

CHANNEL

CSU Channel Islands Magazine • Fall 2014 / Volume 18 / Number 2



Expanding Opportunities

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT YOUR 12-year-old University was recently recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education as the nation's number one "fastest-growing" public institution. But we are not done yet. We are actively pursuing public-private partnerships that will enable us to grow our enrollment by approximately 400 new students per year.

CI also earned recognition as one of the top universities nationwide for its "Bang for the Buck" in Washington Monthly's 2014 College Rankings as well as being named one of the nation's top universities for Hispanic students by BestColleges.com, an independent, research-based college-planning website for students and families. CI ranked 19th on the website's list of the "Top 50 Colleges for Hispanic Students." These annual rankings highlight public-minded universities that are providing students the best value and service for their money.

To continue to meet the growing demand of a CI education, we recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for our third phase of student housing. The brand new, four-story Santa Rosa Village will accommodate 600 freshmen, helping to alleviate overcrowding in our current student housing.

We also look forward to expanding opportunities for students through undergraduate research, providing internships with leading businesses and professionals, and making a positive contribution in our local communities through community service. These prospects will enable all of our students to learn through experience.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that "the creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." At the center of our plans for CI's next decade are our students, each one an 'acorn' that is nurtured and will thrive for everyone's benefit for many years to come. No matter how many students we have, placing each one at the center of the learning experience remains our mission.

On behalf of the entire CI community, I wish you a safe and delightful holiday season!

Sincerely yours,



Richard R. Rush
President





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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send correspondence to: ci.news@csuci.edu or CSU Channel Islands, Communication & Marketing, One University Drive, Camarillo CA 93012-8599, 805-437-8415.

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Cover: Lecturer Lorna Profant with pre-nursing students

See cover story page 13

CSU Channel Islands Mission Statement

Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.

If you would like to be added to our email or mailing list for University events or special announcements, please submit your contact information to: ci.news@csuci.edu



This news magazine is printed on recycled paper.

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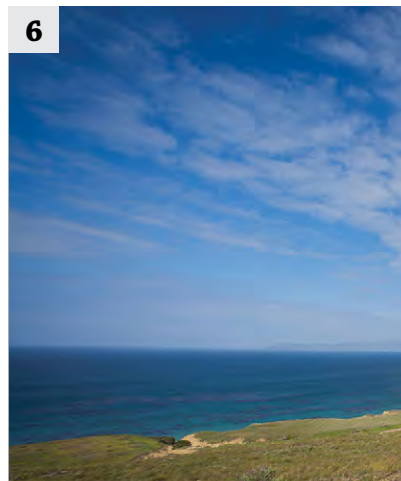
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President Rush recognized as one of Ventura County's exceptional leaders

President Richard R. Rush was named one of Ventura County's "25 Over 50" for 2014. The annual awards program created by the Ventura County Star recognizes 25 exceptional leaders over the age of 50 who "leave an imprint on the community through their achievements, leadership abilities, philanthropic efforts, and dedication to the betterment of Ventura County."

Rush received his award on Oct. 16 in a ceremony at the Spanish Hills Country Club in Camarillo, with his wife, Jane, and numerous CI colleagues looking on. He collected a certificate of recognition and a framed copy of a Ventura County Star article highlighting his accomplishments.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/rush25over50



Professor Jose Alamillo honored with award

Jose Alamillo, Professor of Chicana/o Studies was honored on Oct. 17 for his work to help Latinos and undocumented

students break barriers and excel in higher education. The Ventura County chapter of the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA) presented Alamillo with its Access to Justice Award. The award was one of two given at MABA's Annual Scholarship Dinner to outstanding community leaders who promote the advancement of Latinos.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/alamillomaba

CI recognized as one of top universities with 'Bang for the Buck' ranking

CI has earned recognition as one of the top universities nationwide for its "Bang for the Buck" in Washington Monthly's 2014 College Rankings. The annual rankings highlight public-minded universities providing students the best value for their money. CI earned a ranking of 19th among all master's-granting universities for its value and public benefit.

In addition to weighing the economic value students receive per dollar, the study rates schools based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and Ph.D.s), and service (encouraging students to give something back to their country).

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/bangforbuck



CI Wins Grant

CI has partnered with two Oxnard schools, two federal agencies and private business on an educational partnership intended to inspire a new generation of environmental scientists and advocates. The University won a \$60,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration enabling it to launch a new educational program, Crossing the Channel: An Inquiry Based Expedition.

The hands-on educational program partners CI with Channel Islands National Park, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the underwater robot company OpenROV, and Oxnard's R.J. Frank Intermediate School and Channel Islands High School. It unites students from middle school through college in ecological exploration and conservation in the Channel Islands, exposing them to various research, monitoring, engineering, data collection, and restoration projects, as well as the joy of science.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/noaagrant



Teresa Castillo wins 2014 CSU Trustees' Award

CI sophomore Teresa Castillo is the winner of a prestigious 2014 CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. The annual awards are the CSU system's highest student distinction, providing scholarships to one student at each of the 23 CSU campuses who has conquered hardships to become a distinguished scholar.

Castillo's \$6,000 scholarship is a gift from the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation. Castillo and the 22 other recipients were honored on Sept. 9 at an awards ceremony hosted by the CSU Chancellor in Long Beach.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/castilloaward



Gift of 500 trees will make CI a greener campus

The CI campus has become greener thanks to the gift of 500 trees from Alcoa Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Alcoa, a global leader in lightweight metals technology, engineering and manufacturing. As part of its Global ReLeaf pledge and partnering with the nonprofit organization American Forests, Alcoa Foundation awarded CI \$25,000 to purchase the trees and more than 80 volunteers planted them on campus on Oct. 4.

The day consisted of planting 500 trees, mostly native varieties such as jacarandas, sycamores, toyons, manzanitas, elderberries, and California bays, on nearly 22 acres of the CI campus. Most were planted along the entrance road, University Drive, and on the lawn area of the John Spoor Broome Library.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/alcoa

Professor Frank Barajas wins Latino Leadership Award

History Professor Frank Barajas was the recipient of a 2014 Latino Leadership Award from El Concilio Family Services. The annual award salutes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life for the underserved Latino community.

Barajas was recognized for enriching the Latino community through his teaching, writings and activism at the 25th Annual El Concilio Latino Leadership Awards

Banquet. The event honored eight community leaders before a standing-room-only crowd of over 350 people at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center on May 31.

