

Current



A publication from
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

Fall 2002 Vol. 7 No. 2

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Margin of Excellence

The long-anticipated opening of California State University Channel Islands has become a reality. As you read this, students and faculty are in the classrooms, and Cal State Channel Islands has embarked on a journey that will span hundreds of years and that will involve the education of thousands of students. Ventura County and the State of California will be the long-term beneficiaries of our efforts as each year hundreds — and someday thousands — of students graduate, who will go on to find rewarding work, to become productive citizens, and to contribute effectively to the betterment of society.

After years of successful community activism in support of a four-year, public university for Ventura County; after months of faculty meetings and strategy sessions to design the academic program and produce the University catalog; after weeks of planning and preparation for the Inauguration and the Grand Opening ceremonies; and now that students and faculty are in our classrooms, the question arises: Now what? What do we do for an encore? Is there another hill for us to climb; another plateau for us to reach?

There are, in fact, several hills for us to climb before this time next year. As you know, we will admit our first freshman class in the fall of 2003. That means that the faculty soon must design an

CSUCI's First Class Learns to "Be a Part from the Start"



Dr. Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Vice President for Student Affairs, welcomes Alekzandra Lederer, a liberal studies major, who transferred to Cal State Channel Islands from Ventura College.

Student Orientations and Six Weeks of Campus Activities Encourage Students to Embrace the College Experience

On July 19, when the first students arrived for Island View Orientation, it was hard to tell who was more excited, the students or the Student Affairs staff who had spent months getting ready for their arrival. Banners were hung, canvas bags donated by sponsors, including Buena Ventura Medical Group, Mid-State Bank & Trust, Advantage Graphics and Printing, and the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, were packed with information. More than 500 students attended these sessions, and the response was very positive. As one student wrote on his evaluation form, "It was not so much what I heard that was significant, but what I felt throughout the presentations. A genuine caring for my success in my educational endeavor."

Leading the student orientations was Dr. Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Vice President for Student Affairs, who addressed students with energy, enthusiasm, and compassion. "You are never an interruption of what we are doing," he told the students. "You are the reason we are here." The back of the room was lined with staff and faculty, all sporting Channel Islands red t-shirts, smiles, and a willingness to help students find the answers to their questions. Many students commented on "the friendly atmosphere" and how much information they received. It was clear, as one student wrote, "that the faculty and staff are committed to meeting students' needs."

Encouraging students to take the advice his mother gave him when he went to college, Dr. Sawyer said, "Don't just go to college. Let college go through you." You do this, he told them, by getting involved. The Student Affairs team continued to engage students in the University experience beyond just attending classes. The "Be a Part from the Start" program, which began opening week, was six weeks of activities that started with a Welcome Week family barbeque. Health Week, open to the community, featured more than a dozen health care providers who volunteered to supply students with free hand-outs, healthy snacks, and a variety of on-the-spot health and fitness tests. A special ceremony commemorating the events of September 11 was held during Unity and Diversity Week.

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People and Programs Ensure Success at CSUCI

Academic Affairs Develops Well-Rounded Programs for Students

Academic Affairs is the division of the University responsible for the development and advancement of academic programs. Faculty and staff have worked intensely for the last several months to provide students with programs that are rich in knowledge, training, and life experience. To enable these ideals to come to life, the division needed to be developed and grown. What just a year ago was an eight person team now totals 60 full-time faculty and staff working on academic programs. The academic affairs division under the leadership of Vice President Alex McNeill, includes 17 colleagues who transferred from the CSUN operation.

As we begin the school year, more staff support has been added that includes Dr. Paul Adalian, Director of the University Library; Dr. Gary Berg, Director of Extended Education; Dr. J.E. Gonzalez, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, and Dr. Carol Holder, Director of Faculty Development. In addition, an array of part-time instructors and compelling guest lecturers will be brought in throughout the year to enrich each student's learning experience.

McNeill credits the CSUCI community for the many accomplishments to date in his area. "Colleagues from the divisions of Administration and Finance, Student Affairs, Information Technology, and University Advancement have all been important contributors to the success we have already enjoyed," McNeill recently said. "It is inspiring to see all of the divisions come together to accomplish goals which will benefit the student body."

