Rush to interview for a job as president. He “interviewed as a courtesy” and landed the job. During his nine-year tenure, Rush repositioned the campus as a dominant statewide university, changing its name to Minnesota State University, Mankato. He set fundraising records, instituted wireless campus initiatives and oversaw construction of MSU’s black box theatre and sports arenas, among other legendary accomplishments.

Rush also earned a reputation as “the people’s president” for regularly circulating among the university’s 12,000 students. He spent the first week of



Raudel Bañuelos, a tribal member of The Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians and CI’s Director of Facilities Support, presents to President Rush a handmade clapperstick, also known as a wansak’.

each fall living in the residence halls, where he stayed up late talking with students and participating in pranks. He once was written up for making too much noise with students during quiet time.

“Everyone loved having Dick Rush on campus,” said MSU alumnus Tim Huebsch, Global Business Solutions Manager at General Mills, who considers Rush a lifelong friend and mentor. “He demonstrates servant leadership better than anyone I know. People always smiled when they saw him walking across campus.”

HOME AT LAST

IN 2001, RUSH WAS CALLED BACK TO CALIFORNIA TO be founding president of the CSU system’s 23rd and newest campus. He embraced the familiar task of building a start-up university, transforming the former Camarillo State Hospital to welcome students as CSU Channel Islands in fall 2002, defining its vision and master plans, and hiring a team committed to make students the center of the educational experience.

“It’s staggering to think back to those early days and look at all he’s done,” said Ted Lucas, who worked alongside Rush as Chief of Staff, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. “Dick Rush is an unstoppable force for good. He had a vision from Day One that CI would become a beacon of opportunity for Ventura County. He rallied everyone behind that vision and never quit.

“In CI, he has built more than an institution. He’s created an enduring, innovative and impassioned community.”

“Thank you President Rush — CI and Ventura County are better because of your leadership and foresight! You have left a lasting imprint on all of our lives. CI is truly ‘our’ university!”

– Hank & Leah Lacayo

Rush personally interviewed more than 800 faculty candidates to build academic programs supporting 25 undergraduate majors, six master’s degrees and a doctorate. Partnering with business and community leaders, he expanded opportunities for students to become key contributors to the region’s workforce and prosperity. Under his leadership, CI’s campus doubled in size, completed \$233 million in buildings and renovations, awarded more than 10,000 degrees, and drew national acclaim for its people and programs.

“President Rush will forever be memorialized for his role in establishing and building the reputation of our newest campus,” said CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White. “He is leaving a lasting and living legacy of academic excellence that has not only made CI the campus of choice for graduating high school seniors



Provost Gayle Hutchinson, President Rush and former Chief of Staff Therese Eyermann serving it up.



President Rush was named an honorary alum of the Class of 2016.

“You have been an amazing force for good!”

—Lynda Weinman, Lynda.com

When he tells us it’s ‘Your University,’ he means it.”

As Rush retires, he leaves CI 2025, an award-winning, comprehensive vision plan that frames CI’s strategic, fiscal and physical growth for the next decade to accommodate more than 10,000 students.

PARTNER IN PROGRESS

WHEN DISCUSSING RUSH’S LEGACY, CI CONSTITUENTS unequivocally identify his wife, Jane, as an influence on the University’s success. A retired professional fundraiser and former head of development for CSU San Marcos, Jane was a committed champion for CI as its first lady.

“In a very real way, Jane is a founder of CSU Channel Islands,” said Nichole Ipach, Vice President for University Advancement. “Although some might not see the work that she does quietly and passionately to serve our students, she truly is a force that has created this institution. She volunteers her time and talents with a passion and dedication equal to those who work for the University.”

Jane’s volunteer efforts were instrumental in founding the University’s Planned Giving program, which has secured approximately \$10 million in commitments for academic programs and scholarships. She also has served as chair of the President’s Dinner, an event that, under her leadership from 2012 to 2015, produced net proceeds totaling more than \$560,000 to support the campus and its students.

The couple’s support of CI won’t end with Dick

and community college transfer students in Ventura County but also across the state.”

