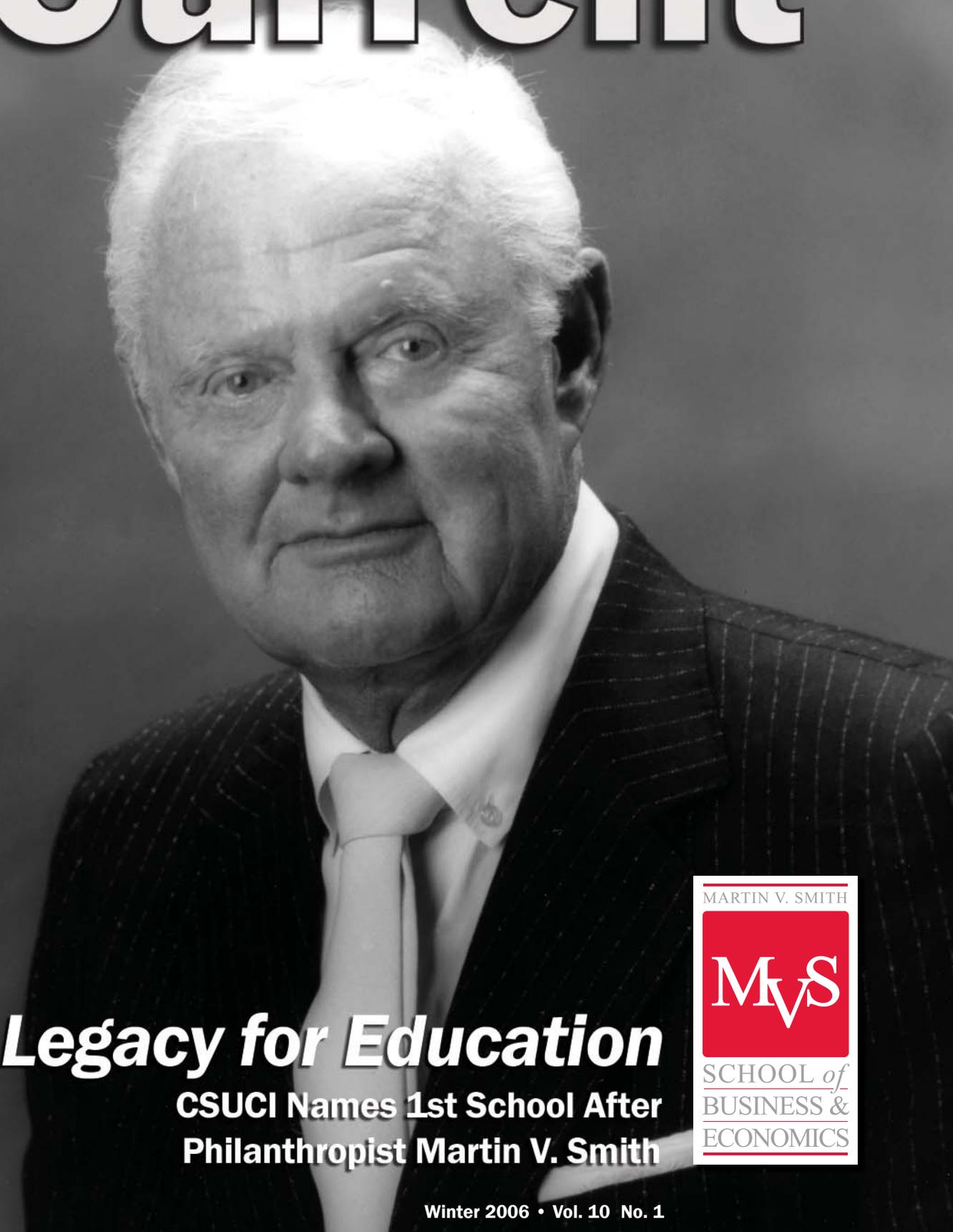


CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

# Current



## ***A Legacy for Education***

**CSUCI Names 1st School After  
Philanthropist Martin V. Smith**



Winter 2006 • Vol. 10 No. 1

## President's Message

Making a Difference -

Our campus theme this year is *Experience the Difference*. This phrase appears on most of our collateral and does a nice job of suggesting the feeling that visitors get after they come to the Cal State Channel Islands campus for the first time. From the start, they begin to see and experience the many attributes that contribute to making us a beautifully unique and compelling university.

But in this issue of *Current*, we are delighted to highlight several people who are *making a difference*, and these positive differences reach far beyond our lush campus grounds.

We begin with our cover story on the **Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics**. You'll read about the outstanding donation from the Smith family foundation. And you'll also read about the extraordinary couple, Martin "Bud" and Martha K. Smith. Their perseverance, work ethic, and tremendous success serve as shining examples for all students who will earn their CSUCI degrees through the Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics. These graduates will go on to apply the skills and knowledge gained here throughout this state and beyond.

You'll also read how members of the CSUSI faculty and staff are *making a difference*, not only at work with exciting environmental resource management initiatives, such as the Stewardship of Public Lands program, but also in their personal commitments to the environment, as you'll see them standing beside their fuel efficient vehicles.

And finally, you will learn about two of our special students. They personify a new generation of those who are *making a difference*. The first student featured is Elisabeth Freeman, who has set a high bar for students who will come after her when it comes to demonstrating campus and community activism. And then there is Kyle Morford. Thanks to a tremendous contribution of time, talent and support from immediate past chair of the University Foundation, Mark Lisagor, and his wife Terri, Kyle was able to carry out vital community service thousands of miles away.

So, from generous philanthropic giving to the campus – to members of our campus helping to protect the community from environmental damage – to a new generation of humanitarians, the exceptional people featured in this edition of *Current* are truly *making a difference*.

Sincerely Yours,



Richard R. Rush  
President



The University's first named school, the Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics, was officially recognized by the CSU. From left are President Richard Rush, Charles B. Reed, CSU chancellor, members of the Smith family, Lucinda Daley, Stacy Gardiner, Tiffany Tegland, Marjorie Tegland, Toni Gardiner, Kelli McWilliams, and Vicki Pozzi. They are joined by Murray Galinson, chair of the CSU Board of Trustees, and Jack O'Connell, state superintendent of public instruction.



Photo by Mike Amos

**CSUCI Current** is an official publication of California State University Channel Islands.

It is published three times a year for alumni, the University community, and the community at large. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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**Cover photo:**

The late Martin V. Smith was one of Ventura County's most well-known developers, philanthropists, and supporters of education. The University named its first school in his honor. See story on page 5.

