University Community Helps to Make Commencement a Big Success

Commencement 2004 was a great success, thanks to the many members of the staff, faculty, and more than 80 volunteers who worked for months to make it such a special day for the graduates, family, and friends who gathered in the South Quad. (See photos below.)
“A Celebration of Reading” to Feature Author Villaseñor

A new CSUCI program called “A Celebration of Reading” will begin this fall with the University community invited to read best-selling author Victor Villaseñor’s “Reign of Gold.” Copies of his book will be distributed free of charge to students. Discussion sessions, facilitated by faculty and staff, will be planned. Faculty will also integrate the book into class work. In September, Villaseñor will give informal book talks that will be open to students, faculty, staff, and the community.

For more information, contact Renny Christopher, associate professor of English and chair of the Academic Senate, at ext. 8994 or renny.christopher@csuci.edu.

Alumni & Friends Association Announced

An invitation to join the Alumni & Friends Association was announced at the 2004 commencement ceremony. An alumni booth was also available to new graduates, providing information about the organization and its services. Staffing the booth were CSUN-CI alumni Yvette Bocz (’02), Scott McNutt (’02), Chris Stalcup (’03); CSUCI Friends, Gary Wartik, Lana Lundin, Sharon Ferrell; and CSUCI student, Matthew Smitha. Alumni & Friends thanks these volunteers for their efforts, as well as Greg Sawyer, vice president of Student Affairs, for the generous donation of 500 mugs. The association currently has 243 members, many of whom joined at a discounted rate of $5 offered to the 2004 graduating classes of CSUCI, CSUN-CI, and CSULB-CI. All friends of the University are invited to join as well.

For further information, contact Kirsten Moss (CSUN-CI ’03), president of Alumni & Friends, at 437-8517 or at kirsten.moss@csuci.edu.

Summer Degree Courses Offered at Off-Campus Sites

The University is offering summer degree credit courses, to be held off-campus in June and July. Courses in education, one in psychology, and one in English are being offered at the University Preparatory School in Camarillo. Two accounting courses will be held in June at the Camarillo Airport. In addition, two courses, one in business law and another in health, will be offered online. According to Gary Berg, director of Extended Education, off-campus and online degree courses will be held year-round.

For more information or to enroll, call (805) 437-8495.

Kudos

Two artworks of Liz King, assistant professor of art, were recently selected to be featured in an exhibit called “Reflections of Poverty” at the Faulkner Gallery in Santa Barbara. In the juried competition of more than 200 entries, King’s works were also chosen to be among the top 40 that will travel to other cities in Santa Barbara County. They will be shown at the Town Center Gallery in Santa Maria through June 27 and at the Grossman Gallery in the Lompoc Public Library from July 1 – 31.

Terry L. Ballman, associate professor of Spanish, made a presentation to the Spanish-teaching faculty at the University of Hawaii on March 12, 2004. The following day she presented “Task-Oriented Activities and Communicative Language Teaching” at the annual conference of the Hawaii Association of Language Teachers in Honolulu.
Terry L. Ballman, associate professor of Spanish, and Antonio F. Jiménez-Jiménez, assistant professor of Spanish, presented a poster session, titled “Revisiting the Concept of Language Proficiency,” at the annual conference of the American Association of Applied Linguistics on May 1, 2004 in Portland, Oregon.

Construction Report

- Parking Lot A5, in front of the Hagerty Gym, is now available for use. Bumper stops will soon be added, as well completion of a minor patchwork project.

- Construction activity continues in and around the student housing project. The fence around the project has been removed to permit the installation of the landscape and hardscape surfaces. Most of the trenches, pits, and holes have been covered or filled in, but members of the University community should not enter the project area unless accompanied by OPC staff. Call Tom Hesselbrock, project manager, at ext. 8930 to arrange for a tour. The project is expected to be completed within budget and in time for fall occupancy. More than 311 bed spaces in the 351 beds project have already been reserved.

- Construction of Phase 3 of University Glen is moving well. The infrastructures of both these projects are beginning to take shape. At this point, 356 units of faculty and staff housing in Phase 1 and 2 are now complete and occupied.

- Construction activities in the Town Center project have resumed after a slow-down caused by a lack of steel and rebar availability.

- The Administration Building parking lot is nearing completion. All that remains is installation of lighting, landscaping, and other miscellaneous work.

- Remodeling of the temporary dining commons has begun. Interior demolition work is now underway in the building next to the Art Complex. The temporary dining commons is anticipated to open in time for the fall semester and will serve the campus for approximately two years while the facility is being remodeled.

- In the coming weeks, several of the small laundry stations in the South Quad will be demolished in preparation for the opening of an access to the area.

Information: Juan Beltranena, director of Facilities, ext 8496 or juan.beltranena@csuci.edu.