Read the full story at go.csuci.edu/barajasaward



For information on other University news stories visit www.csuci.edu/news/newsreleases.htm

Unique Collection Leads to Unique Understanding

A Student Researcher and the Ventura County Commission on Women

By Matthew Cook, Head of Unique Collections and Scholarly Communication, John Spoor Broome Library

CASSANDRA LUDWIG, A SENIOR at CI, is looking to leave her mark on Ventura County. To do so, she argues, she has to learn more about the County, so she decided to do a little research. The Sociology Major is enrolled in University 498, a self-directed research class taught by Librarian Matt Cook. Cassandra is studying the Ventura County Commission on Women (VCCW), a government agency charged with providing guidance to County Supervisors on issues impacting women and girls county wide. In early 2014, the VCCW donated their papers to the John Spoor Broome Library, and it is this unique collection that serves as Cassandra's source material and research topic.



Cassandra says, "I want to do research to expand my knowledge. This class and the VCCW collection represent a great opportunity to learn more about the community. I

later. Making those connections leads to gaining new knowledge."

The senior looks forward to applying her knowledge and skills

❖❖❖ This class and the VCCW collection represent a great opportunity to learn more about the community. I live here and I want to know what is going on. —Cassandra Ludwig

live here and I want to know what is going on."

Cassandra adds, "I get to learn about things, things I didn't even know that I wanted to learn about." It is this idea of exploring the unknown that excites Cassandra, who says, "I like reading articles that don't go hand in hand at first, but do

to graduate school and, hopefully, serving Ventura County by working at a local not-for-profit. This despite the two things that she doesn't like about doing research. Cassandra notes that, "Deadlines are scary and you're never done."

Cook is serving as her teacher on this project in name only, noting,

"Research is self-directed since, as Cassandra points out, she is creating new knowledge. Although I am there to answer questions and try to create a framework for her, it is Cassandra that will be determining which topics she will focus on and how her project will unfold. It really is exciting, for her and myself. And it is the very reason that we collect and preserve unique collections in the Library—they benefit students and their education."

Cassandra says that to be successful in conducting research, "You need to be determined, willing, and optimistic." In light of her nearly completing her undergraduate education coupled with the fact that she has a clear plan ahead of her, it appears as though she has the skills to be an effective researcher. ❖❖



Students thrive at research station

By Marya Jones Barlow

SINCE OPENING EARLIER this year, Santa Rosa Island Research Station—A California State University Channel Islands Undergraduate Research Campus has become a place of "firsts."

For some students, it's the first place they've seen the Milky Way, taken a hike, or even experienced nature. For others, like Melinda Berge, it's the place where a career was launched.

"Research on the island gave me a complete view of the career I had chosen, as well as a lot of personal growth," said Berge, a recent graduate of CI's Anthropology program. "At the end of field school, I was offered a job and have been working in my field ever since."

That's exactly what Associate Provost Dan Wakelee hoped for when he partnered with Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau. As co-instructors of "The National Park" course with Professor Don Rodriguez, they began discussing a collaboration between CI and the National Park Service that would help gather needed data for managing the park, while allowing CI and other constituents to carry

on educational activities and research. The project evolved over the last six years, with the official opening of the station in August.

"This has been beyond what I anticipated for the first year," Wakelee said. "We've been extremely successful in getting a broad spectrum of students out to the island to participate in class activities or undergraduate research. We are already seeing some very promising results and are excited about new projects taking shape for future terms."

Over the spring and summer, the research station hosted more than 220 students, 35 faculty members, 20 students working on capstone projects, and researchers from 10 organizations. CI students are contributing to studies documenting the island's plants, wildlife, artifacts, and recovery from ranching. A collaboration with R.J. Frank Intermediate School and Channel Islands High School, funded with a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is exposing middle and high school students to science and ecology on the island, while



involving CI undergraduates as mentors.

Wakelee attributes much of the progress to Research Station Manager Cause Hanna. Hired in 2013, Hanna is developing the facility with contagious enthusiasm. He travels back and forth between the remote research station and the CI campus, helping build the station's infrastructure, coordinating educational programs and research, enlisting new partners, developing curriculum, managing budgets and travel, participating in research himself, and leading activities from hikes and tours to data collection and invasive plant control. "This is truly my dream job," said Hanna, an environmental scientist with a Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley. "Santa Rosa Island is going through an exciting transition and these students are at the forefront of capturing and learning from it. They get to do things I only dreamed of as an undergraduate. These experiences will impact their lives and connect them to the environment forever." ❖❖

▶ go.csuci.edu/sri



Reflections on a Visit by a Supreme Court Justice

By Scott Frisch, Chair and Professor of Political Science and James Meriwether, Chair and Professor of History

THURSDAY, OCT. 30TH MARKED A HIGH POINT in the life of our young University—the opportunity to hear from one of the seminal figures of our age. Retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, both enlightened and entertained a capacity crowd with reflections on her nearly 25-year career on the nation’s highest court.

The evening provided our University a remarkable moment, as Justice O’Connor frankly discussed the challenges she faced as a woman breaking into a new arena, and told the audience of her passion for inspiring the youth of today to understand better our system of government through the formation of her civic engagement nonprofit iCivics.

The voices of students who attended offer the best window on the event. Justice O’Connor’s candid observations engaged students in a way that clearly resonated. Senior Amber Ramirez, reflecting on meeting the Justice noted, “I am deeply honored to say that I have met you; furthermore, you are truly an inspiration to all. From hearing your story I can tell it was not an easy road that you had to take, but it definitely sounded like an exciting one. You visually and verbally made it clear that you are about the students, from allowing us to meet you first, to furthermore explaining iCivics and the idea behind the creation of iCivics.”

Sara Sanders, a Political Science and History double major, summed up what many thought that evening: “It was an honor to sit down with an individual who

has been an inspiration for myself and for many students. Thank you for showing us the importance of determination and that it is possible through perseverance to achieve anything you want.”

Perhaps the following observation by student John Butzer provides the most tangible evidence of the importance of the evening: “I would be hard pressed to think of a more incredible public servant that I and my fellow Political Science students admire more. Her service and dedication to our country and its legal system serves as an inspiration to us, and hearing her speak has affirmed my decision to dedicate my life to public service.”