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Nian-Sheng Huang presents a commemorative poster to Michael Kammen, Benjamin Franklin Distinguished Lecture Series speaker.



John Spoor Broome Library construction as viewed from the Library Web Cam.



Joan Peters encourages students to compare and contrast works of literature.



## University to Host CSU Student Research Competition

The University has been selected to host the 20th annual California State University Student Research Competition (SRC) May 5 and 6. The prestigious system-wide competition features outstanding research conducted by undergraduate and graduate students in the full range of academic programs offered by the CSU.

"This is an exciting moment in the development of the Cal State Channel Islands campus," says Renny Christopher, professor of English and chair of the SRC Steering Committee. "We feel very fortunate to be able to host students from all the CSU campuses for this special 20th anniversary of the Student Research Competition. The competition gives students in the CSU system the opportunity to participate in a forum that demonstrates that education involves not just the mastery of an existing body of knowledge, but the active creation of new knowledge."

The ten categories include: behavioral and social sciences; biological and agricultural sciences; business, economics, and public administration; creative arts and design; education; engineering and computer science; health, nutrition, and clinical sciences; humanities and letters; physical and mathematical science; and interdisciplinary. Cash prizes are awarded for the best presentations in each category.

## Narratives Sought for The Nautical Yearbook

Students are in development of the first University yearbook, *The Nautical*. Faculty, staff, and community members are invited to submit brief first-person recollections about their experiences coming to the University.



Narratives will be published in the yearbook, space permitting. Deadline is Monday, March 20.

For more information, to submit recollections, or to sponsor ads, contact Mary Adler, assistant professor of English, at (805) 437-8486 or e-mail her at mary.adler@csuci.edu.

## Students Present Check for Katrina Victims

**CSUCI students presented a check for more than \$10,000 this semester to the American Red Cross to provide relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina. In front row are Elisabeth Freeman, chair of the ASI Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort, and Jason Smith, CEO, American Red Cross of Ventura County. In back row, from left, are Anneka Busse, Student Government president; Richard Rush, University president; Scott Boczek, CSUCI student and member of the American Red Cross of Ventura County Board of Directors; and Meghan Ciuffetelli, president, Student Programming Board.**



## New Members Join University Foundation

The University Foundation, which contributes to the support and development of CSUCI and its mission through major gifts and programs, announces the appointment of new members to its board.

Dennis Gaiser, who retired from the Gaiser Tool Company in Ventura in 1999, joined the board in November of 2005. He is active with the Camarillo Hospice, Camarillo Noontime Rotary Club, Camarillo HealthCare District Advisory Board, the Ventura County Lincoln Club Board, and the Ventura County Taxpayers Association.

Norma Maidel and Ruby Oertle joined the board in February of this year. Maidel is vice chair of the Ventura County World Affairs Council and is active with the Camarillo Chapter of the American Association of University Women, Soroptimist of Camarillo, and the Camarillo Tutoring Project. Oertle is owner of six Capistrano's restaurants and Matisse Restaurant in Manhattan Beach. She currently serves on the Advisory Board for Mary Health of the Sick Hospital, Newbury Park, and is active with the Ventura Chapter of the California Restaurant Association, South Coast and Ojai/Ventura Chapters of Chaine Des Rotisseurs, the Topa Tower Club, and Traditions, La Quinta and Spanish Hills Country Clubs.

Pauline Malysko, Harold Edwards, and Mark Sellers were approved by the board in February.

Malysko is president and chief financial officer of Logix Development Corporation, a major computer software and technology company based in Camarillo. She is active with the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Camarillo Rotary Club, and the Camarillo HealthCare District Community. She is also chair of the CSUCI Business & Technology Partnership and is a member of the CSUCI President's Circle.

Edwards is president and chief executive officer of the Limoneira Company, a 112-year-old global agribusiness involved with the production of citrus, avocados, olives, and pistachios for domestic and worldwide markets. The company is based in Santa Paula. In addition, he serves on the boards of local water companies in Santa Paula and is active with the Santa Paula Rotary Club.

Sellers is a member of Jackson, DeMarco, Tidus & Peckinpaugh, a full service law firm based in Westlake Village. He is a member of the California Bar and is admitted before the federal courts of the Central District of California, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He is active in the Thousand Oaks Rotary Club, East County YMCA, and the CSUCI Alumni and Friends Association.

## Library Progress: Construction, Collections, and Fundraising

The John Spoor Broome Library continues to make significant progress on many levels. While the site is under construction, the University is developing collections and research programs as well as raising funds and resources for the new facility.

**CONSTRUCTION:** Construction remains on schedule, says Jim Walsh, construction administrator, Operations, Planning and Construction. The demolition, removal of hazardous materials, and abatement phases of the library site on campus have been completed, he says. "Grading and preparation of the site has begun, with materials and equipment procured to begin the process," he said. "We'll also begin some concrete work soon."

Final design documents are now complete. "We have a top-rated design-build team, so we're very confident about the success of the project. We are now mobilizing the major subcontractors and you'll begin to see a great deal of activity and momentum."

The library is expected to be completed by January 2008.

**COLLECTIONS:** The University Library is already developing programs and collections to enhance the teaching and research needs of CSUCI students and faculty, says Paul Adalian, University Library dean.

The library is purchasing books along with large and comprehensive digital collections. "Since vendors of digital content base their fee structure on the number of enrolled students, the library has taken advantage of CSUCI's small start-up enrollment to purchase a variety of collections larger universities could not afford," Adalian says. "As a result, the library has one of the largest digital

image collections in the state of California. In addition, the library now has digital collections of American periodicals and newspapers published between 1690 and 1900, along with historical runs for the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*."

The library now holds a collection of more than 30,000 electronic books, a classical music collection, and audio databases students will use for their multimedia projects. In addition, the library also works with faculty members to create locally developed digital collections to enhance student learning.

**FUNDRAISING:** The Development Office continues to seek resources and funding for various library programs and needs. The recent \$250,000 gift from the Gene Haas Foundation will create the Margaret Haas Disabled Student Services Center in the library, equipped with state-of-the-art technology to assist the disabled.

In addition, Bill and Elise Kearney, Nordman Cormany Hair & Compton LLP, and the *Ventura County Star* have committed to sponsor group study rooms.

Nearly a half-million dollars has been raised since the October groundbreaking of the library, according to Stephanie Herron, director of University Development. Other foundation and corporate grants are currently being pursued.



