

Opening Ceremony

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS



OPENING CEREMONY, AUGUST 16, 2002

*"Welcome to the opening of
your university."*

— Richard R. Rush



On August 16, 2002 — on a picture-perfect day — the ringing of bells from the tower heralded the beginning of a new journey and the culmination of the decades-long effort to create a four-year, public university to serve the people of Ventura County. This day marked the opening of California State University Channel Islands.

The event began with former Congressman Robert J. Lagomarsino and his wife Norma, long-time supporters of the University, ringing the Channel Islands Bell signaling the start of the Opening Ceremony. Sounding the ship's bell, on loan from the Navy for the event, marked the beginning of a Cal State Channel Islands tradition. President Richard R. Rush shared with the audience of more than 1,200 people gathered on the lawn in the shadow of the University's Bell Tower.

"I would like to begin by calling your attention to a tradition that we began today — the ringing of the Channel Islands Bell. It is our intention to ring in each new school year with an academic procession set into motion by the ringing of the bell," Rush said.

Acknowledging the Lagomarsinos' tradition of support for the University, Rush said, "We are honored to have former Congressman Bob Lagomarsino and his wife Norma as our first bell ringers. Bob and Norma are truly long-time friends and supporters of Cal State Channel Islands." As a state senator in the 1960s, Robert Lagomarsino introduced the first legislation authorizing a public university for Ventura County. Recently the Lagomarsinos donated \$1 million to support the University's new library, the Lagomarsino Archives, and future archival collections which will be located within the library.

Also recognized for his valuable contribution in establishing the University was J. Handel Evans, founding president and now president emeritus of CSUCI. Evans began work in 1996 to build support and lobby for funds to create the University.

Others singled out for recognition by President Rush for their contributions to the University were his advisory committee; Joyce Kennedy, the retired University Center director of CSUN for Ventura County, who was unable to attend the ceremony; and the late Star Free-Press editor Julius Gius, who recruited supporters for the future University.

The ceremony was attended by guests from academia, the community, the media, and local, state, and national government officials, including Governor Gray Davis. Governor Davis was among many dignitaries who offered good wishes for the success of Cal State Channel Islands.

"I believe higher education is the passport to a better life," Governor Gray Davis said during his official greetings to the University. "Today, Ventura County becomes home to one of the great public universities in the world. By opening the doors to CSU Channel Islands, we open the doors of opportunity to generations of students in Ventura County and throughout California."

Welcoming the 23rd campus in the CSU System, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed said, "This campus is as rich in history as it is in its promise for the future. CSU Channel Islands represents the best in our hopes and dreams for a 21st century university."

Calling the California State University Channel Islands "the miracle on Lewis Road," State Senator Jack O'Connell thanked the many people who over the years supported the effort to bring a four-year, public university to Ventura County. "This University really is the university that could," he said. "We knew that if we built this University, the students would come. Without a doubt, this is the brightest jewel in the crown of the California State University System."

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Top: The entrance to Cal State Channel Islands. Background: the University Bell Tower. Left: Robert J. and Norma Lagomarsino, with Alma D. González before the Opening Ceremony. Right: Carolyn Leavens, whose family donated the funds to purchase the Bell Tower's carillon system, waits for the Opening Ceremony with Dorothy Jue Lee, a supporter of the University for many years and member of the President's Circle. Bottom: Associate Professor of Spanish Terry Ballman walks in the academic procession.

BELLS ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF VENTURA COUNTY'S UNIVERSITY

The Carillon Bells

"The Leavens are staunch supporters of the University. Thank you for your generous and beautiful gift."

— Richard R. Rush

Long a silent symbol of Cal State University Channel Islands, the University's Bell Tower is filling the air with the sound of bells at last. The five-story, 68-year-old landmark is now equipped with a carillon system that marks time, rings in celebration, and announces and calls together the University family by tolling.

Made possible by a \$15,000 donation from Leavens family members Mary Leavens Schwabauer, Dorothy Leavens Carlson, Sarah Leavens Gilmour, and Paul Joseph and Carolyn Leavens, the Cal State Channel Islands bells can be heard throughout the campus.