We are deeply grateful to CI Foundation Board member Ralph Iannelli who was instrumental in making this wonderful event happen and who was aided by fellow board member, Christine Garvey. Mr. Iannelli serves on the board of iCivics and he shares the Justice’s passion for promoting civic understanding among our students. ♦C



“An Ocean in Mind”

By Rainer Buschmann, Professor of History

THIS TITLE OF A BOOK written by Will Kyselka captures my mindset as I approach the largest geographic feature on earth located in close proximity of Channel Islands’ beautiful campus. There is a forceful, physical reality to the Pacific inherent in the crashing waves arriving at Ventura County beaches.

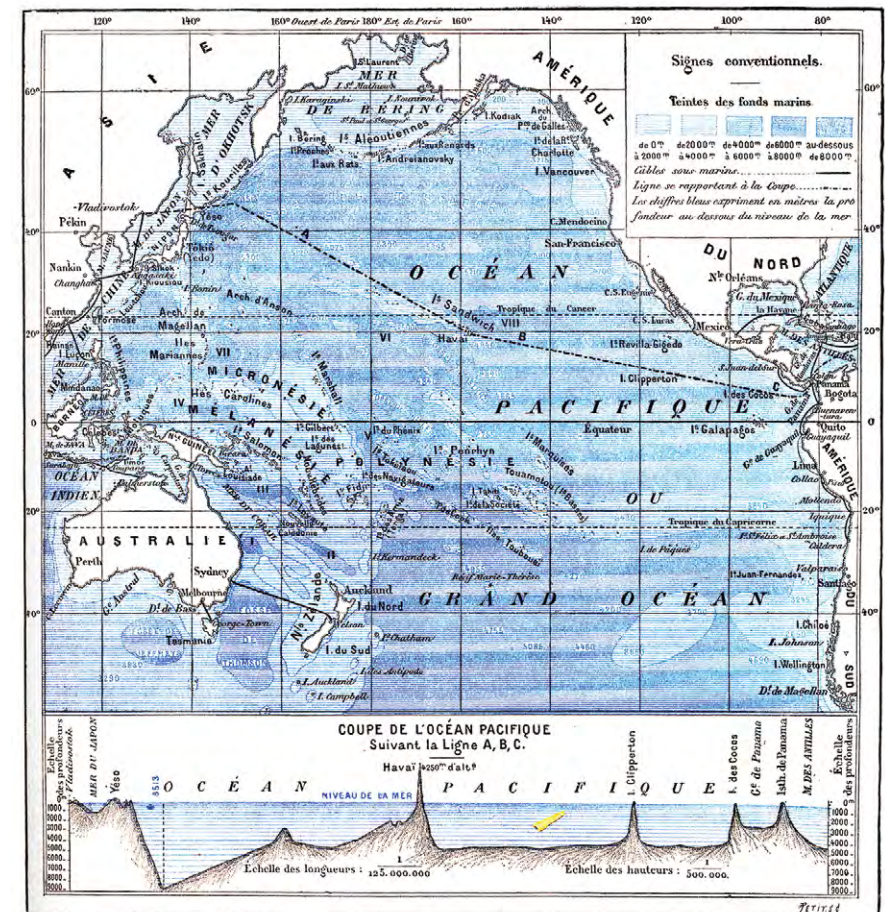
At the same time, the Pacific has also been an area populating imaginations, a historical artifact that links individuals from the Americas, Asia, and the waterlogged world of Oceania. This ocean is perhaps best remembered as a fierce, less than pacific, battleground, pitting American units against the soldiers of the Japanese imperial army during the brief, but intense years of the Second World War. In more positive but equally distorting ways, the Pacific is frequently evoked as an unchanging tropical paradise. I should confess that such oversimplifications initially attracted me to this ocean.

Interested in the diverse island cultures of the Pacific, I turned to graduate studies in anthropology at the University of Hawaii. Easily the most diverse place I encountered over the course in my life, Hawaii also transformed my intellectual curiosities and trajectories. Encountering many people who called the Pacific their home, I found myself confronted with the poignant question of “why are you studying us?” Unable to provide a satisfying answer led me to abandon anthropology and embrace the closely

allied field of history. As my mental map of the Pacific became more populated and less static, I was inspired by the late Tongan writer Epeli Hau’ofa’s quote: “Conquerors come, conquerors go, the ocean remains, mother only to her children. This mother has a big heart though; she adopts everybody who loves her.” Hau’ofa’s saying gained significance when I explored traces of the Pacific in archives located in Basel, Berlin, Lisbon, and Seville.

Arriving at CSU Channel Islands during the time of its opening allowed me to put in place some of these oceanic visions. Devising a strong global component to CI’s history

major, I emphasize themes rather than random facts in my classes on the human history of the Pacific and other oceans. Successfully combining teaching and research (my fourth book has just appeared), I instill in my students the notion that history is not just found in books or journals. In fact, the past, I illustrate in my courses, is something that surrounds us all in both comforting and troubling ways. It is this notion that has guided my development of popular classes that include co-taught sections on Asian Warrior Cultures, Environmental History, and Nazi Germany with fellow CI Professors Kevin Volkan and Don Rodriguez. ♦C





“A Stranger in Olondria” finds a home in academia

By Marya Jones Barlow

IN A WORLD WHERE AUTHORS and academics are neatly categorized by disciplines and genres, Sofia Samatar is somewhat of an anomaly.

Though she’s scooping up the world’s highest honors as a science fiction and fantasy writer, Samatar is also a poet and author of literary fiction. And though she’s an assistant professor in CI’s English program, she’s also an expert in African languages and literature who has taught courses in Arabic along with Fiction Writing, Themes and Theories in World Literature, and Major Non-Western Authors.

“Something that’s special about CI is that it takes interdisciplinary studies

seriously and appreciates that in the real world, we address problems by engaging people with different skill sets,” Samatar said. “CI’s English program

awards and critical acclaim for her fantasy debut novel, “A Stranger in Olondria.” The book, written over 10 years while teaching in Sudan and Egypt, has earned some of the

✖ You can’t underestimate readers. It’s insulting to assume that people who read genre science fiction want to read the same thing over and over again. —Sofia Samatar

embraced my differences as assets that would enrich the interdisciplinary culture.”

Since joining CI’s faculty in 2013, Samatar has been riding a wave of

science fiction and fantasy genre’s most prestigious honors. Samatar won the British Fantasy Award for Best Novel, the William L. Crawford Award for Best Fantasy

Debut, and the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer at the World Science Fiction Convention—widely considered the Academy Awards of the genre.

It’s a thrilling validation for a book that was once turned down by more than 50 literary agents.

“I spent five years trying to get an agent,” she said. “Everybody said, ‘We can’t sell this book. We like it; it’s beautifully written, but we can’t sell it. It’s not literary fiction because it’s set in a made-up world, but it’s not genre fantasy because it doesn’t have dragons and magic and battles. This book has no audience.’”