## First University Golf Tournament to Raise Funds for Athletics Program

The first annual CSUCI Dolphin Classic Golf Tournament will be held June 19 at the Spanish Hills Country Club and Saticoy Country Club.

The tournament, a fundraiser for the establishment of a CSUCI intercollegiate athletics program, features competition on two premium area golf courses. The tournament at Spanish Hills will be a "net" tournament using a Callaway system to determine the winning team(s). The Saticoy course will host a "gross" tournament and a point-par system will determine the winning team(s).

A special feature of the event is the BMW Million Dollar Shootout, in which members of the winning teams of the two tournaments will be eligible to participate in a separate hole-in-one contest, with the winner awarded a million dollars if he or she makes the 150-yard shot. The day's festivities will culminate with a barbecue and fundraising auction.

"This is an opportunity to play at one of two great courses, enjoy some friendly competition with prizes awarded, and help the University with the creation of its athletics program," says Cindy Wolfsohn, chair of the golf tournament and member of the University Foundation board. "This is a great cause. Intercollegiate athletic competition plays an important part of university life and creates a sense of unity within the community."

The title sponsor of the event is BMW of North America. Other sponsors include Canteen Vending, Grossman Imaging, Troop Real Estate, and the *Ventura County Star*. Companies and individuals interested in sponsorship or playing should contact Mitchel Sloan, associate director of events, University Advancement, at (805) 437-8916.



## Campus, Community Invited to Celebrate 300th Birthday of Benjamin Franklin

As part of a national celebration, the University unveiled its recent CSUCI Benjamin Franklin Distinguished Lecture Series to honor the 300th birthday of the celebrated American statesmen.

The series, featuring pre-eminent scholars of Franklin's life and legacies, was designed as part of the University's commitment to community and academic engagement. Local high schools, community colleges, universities, and the general public were invited to attend and participate in the events. The CSUCI celebration was spearheaded by Nian-Sheng Huang, associate professor and chair of the history program.

The lecture series began with Carla Mulford, associate professor of English, Pennsylvania State University, who spoke on "Benjamin Franklin, Traditions of Liberalism, and the Plan for an Academy at Philadelphia."

Michael Kammen, the Newton C. Farr Professor of American History and Culture, Cornell University, followed with a lecture titled "Seeing and Being Seen: Franklin's Visionary Fame in the Context of the Nation's Founders."

Scheduled to speak in late March are Gordon Wood, the Alva O. Way University Professor and professor of history, Brown University, on "The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin," and J. A. Leo Lemay, the H. F. DuPont Winterthur Professor of English at the University of Delaware who is writing a seven-volume biography of Franklin, on "Franklin's Intellectual and Personal Characteristics."

The grand finale to the celebration will be David McCullough, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, who will be the featured speaker at the University's commencement ceremonies, Saturday, May 20.

The University's Web site features the CSUCI Benjamin Franklin Distinguished Lecture Series and is linked to the national Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Web site ([www.benfranklin300.org](http://www.benfranklin300.org)).



Benjamin Franklin scholars Michael Kammen and Carla Mulford pose with Nian-Sheng Huang, associate professor of history.

### Ben's Birthday Party

In honor of Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday, a special event was held January 17 at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, with 300 invited dignitaries, including Nian-Sheng Huang, associate professor and chair of the history program at CSUCI. The event, "300 Years and Still Counting: America Celebrates Franklin's 300th Birthday," featured a large birthday cake with 300 candles. Dr. Huang is the second person to the left of the kite.



## Speaking Up

Winners of the recent Talkin' Dolphins speech and debate tournament are, front row, from left: Bayley Boyd, Sara Parker, who won top honors, Jeska Fitzpatrick, who placed second, Kelli McGuire, Vanessa Woodward, Crystal Koch, and Marie Mattingly. In middle row, from left, are Kate Broderick, Cait Scott, Dallas Carter, Tracy Frank, Marie Pritchard-Martinez, who placed third, and Racquel Landin. In the back row, from left, are Jace Henrich, Carlos La Puente, Harold Mortimer, Devlend Maul, Nick Blanchard, and Rachael Jordan. The tournament, part of the University's co-curricular programming, is held each semester and is open to all students. Categories include impromptu, informative, persuasive, ceremonial, dramatic duo, prose, and poetry.

## Martin V. Smith: Ventura County Pioneer

Look across Ventura County and you'll see monuments to the life of Martin V. "Bud" Smith, one of the greatest builders and philanthropists of this region. You'll see the 20-story Financial Plaza, the highest building in Ventura County, as well as such historic landmarks as the Wagon Wheel Restaurant and Motel.

In 1941, Smith began his storied career in Ventura County as the owner of a 12-stool Oxnard hamburger drive-in. With the help of his mother, sister, and his wife Martha, the restaurant eventually became a great success.

Prior to assisting her new husband in this business venture, Martha was already an accomplished ice skater who toured with the Westwood Ice Follies and was a member of Olympic gold medalist Sonja Henie's Hollywood Revue ice show. In 1943, Martha gave up her career, which also included working as a stand-in to actress Claudette Colbert on several films, to marry Bud and later raise their four daughters.

Over the succeeding decades, Martin Smith assembled a massive real estate portfolio that included restaurants, hotels, high-rise buildings, mobile home parks, gas stations, apartment buildings, and even a small railway.

Along the way, the Smiths generously gave back to the community, including \$250,000 worth of stock in Commercial and Farmer's National Bank in 1977 to ten local organizations, including the St. John's Hospital Foundation.

Throughout their lives, Martin and Martha Smith also became known as longtime supporters of educational causes, including the creation and development of California State University Channel Islands.

Before Martin and Martha Smith passed away (Martin in 2001 and Martha in 2003), they established the Martin V. and Martha K. Foundation within the Ventura County Community Foundation. Since 1994, this foundation has funded nonprofits in Ventura County through an annual grant program.

The Smiths' four daughters, Antoinette Gardiner, Marjorie Tegland, Victoria Pozzi, and Lucinda Daley, now continue the work of the foundation and the Smith family legacy. Pozzi and Daley have served as active CSUCI Foundation directors.

# University Names First School After Martin V. "Bud" Smith



A special recognition of the new Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics was presented to members of the Smith Family. From left are President Richard Rush; sisters Lucinda Daley, Toni Gardiner, Vicki Pozzi, and Marjorie Tegland; daughters Kelly McWilliams, Tiffany Tegland, and Stacy Gardiner; and Professor William Cordeiro.

It's official: The first school on the campus of California State University Channel Islands will be named after the late Martin V. "Bud" Smith, one of the most well-known builders and philanthropists in Ventura County history.

