Calendar of Events

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

July 16-17, 21-22, 24-25, 29-30, Aug. 1-2 - Island View Orientation for freshmen

August 11 and 21 - Island View Orientation for transfer students

August 23 - First Saturday classes begin

August 25 - First Day of fall semester classes

Sept. 20 - Fifth Annual Alumni Dodger Night

Oct. 4 - President’s Dinner
This year the President’s Dinner will return to campus at the John Spoor Broome Library.

Nov. 3 - Third Annual Dolphin Classic Golf Tournament at Spanish Hills Country Club

Nov. 14 - Campus Reading Celebration
Southland author Nina Revoyr will be on campus.

Dec 4 - Business & Technology Partnership
Sixth Annual Holiday Mixer – Aliso Hall

Fieldwork With Fish

Students studying ichthyology in the Biology 450 course at CSUCI had the opportunity to visit Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, to do fieldwork during the spring semester. The students and their instructor, Steven M. Norris, Lecturer in Biology, sampled the tidal habitats on the Base for fish diversity. The partnership between NBVC and the University provides students field experience in a unique habitat.
An Academic Year of Celebrations

At California State University Channel Islands—and at campuses throughout our nation—each academic year concludes with a Commencement ceremony that is the culmination of the academic successes students have met and the challenges they have surmounted. This year, I personally congratulated more than 600 CSUCI students as they marched across the stage during one of our largest ceremonies to date. Many of our students are going on to graduate school or entering the workforce with the acquired tools of knowledge, teamwork, civic engagement, and mutual respect for all people, in order to succeed in today’s changing world.

Even though Commencement is the grand finale of the academic year, it was not the only celebration that took place recently on the campus. In April, we officially dedicated and opened the magnificent John Spoor Broome Library with a ceremony that included hundreds from the campus and local communities. CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed, Jack Broome, and representatives from the world-renowned architects, Foster+Partners, were among the many who attended to mark this historic day.

As you will read in the pages that follow, we also celebrated our students’ work and the innovative research and achievements of faculty during the successful President’s Annual Celebration of Excellence activities. Other noteworthy articles include recognition of University administrators, embarking upon extensive campus infrastructure improvements, and the continued generosity of the Bernard Osher Foundation for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute programs as well as scholarships for our community college transfer students.

It was indeed an exciting and joyful academic year and we look forward to the fall semester and the harbinger of another year of celebrations and success at California State University Channel Islands!

Sincerely yours,

Richard R. Rush
President

Alumni Notes

Scott Walker (’04 CSU CI Sociology) is a Specialist with Casa Pacifica’s TBS Program. His degree and work experiences have helped him advance from an entry level position to an Assistant Supervisor position in a short amount of time. Walker has two more semesters remaining to complete his master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from California State University, Northridge.

Andrea Graehl (’06 Business) is a staff accountant at Soares, Sandall, Bernacchi, & Petrovich, LLP, a local Oxnard accounting firm. She is currently working on obtaining her CPA license and plans to pursue a master’s degree in either Taxation or Accounting. In the fall, Graehl became a “Big Sister” (Big Brothers Big Sisters) to a 15-year-old girl who lives in a group home. Graehl also participates in high school career fairs and teaching financial literacy concepts to elementary school students.

Cristine C. Lee (’06 Biology) is currently a doctoral candidate at the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Department at UCSD. She has joined Dr. Peggy Cotter’s lab, where she is characterizing the expression, maturation and cellular localization of the Burkholderia pseudomallei (CDC category B agent) TPS- and AT-like proteins as well as their potential roles in adherence, immunomodulation, and other aspects of B. pseudomallei pathogenesis.

Alumni volunteers from the CSUCI Alumni & Friends Association and the office of Alumni Relations hosted the alumni booth at this year’s Commencement ceremony. Complimentary license plate frames were provided to all graduates and class t-shirts listing all graduates’ names were available for sale. Many events, such as Commencement, rely upon the support of volunteers for their success. This year’s team of alumni volunteers included: Lyndsay Maas (MBA ’06), Alexia Bennett-Bouyett (Liberal Studies ’04), Rudy Cortez (Business ’05), Tom Fronleich (Business ’05), and Marie Graves (Biology ’06).

