A publication for friends of CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

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East Campus Development Begins

In January, the California State University Channel Islands Site Authority approved the schematic plans for Phase I of the East Campus Residential Development. The goal is to provide affordable housing to incoming faculty and staff while generating an income stream to renovate and equip buildings and facilities in the academic core of the campus. The University’s Faculty and Staff Residential Development Plan is based on projected market demand and will play a major role in the University’s recruitment and retention efforts.

Phase I of the project totals 208 residential units comprised of:
- 100 rental apartment units
- 48 attached alley loaded cluster and attached courtyard cluster units for rent
- 24 attached loaded cluster and attached courtyard cluster units for sale
- 36 detached alley loaded single family units for sale

The East Campus residential design has been crafted to respect and extend the look and feel of the existing campus. Courtyard elements are used extensively to establish a hierarchy of neighborhood, semi-private and private areas. Building designs extend the Colonial-Monterey architecture of the main campus.

Work has already begun on creating the essential “backbone” infrastructure for the entire 150-acre development site including the major access roads, sewer, water, electrical, gas, and storm drains. Public landscape areas, streets, sidewalks, trails, street lighting, and improvement of streambeds and related open space are also planned. Community recreation facilities and local parks will also be constructed. Existing drainage swales and riparian habitat will be improved by utilizing native vegetation and retention ponds, enhancing the biological and educational resources at the site.

CSU Channel Islands Unveils Future Library Designed By Lord Norman Foster

World-renowned architect Lord Norman Foster personally presented the model for the John Spoor Broome Library and Media Center at CSU Channel Islands on June 5, 2001. J. Handel Evans hosted his former college classmate at a fund-raising dinner where the community heard about plans for the 260,000 square foot library complex. Among Foster’s acclaimed architectural projects are the Reichstag for the German Parliament, Oxford University’s Library, and the Hong Kong International Airport. In 1999 he was awarded the Pritzker Prize. The $31 million project at CSU Channel Islands will incorporate a stunning two-story building with a glass facade into the original building’s Spanish Mission-style design, and includes an outdoor piazza and a central conference room. Construction is slated to begin in 2003.

NEW CSUCI PRESIDENT

Richard R. Rush
Appointed new President of CSU Channel Islands – 2001

The CSU Trustees announced the appointment of Dr. Richard R. Rush as president of CSU Channel Islands on March 6. For the past eight years, Dr. Rush has served as president of Minnesota State University at Mankato. He takes office at CSUCI on June 18. Full coverage of Dr. Rush’s arrival at CSUCI will be featured in the next issue of Current.

J. Handel Evans
President, CSU Channel Islands – 1996-2001

J. Handel Evans steps down as President of CSU Channel Islands on June 30 after a distinguished 34-year career with the California State University system. Under his leadership, Ventura County’s 30-year quest for a public university became a reality. His final President’s Message appears inside.

Jack Broome (left) and his son John Broome (right) welcome Lord Norman Foster (center) to CSU Channel Islands.
Educational Initiatives To Benefit Children

CSU Channel Islands spearheaded a proposal, collaborating with CSU Northridge, Oxnard College, Moorpark College, Ventura College and Child Development Resources, to obtain a “Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Development” on campus.

The center proposes to work with the Ventura County Children and Families First Commission to connect parents, agencies, neighborhoods for learning, schools, community members, colleges, and healthcare providers with the people and services necessary for training, resources, capacity building, partnerships, special needs studies and program evaluation for early childhood care and education.

A pre-kindergarten through eighth grade Charter Professional Development School proposal was funded by the State Department of Education for $35,000 to develop a charter school. Six subcommittees and a steering committee of more than 40 members have been working to develop a charter to be submitted to the Pleasant Valley School District in late September. The district board has approved a temporary location at the El Rancho School in Camarillo, and an operating memorandum of understanding is in development.

Academic Planning

Community Colleges Lay Groundwork for Smooth Transfers

“We need to remember that Channel Islands’ first students are now finishing their freshman year. We want to lay the groundwork now for a smooth transfer.”

Nearly 60 community college administrators and faculty assembled on campus in April for a preview of the initial CSU Channel Islands degree programs, which will open to transfer students in fall of 2002.

In addition to attendees from Ventura College, Oxnard College, and Moorpark College, representatives from as far away as Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, Pierce College in Woodland Hills and Santa Monica College also attended.

“The purpose was to preview the first Channel Islands undergraduate programs, including degrees in business management, liberal studies, environmental sciences, computer science, and languages and culture,” reported Stephen Lefever, director of the CSUN Off-Campus Center. “We need to remember that Channel Islands’ first students are now finishing their freshman year. We want to lay the groundwork now for a smooth transfer.”

Barbara Thorpe, associate academic vice president, and Lynne Cook, chair of the Faculty Council, opened the meeting with an outline of the University’s academic master plan, which was approved by the CSU Board of Trustees in February. The master plan provides a five-year blueprint of undergraduate majors and graduate degree programs. CSUCI will admit its first freshmen in fall of 2003.