This latest in landmark developments of the University is the result of a recent \$3 million pledge from the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation, adding to an earlier \$5 million gift by Smith and his wife Martha. The \$8 million will now be used to for the creation of the Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics, an endowed professorship titled the Martin V. Smith Professorship in Land Use Studies, and the construction of the Martin V. Smith Center for Integrative Decision-Making.

"This is a significant step in the development of this University and its academic programs," said President Richard Rush. "These gifts will allow us to create a business school and program that prepares our students for careers of service, purpose, and leadership. It will allow us to create innovative learning that is practical, applicable, and relevant to today's professionals."

The gifts will not only establish and maintain the Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics but will also be used to promote excellence in faculty research and scholarship as well as to fund student scholarships.

The endowed professorship will be created to supplement the work of a distinguished faculty member by funding research, travel, and other expenses related to teaching and scholarship.

The Martin V. Smith Center for Integrative Decision-Making will provide CSUCI business students with real-life business learning opportunities. Using the latest technologies, students will be able to engage in computer simulations of running a company or corporation, acquiring hands-on experiences in making business decisions with local, national, or global implications.

"The generosity of the Smith family provides our students and faculty with dedicated resources for the development of our academic programs," said William Cordeiro, professor of management and chair of the business and economics program. "The Smith gift is a strong and dramatic example of our community members' supporting the growth of our public University. We will always be mindful of this wonderful gift as we work, teach, and learn in the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics."

## Democracy in Action

# Teaching Students the Stewardship of Public Lands

Last summer, a group of concerned individuals, some of them from the CSU system, gathered at Yellowstone National Park to talk about public lands as a concept that could unify Americans through dialogue, participation, and involvement in the political process.

"Public lands lie at the heart of the democratic process," says Don Rodriguez, assistant professor of environmental science and resource management (ESRM). "Public lands were created for the common good, to be shared by all and owned by none, with equal access for all. We came away from this event believing that the subject of public lands would be a great topic around which to engage our students."

Rodriguez attended the Yellowstone gathering with Ted Lucas, vice president of Academic Affairs and provost, and Scott Frisch, associate professor of political science.

From this meeting emerged the development of the CSUCI Stewardship of Public Lands program that is now part of the University's American Democracy Project, which encourages students to participate in the political process and become active members

of their communities. The stewardship program is an environment strand that will become part of the culture of the CSUCI campus, say Rodriguez and Frisch.

The program was officially launched on campus by Terry Tempest Williams, a noted environmental author, who was the featured speaker at the recent Celebration of Reading program. Her topic was the title of her book, *The Open Space of Democracy*.

This past semester, an introductory environmental science course was linked to two sections of freshmen composition, using public lands and wilderness as a unifying theme. Part of the coursework included a trip to the Channel Islands National Park as a basis for discussion and writing about the various conflicts associated with managing these public lands, endangered species protection, and recreational use.

Correspondingly, a new component of the political science course, Congress and the Presidency, was created to explore issues related to the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil and gas exploration, framed within the



Scott Frisch and Don Rodriguez in Yellowstone National Park



### Environmental Author

Terry Tempest Williams was the featured author for the second annual Celebration of Reading program. Her talk, based on her book, *The Open Space of Democracy*, also served to launch the Stewardship of Public Lands program. In addressing students, faculty, staff, and members of the community, Williams called for all Americans to appreciate the beauty and importance of natural settings, and to be willing to engage in dialogue and discussions that lead to compromise solutions regarding major issues affecting the environment.

Photo by Mike Amos



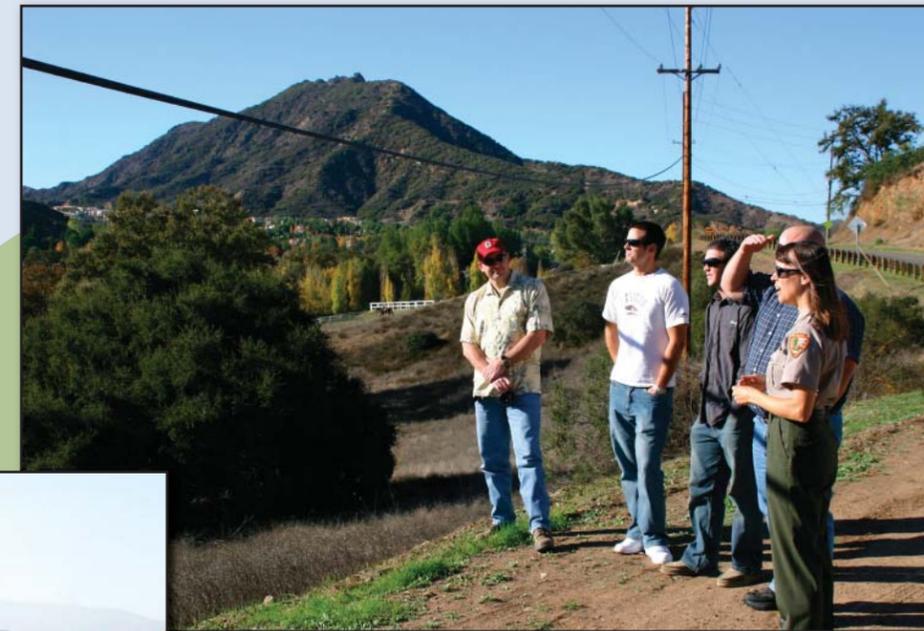
### Setting an Example for the Rest of Us

Members of the campus community are demonstrating their daily commitment to environmental issues and contributing to the University's goal of maintaining a Green Campus by driving energy-efficient vehicles. Owners of hybrid vehicles are, from left, Bill Adams, associate professor of anthropology; Herb Aquino, Data Center specialist; Lisa Breckenridge, coordinator of special projects, Student Affairs, owner of an electric cart; Colleen Bennett, Human Resources administrator; and Joseph Dobzynski, Application Support Analyst, Information Technology. Others on campus who own hybrid cars include Sean Anderson, assistant professor of Environmental Science and Resource Management, Lorene de Stafano, police dispatcher, University Police Department, Caroline Doll, director of special projects, Finance and Administration, and Cindy Ulisse, mail services, Operations Planning and Construction.

democratic process. The course included a simulation of a U.S. Senate committee debate and vote on ANWR, in which each student played the role of a senator. "Many students were required to debate the issue from a perspective contrary to their own," Frisch said. "This encouraged a great deal of reflection and critical thinking."