This summer discounts are available on tickets to Wicked, Broadway’s biggest blockbuster. The Los Angeles Times calls Wicked “a phenomenon that keeps growing” and says “the witchcraft is as fresh as ever.” Orchestra seats are available to selected performances on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings in June and July. Supply is limited and will sell out. The discount is open to all members of the Alumni & Friends Association. Look for monthly email updates for more details on dates and shows available or call Alumni Relations at 805-437-8952.

Benefits of Membership

Alumni & Friends Association members receive many discounts on attractions and activities throughout Southern California. Benefits include discounts on theme park admission through the A&FA partnership with Recreation Connection, and discounts through local Dolphin Discount vendors.
Lindsay Smith (formerly LaBacheler) earned her degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in education in 2004. Like many CSUCI graduates, she’s chosen a career that has given her the opportunity to stay in Ventura County. Take a few minutes to read about Lindsay Smith.

What do you do?
I currently work for the Ventura County Community Foundation as the Donor Relations Officer. I was promoted to that position after working at the Community Foundation for a year as a Program Assistant.

How has your degree helped?
I feel that I really received a well rounded education at CSUCI, and that contributes immensely to the person that I am today. Without my degree I would never be where I am professionally. I feel like my experience at CSUCI made me more confident as a person especially as a woman in the workplace.

Why CSUCI?
I chose CSUCI because it was close to home. I lived in Ventura and didn’t want to commute to Northridge everyday, which is where I was enrolled for my first semester. During that semester I took the extension classes that were held on the CSUCI campus, and I absolutely loved it. The campus was amazing and I felt almost like I was at a private university. The classes were small, and you knew most everyone that you passed in the halls. It was a very warm and friendly environment.

How do you stay connected with CSUCI?
I’m a member of the Alumni & Friends Association!

Family and fun?
I am very busy outside of work raising my 21-month-old son. My hobbies include spending as much time with my family as possible. We love to go swimming, camping, and having family barbecues.

ALWAYS ROOM FOR FRIENDS

Over the years, Cal State University Channel Islands has been the beneficiary of tremendous community support. With the assistance of local donors like Jack Broome and the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation, to the many supportive efforts of local businesses, the surrounding community has embraced the University. The CSUCI Alumni & Friends Association is no different.

When the Association began, it was the Friends who helped support the organization in its efforts to provide for graduates. Today, many Friends have supported alumni through mentorship and membership. This year there are a couple initiatives to help build membership among the Friends portion of the Association. During the summer months the campus community has been invited to participate in a friendly Campus Competition to recruit new Friends into the Association. The Competition began on June 4 and will close on Aug. 15.

Current efforts with alumni ambassadors and special efforts by the Alumni & Friends Associations’ Board of Directors are also helping to bring more Friends into the Association. Friend members receive invitations to University events and activities, have the opportunity to meet faculty, staff, alumni and students, and receive several benefits to local and southern California vendors, theme parks, and events. Among the many benefits are discounts to the OSHER Lifelong Learning program, additional services at the John Spoor Broome Library, and ticket discounts for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Friends are not only receiving great benefits for their membership, but are also supporting the students and graduates of the University. All membership fees support alumni programming, events, and operations. It is with the support of the community that the Alumni Networking Night, Dodger Night, and Alumni Speaker Series are made possible.

To join the Alumni & Friends Association or to learn more, visit www.csuci.edu/alumni or call 805-437-8992.

