On a clear day you can see forever, they say. On this clear, beautiful day of the President’s Inauguration, the future was full of promise — the past rich in legacy. Warmed by the bright sun in a turquoise sky and cooled by breezes rustling the pepper trees lining University Mall, more than 1,000 guests watched as Richard R. Rush became the first inaugurated President of California State University Channel Islands.

After the Presentation of Colors by the Naval Base Ventura County Color Guard and the National Anthem performed by Officer Felice Thompson of the Oxnard Police Department, CSU Board of Trustees Chairman Laurence K. Gould, Jr. introduced members of the President’s Cabinet and distinguished guests.

Official greetings began with Congresswoman Lois Capps saluting the new University as an example of the country’s hopes for the future built upon cherished traditions of the past. She referred to “the dream becoming reality,” a statement that would be echoed often on this historic day.

State Senator Jack O’Connell, who has been instrumental in legislation to make this new campus a reality, said that in President Rush, Cal State Channel Islands has found “the right man for the right job at the right time.”

The greetings continued with remarks by Assemblywoman Fran Pavley and Debra Farar, who served on the presidential search committee. Marvalene Hughes, President of California State University Stanislaus, gave President Rush “a man of intellect, purpose, wit, and vision,” and John Broome, Jr. recalled the work of “open arms and hearts” for more than 30 years to establish Ventura County’s first four-year public university.

Professor Dennis Muraoka, representing the initial 13 faculty members, and Dr. George Morten, representing the staff, shared the excitement of being a part of the many people pledging their time, talent, and skills to ensure the success of this jewel in the CSU crown.

Eleanora (Nora) Bruno, representing the first class admitted, spoke of the personal dreams of the incoming students. On behalf of her fellow students, she wished for courage, strength and wisdom. “Shoot for the moon,” she quoted. “Even if you miss it, you will land among the stars.”

After a musical selection by the Thousand Oaks High School Wind Ensemble, Charles Reed, Chancellor of the California State University, invested Richard R. Rush as the first inaugurated President of Cal State Channel Islands.

Wearing the Presidential robe of Channel Islands red and gold, Rush spoke of the realization of a dream: “I accept this responsibility in the name of the people of Ventura County, who for over 30 years sought a four-year public university to serve this area.” He spoke of the rich history and natural beauty of the campus site, quoting Pablo Neruda: “I have seen from my window the fiesta of sunset in the distant mountaintops.” To President Emeritus Handel Evans, Rush offered praise for providing the leadership that established the foundation of the University, and he thanked Joyce Kennedy for her years of service in developing a tradition of access through the Cal State Northridge off-campus center.

“Together, we will create the future, not merely inherit it.” – Richard R. Rush

Chumash Legacy

“We will all love. We will all believe. We will all be strong.”

– Chumash Elder Alan Salazar

After the color and splendor of the academic procession, Chumash Elder Alan Salazar gave the invocation and commented on the rich heritage of the land that is now home to Cal State Channel Islands.

Salazar spoke of how the Chumash have lived on this pristine spot for thousands of years, respecting the land and the people. His parting quote: “We will all love. We will all believe. We will all be strong.”

After the ceremony, some of the guests talked about how they noticed a single hummingbird gliding across the stage precisely when President Rush began speaking. Hovering close by throughout the ceremony, the hummingbird then preceded the recessional down the center aisle. Salazar noted that the hummingbird was a “good messenger” and told of the Chumash legend in which the hummingbird brings breath and light.
Rush acknowledged past dedication and future milestones: “Though this ceremony inaugurates a president, it is truly the celebration of this community’s vision and commitment. This is a day when we acknowledge the achievements of those who have persisted for decades in seeking a four-year public university. This is their day, as the crescendo builds toward August 16 when the University formally opens its doors to students. The focus today should be on this community, on their accomplishments, on their continuing, unqualified support for this University. Those of us who are honored to hold it in trust for them say thank you for your foresight and efforts on behalf of legions of students and the aspirations of generations.”

“In President Rush, we have the right man for the right job at the right time.”
– State Senator Jack O’Connell

Rush spoke of the University’s role in creating a better future: “A university is a symbol of hope. The establishment of a new university is a clear commitment to the future, a belief that the future can be better than the present, through education. The creation of this University testifies to the affirmation of the people of this region that education provides the means for a better quality of life, a fuller understanding of self — or, to take liberties with Socrates, a reflected life worth living…Together, we will create the future, not merely inherit it.”

Listening to Fran McNeill sing “God Bless America,” the past and the future united to create this historic moment, bringing to mind the words of President Rush: “[we should not] be afraid of the space between…dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so. Today, through this ritual, we recognize, formally, dreams achieved.”

