President’s Message

Reaching for Our Goals.

As the carillon system in the University’s historic Bell Tower rang in the spring 2005 semester, the first day was celebrated with a dedication ceremony for a magnificent fountain that now graces our campus (see story page 5). The fountain is another tangible example of the outstanding support that has been bestowed upon California State University Channel Islands by our neighbor John Spoor Broome and his family. We are truly blessed to have such a champion of higher education right here in our region.

The symbolism of the fountain depicts students reaching for their goals. As always, the most important job for all of us who work at CSUCI is to support these men and women in their efforts.

And to demonstrate our commitment to student success, I am pleased to announce that we have launched the President’s Scholars program. Thanks to public donations, we can offer this program that will provide the best and the brightest students the opportunity to attend Cal State Channel Islands. Scholarship winners will participate in select University events and community meetings meant to enrich their educational experiences and to prepare them even more to become tomorrow’s leaders.

Additional recent developments in the evolution of the campus include the awarding of a contract for construction of the John Spoor Broome Library, as well as the opening of the University’s dining hall, Islands Café, to be enjoyed by the students, faculty, staff, and all who visit the campus.

So we've enjoyed a busy and productive start to the new term. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of so many people, we're reaching several exciting goals along the way. And so, as always, I invite you to visit your University at any time. When you do, you’ll see that the campus changes each month and has even more to offer to our students and the people of Ventura County.

Sincerely Yours,

Richard R. Rush
President
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Olympians Inspire Students to Obtain Goals

Cover photo:
President Richard Rush, John Spoor Broome, John Broome, Jr., and James “Bud” Bottoms celebrate the new dolphin fountain at CSUCI.

Correction: In the Fall 2004 issue of Current, the name of the associate vice president of Operations, Planning, and Construction was misspelled. The correct spelling is Deborah Wylie.

CSUCI Current is an official publication of California State University Channel Islands. It is published three times a year for alumni, friends, and the University community. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.
Smith Family Funds Faculty Grants

The Martin V. Smith Faculty Innovation and Excellence Grants for 2004 were awarded at a recent luncheon with the daughters of the late Martin V. Smith present to recognize and meet the recipients. From left, Stuart Daley; Cindi Daley; President Richard R. Rush; Nian-Sheng Huang, associate professor of history; Bruno Pozzi; Geoff Dougherty, professor of physics; Jill Leafstedt, assistant professor of special education; Marjorie Tegland; William Wolfe, professor of computer science; Toni Gardiner; Paul Rivera, assistant professor of economics; Mary Adler, assistant professor of English; Vickie Pozzi; Irina Costache, associate professor of art history; Maria Denney, assistant professor of special education; Joan Peters, assistant professor of English; Ashish Vaidya, professor of economics; Simone Aloisio, assistant professor of chemistry; and Matthew Furmanski, assistant professor of art. Unable to attend were Jesse Elliot, assistant professor of mathematics, and Rainer Buschmann, assistant professor of history. The grants, part of an endowment created by the late Martin V. “Bud” Smith, a prominent Ventura County real estate investor, developer, and humanitarian, are designed to expand faculty development by supporting projects that will help them to broaden their areas of expertise and experiences.

Award-winning Ad Executive Teaches at CSUCI

You can still recall his phrases: “A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste,” or “I’m Stuck on BAND-AID® and BAND-AID’s Stuck on Me,” or “Thanks, I Needed That!”

The author is Harry Webber, one of the most well-known advertising executives from Hollywood to Madison Avenue, who is bringing his talent and experience to CSUCI this semester as the instructor of Art 490, Special Topics in Art: “The Big Idea.”

“The CSUCI art program is extremely honored to have Harry Webber on the faculty,” said Jack Reilly, professor of art and program chair. “There is no question that his vast professional experiences will not only serve to educate our students in the practicalities of the ‘real world’ but to enlighten them to numerous creative opportunities and possibilities.”

Currently head of his own company called Smart Communications, Inc. of Los Angeles, Webber has enjoyed a distinguished background in the advertising business. As Motown Record Corporation’s first art director, he won awards for album covers for 23 gold records. Later, he joined Young & Rubicam, one of the most prestigious advertising firms in New York City. Some of his work is in the Clio Hall of Fame, the Museum of Advertising, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Smithsonian Institution.