Samatar took matters into her own hands, approaching the independent publishers of Small Beer Press at a convention and persuading them to read the first three chapters.

Now, agents are pursuing her as she prepares to publish the sequel, “The Winged Histories.”

“You can’t underestimate readers,” she said. “It’s insulting to assume that people who read genre science fiction want to read the same thing over and over again.”

She’s started work on a new book, which she describes as part memoir, part historical non-fiction, about the Mennonites and her own experiences growing up in the faith.

“I love the science fiction community and I’m honored to be associated with it, but I’m not the kind of writer who’s going to stay within the genre,” she said.

Samatar’s passion for varied genres also inspires her work at CI. Students in her Themes in World Literature course are studying “weird world fiction,” including science fiction, fantasy and horror from around the world. Next semester, she will join Chemistry Professor Blake Gillespie for a cross-disciplinary course called “Science/Fiction,” in which students read science fiction works and conduct related experiments.



“The relationship between academia and science fiction/fantasy is changing,” she said. “There’s an emerging interest—not just among students but also in academic programs. It has to do with the increase of technology and environmental pressures in our lives—issues science fiction has been dealing with for a long time.” ✖



Bicycle Kitchen cranks into high gear

By Marya Jones Barlow

BICYCLE KITCHEN IS A LOT more than a bike club. Even though bikes are the uniting force, it's the camaraderie that keeps people coming back. Just ask Bicycle Kitchen's president, Christian Cummins, who describes the group's 20+ regular members as an eclectic band of students that form a uniquely tight-knit bond.

"We start as strangers, but we inevitably develop into a family," Cummins said. "You'll see students come in with a vague interest in bicycles, and by the end of the semester they're hard core, passionate cyclists, competing in races. By the end of the year, we've supported each other and achieved so much as a group that we all become close friends. The last meeting of the year never ceases to make people cry."

Established in 2009 as a nonprofit student-run co-op offering the skills and tools to fix bicycles, today Bicycle Kitchen is one of the University's largest

sports clubs. It still offers bike repair and education, but it's also grown to include a collegiate cycling team that competes in mountain, cyclocross and road bike racing, and a social club that volunteers and promotes bicycling as a means of transportation, exercise and fun. In addition to weekly meetings, the group hosts bike repair events, volunteer opportunities, speakers, and social rides, like the annual Halloween Scavenger Hunt on campus.

"We welcome anybody, any bike," Cummins said. "Bicycle Kitchen has members ages 18 to 35; people who have never ridden a bike before and racers that can keep up with the local pros; members that only come to meetings and others that come to every event; history majors, communication majors, bio majors, ESRM majors. It's a melting pot."

Though fewer than half of members compete in racing, those who do have been highly successful. The team enters over 20

races a year throughout California, with members consistently winning or finishing in the top 10.

"Most of them never even raced until they joined the club," Cummins said. "It's been inspiring to see so many impressive student-athletes emerge."

This year, Bicycle Kitchen has set its sights on establishing a Bike Share program at CI. With surveys showing that almost half of all CI students are interested in bike sharing on campus, Bicycle Kitchen is seeking sponsorship to make it happen. The club hopes to place bikes at locations on campus and in Camarillo that would offer students a healthier, greener commute to class.

"A bike sharing program is another way to make CI more sustainable," Cummins said. "We can't afford not to do it."

Bicycle Kitchen meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Broome Library, Room 1310. ♦ go.csuci.edu/bkc



Ryan Garcia
'06 B.A. Art

Alum works to showcase CI

By Marya Jones Barlow

IF YOU'VE EVER VISITED CI'S website, you've seen Ryan Garcia's handiwork. A 2006 graduate of CI's Art program, Garcia is the University's Senior User Experience Designer, shaping the look, feel and functionality of CI's website, mobile apps and other interactive features. He's the first to admit that it's more of a passion than a job.

"I'm pretty emotionally invested in this place," Garcia said. "As a web designer, I get to play a role in how we look to the world. I want people to see CI for what it is—a beautiful campus with amazing faculty. I want us to have the best of the best when it comes to the website."

After transferring to CI from Moorpark College in 2004 with thoughts of becoming a teacher, Garcia got hooked on web and graphic design in classes with professors Luke Matjas and Liz King. During his second year, he won a design contest for the University's catalog cover. He went on to win several awards and land an internship in the Web Services department, where he helped re-design CI's website in 2005.

"Getting the opportunity to design the University website as a student was a great experience," he said. "I had always considered myself to be a graphic designer first and

foremost, but that event solidified my path as a web designer."

While a student, he got a full-time job telecommuting as a multimedia specialist for Sonoma State University. After graduating, he went to work as a Web and multimedia coordinator for Oxnard Union High School District. But Garcia always wanted to return to CI to work with the team that nurtured his entry into the profession.

In 2008, he got his chance. He was hired as the Senior Web Designer, and tackled the design and launch of a new CI website for the second time in a decade. This time, however, the Technology & Communications team had the additional challenge of creating a website that performed equally well on mobile devices, tablets,

laptops and desktops.

"We have a great team that put in a lot of time and effort into this project," he said. "Seeing the result of all these creative minds coming together has been really fulfilling. I love walking around campus and seeing people using the website. I get instant feedback as to how people are doing with it."

He also returned to the classroom—teaching web and graphic design to CI students.

"It's surreal and humbling because I'm teaching the classes I once took," he said.

"Teaching is bringing me back to some of the stuff about graphic design I enjoy doing most, with all the rewards of helping students learn." Garcia lives in Camarillo with his wife, Libby, and infant son, Austin. ♦ [c](#)



New programs address health, wealth and education

By Marya Jones Barlow

FALL 2014 BROUGHT with it the introduction of three new undergraduate academic programs. The programs reflect CI's commitment to making a college education accessible to students in a variety of locations and formats.

HEALTH SCIENCES

After rolling out CI's Nursing program in 2006, CI found the major became so popular that there wasn't enough room to admit many qualified applicants. The new Health Sciences major expands opportunities for students to earn nursing, medical or dental school prerequisites and prepare for a variety of promising careers in public health, healthcare administration or other related fields.

The major combines core courses in areas like biology, chemistry, nursing and sociology with elective interdisciplinary classes and hands-on experiential and service learning.