Building the University … 14-15

Advancement The University … 14-15
New Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, President’s ACE
New Academic Programs
Chicana/o Studies, Applied Physics added
President’s Dinner
Student Entrepreneurs
Two CI Students Combine Business with School
Hand Talk
Meet Alumna Lindsay Smith; Calling All Friends
OLLI at CSUCI Receives $1 M; President’s Dinner
advancing the University … 14-15
advancing

Table of Contents
news … 2-4
New Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, President’s ACE
Happenings, Kudos
John Spoor Broome Library Opens
features … 5-13
New Academic Programs
Chicana/o Studies, Applied Physics added
Faces in the Crowd..........................6-7
Class of 2008 Graduates Share CSUCI Experiences
Commencement..................................8-9
Commencement the CI Way
Student Entrepreneurs........................10-11
Two CI Students Combine Business with School
Hand Talk.........................................12-13
Meet Alumna Lindsay Smith; Calling All Friends

Cover:
Students demonstrate their research during the Celebration of Student Research event, which was part of the President’s Annual Celebration of Excellence.

CSUCI 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.
OLLI at CSUCI Receives $1 Million Endowment

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSUCI is the recipient of a $1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation that will become available in summer 2009. The endowment is based on a combination of program quality, sustainability, University support, and size of membership.

“The Osher Foundation has been very generous in supporting opportunities for people over 50 years of age throughout the country, and we are grateful for being accepted as part of the Osher family. We are at the same time proud to have been selected for this endowment based on their rigorous and exclusive standards,” said Marty Kaplan, Director of OLLI at CSUCI.

CSUCI Benefits from Endowment to CSU

CSUCI was also announced as the recipient of a $1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The Bernard Osher Foundation committed $16 million to scholarships for students transferring from state community colleges to 15 of the 23 California State University campuses as part of the Foundation’s overall $70 million private donation to the state’s community college system. The $16 million endowment was made to the California State University Foundation, and then distributed to campuses that have a large number of transfer students enrolled.

Approximately 60 percent of all California State University students transfer from a state community college, and the endowment will provide $2,500 individual scholarships for hundreds of students to be used for fees, books or living expenses.

Scholarships, Leadership Awards Presented at Annual B&TP Leadership Dinner

Eight individuals were honored at the 2008 Business & Technology Partnership Leadership Dinner. Among them were five students who were each awarded a $5,000 scholarship for their pursuit of business or technology related majors. Three individuals were leaders from the community who were recognized for their contributions to the advancement of business and technology in this region. Approximately 60 percent of all California State University students transfer from a state community college, and the endowment will provide $2,500 individual scholarships for hundreds of students to be used for fees, books or living expenses.

New Provost and VP for Academic Affairs Arrives in July

Dennis S. Neuman will join the campus as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in July. He succeeds Theodore Lucas, who will transition to liaison responsibilities with the statewide Community Colleges for the CSU Chancellor’s Office. In her new role, Neuman will provide leadership for the academic path of the University, direct and coordinate all aspects of academic programs, participate in strategic University planning, and provide constructive assessment towards continuous improvement. She will also be responsible for effective use of fiscal resources, and will play a strong role in garnering support for academic programs through development and advancement activities.

Neuman has served as Vice Provost for Academic Resources at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for the past four years. She holds a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Washington, Seattle, and earned her bachelor and master of science degrees in Biology/Botany from California State University, Long Beach.
Two Students Join Campus as 2008 President's Scholars

Two students were selected for the prestigious President's Scholars award for 2008. Lamoura-Alexis Mallar Aguilar and Danika Gray Lindsay will begin classes this fall as freshmen members of the campus community.

It was the nursing program that drew Aguilar to the University, and attending the Discover CI event on campus solidified her desire to earn her degree at CSUCI.

"I had heard CSUCI has an excellent nursing program and that was my major of choice. Also, the campus is very close to home for me and in a beautiful area," Aguilar said. "I came to visit the campus for the Discover CI event and campus was gorgeous and I really enjoyed the atmosphere and feel of everyone."

Along with nursing, Aguilar has an interest in business.

"I hope to create my own nursing registry. This type of business involving nursing and business was spurred by my calculus teacher who highly recommended CSUCI's Mathematics program.

"The one-on-one interaction with professors at CSUCI offers the perfect learning environment for students," she said.