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“Students gain a good artistic background here and at other universities, and in some cases, they get a sense of the business—but they aren’t always able to pull these important skills together,” Webber said. “So I’ve created a course that will ‘monetize’ the artistic and business aspects of the art and advertising.”

The course focuses on the process of creating ideas and artistic expressions that resonate and capture the minds and attention of audiences, as well as how to protect, sell, and market them, Webber says.

“I hope to make this a fun, free-form kind of class,” Webber said. “But at the same time, I want to show students that they can indeed earn a living from their creative endeavors.”
University to Launch New Degrees in Fall

The University will be launching new state-supported degree programs in five disciplines and three degrees that will be offered through Extended Education.

The state-supported degrees are a B.A. in economics, a B.S. in chemistry, a B.A. in chemistry, and a B.A. in biology. They have all been approved by the CSUCI Academic Senate and are awaiting final approval by the CSU chancellor’s office.

In anticipation of approval, the University is currently accepting admission applications for these degree programs for the fall of 2005.

In addition, a B.A. in Spanish and a B.A. in sociology are planned for introduction in fall of 2005.

The new Extended Education programs are a B.S. degree in information technology, an M.S. in mathematics, and an M.S. in computer science, which will also begin in fall 2005. These are financially self-supported programs and have different fee structures and application processes.

Honors and Appointments

❖ Mark Lisagor, D.D.S, chair of the CSUCI Foundation, was recently honored with the Association of Fundraising Professionals Volunteer of the Year Award for Ventura County. A founding partner of the Childrens Dental Group of Camarillo, Oxnard and Simi Valley, he was acknowledged for his philanthropic efforts over many years, particularly in the area of nonprofit organizations serving youth and education.

❖ Rudolph I. Estrada, a CSUCI professor of finance and management in the business and economics program and director of the University’s Small Business Institute, was recently named to the board of trustees of the California State Parks Foundation, which supports environmental education, wildlife and habitat preservation, volunteerism, and sound park policy.

❖ The University was recently honored by Work Training Programs, Inc. (WTP), a Southern California human services agency, for hiring employees with disabilities and economic disadvantages. At its annual celebration, WTP officials presented plaques to Raudel Banuelos, CSUCI associate director, Buildings and Grounds, Operations, Planning, and Construction Division, along with eight trainees who have worked at the University.

❖ Henry Dubroff, chair and editor of Pacific Coast Business Times, was recently named chair of the CSUCI Business and Technology Partnership, which fosters collaboration of technology and related service-based companies with the University and promotes technological excellence among students, faculty, and staff for the benefit of the region’s economy. In his new position, Dubroff is focusing on developing funds for scholarships and internships for CSUCI students.

University Foundation Awards Scholarships

Winners of the 2004-05 CSUCI Foundation scholarships gather for a photo at a recent reception. Mark Lisagor, chair of the foundation, and President Richard R. Rush acknowledged the importance of scholarships and recognized the hard work of this group of outstanding students. All scholarships, except for one from Studio Channel Islands Art Center, were funded by the foundation. The thirty-one scholarship winners are (in alphabetical order): Thomas Barker, Jessica Bennett, Scott Boczek, Cristina Brooks, Kristen Calvin, Kelly Castilio, Dev Chahil, Jennifer Christman, Kelly Cross, Suzanne Diaz, Caitlin Elmquist, Kristen Farnham, Richelle Fullilove, Arrate Garcia, Kelsy Griese, Sam Hunter (Studio Channel Islands Art Center), Rachael Jordan, Maya Karta, Emily Mazzucchi, Robin Perry, Hiram Reyes, Carly Rosso, Debra-Lee Sawyer, Hannah Silverman, Amy Spandrio, Alvessa Sullivan, Adriana Szetela, Megan Tigert, Cassandra Weir, Angela Wirsching, and Anelieze Zurcher.
Students in Spotlight at Media Arts Festival

For the third year in a row, the University hosted the CSU Media Arts Festival, which featured works in film, video, and new media from students throughout the CSU system. CSUCI student John Weckworth, above photo third from left, was a first place winner for the second year in a row in the Rosebud awards’ experimental category. Other CSUCI students winning awards (not pictured) were Jennifer Bertrand, second place in the interactive media category; Michael Miller, third place in the experimental category; and Jennifer Bennett, Mohammad Afshar, and Apisak Phetprasit, who won second, third, and fourth places respectively in the TV short form category. The 14th annual event also featured seminars taught by CSU faculty and professionals from the entertainment industry.