Rush earned those triumphs against a grim economic backdrop. Seven years into his presidency, the Great Recession triggered significant cuts in funding for the CSU and growth plans for CI. Marshalling CI’s entrepreneurial spirit, Rush led the campus to raise nearly \$49 million in donations, more than \$42.5 million for externally sponsored projects, and multiple public-private partnerships to advance programs and facilities, including CI’s Nursing program with Cottage Health System, the Santa Rosa Island Research Station with Channel Islands National Park and CI’s revenue-generating University Glen Corp.

“Dick’s entrepreneurial vision is way ahead of its time in higher education,” said George Leis, Union Bank’s head of private banking and chair of CI’s Foundation Board. “He has built CI as a model of public-private partnership and makes everyone he meets enthusiastic participants in its success.



President and Jane Rush with Chris Botti and John Ryan, President & CEO of Rabobank, at the President’s Dinner & Concert.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of Sierra Hall in 2015.

Rush's retirement. Both Dick and Jane treasure deep connections to an extended family of CI students, alumni, employees, community partners and benefactors that will endure for a lifetime.

"People tell us, 'You guys are so busy, I won't call you,'" Jane said. "But we're both extroverts and we won't have a big, busy calendar in retirement. We hope people stay in touch. They enrich our lives, plus they're a lot of fun."

FOREVER A DOLPHIN

FONDLY NICKNAMED "P. RUSH"—ANALOGOUS TO P. Diddy—by students, Rush is admired for his charisma as much as his competence. He seizes opportunities to mingle, whether it's dining with students at Islands Café, hobnobbing at the Student Union or holding Pizza with the President. Never one to take himself too seriously, he gamely dons a chef's uniform to serve up grub at the staff and faculty barbecue or rock-star regalia for a Beatles-themed fundraiser.

"I learned so much about leadership from his example," said Student Government President Monique Reyna. "His approach is: 'We're here to serve you. What are your needs?'"

"He's genuine in his care for the students and their educational experience," said Shawn Mulchay, a 2008 graduate. "He only needs to meet students once to remember their names and greets them by name when

passing in the hall. Always accessible. Always visible. Always curious as to students' thoughts and well-being."

Rush's retirement has elicited an outpouring of heartfelt wishes, such as one posted to his farewell website by 2014 graduate David Duran: "I will always remain proud of attending and graduating from CI. It was quickly evident to me that your genuine concern and leadership attracted only the best in administrators, educators and staff. Please know you will never be replaced; instead, you will forever be remembered as the positive light that led the way to establish and grow a university that sparked active change for the betterment of society."

Such expressions of gratitude leave Rush visibly moved and at an uncharacteristic loss for words.

"I've never really thought about myself in those terms," he said. "I often tell the faculty and staff they are leading significant lives because they are helping other people change theirs. When someone looks you in the eye and says, 'Thank you, you changed my life,' I find that deeply affecting." ♦C

► Visit farewellrush.csuci.edu to read fun facts, quotes, and view videos from the Tribute Dinner in honor of President Rush.

BRINGING CI to Life



By Janet Herin

WHEN RICHARD R. RUSH ASSUMED THE ROLE OF founding president for CI, he knew he was in for a great adventure.

The challenge was formidable: start a public university from scratch with minimal state funding and inadequate facilities. It included renovating dilapidated buildings—a daunting task in and of itself. However, this was just the beginning. President Rush knew he would take on much more.

He wanted to create a new type of university—one that would address the community's deepest needs, embrace and nurture each student on his or her academic journey, and model values associated with respect, diversity and public service. These elements are the foundation of CI's mission pillars and will remain part of the University forever.

The milestones included here represent only a fraction of CI's many accomplishments. Chief among them is accreditation. CI received rapid accreditation and reaccreditation for the maximum periods—a strong show of confidence in a young university. Not included among the milestones are President Rush's many awards. The ones that touch him most are being named Statewide President of the Year twice by the California State Student Association and receiving honorary membership in CI's Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society.

President Rush leaves an indelible mark—from his dedication to putting students first, supporting underserved populations, and striving for innovation to his direct participation in hiring faculty and staff, and his role in building partnerships that facilitated expansion and prosperity. The newest campus in the CSU system, CI is the nation's fastest-growing public university, offering degrees up to a master's, and recently received accreditation for its first doctoral program in educational leadership.

