President’s Message

Milestones Reached

On October 1, 2001, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges granted California State University Channel Islands eligibility status in the first step toward full accreditation.

The very same day we began to accept applications from students seeking to transfer to the University in fall 2002. What will these first students and all those who follow find at CSU Channel Islands? They will find a commitment to the development of a fine, solid, comprehensive university with a base in the sciences and the liberal arts, and, eventually, innovative programs in the professions. They will discover a campus where everyone is expected to be technologically fluent and where, above all, the focus is on students.

As we move toward the opening of CSU Channel Islands in fall 2002, new developments at the University are occurring at a rapid pace. Our first thirteen faculty members, who arrived in August 2001, are beginning to feel like veterans already as the recruitment process for our next twenty-five faculty members gets underway. The CSU Trustees have given their approval for construction of a new science building that will break ground in early 2002 with completion scheduled in time for our first freshmen students in fall 2003. An architect has been appointed to renovate one of the original buildings in the north quad in preparation for the relocation of the University administration and faculty to make way for the John Spoor Broome Library. The administration itself is taking on a new face as key posts are filled to help me in the work that is necessary to create and manage a comprehensive university. My colleagues will tell you more about the changes that are taking place in the pages that follow.

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The Word is Out – Students “Come to the Islands”

For the past few years, California State University Channel Islands was known to many as Ventura County’s best-kept secret. Now the secret is out, according to CSUCI’s outreach and recruitment staff. Outreach counselors have been busy traveling the state of California inviting prospective students to visit the campus—or “Come to the Islands”—as the new recruitment brochure’s headline encourages. The news is spreading that the newest CSU campus is no longer a dream but a reality. Enthusiastic Channel Islands recruitment counselors feel confident that they have increased awareness of CSU Channel Islands, the 23rd campus in our system and a 21st century university. Feedback from statewide CSU counselors’ conferences from San Diego to Chico, which are attended by thousands of counselors, has been overwhelmingly positive. These conferences allow the 23 CSUs to showcase their campuses. According to Recruitment Coordinator Sue Saunders, “The seeds have been planted throughout the state, and it was very exciting to receive positive counselor comments about the prospect of sending their students to Channel Islands.”

The recruitment staff has reached out to thousands of prospective students in addition to spreading the word to counselors. Currently, recruitment counselors are in the process of participating in the college fair circuit, which includes sixteen regional high school college fairs as well as twelve community college fairs. Additionally, recruitment includes regular visits to regional high schools and community colleges.

In September, the office of outreach and recruitment hosted a successful fall showcase at the Channel Islands campus, which was attended by over 140 regional high school and community college counselors. Counselors had the opportunity to learn about the first academic programs as well as meet the initial faculty. For more information about CSU Channel Islands or to schedule a campus tour, contact Sue Saunders at (805) 437-8514.
CSUCI’s Faculty Brings Diversity and Experience

William Hampton Adams, Professor of Anthropology
William.Adams@csuci.edu
Bill Adams received his Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington State University. He has served on the faculties of numerous universities, and is an internationally recognized scholar in historical archaeology and in cultural heritage management.

Frank Barajas, Professor of History
Frank.Barajas@csuci.edu
An Onond native, Frank Barajas earned his Ph.D. from the Claremont Graduate University. He comes to CSUCI from Cypress College in Orange County, where he taught courses in United States, California, Chicano, and Asian American history.

Lillian Vega-Castaneda, Professor of Elementary Education
Lillian.Castaneda@csuci.edu
Lillian Vega-Castaneda comes to CSUCI from California State University San Marcos where she was Professor of Multicultural/Multilingual Education for nine years. She holds a doctorate in Teaching, Curriculum and Learning Environments from Harvard University.

William Cordeiro, Professor of Strategic Management
William.Cordeiro@csuci.edu
Dr. Cordeiro was a Professor of Management in the College of Business & Economics at CSU Los Angeles. He received his Ph.D. in Executive Management from the Peter F. Drucker Management School of the Claremont Graduate University.

Ivona Grzegorczyk, Professor of Mathematics
Ivona.Grze@csuci.edu
Dr. Grzegorczyk received her Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley. She is the author of the book Mathematics and Fine Arts (2000) and several research papers, has traveled widely and speaks several foreign languages.

Philip Hampton, Professor of Chemistry
PHampton@csuci.edu
Dr. Hampton was a faculty member at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He was awarded a California Institute of Technology Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship to perform postdoctoral research in the area of polymer/organometallic chemistry.

Joan M. Karp, Professor of Special Education
Joan.Karp@csuci.edu
Strongly committed to diversity issues, Joan Karp has held a variety of roles in special education. At the University of Minnesota Duluth, her positions included Associate Dean, Assistant Department Head, and Program Coordinator. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

Jacquelyn Kilpatrick, Professor of English
J.Kilpatrick@csuci.edu
Dr. Jacquelyn Kilpatrick received her Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California Santa Cruz. She comes to CSUCI from Governors State University. She has also served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Spain.