Students have the option to pursue an emphasis in gerontology or health informatics—two growing, high-demand areas in healthcare. The program culminates in a capstone service-learning internship with a community-based organization, public health organization, or supervised community-based research.

▶ go.csuci.edu/hs

EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES IN GOLETA

CI's new Early Childhood Studies B.A. program on the Goleta campus answers demand on several levels: It prepares teachers to educate children during the formative early years of life, allows students in Santa Barbara and Goleta to pursue degrees without having to travel far from home, and trains teachers to meet the diverse needs of dual-language learners.

The program serves both Early Childhood Education graduates from Santa Barbara City College and the workforce of early childhood professionals in Santa



Barbara County who have an associate degree in Early Childhood or Child Development.

ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS

The first fully online degree introduced by CI, the Online Bachelor of Science in Business brings students the outstanding faculty and curriculum of CI's on-campus Business program in a convenient interactive format.

Offered by the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics and CI's Extended University, the program supports students and working professionals who need to earn their business degree on a flexible schedule or at an accelerated pace.

The program can be completed on a full or part-time basis and is open to transfer students who have completed 60 units of lower division general education requirements for the business major.

COMING SOON: CI'S FIRST DOCTORATE DEGREE

CI plans to introduce its first doctorate degree—the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership (CODEL)—in summer 2016. The new Ed.D., offered jointly by CI and CSU Fresno, is a three-year blended-learning program providing P-12 and community college leaders with opportunities to pursue advanced leadership studies in an accessible and innovative program, designed for working educators. ♦C



FIT Studio

A comfortable fit for teaching and technology

By Marya Jones Barlow

THOUGH THE NAME SUGGESTS a tough Pilates workout, CI's new FIT Studio is a place that hosts a different kind of exercise. Located inside Solano Hall, FIT Studio—short for Faculty Innovations in Teaching—allows faculty to give new teaching technology skills a workout in a creative and supportive environment.

"This is very innovative because the vision is not about technology, it's about teaching," said Jill Leafstedt, director of teaching and learning innovation at CI. "The FIT Studio is a space for faculty to have conversations about new ways to bring their content to life and to find the support and tools they need for their courses. Many campuses have labs and technology centers, but very rarely is there a focus on teaching and learning innovation that blends it all."

While the studio features some of the latest and greatest gadgets—including recording booths, video editing stations and a live action studio—other enticements include a coffee bar, living room

with a large-screen TV, adaptable meeting spaces, convenient wireless networking, and a talented team of instructional designers, webmasters, developers and graphic designers, eager to help translate faculty ideas and goals into finished products.

"FIT Studio is like an individual consulting firm, connecting faculty with supportive technologies," said Chris Mattia, director of academic technology. "We start off with a discussion, asking each faculty member, 'What are you doing in your class? What are you having difficulty getting students to grasp? What are some of the techniques you're trying?' Faculty are storytellers when presenting materials to students. We're here to help them explore the most effective tools for reaching students."

That can include using course management systems like Blackboard, setting up a website or blog, or harnessing interactive applications like VoiceThread. It can also mean using a recording booth or live action studio to produce lectures, podcasts, and activities

that allow students to engage with professors, classmates and course content outside of class.

To preserve hands-on instruction time, Nursing Professor Karen Jensen uses the studios to record lectures that students can view outside of class. Assistant Professor of Sociology Elizabeth Sowers uses Google Presentation to make her introductory sociology class more intimate and allow its 100+ students to collaborate and connect online. Environmental Science & Resource Management Associate Professor Sean Anderson recently popped into the studio to chat and ended up recording a video job announcement to hire a new ESRM faculty member.

"Students and faculty are demanding more ways to connect online with course material and each other," Mattia said. "FIT Studio is a comfortable place to explore how that fits into a faculty member's teaching. It might start with a cup of coffee, but it can lead to a whole range of activities that ultimately create additional spaces for students to learn." ♦C



Aerial views of the campus in 2003, 2013 and future plans

Here we grow again!

The nation's fastest-growing university enters a new era of expansion

By Marya Jones Barlow

A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE STUDENT Government President Vanessa Bahena first set foot on the CI campus. Within four years, she has matured from an anxious, first-generation freshman into a driven campus leader and statewide CSU advocate. Yet it's the transformation all around her that Bahena finds most remarkable. "You can see it in the new buildings, new roads, new faces," the CI senior said. "We're still the youngest, friendliest CSU. But we're not an isolated, little campus anymore."

That growth is about to get even more apparent with plans to increase enrollment by approximately 400 new students per year.

For the 12-year-old university already considered the nation's "fastest-growing" public institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education, that means kicking expansion into high gear after nearly a decade of slow growth and diminished state support.

"CI's enrollment growth will expand higher educational opportunity for students in Ventura

County and throughout the state," said Hung Dang, CI's Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. "This will contribute to the economic and social vitality of Camarillo and Ventura County. It's a win-win situation for CI and those who call our region home."

Dang says the University is augmenting course offerings and student services accordingly to ensure student success. This year, CI added a Health Sciences Program, online bachelor's degree in business, and Early Childhood degree at its Goleta location. Seventeen new faculty members were welcomed in the fall.

The University is also forging ahead with infrastructure needed to accommodate the newcomers. Sierra Hall, a three-story academic building is on track to be completed by summer 2015. In November, CI will break ground on a new four-story student residence hall. Santa Rosa Village, the third and largest of CI's residence halls, will house 600 freshmen and open in fall 2016. The

student dining commons will also expand, offering additional space and selections to meet the influx.

"The demand for student housing on campus is huge," said John Gormley, Campus Architect and Director of Planning Design & Construction. "To house over 1,200 students this year, we had to triple-bunk them in residence halls and lease additional apartments in University Glen and off campus. Since 2004, we've added almost 700,000 square feet of

✦ We're still the youngest, friendliest CSU. But we're not an isolated, little campus anymore.
✦ —Vanessa Bahena

occupied space. It's going to require more construction and creativity as we plan to double our enrollment."

CI's 2025 Vision Plan outlines a roadmap for the University's growth over the next decade. It identifies as key priorities academic labs and lecture halls, student housing, expansion of dining facilities, a health center, wellness and recreation center, conference and events center, and performing arts venue. The plan also prioritizes new parking spaces and expansion of University Glen, including



additional on-campus retail stores.

As he has done with repeated success in the previous 12 years, President Richard Rush is turning to community partners and private enterprise to help fulfill CI's promise, while also focusing on building facilities that create sustainable funding for campus growth.