CASE Presents Silver Medal to University for Sunset/CSUCI Project

The CSUCI Communications and Marketing office won a silver medal award in the outstanding special event category at the awards ceremony of the recent Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), District VII conference held in San Francisco. CSUCI was honored for its work in the promotion and execution of the Sunset/CSUCI Landscape Design Competition, which received substantial statewide media exposure and resulted in outstanding landscape designs for four of the campus courtyards.

Alumni News

❖ Tom O’Grady (‘04) and Amy Meng (‘04), who received their degrees in biology with an emphasis in medical imaging, have been accepted to continue their studies in nuclear medicine at the prestigious Charles Drew University in Los Angeles. The CSUCI program is unique because it is one of the few in the country that offers instruction in the medical imaging field at the undergraduate level, says Geoff Dougherty, professor of physics. “Our students have a definite advantage because they’ve already gained knowledge and experiences that other students at Drew do not have,” he said. “We’re very proud of Tom and Amy.”

❖ Erika Butler (‘04), who was the first student with a learning disability to be admitted under the University’s special admissions process, spoke about her experiences as a person with a disability and about writing a published novel at the recent plenary session of the statewide convention of the California Association on Postsecondary Education and Disability. Butler graduated with honors in English, and was the editor of the University student newspaper.

❖ Chris Valenzano (‘03), at age 25, is one of the youngest individuals to be elected to the Ventura County Board of Education. Prior to that, he served as former State Assemblyperson Tony Strickland’s education policy advisor for four years. Valenzano is also serving his third consecutive term as an elected member of the Ventura County Republican Central Committee. At CSUCI, he was a business major who graduated cum laude.
Two dolphins have found a new home. Now, as the bronze sculpture graces the fountain in the Science Building Plaza, they have become more than just mascots of California State University Channel Islands. They are symbols for students to aspire to their highest educational goals.

The artistry and meaning of the fountain and sculpture of the dolphins were applauded and appreciated by students, faculty, staff, and members of the community at a dedication ceremony on the first day of classes for the spring semester.

President Richard R. Rush thanked all those who were connected with the project but, in particular, acknowledged John “Jack” Spoor Broome and his family, whose donation made the fountain and sculpted bronze dolphins possible, and James “Bud” Bottoms, the artist who created the inspirational work of art that captures the sense of striving for achievement.

“This project began with a phone call from Jack Broome who had an idea about a statue of two dolphins,” Rush said. “A stream of wonderfully imaginative ideas followed, leading to the fountain and statue we see here today. And if Jack and John Broome are the heart of this effort, then James “Bud” Bottoms is the soul.”

It was Bottoms who also provided the name for the new fountain and sculpture, calling it “Aspirations,” with the dolphins arching toward the sky, as if reaching for dreams and goals.

The new fountain and sculpture also represent other important University connections. Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, a Chumash elder, provided a blessing and talked about the dolphin as a special part of Chumash legend.

Don Rodriguez, assistant professor of environmental science and resource management, told the audience that the fountain not only adds to the character of the campus, it represents CSUCI’s commitment to the environment and land. He related the University’s many environmentally friendly policies and practices that are part of its Green Campus philosophy.

Broome told the audience that the University continues to be recognized and appreciated by the Ventura County community. Speaking on behalf of his family, the longtime CSUCI supporter said, “This is your University. We hope you will be as proud of it as we are ... This is a wonderful place. Love it and care for it.”

Assistant Professor Don Rodriguez tells audience that the dolphins are symbols of the University’s commitment to environmental issues.

Raudel Banuelos, OPC, and Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, offer a Chumash blessing during the dedication.

The Rainbow Bridge Chumash legend is represented in a bronze plaque for visitors to read.

New Fountain a Symbol of ‘Aspirations’
The Biotech Boom

It is estimated that more than 1,450 companies are now focusing on biotechnology now, more than tripling in size since 1992. The market capitalization of these companies as of May of 2005 was $224 billion.

Of the companies involved in biotechnology and bioinformatics, nearly a quarter are in California—and many of them are in Ventura County, including Amgen, Ceres, Baxter, and BioSource.

“Amgen is one of the biggest biotech companies in the world,” says Nicole Bournias, visiting professor of biology and director of the CSUCI Master of Science in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Program. “It’s producing drugs that will help a variety of medical conditions. Ceres is an agricultural company that is developing sturdier and healthier crops, as well as decontaminates that will gobble up oil slicks. Biotechnology is a big business now.”