One of the songs recorded on the system is the University's alma mater, with music and lyrics by Executive Assistant to the President Theodore Lucas. (Please see page 5 for the alma mater.) The alma mater debuted at the University's opening ceremony, its two verses ringing clearly from the Bell Tower with many in the audience singing along.

When asked what it meant to hear his piece playing from the Bell Tower, Lucas responded, "The Bell Tower serves as the central landmark, its beauty and majesty gracing this magnificent campus. The addition of the bells and music literally sent chills down the spine of many of us who have been working so hard to make this university a reality. As the tunes play each day, they seem to ring in the hope, promise, and endless possibilities that this campus brings to the people of Ventura County."

The Opening Ceremony
South Quad Lawn
Friday • August 16, 2002 • Noon

Richard R. Rush, President
California State University Channel Islands
Presiding

Processional

Processional March composed by Theodore Lucas
Conducted by Mike Doty
Performed by Channel Islands and
Hueneme High Schools Band

Procession Participants

Chief University Marshal, Louise Lutze-Mann, Chair,
CSUCI Academic Senate
Present and past members of the President's Advisory
and Foundation Boards
Led by University Marshal, Ira Schoenwald
Students and Staff
Led by University Marshals, Dan Wakelee and
Linda MacMichael
The Faculty
Led by University Marshal, Stephen Lefevre
The President's Cabinet and CSU Representatives
Led by University Marshal, Paul Adalian
Opening Ceremony Platform Party
Led by University Marshal, Barbara Thorpe

Invocation

The Rev. James Decker-Mahin
Camarillo United Methodist Church

Color Guard

Naval Base Ventura County

National Anthem

Charles Padilla

Welcome & Introductions

Richard R. Rush

Greetings

From
The Governor of the State of California
The Honorable Gray Davis
The Trustees, California State University System
Debra Farar, Chair
The Chancellor, California State University System
Charles B. Reed, Chancellor
The United States Congress
Congresswoman Lois Capps
The California State Senate
Senator Jack O'Connell
The California State Assembly
Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson
Assemblywoman Fran Pavley
Assemblyman Tony Strickland
The CSUCI President's Advisory Board
Laura McAvoy, Chair
The CSUCI Foundation Board
Gregory J. Ramirez, Member
The Ventura County Community College District
James Walker, Interim Chancellor
The Ventura County Superintendent of Schools
Charles Weis, Superintendent

Dilemma March

Composed and conducted by Gary Engels

Greetings (continued)

From
The County Board of Supervisors
Kathy Long, Member
The City of Camarillo
Jan McDonald, Mayor
The City of Oxnard
Manuel Lopez, Mayor
The Naval Base Ventura County
Captain Robert Westberg
The Community
Carmen Ramirez
The Faculty
Louise Lutze-Mann, Chair, CSUCI Academic Senate
The Staff
Ginger Reyes, Outreach & Recruitment
The Students
Richard Ramirez

Alma Mater

Music and lyrics by Theodore Lucas
Performed by Fran McNeill
Accompanied by the Channel Islands and
Hueneme High Schools Band

Benediction

Alan Salazar, Chumash Elder

Closing Remarks

Richard R. Rush

Recessional

Channel Islands and Hueneme High Schools Band
Conducted by Mike Doty

Ceremony Highlights

Bells Herald University Opening, continued

CSUCI President's Advisory Board Chair Laura McAvoy spoke not only of celebrating the joy of the University's opening, but also of the need for the community's continuing commitment to its success: "Today is our day to celebrate. It is also the beginning of what we all know is the most challenging part of this experience... This is the time that this University will continue to need ongoing diligence, commitment, caring, and certainly support of all kinds. This day is also a call to all of us in the community to remind us of our ongoing responsibility. Thank you to everyone for making this day possible by joining in the venture and the dream and for your ongoing support."

"We strengthen our society when education is available to all of us."