"With partnership and innovation, we are building a public university in Ventura County that reflects our community's hopes, dreams and collective vision for the future," Rush said. "An investment in CI is an investment in our children, our economy, and a more vibrant region for everyone." ♦c

go.csuci.edu/srv



New Faculty Faces

By Marya Jones Barlow

AUTHORS, AWARD-WINNERS, FIRST-GENERATION college grads, children of migrant farmworkers, a veteran nurse/attorney, a Harvard marine biologist, a software entrepreneur, and a new Computer Science program chair are among the new faculty members welcomed this fall to CI. Meet the 17 new faculty hires:



Susan Andrzejewski
Assistant Professor of Marketing
Ph.D., Social Psychology
Northeastern University
2009

Matthew Campbell
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Ph.D., Psychology
University of Wisconsin–Madison
2006



Ahmed Awad
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Ph.D., Chemical Functions in Biosystems
Ulm University, Germany
2004

Nien-Tsu Chen
Assistant Professor of Health Communication
Ph.D., Communication
University of Southern California
2013



Selenne Banuelos
Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Ph.D., Applied Mathematics
University of Southern California
2013



Michelle Dean-Lorenzini
Assistant Professor of Special Education
Ph.D., Special Education
University of California, Los Angeles
2013



Colleen Nevins
Assistant Professor of Nursing
Ph.D., Nursing
Western University of Health Sciences
2013



Geoffrey Dilly
Assistant Professor of Biology
Ph.D., Biology—Marine Physiology
Harvard University
2012



Ekin Pehlivan Yalcin
Assistant Professor of Marketing
Ph.D., Communication
Bentley University
2012



Cynthia Flores
Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Ph.D., Mathematics
University of California, Santa Barbara
2014



Michael Soltys
Professor of Computer Science
Ph.D., Computational Complexity and Logic
University of Toronto
2001



Colleen Harris-Keith
Assistant Librarian
Ph.D., Education/LIS
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
2014



Brian Thoms
Assistant Professor of Computer Science
Ph.D., Management Information Systems and Technology
Claremont Graduate University
2009



Margarita Lopez
Assistant Professor of Spanish
Ph.D., Spanish/Chicano Studies
University of California, Irvine
2007



Bryan Tomlin
Assistant Professor of Economics
Ph.D., Economics
University of California, San Diego
2010



Jennie Luna
Assistant Professor of Chicana/o Studies
Ph.D., Native American Studies
University of California, Davis
2012



Carol Mack
Associate Professor of Health Sciences
Ph.D., Nursing
University of California, Los Angeles
1998



The fun crowd of the 1960s party.

Title Sponsor Rabobank (from left): Larry Velasquez, Carole Davis, President Rush, and Sean Morreale

Hugh and Keets Cassar

Gene Haas Foundation Sponsors- Stephanie and Kurt Zierhut

President Rush and George Leis, Robert J. Lagomarsino Award Honoree

Silver Sponsor: Harrison Industries

Darnell Tyler, Ted Bagley, Debra Bagley, Terry Marvin, Camille and Philip Cox, Larry Hibbler (Valet Sponsor); Debbie Tyler, Taylor Moore, Reese Martenies

Pacific Western Bank Sponsors- Lynda Nahra and Claude Dorais

The President's Dinner

Presented by the CSU Channel Islands Foundation and Rabobank

CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS Foundation and Rabobank presented The President's Dinner on Oct. 18 with the theme of "Come Together." The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Robert J. Lagomarsino Award to George Leis (read full story on page 20).
The evening's celebration included a fabulous silent auction, live entertainment and dancing to classic tunes of The Beatles. Proceeds from the event will support the University's highest-priority needs. Event sponsors included:

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- Bronze Sponsors:** Canteen of Coastal California, Community Memorial Health System, Dignity Health St. John's Hospitals, Leah and Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo, Elise and Bill Kearney, Heritage Oaks Bank, Pacific Western Bank, Valdez Wealth Management Group at UBS
- Copper Sponsors:** Bank of America, Edward Birch, Justi, Morton Capital Management, PCL Construction Leaders
- Reception Sponsor:** Montecito Bank & Trust
- Valet Sponsor:** Simi Valley Ford
- Media Sponsors:** Pacific Coast Business Times, Ventura County Star
- Friend Sponsor:** C.A. Rasmussen, Inc.
- In-Kind Sponsor:** V3 Corporation
- President's Dinner Committee:** Jane Rush, Chair; Marni Brook, Sue Chadwick, Camille Cox, Barbara Davey, Elizabeth Hartung, Julie Kays, Elise Kearney, Liz King, Ruby Oertle, Dotti Oliver, Patty Turnage, Louie Valdez, Elizabeth Villavicencio, and Stephanie Zierhut. ♦C

George Leis: Recipient of the 2014 Robert J. Lagomarsino Award

By Marya Jones Barlow

YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT A BUSY REGIONAL BANK executive serving on eight boards to volunteer for—let alone chair—another one. But after admiring CI from the sidelines, George Leis enthusiastically approached President Richard Rush to offer his help. "As a former president at Santa Barbara Bank & Trust and now at Union Bank, I interface with universities all over Southern California," Leis said. "I grew very impressed with Dr. Rush's vision and all that he's been able to accomplish. What I see at CI is lightning in a bottle. When I go on campus, the enthusiasm from everyone—faculty, students, staff, administrators—is infectious."

As chair of the CI Foundation Board since 2012 and a member since 2009, Leis is spreading the enthusiasm. Under his leadership, the Board has added ardent new advocates, expanded community support, and helped shape the University's future. "CI can fulfill students' dreams of being educated to live and work in Ventura County, as well as local businesses' needs for a world-class workforce," Leis said. "We need a viable university in our community so we can create a better life for everyone."

Leis emphasizes that can't happen without donors since state funds aren't enough to cover corresponding growth in campus housing, instructional space, academic and athletic programs, and other priorities like a childcare facility and a campus and community events center.

"One of CI's unique advantages is an abundance of land and an entrepreneurial leadership," he said. "We can accomplish a lot through public-private partnership. That's one proven way CI has been able to build the campus and also provide ongoing revenue to support continued growth."

Leis knows a great deal about revenue and growth. Currently the national sales manager for Union Bank's Private Bank, he previously held roles as president of Union Bank's Central Coast region and president and CEO of Pacific Capital Bancorp, a \$7 billion in assets community bank holding company with over 1,000 employees and 47 branches. He's used his expertise to help charities and universities, including CSU Northridge's (CSUN) Foundation Board, Union Bank Foundation and the Channel Islands YMCA, to name a few.