In addition to providing learning opportunities, the program will also show students, faculty, staff, and members of the community how to participate in the political process. "The idea is to engage people, to give them a sense that discussion, cooperation, compromise, and solutions are ideally part of the democratic process," says Frisch. "We want students to learn that the American democratic process isn't about shutting people off; it's about opening dialogue, dealing with problems in a democratic fashion, and working out viable solutions. We hope

Continued on next page



CSUCI students learn about local environmental issues through the new Stewardship of Public Lands program. Above, students in the Land Use Planning class enjoyed a field trip to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, led by a member of the National Park Service. At left, students in an interdisciplinary ESRM-English composition class visited Anacapa Island and wrote about their experiences.





Scott Frisch, left, and Don Rodriguez speak at the recent Yellowstone Project meeting that inspired the CSUCI Stewardship of Public Lands program

Continued from page 7

they'll learn to seek common ground in articulating issues and solutions with all groups in society. We want students to understand different perspectives and how the process can be used for positive change."

Following the initial two course offerings will be future interdisciplinary courses that will combine political science and ESRM, Politics of the Environment; ESRM and history, Environmental History; and ESRM and biology, Restoration Ecology.

"A new service learning course will also be created to focus on the management of public lands," Rodriguez said. "Students will work directly with the National Park Service to resolve land management issues in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Channel Islands National Park. We have already begun dialogue with National Park Service personnel for the creation of a Cooperative Ecological Studies Unit on campus to collaborate on projects, including an on-campus National Park Service annual lecture series, 'From Sea to Shore,' that will be held this year, and we will be hosting the National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Board meetings.

"The presence of National Parks and Services on campus will foster a living, breathing partnership," Rodriguez says. "With their participation and partnership, the Stewardship of Public Lands program will create an awareness of such major issues as sustainability. And this program may ultimately serve as a model for other area universities. It will create positive learning experiences for our campus and the community." **C**



## THE GREEN CAMPUS

Since it officially opened in 2002, the University has planned its growth and development with conscious consideration of its Green Campus status.

"We're doing a pretty good job," says Don Rodriguez, assistant professor of environmental science and resource management. "We've started out well by following the concept of adaptive reuse of existing facilities as well as sound day-to-day practices."

The Bell Tower, University Hall, and many other buildings on campus are all examples of renovation of facilities that were adapted for University use. Even the future John Spoor Broome Library and second phase of student housing, Santa Cruz Village, will incorporate parts of existing structures into design and construction. Both facilities will also make maximum use of daylight lighting, natural ventilation, and landscaping that reduces heat.

In its maintenance and operations, the University embraces the use of recycled products as well as a low-emission vehicle fleet. University policy also advocates the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products, low-flow plumbing fixtures, well-insulated and well-sealed buildings, and energy-efficient appliances, mechanical systems, and heaters.

In particular, CSUCI has established innovative programs for water reclamation, solid-waste reduction, and storm water management.

"The storm water management program will involve students," Rodriguez said. "Students, in anticipation of the future 1,000-space parking lot, may be able to conduct research and monitor storm runoff from the lot. We are planning to create an artificial wetland to retain that water, which will be used to irrigate campus landscaping."

In addition, a Sustainability Week, to be held just before Earth Day this spring, will focus on issues associated with CSUCI's Green Campus designation. The community, along with the University's Business & Technology Partnership, will explore unique opportunities for collaboration on sustainable solutions, including a bio-fuels demonstration project, small-scale solar applications, and other projects. Vendors will demonstrate bio-diesel, bio-gas, solar energy, and other energy sources.

Rodriguez also believes that Green Campus strategies should be ongoing. "We should include the Green Campus concept into the newly planned interdisciplinary classes, Environmental History, Politics of Environment, and the Literature of Environment," he said. "This will create dialogue among students, faculty, and staff."



Construction crews worked on a reclaimed water line project near the north end of the campus. Reclaimed water is piped in from the nearby Camrosa Water Treatment Plant to irrigate University landscapes, as part of the University's commitment to a green campus.

# Parents As Teaching Partners



Parkview Elementary School student B. J. Garcia proudly displays his reading certificate. With him are Ethan Cristobal (left), and Sayuri Vidales-Morales (right), CSUCI education students participating in the University's Family Literacy program, and B. J.'s mother Irma Garcia and his younger sister Jocelyn.

Reading was a sore subject for fourth-graders at Parkview Elementary School in Port Hueneme. Ask them about it and they'd want to change the subject. Their parents weren't happy either—until students from CSUCI's teaching program stepped in to help out.

"The University's Family Literacy Program recently began as a capstone or final project for students pursuing teaching careers," says Mona Thompson, CSUCI lecturer in education and director of the program. "Generally, the program targets pre-schoolers but at Parkview, we noticed that fourth-graders were still behind. The children were really lost. So we wanted to help."

In the Family Literacy Program, CSUCI students involve parents in actively helping their children to improve their reading skills. At Parkview, parents are asked to come to class once a week. Two CSUCI students work as a team: one meets with a parent to discuss strategies, while the other works with his or her child separately. They then all gather for reading lessons. As follow-up, parents are asked to spend time after school reviewing reading lessons and helping their children with particular problems.

The reading problem at Parkview is especially difficult because English is a second language for many of the children as well as their parents. "But parents can still help their children," says Maria Arroyo, a CSUCI senior majoring in liberal studies.

"We use strategies such as bilingual books and flash cards that both children and parents can understand. We train parents to coach their children on what they've learned through visual and verbal cues."

In one instance, one parent was nearly illiterate, Arroyo said. "He was very reluctant. He didn't want to come to class. He was intimidated. But we told him that he didn't have to read or speak—that we would do that part. We told him that we really needed him as a coach, that his son needed him.

"I actually thought that he would not come back—but he did. And gradually he got more and more involved." Toward the end, he had more energy and had a more positive attitude toward reading and learning, Arroyo said. "He told us that he was happy to see his son reading, and that he was happy that he was able to help. His own reading also improved and his self-esteem increased. He was very emotional. He was a proud man with a proud son."

Testing results of the CSUCI Family Literacy Program have not yet been determined, but Arroyo has already seen the improvement on a daily basis. "Before this program, the son of the reluctant parent wasn't able to read on his own. Now, he's doing that. His father says that his son doesn't watch TV as much and that he's now concentrating on writing. And where many children his age are learning to use a dictionary, this child is now using a thesaurus. He's come a long way." **C**



Students in the University's Family Literacy Program partner with family members of children at Parkview Elementary School to help with reading instruction. From left are Sheala Jeffers, CSUCI student, Parkview student Elizabeth Hernandez who was presented with a reading certificate, her mother Nancy Hernandez and her baby brother Emelio, and Michelle Carrea, CSUCI student.



