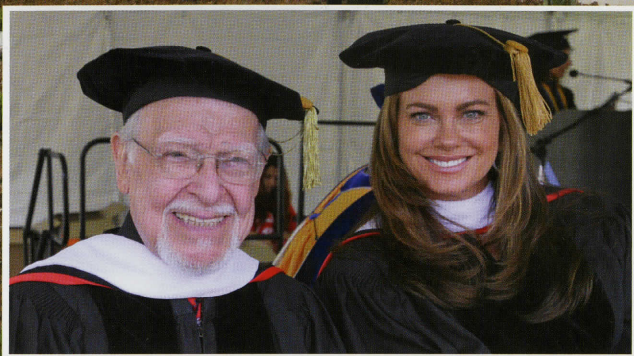


# CHANNEL

CSU Channel Islands Magazine • Spring 2012 / Volume 16 / Number 1

● **New Entrance Road**  
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**Channel Islands**



● **Lacayo & Ireland receive Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters**

## Persistence Leads to New Beginnings

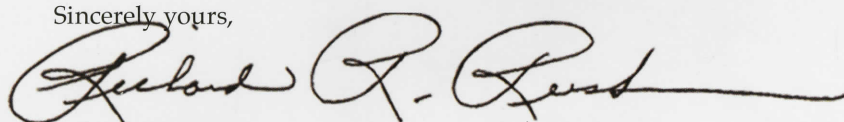
Springtime brings commencement, celebrating the accomplishments of our students and marking new beginnings. Likewise, *your* University celebrates the beginning of our next decade with a new entrance road, a record of outstanding accomplishment and innovation for the University, and the dedication of North Hall, our new academic building.

Last month CI welcomed nearly 12,000 family members and guests to recognize more than 930 students for their hard work and dedication in reaching their academic dreams. Some were the first in their family to go to college and to graduate. Others returned to school after years, even decades, fulfilling a dream long deferred. Many had raised children, cared for an ill family member, overcome illness and injury to themselves, or served our country while postponing higher education. For some, it was all of the above!

No matter how we got here, one characteristic has united us all – persistence to achieve in spite of obstacles. Persistence continues to reward CI as recently we marked the grand opening of a new entrance road to the University and soon will celebrate the upcoming completion of North Hall at the start of the fall semester. Additionally, despite the state's continued budget uncertainty, CI has continued to thrive in delivering a high quality and innovative education to as many students as possible from this region and beyond. No obstacle will deter us in fulfilling our mission.

As the stories in this magazine illustrate, CI looks forward to new beginnings in all aspects of the University's life as we celebrate our 10th anniversary. With your help, I am confident that our persistence and dedication will allow us to do an outstanding job of serving our students and our community in the coming years. Please enjoy the stories that follow, and I wish you a safe and pleasant summer.