Lindsay is a recent graduate of El Segundo High School where she earned several academic honors for maintaining a 4.62 grade point average. She is also a musician and was a member of the high school band and chorus and has played the piano since 1995.

"Since seeing the CSUCI campus for the first time, I have visited several times and just can't seem to get enough of it. I can't wait to take advantage of every math class CSUCI has to offer!" Lindsay said.

The CSUCI President's Scholars Program provides scholarships that include financial assistance to entering students whose academic achievement and character will be enhanced and enriched in a nurturing environment that emphasizes commitment, success, and service. Those selected as President's Scholars receive full resident fees, a $600 per semester credit at The Cove Bookstore, and were thrilled by the thought of waking up in the morning and having the mountains and farmland all around me."

The beauty of the campus inspired Lindsay, and her drive to pursue a degree in Mathematics was spurred by her calculus teacher who highly recommended CSUCI's Mathematics program.

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“They’ve done an amazing job moving into this building.”

Charles B. Reed–CSU Chancellor

“...It’s a great privilege to stand here before you. You’re students, you’re faculty, you’re family, and now you’re friends... It seems to me that the library building itself is symbolic of education and learning...

Our hopes are high that all will take advantage of what the University has provided for us—that this library will help us to learn from the past and plan for the future...

Richard R. Rush–Dean of the University Library

“This campus has come a long way in a very short time. This new library is a symbol of what can be done when we keep the needs of students first. I can remember the first day that I was here and Handel Evans said, ‘We are going to build a new library for this campus!’

The students who pass through these doors will graduate into the workforce prepared to contribute to the economic viability of this region and state. This library will play a big part in what these students take with them when they leave this campus.”

John ‘Jack’ Spoon Broome–Library Benefactor

“It has been said that a library is a place where history comes to life and connects the past and future with the present. It is an opportunity for students and guests will come together to explore, discuss, debate, connect, and learn from one another.

Cris Powell–CSU Student Government President

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Paul Rivera is describing something. It might be how reciprocity or link relates to economics and anthropology, maybe his addressing students in higher education, or perhaps it’s a recap of a recent trip abroad. His words are well chosen and he is articulate.

Now press the mute button for just a few seconds and Rivera’s animation alone can carry the conversation—the three types of reciprocity are emphasized as he points at the white board and extends three fingers with lightning speed, opening his arms and extending them he brings 1200 students at a recent forum to their feet and pushing his thumbnail and thumb together and giving his arm a slight shake. He, without words, has summed up the cuisine on a recent trip to Greece as magnificent.

Rivera is an Associate Professor of Economics at CSUCI and in the role he brings on stage what he does and it’s difficult to imagine him in a different setting, away from the classroom and students and not teaching; however there was a time when he did make a run at corporate America and learned a lot and for each day.

That wasn’t something I could see myself doing for the rest of my life,” he explained, and that’s just about when he walked into Dennis Murawski’s office for the first time.

“I remember it like yesterday. I walked into Murawski’s office and told him I wanted to get my doctorate in economics. He took one look at me and said, ‘OK. You need to take our master’s program, crash it, and put the pieces in your pocket.” And he probably thought that would be the last time he’d ever see me,” Rivera recounted.

Not so. Rivera did exactly what Murawski, who was then an Economics professor and graduate advisor at Cal State Long Beach and is now the Interior Associate Provost at Cal State Channel Islands said, and he blazed through the graduate Economics Program at Long Beach and earned a Sally Cassanova Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. The program means that he was able to pay his way through the program.

Rivera shares his passion for teaching, inspiring, and traveling.
Dev Chahil (‘08)

degreet statistics B.S. Biology (‘10), M.S. Biotechnology (‘10), MBA Honors: Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society
Clubs/Organizations: CSUCI Fertilemation

Why CSUCI? I saw great opportunity to join a group of motivated faculty and staff to help start a new university. I also saw a chance to develop relationships with the community and the many surrounding industry partners.