That said, President Rush is quick to credit those around him. "I am awed by the accomplishments of our students, the dedication of our faculty and administrative staff, and the support of our community," he said. "It has been my honor to serve with you."

2001 Richard R. Rush assumes his duties as university president and hires the first 13 planning faculty members

2002 Academic Master Plan approved

Inauguration ceremonies held for President Rush

Opening ceremonies held for the University and first 250 transfer students begin classes

2003 Inaugural Commencement ceremony with three graduates

Inaugural freshmen begin classes

Grand opening/dedication of new science building, Aliso Hall

2004 Undergraduate degrees approved in Chemistry, Economics, History, and Psychology; Master's degrees approved in Biotechnology/Bioinformatics, Business and Education

Grand opening/dedication of Anacapa Village, first on-campus student housing

2005 First honorary doctorate degrees presented to John Spoor Broome and Robert J. Lagomarsino

Groundbreaking ceremony for the John Spoor Broome Library

2006 Naming of first school: the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics

First group of master's students graduates

Prop 1D is approved, allocating \$62 million for campus improvement projects



2007 Inaugural freshman class graduates

WASC accreditation granted for the maximum of seven years

Grand opening/dedication of student on-campus housing, Santa Cruz Village

Nursing program launches with first 66 students

2008 Grand opening/dedication of the John Spoor Broome Library

Land swap agreement adds another 153 acres to the University

2009 Grand opening/dedication of the Martin V. Smith Center for Integrative Decision-Making

County of Ventura transfers 360 acres of adjacent land to the University

CI introduces new formal and spirit logos

2010 Launch of the California Institute for Social Business

Grand opening/dedication of new Student Union

U.S. Department of Education designates CI as a Hispanic Serving Institution

CI named "Great College to Work For" by The Chronicle of Higher Education

Groundbreaking ceremony for Del Norte & Madera Halls

Launch of the Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute for Workforce & Community Studies

Groundbreaking ceremony for new entrance road

2011 Launch of the Institute for Global Economic Research

WASC approves undergraduate and graduate business degree programs in Santa Barbara

Honorary doctorate degree presented to Jack O'Connell

Robert J. Lagomarsino Award presented to Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation and Smith Family

CI awarded a \$6 million federal grant to encourage students in science and math

2012 University celebrates 10th anniversary

CI establishes partnership with National Park Service for Undergraduate Research Station on Santa Rosa Island

CI and Cottage Hospital launch Santa Barbara County's first bachelor's degree in nursing program

Dedication of new entrance road, University Drive

Honorary doctorate degrees presented to Hank Lacayo and Kathy Ireland

2013 Arbor Day Foundation honors CI with "Tree Campus USA" designation

CI receives keys to Channel Islands Boating Center

Springs Fire prompts campus evacuation and two-day closure

Honorary doctorate degree presented to Ronald Reagan biographer Lou Cannon

2014 Groundbreaking ceremony held for new science/lab facility, Sierra Hall

Washington Monthly recognizes CI as a top "Bang for the Buck" university

CI breaks ground on Santa Rosa Village, student housing facility

University's Four Mission Pillars Mortar Board honor society earns national award

2015 CI receives WASC reaccreditation for nine additional years and approval for first doctoral program (Educational Leadership)

President Rush signs American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, and CI is named a STARS Gold Institution by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

CI makes President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for fifth consecutive year

Honorary doctorate degree presented to William Kearney.

Grand opening/dedication of Sierra Hall, a three-story, 68,000 square-foot science building

2016 CI receives \$3.05 million from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine to fund graduate student internships

CI's 2025 Vision Plan earns the American Association of University Administrators John L. Blackburn Award



A fond farewell

By Kim Lamb Gregory

THE 900 GUESTS WHO ATTENDED A FAREWELL dinner in honor of President Richard R. Rush saw poignant, humorous and sometimes tearful testimonies about the lives he has touched while building CI from the ground up.

“A Farewell Dinner Honoring the Presidency of Richard R. Rush” was held April 9 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in the two-tiered Air Force One Pavilion ballroom.

