On a clear day you can see forever, they say. On this clear, beautiful day of the President’s Inauguration, the future was full of promise — the past rich in legacy. Warmed by the bright sun in a turquoise sky and cooled by breezes rustling the pepper trees lining University Mall, more than 1,000 guests watched as Richard R. Rush became the first inaugurated President of California State University Channel Islands.

After the Presentation of Colors by the Naval Base Ventura County Color Guard and the National Anthem performed by Officer Felice Thompson of the Oxnard Police Department, CSU Board of Trustees Chairman Laurence K. Gould, Jr. introduced members of the President’s Cabinet and distinguished guests.

Official greetings began with Congresswoman Lois Capps saluting the new University as an example of the country’s hopes for the future built upon cherished traditions of the past. She referred to “the dream becoming reality,” a statement that would be echoed often on this historic day.

State Senator Jack O’Connell, who has been instrumental in legislation to make this new campus a reality, said that in President Rush, Cal State Channel Islands has found “the right man for the right job at the right time.”

The greetings continued with remarks by Assemblywoman Fran Pavley and Debra Farar, who served on the presidential search committee. Marvalene Hughes, President of California State University Stanislaus, gave President Rush “a man of intellect, purpose, wit, and vision,” and John Broome, Jr. recalled the work of “open arms and hearts” for more than 30 years to establish Ventura County’s first four-year public university.

Professor Dennis Muraoka, representing the initial 13 faculty members, and Dr. George Morten, representing the staff, shared the excitement of being a part of the many people pledging their time, talent, and skills to ensure the success of this jewel in the CSU crown.

Eleanora (Nora) Bruno, representing the first class admitted, spoke of the personal dreams of the incoming students. On behalf of her fellow students, she wished for courage, strength and wisdom. “Shoot for the moon,” she quoted. “Even if you miss it, you will land among the stars.”

After the color and splendor of the academic procession, Chumash Elder Alan Salazar gave the invocation and commented on the rich heritage of the land that is now home to Cal State Channel Islands.

Salazar spoke of how the Chumash have lived on this pristine spot for thousands of years, respecting the land and the people. His parting quote: “We will all love. We will all believe. We will all be strong.”

After the ceremony, some of the guests talked about how they noticed a single hummingbird gliding across the stage precisely when President Rush began speaking. Hovering close by throughout the ceremony, the hummingbird then proceeded the recessional down the center aisle. Salazar noted that the hummingbird was a “good messenger” and told of the Chumash legend in which the hummingbird brings breath and light.

Dreams Achieved

“Together, we will create the future, not merely inherit it.” — Richard R. Rush

Chumash Legacy

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— Chumash Elder Alan Salazar

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Ceremony Highlights

Dreams Achieved, cont.

Rush acknowledged past dedication and future milestones: “Though this ceremony inaugurates a president, it is truly the celebration of this community’s vision and commitment. This is a day when we acknowledge the achievements of those who have persisted for decades in seeking a four-year public university. This is their day, as the crescendo builds toward August 16 when the University formally opens its doors to students. The focus today should be on this community, on their accomplishments, on their continuing, unqualified support for this University. Those of us who are honored to hold it in trust for them say thank you for your foresight and efforts on behalf of legions of students and the aspirations of generations.”

“In President Rush, we have the right man for the right job at the right time.”
– State Senator Jack O’Connell

Rush spoke of the University’s role in creating a better future: “A university is a symbol of hope. The establishment of a new university is a clear commitment to the future, a belief that the future can be better than the present, through education. The creation of this University testifies to the affirmation of the people of this region that education provides the means for a better quality of life, a fuller understanding of self — or, to take liberties with Socrates, a reflected life worth living…Together, we will create the future, not merely inherit it.”

Listening to Fran McNeill sing “God Bless America,” the past and the future united to create this historic moment, bringing to mind the words of President Rush: “[we should not] be afraid of the space between…dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so. Today, through this ritual, we recognize, formally, dreams achieved.”

“Today we see the dream becoming reality.”
– Congresswoman Lois Capps

Chief University Marshal Dennis Muraza, top left, leads the academic procession, carrying the University Mace, center. The Presidential Medallion, bottom left, represents the authority and responsibility of the office, and is a gift to President Rush from his Cabinet. Columns at right, top to bottom: Official Greetings given by United States Congresswoman Lois Capps, California State Senator Jack O’Connell; California State Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, CSU Board of Trustees Vice Chair Debra Farar; California State University Stanislaus President Marvalene Hughes, Community members Patricia Richards, and John Broome, Jr.
“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land among the stars.”
– Nora Bruno, representing the first class admitted

“Though this ceremony inaugurates a president, it is truly the celebration of this community’s vision and commitment.”
– Richard R. Rush

Richard R. Rush

President Rush joined California State University Channel Islands in June of 2001. He came to CSUCI from Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he served as President for nine years. He brings a wealth of experience within the CSU system, including service as Executive Vice President of CSU San Marcos, where he guided program planning and implementation.