“Today we see the dream becoming reality.”
– Congresswoman Lois Capps
Regalia

The University Mace (shown at left)
The mace has a long history as a symbol of authority. In medieval times it was a studded, club-like weapon, made of iron and capable of breaking armor. It came to be associated with the protection of the king in England and France and was carried by the king’s sergeant-at-arms. The mace eventually became a symbol for academic institutions as an emblem of order and authority in the pageantry of ceremonial occasions.
The Cal State Channel Islands Mace represents the authority of the University vested in the President at official and ceremonial functions for the lifetime of the institution. Designed and crafted by renowned artists David and Linda Elder of Ventura County, the Mace is an important symbol, and its design reflects the spirit of the campus. The staff is carved from native walnut, signifying the growth of the University on California soil. On each of the four sides of the bronze finial is a carved medallion; these are the Cal State University Channel Islands Seal, the California State University Seal, an atom, and the book of knowledge. The latter two signify scholarship, research, and service to humanity. At the pinnacle of the mace, two dolphins dance in the waves, reflecting the Chumash legend of dolphins leading the Chumash people from the Channel Islands to the mainland.
The Cal State Channel Islands Mace is a gift to the University from its thirteen initial faculty members:

- William H. Adams
- Frank Barajas
- Lilian Vega-Castaneda
- William Cordiero
- Ivona Gereczeky
- Philip Hampton
- Joan Karp
- Dennis Muraoka
- George Morten
- Kevin Volkan
- Ching-Hua Wang

The Presidential Medallion (shown at left)
The Presidential Medallion is conferred on the President by the Chancellor of the California State University system as a symbol of the authority and responsibility of the office and is worn with academic regalia at official functions. The Cal State Channel Islands Medallion is a disk of highly-polished bronze engraved with the University Seal. The seal contains the Bell Tower in the forefront, with a rising sun in the background. The Bell Tower is an important symbol for the University and serves a function like those of bell towers around the world — as a community center; the rising sun behind the Bell Tower signifies the birth of the University.
The Cal State Channel Islands Medallion is a gift to the President from the President’s Cabinet:

- Joanne Coville
- Theodore Lucas
- Mary Ann Dase
- Alexander McNee
- Alma D. González

The Presidential Robe (shown at left)
Each University individually designs its presidential robes. The robe and tam worn by President Richard Rush were specifically commissioned to reflect the University’s colors, Channel Islands red and gold.
The Cal State Channel Islands Presidential robe and tam are a gift to the President from the CSUCI Foundation Board and the CSUCI Advisory Board members:

- President’s Advisory Board:
  - Laura K. McAvoy
  - John Broome, Jr.
  - Randy Churchell
  - Marty De Los Cobos
  - Carolyn Leavens
  - Robert Patterson
  - Ron Smiley
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  - Debbie Rodgers
  - Don Rudkin

Richard R. Rush

President Rush joined California State University Channel Islands in June of 2001. He came to CSUCI from Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he served as President for nine years. He brings a wealth of experience within the CSU system, including service as Executive Vice President of CSU San Marcos, where he guided program planning and implementation.

Dr. Rush grew up in Los Angeles. He earned an undergraduate degree in Philosophy from Gonzaga University, a Masters degree in English Literature from the University of California Los Angeles, and a Ph.D. in English also from UCLA. He completed his doctoral dissertation while in residence at the Huntington Library as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

Deeply involved in the community, Dr. Rush serves on the Board of Directors for United Way of Ventura County, Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo, and Ventura County Economic Development Association, as well as other mutually supportive groups and organizations.

Dr. Rush’s academic memberships include the National Association of College and University Business Officers Executive Committee; the American Association of State Colleges and Universities; and he is a lifetime member of the Milton Society. He has two daughters, Angela, a 2002 law school graduate, and Melissa, a practicing attorney.

Top left: Ekenora Bruno, representing the student body. Top right: Members of the Thousand Oaks High School Wind Ensemble perform an instrumental medley. Middle left: Dennis Muraoka, representing the faculty; Middle right: George Morten, representing the staff. Bottom left: Charles B. Reed, Chancellor of the California State University, conducts the Investiture of the President. Bottom right: President Richard R. Rush addresses the audience after being inaugurated.

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land among the stars.”
– Nora Bruno, representing the first class admitted

“Though this ceremony inaugurates a president, it is truly the celebration of this community’s vision and commitment.”
– Richard R. Rush
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Debra Farar, Vice Chair
William D. Campbell
Harold Goldwhite
CSU Statewide Academic Senate
Jacquelyn Kegley, Chair
Date of founding indicated in parentheses following college or university name

California State University

President Richard R. Rush, April 19, 2002

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS PRESIDENT RICHARD R. RUSH, APRIL 19, 2002

and Mary Ann Dase.

Vice Presidents Joanne Coville and Alexander McNeill, President

The President’s Cabinet: left to right, Executive Assistant Theodore Lucas, Vice Presidents Joanne Coville and Alexander McNeill, President Richard R. Rush, Vice Presidents Gregory Sawyer, Alba El Gonzalez, and Mary Ann Dase.