CSUCI Biotechnology Program Advisory Board

■ Matthew D. Arnold, Associate Director, Licensing, Amgen, Thousand Oaks
■ Jim Bray, Sc.D., President, PTI Advanced Filtration, Oxnard
■ Wayne Davey, MBA, Director, Corporate Audit Services, Amgen, Thousand Oaks
■ Kenneth A. Feldmann, Ph.D., Vice President, Agricultural Genomics, Trait Development, Ceres, Inc., Thousand Oaks
■ James J. Harber, Ph.D., Director, Central Coast Biotechnology Center, Ventura
■ Timothy D. Osland, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Pharmaceuticals Division, Protein Formulation Group, Amgen, Thousand Oaks
■ John S. Philo, Ph.D., Vice President and Director, Biophysical Chemistry, Alliance Protein Laboratories, Camarillo
■ Bill J. Tawil, Ph.D., Group Manager, Scientific Initiatives, Global Marketing, BioSurgery, Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Westlake Village

CSUCI master of science in biotechnology and bioinformatics degree provides a number of opportunities in the industry. Here are some:

■ Research positions in laboratories
■ Careers in regulation of drug approval and other biotechnology applications
■ Management positions
■ Positions at companies that are investing in biotechnology
■ Working for law firms in biotechnology

Randall Mullenix, IT equipment technician for science, and Kim Gardiner (‘04), instructional support technician, review computer DNA sequencing of data.

A Formula for Success

New Master of Science degree to play key role in region’s dramatic growth of biotech firms

When scientists recently cracked the most complex code known to humanity, they unlocked a door and could see for the first time the vast and elaborate language of living cells. They had gained entry into the most formidable enigma of all—the structure of life itself.

What they saw was a labyrinth of answers, new questions, new problems, and a vision of limitless possibilities. The scientific implications were mind-boggling, providing a breathtaking leap in terms of our view of life, sustaining life, and the treatment of disease. Consider: medicines that will treat cancer, Alzheimer’s, and other diseases; vaccines that will strengthen human immune systems; blood substitutes that will be of critical use in surgery and in crises; and food products that could help prevent aging and disease.

And with all this has come an explosion of information and technology. Companies have sprung up globally to market what has been created in laboratories. Correspondingly, these biotechnology companies have developed a great demand for a workforce with both science and business backgrounds that must be met by universities such as California State University Channel Islands.

“We created our new Master of Science in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Program to be part of this new science and technology that can help us to lead better lives,” says Nicole Bournias, CSUCI visiting professor of biology and director of the new program. “We can do that best by serving the many biotech companies in our area.”

“The biotech industry is maturing. These companies have many employees with bachelor’s degrees who have been at entry-level positions for five or six years—with no place to go. The companies are growing fast but are in great need of project managers who have a science background as well as managerial and operational skills.”

The CSUCI program, which begins in the fall of this year and is offered through Extended Education, is specifically aimed at answering these needs. No other program like it exists in this area. The two-year program will provide students with broad, graduate-level training in scientific principles and knowledge underlying biotechnological advances; basic lab techniques in research and development; legal and intellectual property issues; and interpersonal skills and attributes important in business and bientrepreneurship.

Graduates from this program will be highly valued for diverse positions and locations in biotech industries, private and public agencies, and other organizations,” says Ching-Hua Wang, professor of biology and chair of the biology and physics programs. “One of the reasons is because the program is interdisciplinary to the core and articulates our University’s mission consistently,” says Wang. “This is a professional degree program that encompasses biological science, computational science, biochemistry, biophysics, business, and regulatory affairs. All of this will place our graduates in great demand.”

Indeed, local companies are more than just enthusiastic; they have become partners in the program. Many key personnel will serve as curriculum advisors, teachers, and members of an advisory board.

“We will be graduating students who will have training for the specific applications of local biotech businesses,” says Tim Osland, Ph.D., principle scientist for Amgen’s Pharmaceuticals Division, who will be teaching, consulting, developing internships, and serving on the CSUCI biotechnology program advisory board.

“The CSUCI master’s program will be a great resource for local biotech companies, providing their staffs with a system in which younger employees can take more classes in their fields of expertise or perhaps expand their scientific and professional horizons,” Osland says. “A program that can improve their academic standing will directly translate into additional promotional opportunities in the future.”