- Carmen Ramirez, representing the community

Representing the CSUCI Foundation Board, Ventura attorney Gregory J. Ramirez thanked the community for its crucial backing in establishing the University. "We have worked as a team," he said, "to raise support for the University, so that every student, every child, in every city of this county would know that this University belongs to them." Referring to the community's efforts, Ramirez said, "You demonstrated to the state legislature, you demonstrated to the CSU Trustees, that when the citizens and the businesses of this county are asked to rise to the occasion, they do so. We thank you for that."

Oxnard Mayor Manuel Lopez spoke about how the University will benefit the local community: "This day symbolizes the opening up of opportunity for many local children and young people to aspire to an education that they could never have hoped for before."

Speaking about the advantages a public university brings to the community, local attorney and President's Advisory Board member Carmen Ramirez called Cal State Channel Islands "my University, our University, your University." She added, "To many people in our society, a college education is the only way out of a plight of poverty and ignorance. We strengthen our society when education is available to all of us."

"Welcome to the miracle on Lewis Road."

"It doesn't get any better than this, does it?"

- State Senator Jack O'Connell

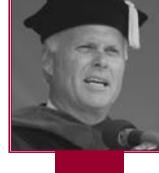
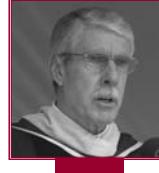
Local resident Richard Ramirez, representing the present and future students of CSUCI, said that having a university close to home made his dream of a four-year degree possible. "Opportunity was knocking, and I'll tell you what: I couldn't open that door fast enough," he said. Speaking to the inaugural class, he said, "We have a destiny to fulfill, and it's going to start here, with us."

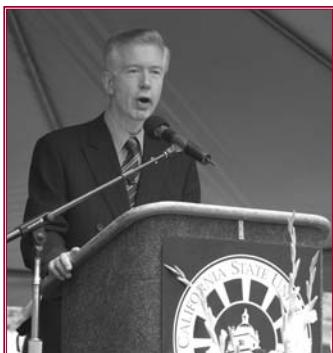
The ceremony concluded with the clear sound of bells as the University's alma mater was played for the first time from the Bell Tower.

Above: Carrying the University Mace in the academic processional is CSU Academic Senate Chair and biology professor Louise Lutze-Mann.

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony are, top right to bottom right, Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson, Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, Assemblyman Tony Strickland, President's Advisory Board Chair Laura McAvoy, Foundation Board member Gregory J. Ramirez, Ventura County Community College District Interim Chancellor James Walker, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Charles Weis, Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long, and City of Camarillo Mayor Jan McDonald.

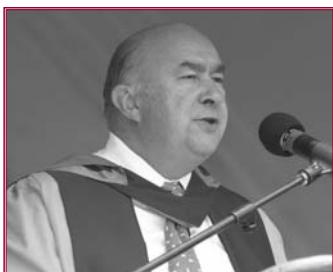
Photos on this page by Bill Knapp





"By opening the doors to CSU Channel Islands, we open the doors of opportunity to generations of students in Ventura County and throughout California."

— Governor Gray Davis

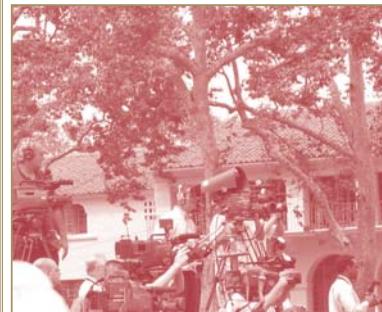


Welcoming Cal State Channel Islands to the state of California and the CSU System are Governor Gray Davis, top left, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed, middle left, Senator Jack O'Connell, bottom left, CSU Board of Trustees Chair Debra Farar, middle center, and U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps, middle right. President Richard R. Rush, right, addresses the audience of more than 1,200 who gathered on the South Quad lawn to celebrate the opening of the University. Far right sidebar: Cameramen from media companies from across the state record the Opening Ceremony.



Photos on this page by Bill Knapp

Lights, Camera, Action



Media from Ventura and Los Angeles Counties as well as media outlets from throughout the state and the country covered the historic opening of Cal State Channel Islands.