Among those accomplishments are:

- Development of governance policies and processes that allow for the design and development of the campus' academic programs
- Approval of eight baccalaureate degree programs that respond to the needs of the communities served: art, biology, business, computer science, English, environmental sciences and resource management, mathematics, and a multiple subject credential
- Publication of the first CSU Channel Islands catalog for the students
- Implementation of an electronic application process resulting in the thorough review of 4,000 applications ensuring the timely identification and selection of the most qualified tenure and part-time instructors for appointment at CSUCI



Dr. Tom Schmidhauser, left, explains to students what they are viewing under the microscope in the Principles of Cell and Molecular Biology course.

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academic program at the lower division that will support those majors already in place, plus any new upper-division majors that are created. We need to publish a new University catalog. Our admissions and outreach staff must recruit the freshman class along with another legion of transfer students. A new cadre of faculty needs to be recruited and appointed. The new science building must be ready for the freshman class. We need to begin work on the John Spoor Broome Library. We are in need of additional classrooms and offices for the new students and faculty.

That's only a partial list. In many ways, this year will be more challenging than the last. And it will not get any easier as the years unfold ahead of us. Each year will present new and different challenges, and for many years to come each one will seem like a "start-up" year.

What will guide us as we face the many challenges ahead? What principles will we hold in our hearts and minds that will inform our decisions and shape our choices?

One of the guiding principles that I have held up repeatedly is that of service to students. At just about every campus and community function I can think of, I have said, "We're here for the students." Our new "one-stop shop" for student admissions and other services proceeds from that principle, as do a number of other student-friendly initiatives on campus.

But "student-friendly" does not imply that our high academic standards will be compromised. Another principle that I will endorse this academic year relates to our pursuit of excellence in all that we do. One of the distinguishing features of Cal State Channel Islands — fundamental to our identity — will be our quality academic programs. Our search for and attainment of real quality in those programs will give us that margin of excellence that will distinguish us. You will hear me say many times this year that we are continually engaged in the pursuit of quality in all of our academic programs and throughout the University. In one sense, this is our encore to the symphony of success of recent months.

The key to high-quality academic programs is, of course, the faculty. It takes a quality faculty to design and deliver quality programs, and I believe that Cal State Channel Islands has that kind of faculty. Thanks to the commitment to excellence on the part of our original 13 faculty members as they interviewed scores of candidates, our newest faculty colleagues are outstanding. We look for quality in all of our candidates, and while evidence of quality teaching and research comes first, we also look for that person who is entrepreneurial, who has a high level of integrity, who wants to be a member of a hard-working team, who treats others with respect and dignity, and who can rise above the silos of departmentalism and put institutional priorities first.

Thus, the process of recruiting quality faculty will multiply in the years ahead, as each group of candidates is screened for excellence by a group of high-quality persons committed to identifying the best faculty possible who will, as part of their work, design, deliver, and maintain high-quality academic programs for our students.

In order for us to be the high-quality, four-year, public university that Ventura County has been waiting for, we are going to need resources above and beyond those provided by the State of California. Our funding in the future will be a mix of state dollars, student fees, government contracts and grants, private and public foundation support, entrepreneurial initiatives, and donations from individuals, among others.

Thanks in large part to the generosity of Ventura County donors who want to see the new University succeed, we have opened our doors on time to our first students. With your continued support, we will achieve the margin of excellence that will make Cal State Channel Islands a bright star in the CSU constellation, and will give Ventura County a University of which it can be proud.

"At the opening of the University, it seems most appropriate that the person responsible [for bringing a university to Ventura County] should be recognized and honored broadly for the work he did for this region."

President Richard R. Rush, speaking of J. Handel Evans' contribution to the establishment of Cal State Channel Islands.



Photo by Bill Knapp

President Richard R. Rush, left, thanks President Emeritus J. Handel Evans, right, for his work in launching the University. Evans is the first recipient of the Presidential Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by the University.

President Emeritus J. Handel Evans Receives University's Highest Honor at President's Dinner

Nearly 400 friends and supporters of the University joined President Richard R. Rush for the third annual President's Dinner on August 17. The black-tie event celebrated the official opening of the University and honored J. Handel Evans, now president emeritus of California State University Channel Islands.

President Rush presented Evans with the University's first Presidential Medallion — the highest honor bestowed by the University — in recognition of Evans' work in building community support and lobbying for funds to open Cal State Channel Islands.

In presenting the Medallion, President Rush said, "When the right man came along, it all came into place. He was the man to take the aspirations of decades and turn those aspirations into a plan that was realized yesterday with the opening of Cal State Channel Islands. In the future, the medallion will be given to a person or persons who have performed exemplary service to the University."

Receiving a standing ovation, Evans acknowledged the many people who helped in the effort to open Ventura County's four-year, public university.