The glittering, black-tie event included a cocktail tour, an invitation to tour Air Force One, a four-star, three-course meal, musical performances, dancing and a presentation that left the guest of honor, in his own words, “overwhelmed.”

Tribute videos offered thanks from everyone from Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Stan Mantooth to Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin to Ventura County Community College District Chancellor Bernie Luskin.

Director of the Ventura County Office of Education Special Populations Educational Support Department Joe Mendoza thanked Rush for his sense of inclusion.

“I work with foster youth, migrant, homeless, farmworker’s youth and teen parents,” Mendoza said. “You opened the door to your university and welcomed them and allowed them to see that they indeed can dream about and work toward a university education.”

Ron Werft, Chief Executive Officer for Cottage Health System in Goleta, spoke about how CI worked in partnership with Cottage Health to offer CI’s first bachelor’s degree in nursing.

Bishop Broderick Huggins, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, expressed his appreciation for how

involved President Rush has been with the Oxnard church. Through its partnership with CI, St. Paul’s has been able to offer a free health clinic, a free clothing “Street Store” and other services for those who live around the Oxnard church annex, many of whom are homeless, drug-addicted or low income.

When Rush took the stage to a standing ovation, he offered his deep appreciation to all who spoke and to all of those present, then reminded everyone that the entire community is responsible for what has become a jewel in the crown of the CSU.

“It’s never been about me, it’s always been about us,” he said. “Because no one ever does anything as significant as creating a university by himself or herself.”

Rush thanked the legislators who cleared the way to create a four-year public university in Ventura County and CI President Emeritus J. Handel Evans, who arranged to have the University built on the grounds of the former Camarillo State Hospital, opening up the world of public higher education to Ventura County.

“It was an opportunity to serve an underserved population that had no horizon beyond the lowest,” Rush said. “What it really meant was, we could be the gateway to people’s hopes.”

He thanked his wife, Jane, and his family members, who were present for the ceremony. He then recalled that day almost 15 years ago when former CSU Chancellor Charles Reed asked Rush to create a new university.

To express what the last 15 years have meant to him, Rush summoned words from the poet Robert Frost, who wrote:

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” ♦C

Riding a wave of success

Channel Islands Boating Center Watersports Camp celebrates 10 years

By Marya Jones Barlow

EACH SUMMER, CI SENIOR LESLIE Garcia eagerly returns to be an instructor at the Channel Islands Boating Center (CIBC) Watersports Camp, where she shares her passion for boating and water safety with hundreds of children.

"I love introducing kids to the magic of the water, being outdoors, and giving them a fun and safe environment to escape to," said Garcia, one of 12 CI students who serve as instructors. "These are just a few of the reasons why I come back year after year."

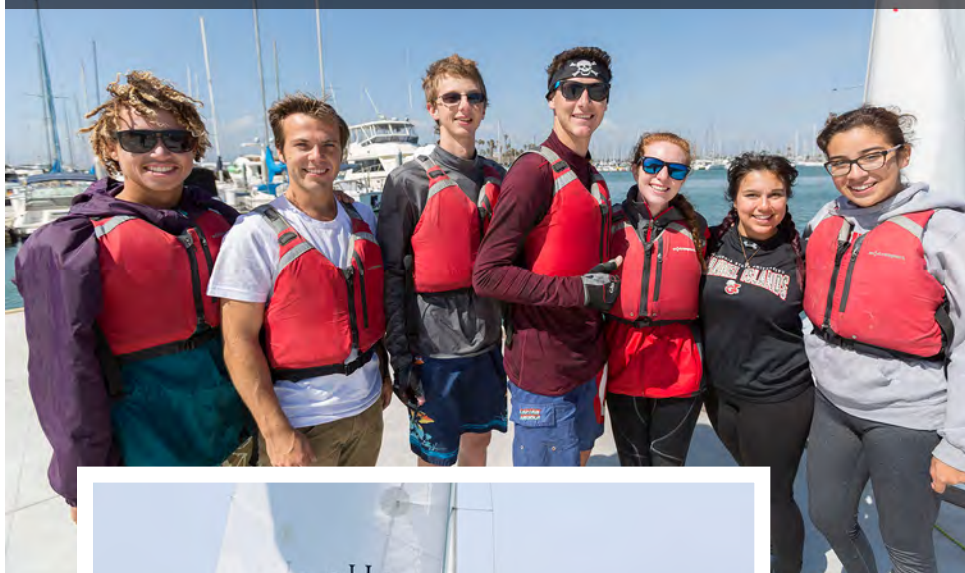
This year marks the 10th anniversary of CIBC Watersports Camp—and Garcia's third year as a kayaking instructor. Over the past decade, the camp has grown in scope and popularity. This summer it will welcome 225 children for professionally certified instruction in sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding, along with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics activities that introduce students to marine life and ocean literacy. It also will include weekly visits to the Channel Islands Maritime Museum and Oxnard College Marine Center and Aquarium. Each Friday, families are invited to Family Day at the Docks, where campers demonstrate their new skills.