Mona Thompson (right), CSUCI lecturer in education and director of the University's Family Literacy Program, meets with Monica Valesquez (left) and Heidi Haines (second, from right), Parkview Elementary School teachers, to present a certificate to Alicia Sanchez, Parkview child care staff member.

In Joan Peters' classes,  
students learn about the

# Literature of Life



Joan Peters' classroom is a place of intersecting ideas, images, and perspectives. In her literature courses, she invites students to connect and contrast characters, history, and cultures. She guides them on a trail from one thought to another, until comparisons bring context, meaning, and understanding—often to the students' own lives and times.

"I ask students to understand that everything they read is imbedded in a cultural value system," says Peters, CSUCI assistant professor of English. "I always like to teach literature from two different cultures, which enriches students' learning experience. I want them to think about their own culture and how individuals interact and are affected by culture."

What emerges is an open field of discussion, a fertile plain where students dive in and dissect scenes, themes, and storylines. It is learning that is fresh, alive, and transcendent. In comparing and contrasting novels, Peters challenges students' assumptions and asks them to engage in deeper, more thought-provoking analyses.

"Joan's methods definitely encourage critical, analytic, and independent thought," says Josh Seale, a senior majoring in English: Literature and Writing. "She can take a character, a setting, even a single object from a piece of writing, and help you draw context from it until it becomes its own story."

Melinda Sapo, another senior English major, agrees. "Her way of teaching is energetic and inspiring. She made me want to do the best I possibly could and even more, to go beyond what I thought was my threshold of competence. She has brought out the best of my talents, changed my view of myself and my world around me."

Such praise also comes from an appreciation of Peters' own creative background and experiences. She is the author of a novel, *Manny and Rose*, and two non-fiction works about women and working. Currently, she is working on a new book called *BL(ENDING) GENDER*, which addresses gender equality and considers if and how it can be achieved.

For Peters, CSUCI is the perfect place to teach. She is particularly excited about the University's interdisciplinary approach. "Students and professors are all engaged in an exciting experiment," she says. "We're explorers, looking at things in new ways, willing to change our views, and challenge our thinking."

One of her major accomplishments has been the creation of a strong program of speakers, including such diverse writers as Nicaraguan poet and novelist Gioconda Belli and Anchee Min, who wrote about her experiences during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. "My creative writing students, listening to a real person with a story that matters, can identify with speakers and be inspired," Peters says.

"They begin to believe that writing is not beyond their reach. I want students to do everything they can with their potential. I want them to write about what they believe in, to have passion for life and writing. I want them to be engaged in shaping their world. I want to help them find their own unique material, to teach them to help each other to do the same."

It is a great moment, she says, when students find their authentic voice. "There is a feel to it; their words become resonant. It's a kind of electricity. I teach creative writing to see that." C

## Profile:

**Education:** B.A., M.A., English, Ph.D., comparative literature, University of Chicago.

**Areas of Specialization:** 17th century English and European literature; modern and contemporary fiction; fiction writing; women's studies.

**Writing:** Novel – *Manny and Rose*; Non-fiction – *When Mothers Work: Loving Our Children Without Sacrificing Our Selves and Not Your Mother's Life: Changing The Rules of Work, Life, and Family*; and several articles, book reviews, and short stories. Currently, working on *BL(ENDING) GENDER*.

**Programs:** Created guest speaker program, which has included Nicaraguan poet and novelist Gioconda Belli; novelist and screenwriter Fanny Flag; memoirist, novelist, and screenwriter Maria Amparo Escandon; novelist Michelle Tea; and memoirists and novelists, Anchee Min and Luis Rodriguez.

**Teaching:** Created courses on History and Literature and Women's Fiction. Currently teaching a course on Contemporary Literature, which features worldwide novels with a theme of love, written by authors from such diverse cultures as Senegal, China, Japan, and Egypt.



# A Passion for Helping People

In many countries of Africa, political and economic turmoil remains pervasive. Thousands of people live in poverty, sometimes victims of repressive regimes. People are starving. Many are dying of AIDS without treatment.

And Elisabeth Freeman wants to do something about all of that.

Elisabeth, a senior biology major and former vice president of Student Government, was born and raised in Zimbabwe. She is a descendant of the royal family, a princess of the Shona tribe, which reaches back some 800 years in the country's history.

She could easily live a comfortable life as a daughter, mother, wife, and princess, continue her studies at CSUCI, and go on to a career and profession that is satisfying and rewarding.

But Elisabeth has a deep and abiding concern for the welfare of others. She is one of the most active students on campus, demonstrating a strong sense of service to the University and to community, from local to global causes.

"In Zimbabwe, my parents encouraged me to think independently, to accomplish goals, and to have a passion for helping people," Elisabeth says. "I participate in Student Government and volunteer in the community because it's a chance to give back. At CSUCI, we have opportunities to shape and mold the University. We're able to develop as future leaders."

When Hurricane Katrina occurred, Elisabeth organized a student drive that raised more than \$10,000 for victims. "I was moved by the devastation, and I was humbled by the invitation to lead a campus-wide effort to help victims," she said. "It was a big undertaking but students really pitched in and made it happen."

Her humanitarian concerns crystallized in July 2003, before she began her studies at the University. In her native Zimbabwe, she lost two uncles in a month's time to AIDS. "It was a defining moment for me," says Elisabeth. "My husband and I discussed it. I felt I had to do something. I had previously worked as a marketing manager for a San Diego hospital. I had no knowledge of AIDS drug therapies, so I first enrolled at Oxnard College, then was accepted at CSUCI after learning about its science program and meeting several members of the faculty."

A year after she began her CSUCI studies, she received a six-month internship at Amgen, the Thousand Oaks pharmaceutical company, assisting in research. That internship was renewed again during the following summer. The highlight of her Amgen experience was a research presentation before a hundred scientists.

As Elisabeth approaches graduation in May of this year, she continues to manage a busy life. In addition to campus activities, she has volunteered for a local AIDS Project and other local causes. She also makes time for family life with her husband and two children. And with all that, she is currently taking 18 class units, including two lab sessions.

After graduation from CSUCI, Elisabeth intends to pursue graduate studies. She is considering different careers within science, including medicine or perhaps obtaining a law degree in combination with a master's degree in public health. She has already accepted a position as research associate in Amgen's Pharmaceuticals Division.