"I remember saying to Carmen (Smith, his former assistant), 'How do you build a university?'" Evans recalled. "The way you start it is very simple. You get someone to help you and believe in what you are doing. And then they go and get someone, and so on and so on."

Several students entering Cal State Channel Islands' first class were on hand, along with several from the CSU Northridge off-campus center. University Foundation Board member and the evening's Master of Ceremonies Mark Lisagor said, "We're happily here this evening not only to celebrate our long-awaited dream, but also to celebrate our first-class students."

Students Urged to "Be a Part from the Start"

Student Affairs, continued from page 1

Career, Recreation, and Academic Weeks featured events and activities designed to help students connect their educational experiences with their career goals and a healthy, fulfilling lifestyle. Several students approached staff members, indicating their interest in starting clubs or getting involved in campus activities. In response, Dr. Sawyer told students, "You tell us what you want to do, and the Student Affairs team will help you find a way to do it."

Dr. Sawyer invited the students to call him if they needed any assistance, but for those he has not yet met, he has a message: "Everyone has the opportunity to make a difference in this world and this is yours. Take advantage of all of the opportunities and services afforded to you. Your attendance at Cal State Channel Islands is a historic event that will be with you for a lifetime. Do all you can do while you are a student at CSUCI to savor this special time in your life."



Dr. Wm. Gregory Sawyer, front row, poses for group photo with students from CSUCI's first class at the Student Orientation sessions.

Academic Affairs

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Another significant accomplishment was the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' approval of Cal State Channel Islands' proposal for regional accreditation. Moreover, due to the excellent work of the faculty to date, and its relationship with other CSU campuses, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing unanimously waived its regional accreditation requirement, paving the way for Cal State Channel Islands to submit its multiple credentials program for initial approval.

When asked about his new position, McNeill who arrived just 10 months ago replied, "I have enjoyed this time immensely. I would like to express my genuine and heartfelt gratitude to all of those who have worked tirelessly along side us as we prepared for this first exciting year. I look forward to many, many more years of service at CSUCI and to supporting the students who one day will graduate from what is quickly becoming one of the leading universities in California."



Year-End Giving Helps Secure CSUCI's Success

Private contributions provide the margin of excellence in education. It is the result of the ongoing generosity of this community that Cal State Channel Islands and the community were able to celebrate its Opening Ceremony on August 16th.

During the ceremony, state and local dignitaries, community leaders, faculty, staff and students alike sat with anticipation as the campanile rang out the new school alma mater. A sense of pride of accomplishment showed in the eyes and smiles of hundreds, who after 30 years of advocating and planning, now have the new Cal State Channel Islands to call their own.

This "pride of accomplishment" is what we plan to help each CSUCI student achieve through exceptional instruction, outstanding faculty, and a commitment to learning. However, as a "state-assisted" university, we must continue to partner with the community to garner the much-needed financial support to ensure high-quality, affordable education. In fact, each of the CSU campuses must balance its state support with the generosity of private contributions.

Private donor support from this community has helped ensure our opening and it will continue to be needed to secure our future success in carrying out our heralded mission — academic excellence with a focus on students.

Now that students have arrived we have an increased need for resources — a need that can only be met by private charitable contributions from our community partners.

Therefore, at this time when supporters are considering year-end gifts to worthy charitable endeavors, we ask that you consider Cal State Channel Islands. Your gift would make an enormous impact on hundreds of students.

A year-end gift will not only assist us as we continue to build a university community focused on student-centered programs and services, but at this time of year can be a major factor in your tax planning.

By placing your tax-deductible gift in the envelope accompanying this newsletter, you could help ensure an historic event in the life of a CSUCI student — a diploma from Ventura County's first four-year, public university.

We hope you will continue to partner with us as we bring higher education to hundreds in our community who, before now, never had this opportunity.

CSUCI Benefits From In-Kind Gifts

Amgen Donates More Needed Science Equipment

Following a generous donation in March, Amgen made two additional contributions of recently retired and highly-valued lab equipment and supplies to CSUCI. These two summer shipments will save both the University and the students from purchasing many essential items.

Theatre Arts Program Stage is Set

Stage risers and dollies were donated to assist in set production for our Theatre Arts Program, thanks to B & R Scenery of Camarillo who does staging for the Super Bowl, Madonna, Shakira, and other singers and events.

Barber Ford Donates 2002 "Think" Vehicle

The University has a new electric vehicle to add to its growing fleet of energy efficient and environmentally-safe transportation options, thanks to the generosity of Barber Ford.