"Many of our campers live only a few miles from the beach but have never been on the water before," said Josh Wade, CI's Assistant Director of Campus Recreation, who has led the summer programs for the past decade. "It's always amazing to see their transformation into confident, competent boaters."

The one- and two-week day camps run from June 20 through Aug. 5 and are open to youth ages 8 to 16. More than half of all participants receive a full scholarship, generously funded by a grant from the California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways. Instructors are certified in CPR, first aid and lifeguarding through the American Red Cross and safe-boat handling through California's Division of Boating and Waterways.

In addition to the Watersports Camp, CIBC offers year-round instructional activities for Ventura County residents and CI faculty, staff and students, including sailing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding. CIBC also provides free classroom and water-based educational programming to area schools, nonprofits and community groups.

CI student instructors at the Channel Islands Boating Center.



Wade attributes the CIBC's growth as a recognized resource for watersport recreation and safety education to a supportive network of community partners, including the Division of Boating and Waterways, Ventura County, Oxnard School District, Oxnard College, Channel Islands Maritime Museum and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Being part of CSU Channel Islands and having the opportunity to educate and empower hundreds of participants to become stewards of safe boating every year through the CIBC is an incredible honor," Wade said. "Our 10-year anniversary is a testament to a shared vision in Ventura County to provide access and educational opportunities for our youth. Without these partnerships and the community supporting the Watersports Camp, this milestone would not be possible."

Visit go.csuci.edu/watersports ♦ c



CI celebrates Commencement 2016

CI CELEBRATED ITS 14TH COMMENCEMENT WITH two ceremonies honoring its largest graduating class on Saturday, May 21. More than 15,000 parents, families and friends cheered for approximately 2,200 students who received bachelor's, master's or teaching credentials during the morning and afternoon ceremonies.

CSU Executive Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Framroze Virjee, President Rush and graduating ASI Student Government President Monique Reyna provided remarks. During the morning ceremony, Mark S. Lisagor received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters and during the afternoon ceremony, Monique Reyna named President Rush as an honorary alum of the class of 2016. Sara Miller McCune received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters during the SAGE Student Research Conference held on May 14.

Elizabeth Rubalcava, Director of Advancement Special Projects, was the honored staff member selected to ring the Navy ship bell during the morning ceremony to signal the beginning of Commencement, and Melissa J. Remotti, Director of Special Projects & Operations in the President's Office, was the honored staff member selected to ring the Navy ship bell during the afternoon ceremony. Dennis Muraoka, Professor of Economics, led the procession by carrying the Light of Learning. ♦C

Visit go.csuci.edu/youtube





\$3 million grant enables new stem cell research

By Kim Lamb Gregory

CI GRADUATE STUDENTS PURSUING A MASTER'S degree in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics have a chance to conduct research in the cutting-edge field of stem cell sciences thanks to a more than \$3 million grant from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM).

The \$3.05 million grant will fund 10 paid internships each year for the next five years. Interns will spend the year doing stem cell research at a premier center like Cedars-Sinai, Stanford University, City of Hope, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Scripps Institute, Salk Institute and several schools in the University of California system, to name just some of 17 cooperating institutions.

Many graduate students who attended a Biotechnology and Bioinformatics mixer on Feb. 25 at the Sterling Hills Golf Club in Camarillo were eager to find out more about the internships.