CSUCI Experience: Phil Hampton, Professor of Chemistry, really blew me away with his enthusiasm for teaching and dedication to his students; his class was my first at the University and his energy is still remembered. Ching Hua Wang, Professor of Biology, was always very interested in preparing her students for industry. She helped to arrange two internships during my senior year; these really helped me grow through education as well as my co-curricular experiences. CSUCI has truly been a big plus. Now if you ask if I am ready to go somewhere else my response would be different because CSUCI has made me grow in many different ways, especially intellectually.

Future Plans: Continue working for Monsanto and further increase my rapidly growing responsibilities within the organization. PhD?? You never know…

Yovani Lopez (‘08)
Degree: B.A. Sociology
Honors: Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society

Why CSUCI? I think that the location of the campus was ultimately what got me to attend CSUCI. I originally was going to attend SFIC and when it came to really looking into it I wasn't ready to leave my family and go to school. I live in Oxnard, so knowing that I was able to attend school and still be with my family was a big plus. Now if you ask if I am ready to go somewhere else my response would be different because CSUCI has made me grow in many different ways, especially intellectually.

CSUCI Experience: I would like to thank everyone for always supporting me in everything. CSUCI has a lot of great staff and administrators that have helped me grow through education as well as my co-curricular experiences. CSUCI has truly been a big impact in my life. I love the campus!

Elise Martinez (‘08)
Degree: B.S. Sociology
Honors: Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society

CSUCI Experience: Watching the waves of people show up to attend Take Back the Night was one of the most memorable for me personally. A professor who had been a mentor to me, Dr. Sunghee Choi, brought her whole Sociology class. CSUCI there have been many memorable moments as well as influential individuals who have inspired me to push for greater achievements both here at CSUCI and in my future. Dr. Ching Hua Wang, Professor of Biology, in particular has played a defining role throughout my time at CSUCI as she became my mentor, helping me define not only the role I would play as a student, but also my future after CSUCI. Dr. Wang got me involved in the Human Neural Stem Cell research that she started up at CSUCI, an opportunity I probably would not have had the chance to become involved in at any other university, and also helped me achieve my goal of getting into the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy. Dr. Wang has dedicated so much of her time, tirelessly working to create stronger and better science programs for students at CSUCI; she is a strong, hardworking, dedicated, brilliant individual whom I look up to in so many ways. The time I have spent working with Dr. Wang and the knowledge I have gained from her are invaluable. She has truly helped to define the individual I have become, as well as inspired me to pursue every aspiration I search for the defining role I will play in the future of our society.

Future Plans: In my immediate future I will be looking to begin my career in the non-profit sector as a community relations and communication professional. I hope to find myself in a non-profit organization that deals with issues affecting women or children. My long term goals are to create my own non-profit that empowers women survivors to live a life of meaning and to empower other women to do the same. I believe that empowerment is a cycle that begins with the power of one to change themselves and consequently the world around them.

Emily Mazzucchi (‘08)
Degree: B.S. Biology
Honors: Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society,
Program Honors for the Biology Department
Clubs/Organizations: Events: Biology Club

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Jashinsky is somewhere more of a traditional college student. He’s traditional in the sense that he just finished his first year at CSUCI and is about to turn 19; however those two items are the only traditional things about him. Hostetler isn’t exactly your typical college student either.

Entrepreneurs typically apply innovation to the existing business environment to produce new business innovations.” explained William Cordeiro, Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics. “That innovative approach to business, which is somewhat similar to what Jashinsky and Hostetler are doing, was used when designing the curriculum for the Smith School.

While not every student entrepreneur is majoring in business—Hostetler is, while Jashinsky is considering a minor in the discipline—those who do study business at the Smith School learn the fundamental discipline building blocks. Additionally, the Smith School stresses development of broad-based skills: critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

“Entrepreneurs are the part of our students to apply themselves in emerging areas of business and to create their own opportunities,” Cordeiro said.

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Meet Matt Hostetler and Brad Jashinsky, both CSUCI students who on a daily basis do all of the above.