The new degree also features another important advantage. A program that develops local employees eliminates the problem of bringing in employees from other areas who would be faced with skyrocketing housing costs.

“It’s been difficult for local biotech companies to get new hires to relocate to this area because of the high housing costs,” says John S. Philo, Ph.D., vice president and director of Alliance Protein Laboratories and a member of the CSUCI biotechnology program advisory board. “That’s why this program is so important. We can train people here who are already residents.”

The new CSUCI Master of Science in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Program is the right program at the right time, says Bournias. “This is an exciting time when so many new discoveries are being made daily. Our program is ideal. It responds to a critical need. It responds to our desire to be a vital link with our community.

“We think it will develop and grow into a model approach in which universities and local industry become partners in an educational process that creates a new homegrown workforce that brings vitality to not only local business, but to the economy of the region as a whole.”

“A CSUCI master of science in biotechnology and bioinformatics degree provides a number of opportunities in the industry. Here are some:

■ Research positions in laboratories
■ Careers in regulation of drug approval and other biotechnology applications
■ Management positions
■ Positions at companies that are investing in biotechnology
■ Working for law firms in biotechnology

Biotech Careers

New Master of Science degree to play key role in region’s dramatic growth of biotech firms
Extended Education Programs

Degree Programs: Master of Business Administration; Administrative Services Credential (M.A., Education); Master of Science in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics; Master of Science in Computer Science; Master of Science in Mathematics; Master of Social Work; and Bachelor of Science in Information Technology.

Degree Credit Courses: Open University; Special Session; and Online Degree Credit Courses.

Courses for Seniors: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Certification Programs and Course Sequences: Production and Inventory Management; Fundamentals of Materials and Operations Management; Human Resources Certification; Payroll Certification; Professional Bookkeeper Certification; Professional Development for LCSW (licensed social workers) and MFTs (marriage and family therapists).

For more information, visit www.csuci.edu/exed.

Master’s and Certification Programs Made Possible by Creative Initiatives

Think of CSUCI’s Extended Education Division as a creative resource that provides programs for both students and members of the community alike. It is, says Gary Berg, dean of the division, unique in its ability to fund and create programs that might not otherwise be established.

“We have a strong demand for education programs on campus and in our community,” Berg says. “The demand for master’s degrees and certification programs can’t be met by state funding at this time on our campus, so we have to be aggressive in seeking alternative funding sources. We have to be proactive to meet the needs of the community, to establish links to the University.”

The University’s new master of science degree in biotechnology and bioinformatics, for example, was funded by the CSU Chancellor’s Office, the Sloan Foundation, and local companies. “This is a good example of how we’re responding to local needs,” Berg says. “In the past, positions in this industry were filled by individuals who had either a bachelor’s degree or a Ph.D. degree. Now, we have a master’s degree that is practical, applied, and also focuses on such areas as legal issues, business, and management. It’s like an MBA in science. That’s very unique.”

Community connections are already strong. Area businesses are supportive of the many certification programs and the new Osher Lifelong Learning Institute has become a popular program for individuals who are 50 years of age or older.

“We’re a new University, in a new age,” Berg says. “We’re very aware that things have to be done differently. We’re trying to maintain and support our traditional mission, but we’re doing that in new ways. Extended Education plays an important role because of our ability to be flexible and meet the needs and demands of the community.”

MBA Program Gives Students Competitive Edge

Their education is specific, often tailored, and geared toward real-life business experiences. They’re getting a high-quality education from professors who bring not only outstanding academic backgrounds, but business acumen, skills, and insights as well.

They’re the first students in the University’s new MBA program, which began in the fall of 2004. “It’s going well,” says Ashish Vaidya, professor of economics and program director. “The students have been very positive. They’re enjoying the small classes and individualized attention from faculty. They also have the advantage of a distinguished Business Advisory Council, two members of which have spoken to students on the importance of leadership.”

The program is all about translating an MBA degree into business success. Students appreciate the structure of the courses as well as their teachers. In keeping with the University’s mission, the MBA program approach is interdisciplinary, with an emphasis on global and multicultural perspectives.

“I’m looking to take my career to another level by developing my ability to consult on all aspects of business from a global perspective,” says Kelly Noseworthy, an account executive with Citrix Systems. “The CSUCI program encourages students to collaborate and use each other’s strengths to get the job done. I also like the cross-functional and integrative approach. For instance, in my statistics class, our tests and projects gave us a better understanding of foreign investments, marketing, performance analysis, sales forecasting, economics, and more.”