Biotechnology and Bioinformatics graduate student Yogendra Verma, 23, was among several at the mixer who say they plan to apply for an internship. "My father has a pharmaceutical business in India that he wants to expand to include regenerative medicine," said Verma, who hopes to work at Stanford if he wins an internship.

✦ "By far, the greatest promise revolves around customizing medicine for each patient individually. Researchers can already take cells from patients' skin tissues and ✦ convert them to stem cells." —James Dunn

The roughly 70 students and faculty who attended the mixer heard a presentation from Dennis Clegg, Ph.D., Founder and Co-Director of the UC Santa Barbara Center for Stem Cell Biology and Engineering. Clegg is conducting promising research into stem cell therapies to treat age-related macular degeneration and other diseases of the eye.

CI's grant is part of a larger \$40.13 million grant from CIRM called the Bridges to Stem Cell Research and Therapy Awards Program. The program is open to California universities or colleges that do not have a major stem cell research program.

Associate Professor of Biology Nitika Parmar, Ph.D., oversees the Master's in Biotechnology

and Bioinformatics degree program at CI. Parmar explained that a stem cell is a "blank slate" cell that can be coaxed to become any kind of cell — pancreatic, spinal, skin, blood, etc.

"Stem cell therapy holds much promise in the future for a variety of diseases including cancer, neurodegenerative and autoimmune diseases as well as diabetes," Parmar said. "But this promise must be taken with a cautionary note as most stem cell therapies are at an early stage of research and development."

Although we are years away from widespread use of stem cell therapies, stem cell research is a critical pathway to proving that they are safe and effective, she said.

The President and CEO of CIRM, C. Randal Mills, Ph.D., said the goal of the Bridges program is about creating a generation of stem cell scientists. "It's not just a matter of giving them money, but also of giving them good mentors who can help train and guide them, of giving them meaningful engagement with patients and patient advocates, so they have a clear vision of the impact the work they are doing can have on people's lives," Mills said.

CI received two smaller grants from CIRM in 2009 and 2012 to help students pursue year-long internships with one of more than 150 different research laboratories at 10 research institutions.

Biotechnology and Bioinformatics graduate student James Dunn is among the students who is currently doing an internship at Cedars-Sinai, funded by the 2012 grant. The Simi Valley native has been researching how stem cells can help treat or maybe someday cure a neurodegenerative disorder called Huntington's disease.

"By far, the greatest promise revolves around customizing medicine for each patient individually," Dunn said. "Researchers can already take cells from patients' skin tissues and convert them to stem cells. From there, they can be grown, manipulated or corrected for a disorder and then be planted back into the donor patient to treat an illness or repair tissues."

Dunn plans to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular biology and continue working in this ground-breaking field of research. ♦C

Alejandra Castellanos, '15 B.A. Spanish

Step by step

By Zoe Lance

WHEN ALEJANDRA CASTELLANOS TOLD STEPHEN Clark, a CI Spanish professor, that she wanted to be a high school teacher, he told her to aim a little higher. From then on, when Castellanos saw Clark on campus, he'd call her Dr. Castellanos.

"He was the first one who told me that I possess the capabilities to be a university professor and get a Ph.D.," she says. "I was like, 'Really?' I didn't think about it."

Castellanos, who graduated in 2015 with a degree in Spanish, is on her way to becoming a professor. In the fall, she'll enroll in the Spanish literature doctoral program at the University of California, Irvine. While in the program, she wants to cultivate a deeper devotion to contemporary Latin American literature.

The steps leading up to this moment haven't always been easy. Castellanos grew up in Mexico and spent time teaching kindergarten and first grade in Oaxaca. She's always been in love with Spanish literature and remembers reading her first great book at 15 years old: Gabriel García Márquez's *"One Hundred Years of Solitude."*

"I love reading, and I am a writer," she said. "I love to share Latin American writers with everybody. I like the imagination, the creativity, the style and, of course, the way they portray Latin American society."