The son of a University of California, Los Angeles elevator engineer, Leis gained an early



appreciation for college by shadowing his father around campus. A 1981 CSUN graduate, he credits two professors for helping him land a paid internship that led to his first job. As he rose through the banking world, he never forgot the role CSU played in his success.

On Oct. 18, more than 350 people joined to salute Leis at the 15th Annual President's Dinner in Westlake Village. Leis became the 19th recipient of the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award, presented each year to an eminent CI supporter and named for the U.S. congressman and state senator who was a major proponent of the University.

Though Leis considers the award "humbling," there's one annual event that's even more fulfilling.

"When I attend Commencement and see students who are first in their family to earn a degree and their relatives bursting with pride, that's when I say, 'Mission accomplished,'" he said. "That's when I know we're delivering on that promise of a better future for Ventura County." ♦C



Donors and students at the annual Scholarship Reception

Philanthropy at CI

An Investment that's Paying Off

By Nichole Ipach, Vice President for University Advancement

SINCE OPENING ITS DOORS to students in 2002, the community has invested over \$34 million in philanthropic gifts, pledges, and testamentary commitments to CSU Channel Islands. The generosity of almost 7,000 donors including individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations has created this cumulative result and the return on investment has paid off.

During the past 12 years, CI has awarded 791 scholarships to students totaling over \$1.4 million, equipped science labs, helped to construct the John Spoor Broome Library and the Martin V. Smith Center for Integrative Decision Making, created K-12 educational pipeline programs, began and expanded the CI Nursing program into Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, established classroom space such as the Mike

Curb Studio, renovated campus courtyards, and much more.

While these examples are impressive, the larger implications of these results are perhaps even more critical. It is likely no coincidence that as the community's investment in CSU Channel Islands has increased, so too has access to higher education. In 2002, 40 percent of CI students were the first in their families to attend a university. Today, 56 percent of CI students are the first in their families to attend a university and 77 percent come from economic situations that qualify them for financial aid.

While at CI, these same students are encountering life changing experiences. For some it's never having seen the ocean first hand just to find themselves participating in undergraduate research on Santa Rosa Island, for others it's winning an international academic

competition, and still others, it's knowing that their education will likely lead them to employment to the benefit of themselves and their families.

As Cesar Calderon, Business & Technology Partnership scholarship award winner and CI student said, "My career goal is to become a high school math teacher and motivate first generation college students and minorities to attend college. My scholarship literally means the world to me because the first day of my teaching career will mark the last day that my father works in the fields."

As CSU Channel Islands continues to seek to achieve its goal of access to higher education for all, students will continue to rely on the generosity of those who believe in them. For more information please visit www.csuci.edu/impact. ♦c

*Elise (Elisabeth) Harrell,
'09 B.A. Biology,
'10 Single-Subject
Teaching Credential*

'Channeling' her passion for teaching

By Marya Jones Barlow

SOME PEOPLE CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT of high school. Elisabeth (Elise) Harrell couldn't wait to go back.

Eight years after graduating from Channel Islands High School (CIHS), the Oxnard native excitedly returned in 2011 as a teacher. In between, she married her high school sweetheart, attended Moorpark and Ventura College, earned her biology degree from CI in 2009, and completed her single-subject teaching credential at CI in 2010.

"I absolutely love remaining in this community," she said. "I think having that connection helps me relate to the students. At the beginning of the school year I share pictures of me from high school and what teachers I had. The students seem to really enjoy it."

At Channel Islands High School's Marine Science Academy, Harrell teaches marine biology, biology and environmental science to students in grades 10 through 12. This year, she's helping launch a partnership between her school, R.J. Frank Intermediate School, CSU Channel Islands, and Channel Islands National Park called "Crossing the Channel." Funded through a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant, the program exposes students to hands-on science and ecology on Santa Rosa Island.

"It's exciting to continue this connection with my alma mater," she said. "Through this program, students will learn from CI undergraduates and professionals in the community. We hope to create a new generation of environmental stewards who can share their knowledge. They might even find a career they didn't know existed and fall in love with it!"

That's similar to what happened to Harrell.



After graduating from CIHS in 2003, she entered community college planning to be an interior designer, but realized it wasn't for her.

"I remembered how much I enjoyed science classes and all the great teachers I had," she said. "I wanted a job that would make a difference in the world and help people."

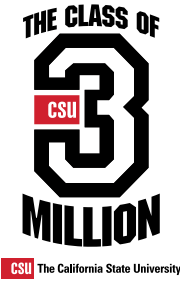
At CI, she discovered her passion for teaching science and never looked back.

"CI's professors gave me all the tools I needed to be successful, such as how to make science engaging and fun, and how to teach students with a variety of needs and abilities," she said. "We even practiced writing resumes and did mock interviews with questions known to be asked by the local school districts. I practiced those questions before my first interview and obviously nailed it!"

Now she's transferring her passion to younger generations.

"The best thing about high school science is the opportunity to open young minds to the amazing world around us," she said. "Teenagers can be so concerned with high school drama. I like to find topics, lessons, and labs that engage them in world issues, so they can become better citizens. When I see a class full of students really into a lesson I planned, I feel like I'm making a difference." ♦c





Gary Cushing, '10 B.A. Political Science

“It’s never too late for college”

By Marya Jones Barlow

AT THE AGE OF 52, GARY Cushing was by all measures a success. The self-made owner of several Ventura County restaurant franchises, an active philanthropist and civic leader, he was also happily married, with eight children and 13 grandchildren.

But Cushing still had one dream he hadn’t realized: a college degree.

In 2007, he enrolled at CI to earn the B.A. in Political Science he had abandoned three decades earlier, when work and family responsibilities prevailed.

“I was at first hesitant to go back to school because being a nontraditional student I didn’t know how I would be treated by the ‘regular’ students or faculty,” he said. “I was treated no differently than any other student. Several professors and students became lifelong friends.”

Cushing excelled at CI—even while taking a full course load, working 50 hours a week, and serving as Chair of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce. During his final year, he presented public policy research on autism at San Jose State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara, and earned CI’s Political Science program’s Outstanding Research Student Award.

He earned his Master’s in Public Policy & Administration at California Lutheran University in



2013. His wife, Julie, an operating nurse at Community Memorial Hospital, worked extra shifts to support him.

“I try to encourage students to stay in school and not put off their degree,” he said. “But I’m proof that it’s never too late for college. If people say they don’t have the time, that’s just an excuse. You can always juggle your schedule to do what you are driven to do.”