In Lyndsay Maas’ case, an MBA degree will help to determine her career path. A general accountant for Sputtered Films in Santa Barbara, Maas believes that her CSUCI experience will make a huge impact on her career.

“I am still searching for the right career, so my MBA is going to give me the added edge I will need when competing against other applicants in the job market,” Maas says. “If I decide to start my own business, my MBA will have given me knowledge that will help me make my business more successful.”
Lifelong Learners

The University’s new Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), which offers educational classes targeted at individuals who are 50 years of age or older, has become a popular program on campus. Students pictured at left took a class in forensic science from Simone Aloisio, assistant professor of chemistry. In the “Religions of the East” class, Eunice Koch of Ventura says she is thoroughly enjoying the experience. “Our instructor is very knowledgeable and well prepared,” she says. “He’s very inspirational. He makes me want to learn more about eastern religions.”

Marty Kaplan, LLI director, (right) addressing a class, says the program is expanding and including new and lively topics. “We’re offering high-caliber educational and enrichment classes that are more specialized than the usual courses taught at many universities,” he says. “Some of the current courses include ‘The Truman Presidency,’ ‘The Art of Indigenous Cultures of the Americas and Mexico,’ and ‘Popular Film and Society.’”

Master of Education Program: Impacting the Lives of Students

“Teachers are powerful,” says LaSonja Temple. “But as a principal or administrator, the opportunity to influence does not diminish, it expands.”

And that’s why Temple, a Channel Islands High School teacher, and other students enrolled in the California State University Channel Islands’ new master’s degree Principals Leadership Program last fall. In their careers, all of these teachers have already made an impact on the lives of students. Now, they are beginning to see how much difference they can make in a new and wider area of influence and leadership.

“I want to impact education on a broader scale,” says Brett Taylor, who is a special education teacher at Hueneme High School. “I think the transition to administration will allow me to help more kids, not just those in my class. I can’t think of a better way to meet the needs of the students than to get involved from a leadership role.”

To assume the critical responsibilities of school administrators, these teachers required a topnotch master’s program. “I was excited to be part of something new and cutting edge,” says Charmon Evans, a Hueneme School District teacher currently on special assignment with CSUCI’s University Preparation School. “I’m impressed with the thought put into the two-year program. A great system is in place to support our field experience requirement. We have incredible professors who have extensive real-life experience in the field.”

In the program, each student is assigned a mentor, a local principal who shares his or her time and expertise with the CSUCI student over the course of the two-year program. “These experiences have been very rewarding and enlightening,” says Temple. “I believe that this type of program is important because it provides the necessary training and support that will assist us in the transition from teacher to administrator.”

The students themselves contribute to the strength of the program, says Lillian Vega Castaneda, professor of language, culture, and literacy. The first cohort, she says, reflects a diversity of backgrounds and experiences, individuals who have unique perspectives on schooling, society, and teaching.

“I believe that collective experiences have already begun to form an ethic of ensuring positive teaching and learning experiences for all children, and, as future administrators,” Castaneda says. “They have bonded with one another, and the bonds that they have made in this program will follow them through their current and future professional and personal lives.”
The dream is about to be fulfilled. Picture a serene outdoor scene with plants, ponds, and gently curving walkways. The idea is to give customers a sense of strolling through a natural setting. They’ll be enjoying the atmosphere as much as shopping around for plants.

That’s the garden shop dream of Debra Niederkorn of Santa Paula who is trying entrepreneurship for the first time with the help of the University’s Small Business Institute (SBI) program in which CSUCI business students provide valuable assistance to local entrepreneurs.

“I’m very impressed with the program,” Niederkorn says. “The CSUCI business students provided me with a complete business plan, which I had never seen before. It was very professionally done. They provided me with details such as a breakdown of how long it would take me to get a return on my investment.”

Niederkorn, whose plant store is scheduled to open in March of this year, worked with Brandon Blake, team leader, Tom Froelich, and Trevor Robinson, all CSUCI senior business majors.

The SBI teams are coordinated by Rudolph Estrada, a CSUCI professor of finance and management, SBI director, and a distinguished professional with business experience at the highest public and private levels.

“The SBI program brings a unique opportunity for those business students interested in entrepreneurship to participate on a first-hand basis,” Estrada said. “The experience is as close as you can get to analyzing and making recommendations on your own business and it allows you to put into practice much of what students have learned in the classroom.”