The week leading up to the event included almost daily coverage in the Ventura County Star, several mentions in the Los Angeles Times, the Daily News, radio coverage on KCLU, KNX, KFWB, and an appearance by Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Wm Gregory Sawyer on the local Adelphia cable station. In addition, the Ventura County Star produced a striking commemorative special insert containing tribute advertising and warm wishes from the surrounding community complete with compelling articles. The Ventura County Reporter featured Cal State Channel Islands for its cover story.

Even the opening ceremony rehearsal received substantial coverage from the Ventura County Star, the Los Angeles Times, and radio station KFWB.

Media coverage the day of the opening was outstanding with television and radio coverage from Sacramento to San Diego. Print coverage included stories in the Sacramento Bee, the Daily News, the Los Angeles Times, La Opinion, the Pacific Coast Business Times, as well as feature stories and heartwarming editorials in the Ventura County Star.

President Rush has also been interviewed for U. Magazine and appeared on "Week In Review" with Bill Rosendahl as well as KEYT's "In Focus" from Santa Barbara.

Post coverage has continued with pieces in the Korea Times, the Chronicle of Higher Education and the Santa Barbara News Press.

So the anticipated fanfare occurred, complete with glaring flash bulbs, cameras rolling and full-page ads. The community has been told their University is finally here and "open for business." Without a doubt Cal State Channel Islands, the students, faculty, and staff will continue to make headlines as we all embark together on this historic journey.

Alma Mater

Music and lyrics by Theodore Lucas

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1. Sing we now of Chan - nel Is - lands, Al - ma Ma - ter dear.
2. From the is - lands to the moun - tains, to the mi - ghty shore,



Raise a song of friend - ship and sing for all to hear.
Cal State Chan - nel Is - lands shall stand for ev - er more.



We shall al - ways stand u - ni - ted, on - ward we shall sail! With
E - ven in ad - ver - si - ty the Dol - phins shall pre - vail! To



hearts and hands to - ge - ther, all Hail! Hail! Hail!
thee our Al - ma Ma - ter, all Hail! Hail! Hail!



Photos by Bill Knapp
The Ventura County Naval Base Color Guard, background, marches at the beginning of the Opening Ceremony. Right, Fran McNeill sings the debut performance of the University's alma mater, with music and lyrics written by Theodore Lucas.



Calling the establishment of a four-year, public university in Ventura County a "Herculean achievement," Governor Gray Davis, center, congratulates CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed, left, and President Richard R. Rush, right, on the opening of California State University Channel Islands.



"This campus is as rich in history as it is in its promise for the future. Cal State Channel Islands represents the best in our hopes and dreams for a 21st century university."

– CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed

Top left: City of Oxnard Mayor Manuel Lopez, left, and Ventura County Naval Base Captain Robert Westberg await the Opening Ceremony.

Top right, from left to right: President's Advisory Board member Carmen Ramirez, CSUCI staff member Ginger Reyes, CSUCI student Richard Ramirez, and Rev. James Decker-Mahin await the procession to begin the Opening Ceremony.

Middle right: President Emeritus J. Handel Evans wearing the Presidential Medallion.

Bottom right: Chumash elder Alan Salazar gives the benediction.

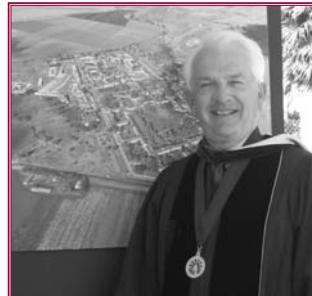


Photo by Bill Knapp

Mission Statement

California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with an international perspective that includes facility in two languages. To accomplish its mission, the University strives to create learning communities that involve all elements of the University, integrate community and university resources, build community-university partnerships, engage the educational community from preschool through community college, provide opportunities for adult education and lifelong learning, and preserve and enhance the culture and environment of the region.

California State University Channel Islands
is pleased to recognize and thank
the following sponsors of the
University's Opening Events

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