Dennis Muraoka, Professor of Economics
Dennis.Muraoka@csuci.edu
Dr. Muraoka is a native Californian and a graduate of UCSB. He received the CSULB Outstanding Professor Award for excellence in teaching, scholarship and community service at his prior position at California State University, Long Beach.

Kevin Volkan, Professor of Psychology
Kevin.Volkan@csuci.edu
Dr. Volkan was a faculty member and Director of Assessment at Harvard Medical School. An author and licensed psychologist, he is also an alumnus of both the University of California and California State University systems.

Ching-Hua Wang, Professor of Biology
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Dr. Wang earned her Ph.D. in immunology from Cornell University after receiving an M.D. degree from Beijing Medical College. She was professor of Immunology and Microbiology at CSU San Bernardino where she was consistently ranked as one of the best instructors.

The Academic Affairs leadership team is in place now that Dr. Alexander W. McNeill has joined CSU Channel Islands as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Additional members of the team include Dr. Stephen Lefevre, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and director of the CSU Northridge programs at our Channel Islands campus; Dr. Ira Schoenwald, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, responsible for faculty affairs and academic resources; and Dr. Barbara Thorpe, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, who will provide leadership for academic programs and outreach. The Academic Affairs leadership team is collaborating with the newly established CSUCI Faculty Senate to prepare materials for the first CSU Channel Islands catalog. The faculty members are working diligently to develop the new degrees and programs that will be offered to upper division transfer students in Fall 2002. Ongoing interaction between counselors and faculty from Ventura County Community Colleges and high schools ensures that students will experience a seamless transfer when they arrive on the CSU Channel Islands campus.

Recruitment is well underway for the next 25 faculty appointments. Screening will begin later this fall, followed by final selection of the new faculty in early spring 2002. CSUCI’s unique online application process is proving to be a very effective mechanism for soliciting applications. Already, there are several thousand applicants for these next 25 faculty positions.

Despite very tight time lines, we are confident that high-quality degree and credential programs will be ready for our first intake of students in fall 2002. The energy level at CSU Channel Islands is high, the enthusiasm infectious, and the outcome will be programs and degrees that are consistent with the academic master plan and mission of the Channel Islands campus.
President’s Circle and Corporate Council Welcome New President

Current members of the President’s Circle were the first group to welcome President Rush to Ventura County at an alfresco dinner held on July 16 at the University. The informal gathering gave guests a chance to hear Dr. Rush’s vision for CSU Channel Islands. “The best surprise is finding out that he has a great sense of humor,” said Pat Richards, chairman of the University’s Corporate Council to discuss his belief that a full two-way partnership must exist between the University and the business community. Mostly he listened as representatives from Rockwell Scientific, the Gas Company, Harrison Industries, City National Bank, Mustang Marketing, Mid-State Bank, the Los Angeles Times, NAI Capital Commercial, First California Bank, Lowthorp Richards, Pacific Bell, and the Ventura County Star talked about their expectations for the University and the needs of the local economy.

More than 350 guests attended the Second Annual President’s Dinner held at the campus on October 27 to honor Dr. Joyce Kennedy, Laura K. McAvoy, Esq. and State Senator Jack O’Connell for their key role in developing the new university.

Dr. Joyce Kennedy’s involvement began in 1974 with the “Ventura Learning Center” which evolved over the years into the CSU Ventura Campus, where she ultimately served as director for over 15 years. Throughout this time she was a staunch advocate of a four-year public university for the region.

As a member of the Community Advisory Board for the CSU Ventura Campus, Ms. McAvoy has played a key role in the transition to an independent CSU Channel Islands, and she currently serves as chairperson of the CSU Channel Islands Advisory Board and is a member of the CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board.

In 1997 State Senator Jack O’Connell introduced SB 1923 to create the California State University Channel Islands Site Authority to facilitate and provide for the financing of the Camarillo State Hospital site for use as the 23rd campus of the California State University system. Senator O’Connell’s subsequent support of CSU Channel Islands during the State budget process has led to the university’s opening in 2002.

Net proceeds from the President’s Dinner will be used to support the many activities necessary to prepare the university for its official opening in fall 2002.