**"At CSUCI, we have opportunities to shape and mold the University."**

Elisabeth Freeman,  
CSUCI senior, Biology

Her future will always be guided by a deep sense of public service. "My goal is to influence health policy on a global scale," she says. "In Africa, there is great despair, and in many instances, horrific conditions. But there are problems all over the world, including right here in Ventura County. I've been taught to truly make an impact. It starts with one person. It's ultimately why we're here, to leave a legacy, to make a difference." **C**

# Foundation Board Member Mentors Student to Experience the ... Spirit of Service

Foundation Board members support the University in many ways. They regularly contribute their time, expertise, and financial support to a variety of events and projects. And they often create experiences to mentor others who would learn the value of giving back to their communities and beyond.

Dr. Mark Lisagor, immediate past chair of the University Foundation, is an outstanding example of this as he and his wife have participated for the past nine years in a free clinic that provides medical and dental services to children of a Guatemalan village. Lisagor, with his wife Terri, a professor of nutrition at California State University, Northridge, travel to the village each year to provide dental services.

“Service learning is important to us,” says Mark. “And it’s important to expose young people to opportunities to make a difference in the world. So this past year we wanted to bring a CSUCI student member of the University’s Rotaract Club, the college level organization of the Rotary Club, to Guatemala with us.”

Kyle Morford, a sophomore who is planning to major in international affairs, was chosen, based on an essay he wrote for a course taught by Christine Popok, lecturer in English and business and economics. The University’s Foundation contributed \$300 toward sending Kyle to Guatemala, and the rest was covered by the Lisagors.

“This kind of experience provides an educational awareness for young people,” Mark said. “It’s not only appreciation for service learning but an appreciation of another culture, another way of life. I think it was a very life-changing and eye-opening experience for Kyle.”

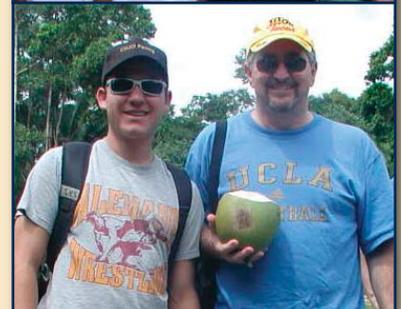
For Kyle, the experience was indeed life-changing – shocking as well as inspiring. “I was amazed by the level of poverty,” he said. “It was incredible. I found out that eighty percent of the world lives on \$1 a day. And we have so much in this country. It opened my mind. I feel responsible. I feel like I have to help.”

In turn, the Lisagors are heartened that Kyle’s Guatemalan experience has encouraged him to continue his support for underprivileged people. “I think he has learned that each of us can – and must

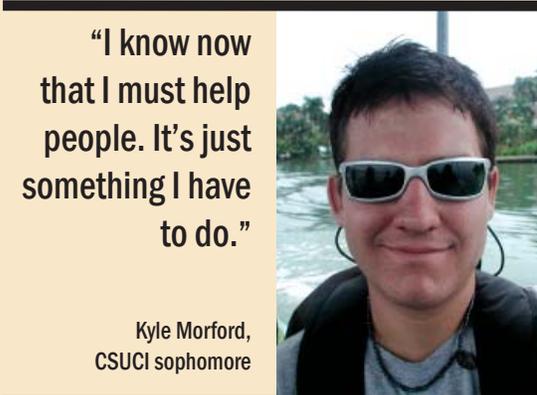
– make a difference in this world,” says Terri. “It is critical for all young people to participate in making this world a better place. We are so lucky to be where we are, and our young people need to recognize that what we have is a gift, not a right. Each and every one of us, young and old, has the responsibility to give to others, to be civically engaged.”

During the recent winter break from school, Kyle took the extraordinary step of selling some of his possessions so he could fly to New Orleans to volunteer his services to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. During the spring break he plans to go to Nicaragua to help the underprivileged there, then perhaps return to Guatemala one day.

“I’ve always wanted to help people, but this experience really allowed me to see how much need there is in the world,” Kyle says. “I know now that I must help people. It’s just something I have to do. So I’m really grateful to the Lisagors. I have the utmost respect for them. To me, they’re just like family.” **C**



**Mark and Terri Lisagor recently brought a team of dental professionals and a CSUCI student to a remote Guatemalan village. From top, dental technicians work on a young boy; Terri Lisagor poses with village boys; Mark Lisagor, right, and CSUCI student Kyle Morford pause for a photo; and Lisagor provides dental service to villager.**



**“I know now that I must help people. It’s just something I have to do.”**

**Kyle Morford,  
CSUCI sophomore**

# Editorial: In Praise of the CSU

*Current* shares with its readers the following compelling *Los Angeles Times* editorial written by Kevin Starr, state librarian emeritus and professor of history at USC. Starr, author of *California: A History*, writes about the value, importance, and vitality of the CSU system. The article, which appeared in the October 23, 2005 edition, is reprinted here with the permission of the author and the *Los Angeles Times*.

By Kevin Starr

People used to come to California to find a better life. State government, by and large, was there to help. Today, it's of little solace. That's one reason November's special election is, in effect, a referendum on state government itself.

California has become expensive, competitive, demanding. The California dream was historically anchored in people's hope for a better life. Today, these people — mainly the middle class — work the hardest and the longest to make ends meet. And there's only one part of state government that is clearly there still to help ordinary people reach their dreams: the California State University system, an institution that has survived from what sometimes seems the long-gone golden age of California promise.

The CSU system is not just a government agency, however. It is, rather, a primary expression of the collective sovereignty of the people of California. It is the primary means and cutting edge in the struggle for California to sustain itself as a viable, competitive and humane society for ordinary citizens. One could write a history of contemporary California's creation almost exclusively by examining the rise and development of this institution.

Today, this great university grants nearly half of the state's baccalaureate degrees and a third of the master's degrees. It bestows 65% of the business baccalaureate degrees and more than half of the agricultural business and agricultural engineering baccalaureate degrees. And it trains 89% of the state's professionals in criminal justice, 87% of the teachers and related staff, 87% of the social workers and 82% of the public administrators.

The CSU system, in short, is keeping California afloat while offering poor and middle-class people a continuing opportunity to move into the sort of well-paying jobs a college degree affords. Few state agencies possess such a clear-cut and necessary role.

The University of California, according to the Master Plan for Higher Education adopted in 1960, has as its primary mission research and teaching. The California State University, by contrast, has as its primary mission the education and training of Californians through a fusion program of instruction, applied research and preparation for employment.