When she was an adult, her husband moved to the United States to make a better life for their family. Several years later, Castellanos and her son reunited with him in Oxnard. She started from scratch, learning English at an adult school and taking community college classes to transfer. Finally, she landed at CI to study Spanish—all with her family's encouragement. The support from Spanish professors like Clark, Antonio Jiménez-Jiménez and Margarita López-López pushed her to do her best.

"Every step for me was hard, because of my English,"

❖❖❖ "My success at school is not only my work; it's also the work of other people."
❖❖❖ —Alejandra Castellanos

she said. "But I had a lot of support. Sometimes I think people stop doing things because they are afraid. I was—I am. But I'm working on it."

As a student, she presented her literary research at conferences and helped establish a Hispanic honor society at CI. She also was a founding editor



of *"El Canto de los Delfines"*, a Spanish language journal for CI students. She recently received an award for her exceptional student leadership from El Concilio Family Services, an Oxnard nonprofit that provides immigration and citizenship resources to agricultural workers.

"Alejandra is one of the most motivated and dedicated students I have ever had," said Jiménez-Jiménez, who also is the program chair. "She enjoys learning and she strives for excellence in everything she does."

To Castellanos, the faculty's conviction in her success was priceless. It's a feeling she hopes to pass on to her future students.

"I have had a lot of support from teachers, administrators, staff and my husband," she says. "My success at school is not only my work; it's also the work of other people." ❖C

Dan Glassman,
'10 B.A. Business,
Economics '12 MBA

Window to success

By Marya Jones Barlow

IF YOU BELIEVE IN DESTINY, then Dan Glassman's future was foretold the moment he got his name.

After founding The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company at the age of 19, Glassman took his business to the next level with the help of three degrees from CI.

"Starting my business young, before I reached CI, put me in a unique position," he said. "I was able to relate very well to what I learned in school and apply the ideas and solutions I learned immediately."

Today Glassman's company serves more than 500 residential and commercial clients in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Over the past 11 years, he's increased sales, revenues and staff while maintaining a hands-on, personal approach to his work. Though he oversees every aspect of his growing business—from sales and marketing to human resources, payroll and training—he remains active in the physical work of window washing.

❖ "The difference between a Harvard MBA and a CI MBA is just the name and the price tag." —Dan Glassman

"My office is my truck where I am on job sites five to six days a week, working with employees, communicating with clients and providing services," he said.

Glassman fell into his profession by happenstance. In 2004, while working his way through Ventura College, he took a job as a window cleaner, but quickly became frustrated with the way he saw clients being treated.

"The company was so focused on volume and money that its work quality and client relationships were suffering," he said. "By 2005, I understood there was a need for better service in the window washing



Photo by Chris Zsarnay-Z Studios

business. I also understood that I did not want to work for someone. I wanted to build a business and pay myself first."

Glassman enrolled in CI and proceeded to grow his company while double-majoring in Business and Economics. Energized by his undergraduate experience, he went on to earn an MBA in CI's program for working professionals.

"The difference between a Harvard MBA and a CI MBA is just the name and the price tag," he said. "My goal was to utilize my MBA to better my business; not to put it on a resume. I benefited from outstanding professors without the need to travel far."

He also discovered a passion for merging business goals with philanthropy. Glassman joined 1% for the Planet in 2010, and donates 1 percent of all gross revenues to environmental causes.

Glassman maintains ties to CI as a member of the CI Founders group, a professional networking group for business leaders and entrepreneurs. He also enjoys rock-climbing California's 14,000+-foot peaks, competing on the Ventura Water Polo Club's Masters team and tackling adventures in the backcountry and overseas. He has visited Israel 11 times and leads Birthright Israel trips that connect Jewish youth from the U.S. with Israeli culture and heritage. Earlier this year, he took a self-guided solo safari through Botswana.

Glassman's current focus is growing The Glass Man while maintaining its solid ethic and quality, and working as a consultant to help other small businesses.