I would like to take a moment to reflect upon my first few months in office and to invite you to be a part of the future that I envision. I am overwhelmed by the warm welcome that I have received, and I have been astonished by the depth of support that CSU Channel Islands receives from all sectors of our community. I have been meeting with business owners and industry leaders, government officials, school superintendents, community college presidents, teachers and students, and many others from Santa Barbara to Thousand Oaks, and from Oxnard to Fillmore, and every surrounding community. What strikes me is the passionate interest in CSU Channel Islands and the tremendous impact everyone expects it to have upon the lives of the people who live in our region. To the business people, I have said that we extend the offer of a true partnership as the university seeks to respond to the needs of the local economy. To the students, I have said that CSUCI will work with your school to make sure you are ready for college and that you have access to the opportunities that are available. And to our many supporters throughout the community, I have said that it is your philanthropic donations that will help us achieve the margin of excellence that CSU Channel Islands needs if it is to live up to all our aspirations.

We face many challenges in the months ahead as we strive to have everything ready for our first students. But with a momentum that has been building for thirty years, I know that we will succeed. At this difficult time in our nation’s history, our new University demonstrates a commitment to a brighter future for our country and a belief in the power of education to promote better understanding and tolerance of all peoples and cultures.

Since President Richard Rush arrived at CSUCI in June, a number of University supporters have hosted receptions introducing him to local business and civic leaders. Among those welcoming University guests to their homes were Bruno and Vickie Pozzi for Camarillo, Mayor Manuel and Irma Lopez for Oxnard, Otis and Bettina Chandler for Ojai, Robert and Norma Nagomansino for Ventura, and Cindy Sieber for Moorpark with co-host Debbie Rodgers. In the coming months Dr. Rush will be attending gatherings in the communities of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Simi Valley.
CSUCI Faculty tour Port Hueneme

New Faculty is Given a Ventura County Orientation

The Ventura County Leadership Academy and its executive director Harry Lee planned a five-day intensive inside view of Ventura County for CSUCI’s new faculty, most of whom are newcomers to the area. Day 1 began with Supervisor Kathy Long introducing the demographics and policy issues facing the growing county. Later, Supervisor John Flynn and County CEO Johnny Johnston reviewed county governance, structure and process, followed by a tour of the government center. Day 2 focused on economic development featuring a morning at the Port of Hueneme, an introduction to Naval Base Ventura County, and a look at diversity and Latino impact on the county with David Rodriguez of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Superintendents Chuck Weis and Howard Hamilton engaged in a lively discussion of county and district K-12 education issues. Day 3 immersed the faculty in water conservation at the Freeman diversion and site visits to Pinkerton Ranches and Terry Farms. County Agriculture Commissioner Earl McPhail presented an overview of agriculture in the county. The afternoon brought a tour of the world’s largest seed corporation, Seminis. Day 4 emphasized Ventura County’s public safety system and the county healthcare system. Day 5 offered portraits of two pivotal public non-profit agencies: United Way and the Ventura County Community Foundation, and a discussion of housing issues. Faculty members noted the fierce pride in the enviable quality of life in Ventura County and expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome extended to them by everyone they have met.

Land Swap Clears Way for Athletic Fields and New Entry Road

On October 2nd Governor Davis signed into law a bill that allows the exchange of land owned by CSU Channel Islands for land immediately adjacent to the campus. The transaction will provide much needed land to develop athletic fields and more importantly a site for the development of the new campus entry road. The development of the new entry road is critical to the ultimate build out of the campus. SB 323, co-sponsored by State Senator Jack O’Connell and Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson authorizes the CSU trustees to exchange a portion of a 262-acre lemon orchard property located on Central Ave in Camarillo for land adjacent to the campus. The lemon orchard was originally acquired by the CSU as a possible university site until a task force appointed by Governor Wilson recommended reuse of the Camarillo State Hospital as the 23rd campus in the CSU system.

Campus Countdown

I have been successful in my studies here at CSUN at Channel Islands due to the ongoing care from the staff and faculty. They have given me the opportunity to be involved and extend my knowledge and experience in the field of Early Childhood Development. I currently work as a student advisor for child development and as a student assistant in the credential office. Together, the staff and environment create a positive experience for me. The university goes above and beyond its duties to maximize each individual’s strengths and potential.

– Karisha Nowell, Senior, Child Development
CSUN at Channel Islands

It’s exciting to be a part of something new. The faculty, staff, and students are energetic and dedicated. There are so many opportunities for students to excel. My Child Development Department advisor encouraged me to become a student advisor and a student assistant in the credential office. Students can take advantage of a variety of academic and professional mentoring from the faculty and staff.

– Shannon Kearney, Senior, Child Development
CSUN at Channel Islands

I am one step away from reaching my goal and CSUN at Channel Islands has contributed through a positive learning environment, dedicated professors, and a friendly staff. I am currently working as a student assistant in the CSUCI Finance Department where I receive hands-on experience that helps me correlate work and school. Being able to put into practice the accounting principles I’m learning has been of great benefit to me.

– Theresa Hernandez, Senior, Accounting
CSUN at Channel Islands