The program also reflects the University’s commitment to community service, says President Richard R. Rush. “This is such an outstanding program because it answers local business needs while, at the same time, creating practical learning experiences for our students. We are very pleased to be working closely with the community of Santa Paula on this mutually beneficial program.”

The SBI team’s business plan examined every aspect of Niederkorn’s future business. “We provided demographics, a market assessment, and gave her ideas about the layout of her store,” Blake said. “Trevor even designed a logo for her. It was important for the team to give Debra a business plan that was realistic and one that gave her options.

“In Debra’s case, we put ourselves in her position. We want to see her succeed. It’s our project but in a way it’s our business, too. Her success is our success.”

“Extended Education: Programs Meeting Community Needs

SBI Program Gives Entrepreneurs a Helping Hand

Offering valuable business advice to entrepreneur Debra Niederkorn are, from left, Abel Magaña, manager of Gold Coast SBDC, who assists in providing business services to SBI clients, Rudolph Estrada, director of the SBI program, and students Trevor Robinson, Tom Froelich, and Brandon Blake.
In an instant, it all hit her at once. She had grown up knowing adversity and difficulty as a member of a migrant farm worker family. Now, as her father was being taken from the celery fields of Oxnard to a hospital by ambulance, Haida Jimenez felt jolts of despair and resolve at the same time.

In that moment, she vowed that she and her family would have a better life and that the sacrifices and hard work of her immigrant parents would be used as a catalyst to educate herself and create a new life for her and her family.

Haida followed through, achieving honors throughout junior and senior high schools, then applied to CSUCI in 2003, where she was admitted through the University’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).

She was, from the beginning, a student who showed great promise, says Lisette Rodriguez, coordinator of Outreach and EOP. “Haida is an incredibly bright, insightful, and motivated student. She is very caring and encouraging, and has been a very positive role model and influence for other students.”

Now a sophomore, Haida loves her life at CSUCI. She is active on campus as president of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) and will be representing all CSU students on the American Democracy Student Advisory Board.

Her career goal is clear. “I’m majoring in Spanish and I want to get a master’s degree in counseling, and eventually a Ph.D. in migrant education,” Haida says. “I’d like to be a high school migrant counselor in Ventura County to help children of migrant workers find their way.

“This is for me but it’s also for my parents. I still have vivid memories of my father, seriously ill, working so hard in the fields. He nearly died in 1994. He and my mother worked hard for us, to give us food, shelter, and clothing. We had limited resources. We lived day-by-day.”

Haida also had the influence of her two older brothers and sister who set examples for her by obtaining college degrees. “They taught me to stand tall, to be strong, no matter what the circumstances. They inspired me to be a really good student.”

Haida is already relating her experiences, speaking to local high school students, many of whom are children of migrant workers. “I tell them to reach for their dreams,” she says. “I tell them never to give up, not to let circumstances become obstacles. I show them that there is help around if they look for it, such as financial aid, EOP grants, and other forms of assistance.

“I try to relate to them by telling them about my background. I tell them that I’m very proud that I’m here at CSUCI. I’m now learning leadership skills here that will help me with my goal. And that’s to take care of my parents for all they did for me, to give back to Ventura County, and to remember my roots and that there are others who need help along the way.”

Haida Jimenez overcame difficulties as the daughter of immigrant workers and now inspires others as a CSUCI student.
CSUCI Prof. Jacquelyn Kilpatrick creates
Cultures of Learning

For a few moments, they are actors. On a classroom stage, they interpret Shakespearian characters, plot, and motivation. It does not matter that these CSUCI students are not professional actors. They are processing meaning all the same.

On the sidelines, unobtrusive and inconspicuous, Jacquelyn Kilpatrick watches as these overtures to classroom discussion are rendered. Once a scene is acted, Kilpatrick, professor of English and chair of the English: Literature and Writing program, invites the Shakespeare class to create its own discussion dynamics.

What emerges is learning that is at once fascinating, fun, and illuminating. As actors, audiences, and critics, students begin to understand the material on their own, in their own terms, in their own ways. They sponge up Shakespeare with their own juices—onstage as characters in a play and offstage in their own voices. And the meanings often transcend Shakespeare.