Today, Cushing is President/CEO of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce and Owner/Principal of Cushing Public Affairs, a firm he founded to lobby for local businesses and organizations. His efforts include launching the Gold Team initiative with California Assemblyman Jeff Gorell to attract and retain Ventura County employers and representing various businesses in Sacramento. Since taking over the Chamber in

January 2014, he has turned it around, increasing membership and cash flow.

Cushing also continues to run Camarillo’s Marie Callender’s—the restaurant he opened in 1991 after working his way up from his first job as a dishwasher/busboy at age 16 in Marie Callender’s Burbank location.

He stays closely connected to CI and the community, volunteering on several boards, serving as President of CI’s Alumni & Friends Association, helping place interns in CI’s Henry “Hank” L. Lacayo Institute for Workforce & Community Studies program, and advising the University’s Strategic Planning Committee. He received CI’s Alumni of the Year Award in 2013.

“I know what my educational experience did to broaden my horizon,” he said. “I want to help other people to do the same.” ♦C

Where are they now?

By Marya Jones Barlow



Joshua Saltee, '06 B.S. Mathematics

JOSHUA SALTEE WILL TELL YOU THAT STARTING AT THE bottom of the corporate ladder was the second-best decision he ever made.

“Embrace the fact that you may need to start at the bottom,” he said. “I started at Dole as a temporary employee in customer service and quickly realized that it was where I wanted to be. I liked the culture, coworkers, and what I gauged as a good opportunity for career growth. After seven years and five promotions, I’m very happy with my choice.”

Now a Business Development Manager at Dole Worldwide Packaged Foods, Saltee analyzes data and

translates it into growth opportunities, working with broker networks and big retailers like Costco and Target.

“Majoring in math helped my career,” he said. “Sales is a data-driven world and being analytical helps you make sense of everything. CI’s small class sizes also helped. You could not hide in the back of class. This is very similar to the corporate world. If my boss or senior management calls or drops by my office, I had better know my business.”

What was the best decision he ever made? Marrying Kerry Donlon, '04 B.A. English, with whom he has two children.



Tobie Roach, '05 B.A. Art

TOBIE ROACH ENJOYS GETTING PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE art in the most unexpected places. Bus shelters, bike racks, and utility boxes all provide the canvas for public art displays that she helps bring to the streets of Ventura as the city’s Public Art Project Manager.

“It’s always a great day when I get to work and new art designs are waiting for me,” Roach said. “I love being part of a process that allows artists to contribute their craft to the community and allows the community to experience art in a drive-by gallery.”

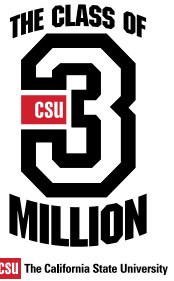
It’s a program that Roach has participated in as a student, artist and employee. While at CI, she interned with the city’s Public Art Program and submitted a proposal for a streetscape mural. Her 2007 murals, “Doors of Ventura”

and “Roads of Ventura” still stand in Ventura bus shelters.

Her latest project is the installation of murals painted by local artists on utility and traffic control boxes. The beautification efforts have won praise from residents, alleviated graffiti problems, showcased local artistic talent, and transformed infrastructure into art.

Roach also paints and exhibits her work at galleries throughout Southern California.

“I use my skills as an artist in my career, along with the administrative skills I learned in the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs while I was getting my degree,” she said. “Once I embraced the path of being an artist, a wonderful range of career opportunities opened up to me.”





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DODGER DAY 2014

President Rush and Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen (upper right). The scene in the stands, a sea of CI dolphins wearing blue. ▶ go.csuci.edu/dd



ALUMNI UPDATES

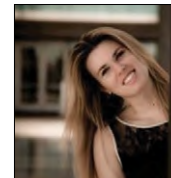
Klein Dadacay, '10 Business and Economics

Klein has been working for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command & Expeditionary Warfare Center as a Contract Specialist since 2010 and has executed over 200 contract actions valuing over \$50 million in acquisitions. He has completed his Level II Contracting Certification and is currently working towards completing his Masters in Contract Management.



Danielle Kasum, '12 Art

Shortly after graduation, Danielle created a striking resume and paired it with an interesting cover letter that highlighted all of her best qualities and gave employers a glimpse of her personality.



Eventually she landed a job as a designer at Golin, a Public Relations firm in Los Angeles. Danielle works with large companies such as Toyota, McDonalds, Nintendo, Exxon Mobile and more. Her daily duties include conceptualizing and creating graphics that meet her client's needs.

Brandon Dowling, '11 Political Science and Psychology

After graduating from CI, Brandon attended the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and after receiving his degree he was offered a full-time job as a Communication Specialist at the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office.



As a Communication Specialist, he serves as a public information officer and coordinates communication policy, media relations, crisis management, branding/marketing, and multimedia productions.

Jennifer Neely, '12 Communication

After graduating from CI, Jennifer had dreams of starting her own nutrition club on the CI campus. Together with her co-owner, Holly Willard, they were able to make their dream a reality and earlier this year opened their business, Pure Health, in the University's Town Center.



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<p>Michelle Kalbarer CSU Chico Co-Owner and CFO</p>	<p>Russ Lesser CSU Long Beach President</p>	<p>Joe Mergin CSU East Bay Senior Advisor to the CEO</p>	<p>Rosemarie Peta Fresno State Associate Justice</p>	<p>Jacques Schlumberger Sonoma State Winner</p>	<p>Amy Tan San Jose State Author</p>



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Ongoing 2014-2015: **CLASS OF 3 MILLION Online Yearbook**
All CSU Alums are invited to sign up

January 17: Spring semester begins – Saturday classes
January 20: Spring semester begins – Weekday classes

March 4 & 5: **GRAD FEST**
csuci.edu/commencement/precommeventsinfo

March 7: Ventura County Star Spelling Bee Contest at CI

Spring Semester Series: **LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES**
(schedules to post early spring semester)
csuci.edu/academics/artsandsciences/library-lecture-series

Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics **SPEAKERS SERIES**
business.csuci.edu/events.htm

April 16: Business & Technology Partnership
LEADERSHIP DINNER

April 25: **CHILDREN'S READING CELEBRATION – Broome Library**
DOLPHINPALOOZA – Potrero Field

May 9: **SAGE Student Research Conference – Broome Library**
HONORS CONVOCATION – Broome Library Plaza

May 16: **COMMENCEMENT – South Quad**
Ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
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