Sincerely yours,



Richard R. Rush  
President



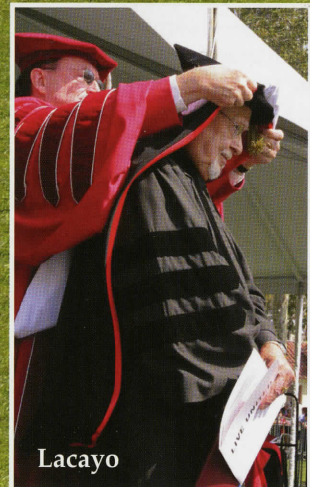
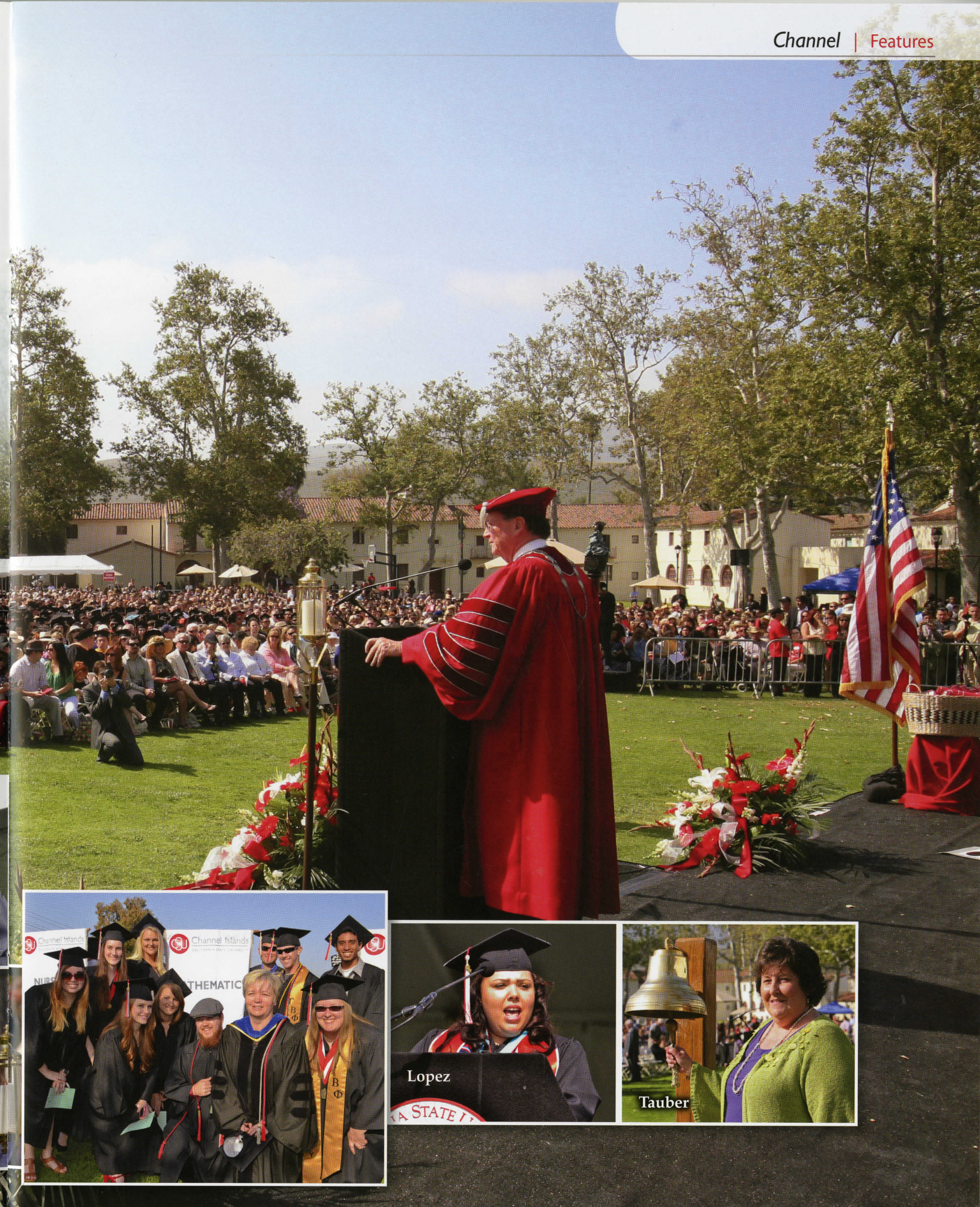
# Tenth Annual Commencement Ceremony

The University celebrated its tenth commencement ceremony on May 19 with nearly 12,000 parents, families, and friends who cheered on more than 930 students receiving their bachelor's, master's or teaching credentials.

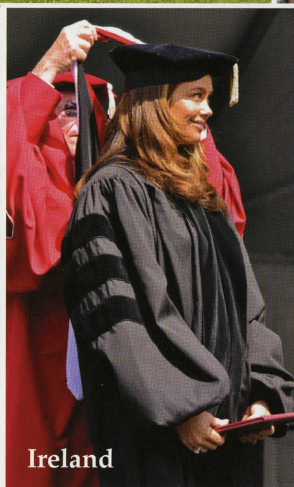
Maria Tauber, Director of Academic Personnel, was the honored staff member selected to ring the Navy ship bell to signal the beginning of Commencement; Dr. Marie Francois, Professor of History, led the procession by carrying the Light of Learning; and Dr. James Meriwether, Professor of History and Academic Senate Chair, served as Chief University Marshal; Sophomore Megan Cummings sang the National

Anthem, and greetings in Spanish and Romanian were provided by graduating seniors Samantha Kern and Aurelia Serb.