Student Hub Opens in Style

Thanks to Mitsubishi Digital Electronics America, Inc., students who seek respite in the newly-refurbished Student Hub can enjoy television news and entertainment programming on a 60" rear projection TV.

"These highly generous contributions are what will help ensure the caliber of education for which we at Cal State Channel Islands have all been waiting," said Vice President for University Advancement Alma D. González.

Your Gift to CSUCI Will Impact Important Areas

Donors can select from the following funds in support of our University:

University's Highest Priority Needs Fund

Will provide support for the increasing needs of this growing campus.

Student Scholarship Fund

Scholarship funds increase a student's ability to meet their educational goals and, for some, receiving a scholarship could be the sole deciding factor in their ability to begin or continue their education.

Student Special Needs Fund

Will provide for essential items to enable underprivileged students to fully participate in the University environment.

Library Resource Fund

Will assist in supplying the future library with reference materials and systems to ensure students the most up-to-date, quality educational resources.

Green Campus Project Fund

Supports CSUCI's commitment to creating a green campus community that reduces transportation congestion and pollution, as well as ensures self-sustaining and waste-reduction facilities.

President's Fund

Enables the President to respond in a timely manner to emerging opportunities for the benefit of the University.

University's Endowment Fund

Will establish a strong foundation to ensure the long-term future of the University.

Ways to Give to CSUCI

Following are the many ways to support your university.

Outright Gift of Cash

Most gifts are made by cash or check, but these days credit cards are often the means of choice. (Remember to make your gifts before the end of the year if you would like to affect your tax savings for 2002.) Using the enclosed envelope saves time and you can specify where your gift should be used and how you would like to be recognized.

If payment schedules suit your particular giving interest, CSUCI can set up a payment plan whereby your credit card can be charged monthly or quarterly.

Gifts of Securities

Appreciated stocks or mutual funds can be good sources for contributions. By donating these assets, generally you will receive a tax deduction for the full value and, in most cases, can avoid capital gains taxes at the same time.

Depreciated stocks and mutual funds can also prove to be good sources for contributions. Consider selling the depreciated stocks and using the cash as a contribution. Combining the loss from the sold stocks and your charitable tax deduction can often lead to even greater value.

Matching Gifts

Many companies offer employees an added benefit of matching their charitable contributions in the community. If your company matches gifts, a simple form is all you need to complete in order to double the value of your contribution to CSUCI. Example: You make a \$100 donation and your company will also send your selected charity a \$100 contribution. If interested in finding out if your company has a matching gift program, contact your Human Resources department.

Donor-Designated Gifts

Many charities that do not officially participate in United Way and Combined Federal Appeal programs can receive funding if the donor "designates" the specific charity. Any employee who contributes through either the United Way or CFA fundraising drives, can specify CSUCI on their donation form and we will receive your gift through payroll deduction just like any other United Way gifts.

Bequests

A simple and effective way to support Cal State Channel Islands, while at the same time leave a lasting legacy, is to bequest a gift to the University in your will.

Life Insurance

Life insurance policies are additional giving vehicles one can use to support the University. Whether the policy is paid off or not, naming us as the owner of the policy or as the beneficiary may provide you with additional tax advantages.

Real Estate

Another giving option is donating real estate that no longer has a mortgage and has increased in value.

Life Income Gifts

Gift annuities enable a donor to plan a generous gift to the University while receiving a lifetime income.

If you would like specific language for your will or have questions regarding any of these giving options, please feel free to contact Tanya G. Gonzales, Interim Director of Development at (805) 437-8894 or Alma D. González, Vice President for University Advancement at (805) 437-8435.

Prop. 47 — On the November Ballot

On November 5, California voters will decide on whether or not to pass Proposition 47, the Kindergarten through University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2002. This is a \$13.05 billion general obligation bond measure to relieve overcrowding, accommodate new enrollment, make overdue safety repairs and upgrade California's elementary, middle and high schools, community colleges and universities.

Of the total amount, \$496 million would be used for projects in the 23-campus CSU System. Of that amount, \$1,262,000 is designated for the science building and lab equipment for the Cal State Channel Islands campus.

The bonds would be repaid from state revenues over 30 years, and would not increase or create new taxes.

While conceding that old and inadequate school facilities in California are a serious problem that needs to be addressed, opponents of Prop. 47 have argued that taking on more bond debt could harm the state's finances. They also have said that the state school construction process takes too long for new schools to be built.

We encourage you to consider this and all issues on the November 5 ballot carefully and to please participate in the vote.