Credit hours were one of the reasons Hostetler is driven to work hard on MDH Services, his facilities consulting business. Hostetler’s business got off the ground in summer of 2007 when he transitioned from being a facilities management employee to a contractor for the company.

“Last summer I was figuring out what I wanted to do, start my own business or go back to school,” Hostetler explained. “Then I had this idea to outsource myself to the company I worked for.”

The rest, as they say is history. Hostetler began to work himself out of a job and in the process realized he was actually creating a huge amount of value for the company he was working for. His exit strategy made him realize that much of what he was doing could be done for other clients, and MDH Services was created.

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Working himself out of a job and into a business

Hostetler runs his facilities management firm from his iPhone, laptop, and anywhere there is WiFi access. His clients know they can reach him 24 hours a day seven days a week, and when the phone rings he has the resources in place to meet any of his clients’ needs. For example, if a client leaves a voicemail for him it is transcribed and sent as a text message to his phone, and he can respond immediately with a text or email back to the client no matter where he is.

college can be crazy stressful: umpteen credit hours, midterms, research papers, hours of studying, making time for a budding social life, going to the gym, and the rent for many a few hours a week spent at a job to kind of help pay for it all.

Instead of doing a few hours of work per week at a job that’s already established, try starting and running your own business, making it profitable, and somehow balancing your Tuesday/Thursday class schedule with client relations and customer service.

Why CSUCI:

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"If you want to do something you can find a way to do it," he said.
"We have done it our way, the CI Way," graduate and 2007-08 Student Government President Cristopher Powell proclaimed to the more than 8,000 who came to campus to cheer on the graduates at the 2008 Commencement ceremony on May 17.

Family members and friends of the more than 640 students who participated in the ceremony came to the South Quad of the Cal State Channel Islands campus to cheer, whoop, and congratulate all who crossed the stage.

California State University Trustee A. Robert Lindscheid and University President Richard R. Rush joined Powell in their comments and encouragement of the Class of 2008, the sixth class of students to become alumni of California State University Channel Islands.

"Enjoy this day because you will never forget it," Lindscheid told the graduates and guests.

It was clear that Lindscheid’s words resonated with the graduates as they recalled their years of academic dedication. Commencement day was their day to shine and wear their hard work on their sleeves, gowns, caps, and for those who have earned academic honors, medallions, cords, and stoles.

The Class of 2008 at CSUCI is part of a group of 90,000 students who graduated from the California State University system this year. Some, like Powell, will choose to continue their education and earn advanced degrees, while so many others will join the workforce.

"You will soon learn the real benefits of earning a degree from the California State University as you go out into the workforce – the workforce that depends so greatly on the 90,000 well prepared CSU graduates that become their employees every year," Rush said to the graduates.

Several distinguished guests supported the Class of 2008. Among them were representatives from city, county, and state government, members of the University’s Foundation, and former Congressman Robert J. Lagomarsino and his wife Norma. In 1965, Congressman Lagomarsino was the co-author of legislation that led to the creation of CSUCI.

Commencement day is one marked by tradition—the familiar tune of Pomp and Circumstance, the sounding of the Navy Bell, and four blasts of a conch shell—and this year CSUCI began a new tradition, the inclusion of the ‘Light of Learning’ carried by an honorary faculty marshal. The Light of Learning symbolizes the University’s commitment to a life of the mind and the central role played by outstanding faculty. Elizabeth Hartung, Professor of Sociology, was selected by the University President to carry the ‘Light of Learning’ and lead the procession.

The final tradition, one that all the graduates have worked for years to participate in, was an invitation issued by Provost Theodore Lucas—this was the final year he delivered the following invitation, as he has stepped aside as University Provost.

“As is academic tradition, a student who has not yet earned a degree wears the tassel of his or her mortarboard on the right side. However, once the degree is conferred, the scholar moves the tassel to the left side joining a select company of university-educated men and women,” Lucas explained to a sea of eager graduates. “In recognition of your new status, I invite all recipients of a bachelor’s degree to move your tassels to the left, as we applaud your outstanding efforts!”