The President and Faculty: left to right, Philip Hampton, Doris Muszka, William Cordeiro, Joan M. Karp, Allan Vega-Castaneda, Kevin Vikan, President Richard R. Rush, Frank Barajas, Jona Czegoczyczek, Ching-Hua Wang, Louise Latane-Mann, Jacquelyn Akinson, William Hampton Adams, and Jack Noble.

Colleges and Universities

Date of founding indicated in parentheses following college or university name

Yale University (1701)
Timothy J. Schiffr, Alumnus

Franklin & Marshall College (1877)
Marin Kendig, Alumnus

Miami-Oxford University (1809)
Gilbert Keslar, Alumnus

Colby College (1813)
Marianne Nelson, Alumna

Oglethorpe University (1835)
Betty Stapleford, Alumna

Mount Holyoke College (1837)
Barbara Hackett, Alumna

Virginia Military Institute (1839)
Kevin Newton, Alumnus

Mary Baldwin College (1842)
Mary McCullough Prye, Alumna

Illinois Wesleyan University (1850)
Albry Hock, Alumna

University of the Pacific (1851)
David Haller, Alumnus

Washington University (1853)
Robert Chace, Alumnus

Susquehanna University (1850)
Matthew King, Alumna

Swarthmore College (1864)
Richard Keiter, Alumnus

Cornell University (1865)
Ching-Hua Wang, Alumna

University of Kansas (1865)
Carolyn Hoholz-Salstrom, Alumna

University of Maine (1868)
John Buzzelli, Alumnus

Holy Names College (1868)
A. Kathleen Oliver, Alumna

Minnesota State University Mankato (1868)
Margaret Healy, Vice President, Student Services

University of California Berkeley (1868)
Toby Winer, Associate Vice President, Development

University of California at Los Angeles (1960)
Jerry Schrum, Alumnus

Duke University (1961)
Mary Baldwin College (1842)

University of Southern California (1875)
J. Handel Evans, President Emeritus

University of Washington (1861)
Russell Coates, Alumnus

University of Illinois (1867)
Jesse S. Jones, Alumnus

University of Kentucky (1865)
Marianne Nelson, Alumna

University of Colorado (1876)
Sullivan Geringer, Alumnus

University of California Davis (1957)
Joan Ivanoff, Alumna

University of California Berkeley (1968)
Alfred Benenson, Alumnus

The University of Texas (1871)
Teddy J. McManus, Alumnus

University of California (1868)
Mindy Sharp, Alumna

State University New York, Geneseo (1875)
Jeffrey Reinhart, Alumna

Shenandoah University (1875)
Irene Chesser, Alumna

Hastings College of Law (1878)
Christine Helwick, Alumna

University of Southern California (1880)
Michael A. Pizitz, Alumna

University of North Carolina at Greensboro (1899)
Barbara Harrison Eichberger, Alumna

University of La Verne (1891)
Sharon McClain, Alumna

Our Lady of the Lake University (1895)
Anne Randell Mancini, Alumna

San Diego State University (1897)
Patricia Huckle, Professor Emerita

Bradley University (1897)
Joe Lurzzetti, Alumnus

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (1901)
Patricia Huckle, Professor Emerita

University of California, Davis (1905)
Timothy Ossullar, Alumna

University of Redlands (1907)
Jackson Patham, Alumnus

Georgian Court College (1908)
Joan Ivanoff, Alumna

Biola University (1908)
Gary Miller, Provost & Sr. Vice President

Santa Barbara City College (1909)
Joan Livingstone, Board of Trustees President

Loyola Marymount University (1911)
Gregory McDonald, Alumnus

The College of St. Scholastica (1912)
Katherine Kramer, Alumna

American College of Physicians/AMerican College of Internal Medicine (1915)
L. J. Tauber, Alumnus

University of California Los Angeles (1919)
Kathleen Corbero, Alumna

Allan Hancock College (1920)
Dave DeGroote, University Center Coordinator

Mount St. Mary’s College (1925)
Ann Donocan Fisher, Alumna

Bennington College (1932)
Erin Quinn, Alumna

St. John’s Seminary College (1935)
Kathleen Rudnick, President

Pepperdine University (1937)
V. Sehan, Professor

Siena College (1937)
Diane J. Jester, Alumna

Westmont College (1937)
Stan Garcia, President

University of California Santa Barbara (1944)
Sara Miller McCune, Alumna

Brooke Institute of Photography (1945)
Donna Granata, Alumna

Anna Maria College (1946)
William McGarry, President

Claremont McKenna College (1946)
Brian Back, Alumnus

CSU Sacramento (1947)
Eric V. Geavonsberg, Assoc. Vice Pres. Student Affairs

CSU Northridge (1958)
Barbara Welch, Alumna

New York Institute of Technology (1958)
Bob Bryan, Alumnus

California Lutheran University (1959)
Pamela Johocone, Provost

Moorpark College (1963)
Janet Walker, President

Cal Poly Pomona (1964)
Patricia Farrell, Vice President, Student Affairs

Oxnard College (1970)
Ruth Hemmings, Executive Vice President

California State University

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