“Some students may come to class certain that Shakespeare is intimidating,” Kilpatrick says. “But what I’ve learned is that students can see and understand his plays when they act out the scenes, when the words come out of their mouths. And when a play is approached as a group, in a collaborative way, it becomes more enjoyable for them.”

In such learning, literature—and life—stretches out before students. “We learn so much from each other,” says Hiram Reyes, a senior English major, “One group interprets a scene one way, another sees that same scene from a different perspective. Jacque steps in only if we’re misinterpreting something or not seeing something, but rather than telling us, she steers us to our own ability to find or think about it. She’s always finding ways for us to see things, to see different perspectives, to read, re-read, to think and re-think. We learn how to become independent thinkers.”

It’s no surprise, then, that many students consider Kilpatrick to be one of the best professors on campus. She personifies the CSUCI mission—in her teaching and approach, in her education, and even in her own background. Her heritage is rich and full. Her mother is Cherokee and her father Choctaw and Irish. From this has come a deep appreciation for all cultures and perspectives.

Kilpatrick is, in fact, one of the earlier proponents of interdisciplinary and multicultural approaches, going back to the early 1980s. “We’re not helping students if we expect them to do just one thing or think one way,” she says. “We need learning and ideas that are interconnected, we need different ways of looking at issues and problems.”

Another of the great learning experiences on campus is Kilpatrick’s Contemporary Native American Authors telecourse, which uses videos as part of the instruction. For Josh Overton, a senior English major, the class changed his way of thinking. “We learned about Native American stereotypes but Jacque never gave us a politically correct view. She wanted us to know Native Americans in an honest, realistic way. In this class, but in life as well, she taught me to question my first impressions, how to think critically.”

In Kilpatrick’s newest class, called International Experiences, students will spend 10 days in London in March. “It’s literature, theater, and culture, combined with studies, reading, touring museums, and learning history,” she says.

It promises to be a great learning and enriching experience. And you couldn’t ask for a better guide.
President’s Dinner: An Elegant Evening for Friends and Supporters

It was an elegant and entertaining evening that made guests feel like they were on the African Serengeti. More than 300 people came together at the Fifth Annual President’s Dinner at the Embassy Suites Mandalay Beach Resort to support the University and to enjoy a specially prepared dinner, entertainment, and exciting prizes.

For one special night, the hotel banquet room was transformed into an African-themed delight, festooned with tall artificial grass and nearly life-sized giraffes, with African drums and music in the background.

The University community was also there to honor the winner of its annual Lagomarsino award, named for the Honorable Robert Lagomarsino, who was instrumental in the creation of CSUCI. President Richard R. Rush presented the award to the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce for its ongoing support of and involvement with the University. Accepting the award were Tom Kelly, president and CEO of the Chamber, and Pauline Malysko, chair of the Chamber board.

One of the highlights of the evening was the auctioning of prizes. Mark Lisagor, chair of the Foundation Board, and his wife Terri won the HeartsonFire® diamond donated by Van Gundy and Sons Jewelers. J. Handel Evans, planning president of the University, and his wife Carol won a safari trip to Africa. Donald and Alexandra Dymond won a chest full of children’s toys made possible by Linda Dullam, foundation board member and chair of the event.

For the second year in a row, the event raised approximately $100,000 for the University.

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advancing the University
Calendar of Events

All events listed are open to the public and will be held on campus unless otherwise noted. For more information, please call (805) 437-8916

May 3  Business & Technology Partnership Leadership Dinner, Ronald Reagan Library
Proceeds to benefit new scholarships and internships.

May 6  Honors Convocation
University honors outstanding students at this annual event.

May 21  Commencement
At the 9 am ceremony, the class of 2005 will assemble in the South Quad with family, friends, and the campus community.

June 17-18  CSU Alumni Council Meeting
CSU Alumni directors and volunteers meet to network and discuss best practices.

U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Athletes Visit CSUCI

The campus community and hundreds of local junior and senior high school students were inspired by six Olympians who came to talk about their experiences in Athens and the hard work and training required to fulfill their athletic dreams. They encouraged the audience that through hard work and dedication, all life’s dreams are possible. From left, standing, are, Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long, John Broome, Jr., Rulon Gardner, wrestler, Jessica Mendoza, softball team, John Spoor Broome, Amanda Freed, softball team, Marlon Shirley, paralympian sprinter, and President Richard R. Rush. Kneeling are Jenny Topping, left, and Leah O’Brien-Amico, softball team.