These distinct missions cannot over time remain so clear-cut. A number of departments in the CSU system — such as Cal State Fresno's viticulture and enology program — are at least as distinguished, in research terms, as comparable departments at UC, despite the heavier teaching load borne by the CSU faculty.

This distinction between what should be learned (research) and how that knowledge should be passed on (teaching) cannot in the long run be sustained. From this perspective, the University of California has to reconsider its policy of turning so much undergraduate instruction over to graduate students. And California State University cannot continue to be so limited in its research agenda, especially in areas such as education, its primary expertise — hence the recent announcement that the CSU system will now be authorized to grant a doctorate in that field.

Still, while the University of California will continue to enjoy the affection and loyalty of its graduates and the respect of the larger population, it cannot by definition become a populist institution. It is a research institution in the public service, with \$1 billion of its \$15-billion budget coming these days from private sources.

Although it also is increasingly ambitious in seeking private support, the CSU system, by contrast, is first and foremost a public enterprise: a direct creation of state government and, these days, perhaps the best connection state government enjoys with the people. Even our embattled legislators seem to understand this. Many of them, after all, are graduates of one or another CSU campus.

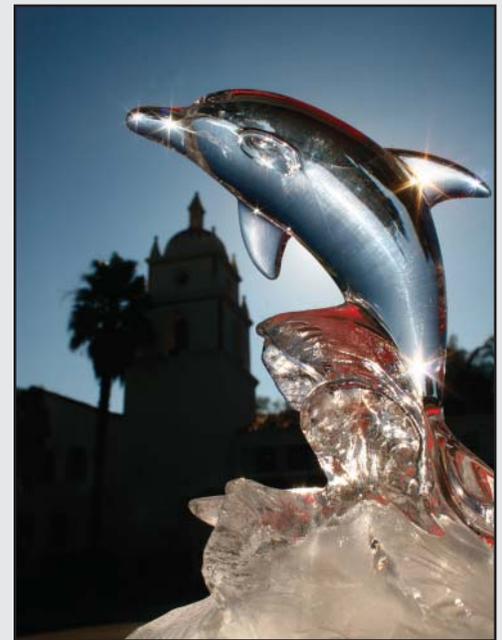


Photo by Mike Amos

## B&TP to Present 2006 Leadership Awards

The University is preparing for the 2006 Business & Technology Partnership Leadership Dinner, scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

The second annual dinner, sponsored by the California State University Channel Islands Foundation and Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, will present scholarships to outstanding students as well as the 2006 Business Leader of the Year Award, the 2006 Technologist of the Year Award, and the Faculty Leader of the Year Award.

Proceeds from the dinner fund scholarships for University students. Five \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to CSUCI transfer and junior status students.

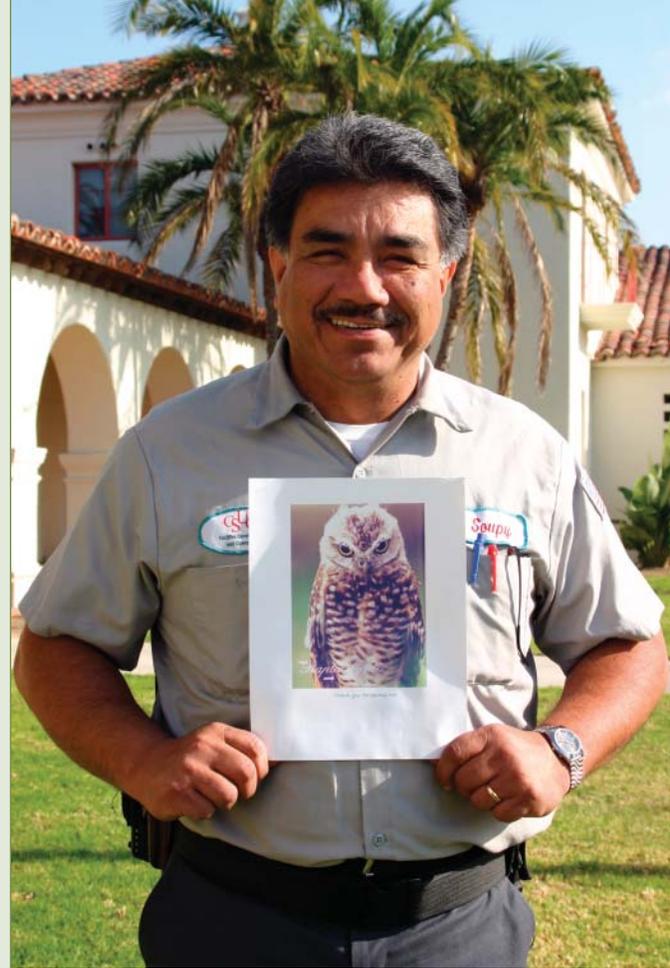
Sponsors of the B&TP Leadership Dinner include Morgan Stanley, *Pacific Coast Business Times*, The Grateful Palate, and Logix Development Corp.

For more information, visit [www.csuci.edu/about/btp](http://www.csuci.edu/about/btp).

# { Calendar of Events

For a complete list of University events, visit [www.csuci.edu](http://www.csuci.edu).

- March 30 Benjamin Franklin Distinguished Lecture Series**  
Eminent Franklin scholars Gordon Wood and J. A. Leo Lemay are featured speakers.
- April 18 2006 Business & Technology Partnership Leadership Dinner, Ronald Reagan Library**  
Presentation of scholarships, leadership awards to outstanding businessperson, technologist, faculty member.
- April 20 Annual Career and Internship Fair**  
Students, members of the community find job prospects from regional company representatives.
- April 29 Discover CI**  
Prospective students, members of the community learn more about the University from campus-wide representatives.
- May 5, 6 Student Research Competition**  
CSUCI hosts annual competition featuring outstanding undergraduate and graduate research projects from students throughout the CSU system.
- May 5 Honors Convocation**  
Annual event honors outstanding students for the 2005-06 academic year.
- May 20 Commencement**  
Distinguished historian and author David McCullough is this year's speaker.
- June 19 1st annual Dolphin Classic Golf Tournament**  
Competition and the BMW Million Dollar Shootout at Spanish Hills Country Club and Saticoy Country Club raises funds for CSUCI athletics program. }



*Soupy Santana, a longtime facilities worker in the University's Engineering Department, recently rescued a baby great horned owl that had fallen out of a tree in the Bell Tower Courtyard. Santana contacted the local Ojai Raptor Center which nursed the young owl back to health and later released it. As a special thank you, Santana was presented with a photo depicting a likeness of a great horned owl.*



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