During separate breakout sessions, the community college and CSUCI representatives began the detailed discussion of the lower division preparation work students ought to satisfy before transferring. Called “articulation,” the process of identifying equivalent courses that offer credit at another institution (such as Channel Islands) is an important part of facilitating the transfer process.

“The new CSUCI faculty arriving in August will lead the new program development. These sessions will help inform their planning efforts so they will be most effective when they arrive,” said Dr. Thorpe.

Degree programs at the CSU Northridge Off-Campus Center will continue to be available in 2002 and thereafter in those disciplines that CSUCI does not offer.
University Hosts Pacific Bell Chief Executive

More than 150 business owners and corporate executives from the Ventura County region gathered to hear Wilkins speak on “The Changing Face of Telecommunications.” He is responsible for all of Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell business and consumer market sales, marketing, customer service, network services as well as external affairs. Wilkins was named one of the “Top 50 African Americans” by Black Enterprise magazine in 1999. He serves on the Board of H&R Block, and is past chairman of the Kansas City Area Development Council.

The University recently launched a Gift Annuity program and is pleased to announce two gifts from local residents. The first will provide a $100,000 endowment to support library programs and services, and the second will provide $46,000 to endow a scholarship fund. Gift annuities enable a donor to plan a generous gift to CSU Channel Islands while receiving a lifetime income. For further information, please contact Elizabeth Stacey, director of development, at (805) 437-8429.

CSUCI Foundation Selects New Chairperson

At their annual meeting in November, the CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board elected Pat Richards as their new chairperson. Ms. Richards has been a member of the CSUCI Foundation Board for three years and has served as chair of the Development Committee. She joined City National Bank in 1989 and is currently vice president and senior relationship manager for Ventura County Commercial Banking Center.

“My goal for 2001 is to widen the circle of support to reflect all sectors of our region,” said Ms. Richards. “The message we need to carry to our community is the need for private support. Providing the finest faculty, facilities and programs for our students requires more than the basic assistance provided by the State. We have waited more than thirty years for our University, and it is important that our community continues to demonstrate our commitment to establishing one of the finest universities in the CSU system.”

One of the most active people in the local community, Pat Richards serves on the Board of Directors and is a Founding Member of Studio Channel Islands Art Center. She is also president of Pacific Agribusiness Alliance and serves on the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors.
Mesa Day 2001 Combines Sports and Academics

California State University Channel Islands partnered with CSU Northridge in hosting approximately 150 students from the MESA program for a local math, engineering and science competition on March 16. These enthusiastic and highly motivated students representing eight high schools from the San Fernando Valley and Oxnard Union High School District participated in the daylong event. They competed in various activities such as the egg drop, balsa wood glider, mousetrap car, web design and speech events.

The MESA program is one of the country’s oldest and best-known programs that assists students in becoming highly trained technological professionals. MESA, founded in 1970, serves educationally disadvantaged students and emphasizes participation by students from groups with low eligibility rates for four-year colleges. This program offers a rigorous, all-sided learning environment that includes academic advising, group study techniques, Academic Excellence Workshops and career exploration classes. The program boasts a 91% success rate for MESA high school graduates going on to college.

International Studies Academy Opens

The Oxnard Union High School District spearheaded the opening of The International Studies Academy on the CSU Channel Islands campus on January 29, 2001. The academy is perhaps the first in the country to focus on international studies and business ties between local businesses and businesses in Asia. Twenty-seven high school students have enrolled in the academy, and this number is expected to increase in the near future.

Students who take the course will receive ten high school credits instead of the normal five for a social science elective. However, the more appealing aspect of the program is its focus on international culture and real business projects. Participating students are excited about solving real-world problems, not just hypothetical ones. They will work on actual business projects such as developing a tourism plan for the Chinese port city of Xinhui and creating ways to market citrus in China.

“We’re thrilled to have students from the Oxnard Union High School District on our campus and hope to recruit them when CSU Channel Islands opens in 2002,” exclaimed Dr. Barbara Thorpe, the University’s associate academic vice president.

Campus Fever

After a major life change I found myself a single parent with limited skills for gainful employment. Encouraged by family and friends, I returned to school at age 41. The Oxnard College PACE Program was an answer to prayer. I enrolled in the program when it began and, just two years later, I am graduating with an A.A. degree. With the support of dedicated teachers and my family, I have reached the first phase of my goal. As I enter the next phase of my education, I am hopeful that CSU Channel Islands will offer me a comparable experience. The campus staff has been very welcoming and encouraging, and I look forward to the rest of this journey.

– Golden Downing, Sophomore, Business Studies
Oxnard College PACE Program based on the CSUCI Campus

I graduated from Oxnard High School in 1984 and made the decision to return to school at age 32. Upon the advice of a friend, I enrolled in the Oxnard College PACE program when it began two years ago. I have just completed the two-year liberal arts program and have a few more courses to complete before I am ready to transfer. I hope to attend CSU Channel Islands next year and proceed toward earning a B.A. and teacher credential. I would like to teach elementary or high school students and my long-range goal is a career in politics. I enjoy working with people and finding ways to make their lives a little easier.

– Greg Gittens, Sophomore, Liberal Studies
Oxnard College PACE Program based on the CSUCI Campus