Dr. Rush grew up in Los Angeles. He earned an undergraduate degree in Philosophy from Gonzaga University, a Masters degree in English Literature from the University of California Los Angeles, and a Ph.D. in English also from UCLA. He completed his doctoral dissertation while in residence at the Huntington Library as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

Deeply involved in the community, Dr. Rush serves on the Board of Directors for United Way of Ventura County, Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo, and Ventura County Economic Development Association, as well as other mutually supportive groups and organizations. Dr. Rush’s academic memberships include the National Association of College and University Business Officers Executive Committee, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and he is a lifetime member of the Milton Society. He has two daughters, Angela, a 2002 law school graduate, and Melissa, a practicing attorney.

Legalia

The University Mace (shown at left)
The mace has a long history as a symbol of authority. In medieval times it was a studded, club-like weapon, made of iron and capable of breaking armor. It came to be associated with the protection of the king in England and France and was carried by the king’s sergeant-at-arms. The mace eventually became a symbol for academic institutions as an emblem of order and authority in the pageantry of ceremonial occasions.

The Cal State Channel Islands Mace represents the authority of the University vested in the President at official and ceremonial functions for the lifetime of the institution. Designed and crafted by renowned artists David and Linda Elder of Ventura County, the Mace is an important symbol, and its design reflects the spirit of the campus. The staff is carved from native walnut, signifying the growth of the University on California soil. On each of the four sides of the bronze finial is a carved medallion; these are the Cal State University Channel Islands Seal, the California State University Seal, an atom, and the book of knowledge. The latter two signify scholarship, research, and service to humanity. At the pinnacle of the mace, two dolphins dance in the waves, reflecting the Chumash legend of dolphins leading the Chumash people from the Channel Islands to the mainland.

The Cal State Channel Islands Mace is a gift to the University from its thirteen initial faculty members:

- William H. Adams
- Frank Barajas
- Lillian Vega-Castaneda
- William Cordiero
- Ivona Geregocezy
- Philip Hampton
- Joan Karp
- N. Jacqueline Kilpatrick
- Louise Lutte-Mann
- Dennis Muraoka
- Jack Reilly
- Kevin Volkan
- Ching-Hua Wang

The Presidential Medallion (shown at left)
The Presidential Medallion is conferred on the President by the Chancellor of the California State University system as a symbol of the authority and responsibility of the office and is worn with academic regalia at official functions.

The Cal State Channel Islands Medallion is a disk of highly-polished bronze engraved with the University Seal. The seal contains the Bell Tower in the forefront, with a rising sun in the background. The Bell Tower is an important symbol for the University and serves a function like those of bell towers around the world — as a community center; the rising sun behind the Bell Tower signifies the birth of the University.

The Cal State Channel Islands Medallion is a gift to the President from the President’s Cabinet:

- Joanne Coville
- Theodore Lucas
- Mary Ann Dase
- Alexander McNeill
- Alma D. González
- Greg Sawyer

The Cal State Channel Islands Mace is a gift to the President from the President’s Cabinet:

- Margaret Allred
- James Baker
- Charles Biegen
- Terri Cothern
- Robert Fink
- Susan O’Rourke
- James Peterson
- Barbara Zammitti

The Presidential Robe and Tam (worn by President Rush)
Each University individually designs its presidential robes. The robe and tam are a gift to the President from the CSUCI Foundation Board and the CSUCI Advisory Board members:

Foundation Board:
- Patricia Richards, Chair
- Bettina Chandler
- Linda Dallam
- C.G. Kurn
- Norma Lagomarsino
- Mark Lasago
- Thomas E. Malley
- Laura McAvoy
- Robert Patterson
- Victoria Pozzi
- Gregory J. Ramirez
- Debbie Rodgers
- Don Rudkin

President’s Advisory Board:
- Laura K. McAvoy, Chair
- John Bronne, Jr.
- Randy Churchill
- Marty De Los Cobos
- Maggie Kildee
- Hank Lacayo
- Carolyn Leavens
- Robert Patterson
- Carmen Ramirez
- Mike Saliba
- Ron Smiley
- Monty Winkler