Campus Close-Up

Students Sow Seeds of Success

Children of Migrant Farm Workers Gain First-Hand College Experience at Cal State Channel Islands

For the sons and daughters of migrant agricultural workers, getting a quality education can seem like a distant dream. These families move frequently for seasonal or temporary jobs. Often the children must help with the seasonal harvests, causing them to miss a great deal of schooling. It can be a challenge for these children just to complete their primary schooling.

Cal State Channel Islands and Oxnard Union High School have partnered for the second year to bring high school students to the University. These students are exposed to college-level classes and are encouraged to begin preparing for a future that will include higher education through a federally funded program called Migrant Education.

On August 1, 32 local high school students received certificates of completion — many obtaining the highest level of certificates of excellence — and family members watched with pride as students took their place on the "graduation" stage. For the young men and women present, the Summer College for high school children of migrant workers awards ceremony was a sign of their first step toward a lifetime of success.

The month-long experience taught the students that everyone can uncover limitless potential if only given access. That's what the Board and faculty of Cal State Channel Islands believe, and it was the impetus to launch this innovative program last year that was organized by adjunct faculty member Rosalind Raby, Professor of Anthropology Bill Adams, and Professor of Chemistry Philip Hampton. Director of Extended Education Gary Berg explained the idea to open the campus to students who "probably would not have access to higher education" is at the core of our mission — to provide access and academic excellence to the entire community.

In this program, during the morning session led by Raby, students were exposed to various career options as they listened to mini-lectures from CSUCI faculty and members from the community. In the afternoon, students took an innovative cross-disciplinary college credit course in forensics led by Adams and Hampton, and co-developed with Renee Artman, Forensic Sciences Laboratory Manager at the Ventura County Sheriff's Department Forensic Laboratory. Students learned about topics such as the analysis of DNA, fingerprints, bomb fragments, trace evidence, and human remains from experts in the county.

For many of the attendees, programs like the Summer College for high school students becomes a life-changing experience as young adults, and their families gain a richer understanding of the tremendous value of a college education.

The experience was summed up enthusiastically by Hueneme High school junior Diana Gonzalez, "If you want something you go for it. Opportunities like this don't come 'like' every time and as long as you take advantage of those opportunities, they'll help you get to your goals."

Alma D. González, Vice President for University Advancement, stressed that this is just part of the support the University wants to provide for these leaders of tomorrow. "While we are delighted to have introduced these bright students to the possibilities ahead of them, we also want to continue to do all that we can to support them on the journeys that lie ahead of them. We are interested in hearing from anyone who would like to contribute to the University's scholarship fund so that we can continue to help dreams become reality."

These 32 students were selected from a pool of 70 students who applied. To have been eligible for this program, these students must have moved in the previous three years due to parents seeking seasonal agricultural work. Each student must also have met a 3.0 GPA requirement and be on schedule to graduate on time.

For more information, please call (805) 437-8580.



Graduates of the Summer College for high school children of migrant workers proudly show their certificates of completion. More than 100 students and their family members attended the awards ceremony on August 1.



CSUCI Current is an official publication of California State University Channel Islands. It is published by the Office for University Advancement.

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Employment Opportunities

CSUCI is accepting applications for full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in a variety of disciplines. Successful candidates will engage in the excitement of developing the first new university in 21st century America.

We expect to appoint 25 full-time faculty and two library faculty in spring 2003 to begin work in fall 2003.

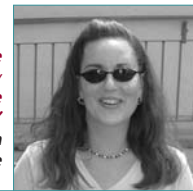
All CSUCI faculty are appointed on the basis of merit, and qualified minorities, women, and people with disabilities — as well as faculty at all stages of experience and academic rank — are encouraged to apply.

For more information on the faculty positions available, please visit our Web site at www.csuci.edu, and click the Employment link.

Student Spotlight

"I love it here because of the atmosphere of the campus. The historical buildings are really cool, and with the undeveloped surroundings you can see the sky and the mountains. There's a really good support network too. My professor set up tutorials, and he made sure we all know we have easy access to him. Some majors like mine have the same people in many classes. It's not like a huge university where you never get to know the person sitting next to you."

— Diana Troutman
Junior, Computer Science



"I chose [CSU] Channel Islands because it was close and they got going with the math program, which wasn't supposed to be here for another year or two. I like that the classes are really small, although that is what usually happens in higher math at other universities, too. There's more of a computer base here than I'm used to, but I'll live!"

— Jim Sears
Junior, Mathematics



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