"Dream big and get started," he said. "I saw an opportunity through window washing to make a difference and set an example of how a business should be run. Nothing is impossible, but you will have to work for it." ❖C

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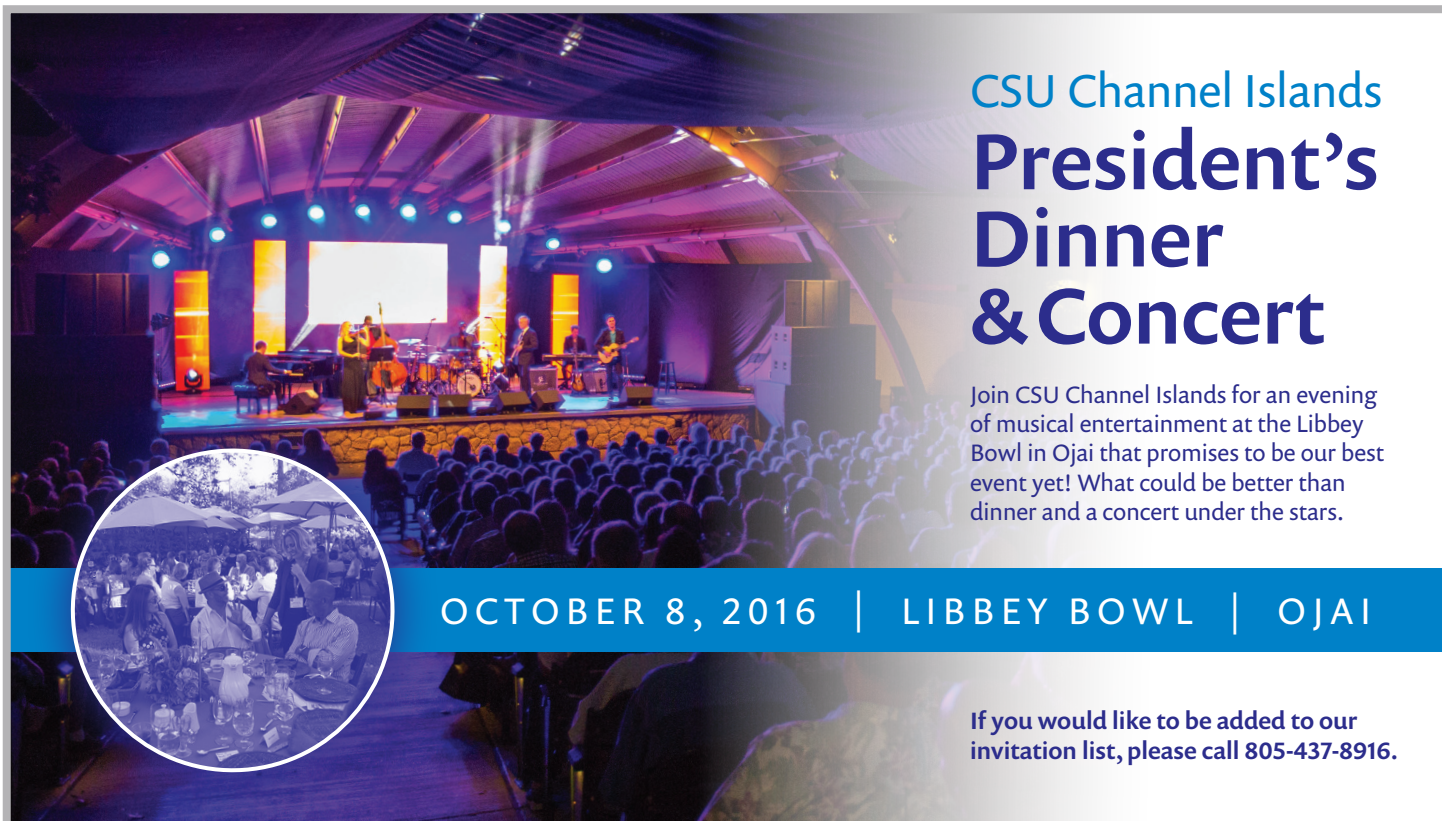
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If you would like to be added to our invitation list, please call 805-437-8916.

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go.csuci.edu/boating

Fall Semester Series: **LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES**
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Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics SPEAKERS SERIES
business.csuci.edu/events



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Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016

1:10 p.m. Game • Dodger Stadium

PURCHASE TICKETS: go.csuci.edu/DodgerDay

Price Includes FREE Metrolink Transportation from Simi Valley Station

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