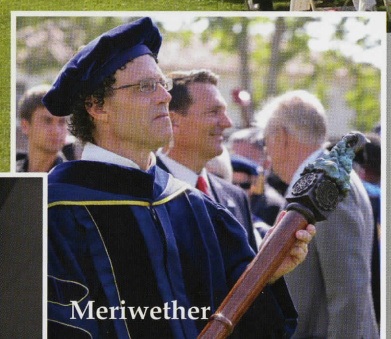
Remarks were provided by CSU Trustee Debra Farar, President Richard Rush, and graduating Student Government President, Dulce Lopez. Honorary doctorate degrees were awarded to Hank Lacayo and Kathy Ireland. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the alma mater led by graduating senior and CI staff member, Raquel De Los Santos, accompanied on keyboard by the alma mater's composer, Dr. Ted Lucas. ◀



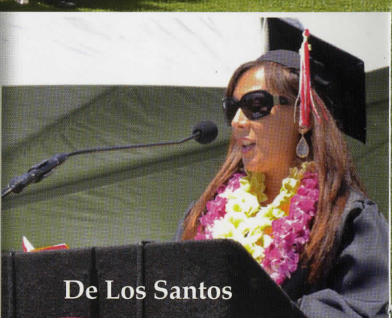
Lacayo



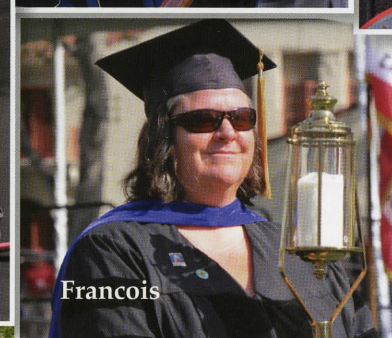
Ireland



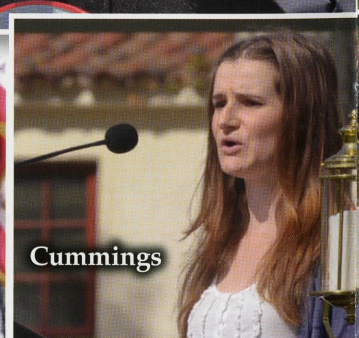
Meriwether



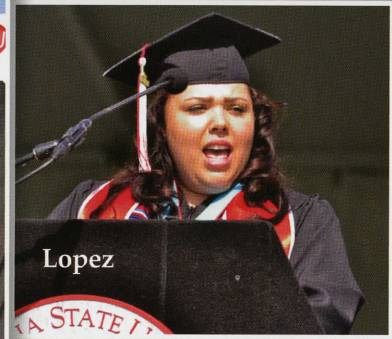
De Los Santos



Francois



Cummings



Lopez



Tauber



# Celebrating CI's 10th Anniversary

By Lori Putnam

It is said first impressions are lasting ones, and for President Rush that has indeed been the case for CI. "My first impression involved looking at the beauty of the site and thinking what a wonderful place to start a university," he recalled. It was the beginning of summer in 2001, and President Rush had less than a year to turn his first impression into a reality. He had a vision and he was looking for the right team to bring it to life.

"What I said to everyone at the beginning, and continue to say today, is if we're going to create a university, let's create one that we believe can exist – a place that is intellectually rigorous, serves student success, and that promotes fundamental human values," he said. In order to achieve this, President Rush counseled his colleagues to leave previous experiences in academia behind them and, instead, look ahead to the privilege and honor of creating a university for the 21st century.

Over the next decade, that forward-thinking attitude would produce a host of milestones and achievements by faculty, students, and staff that would place CI on the national map. First and foremost, the physical structure of the campus needed to be put in place. By August 2003, construction of a new science building had been completed. A year later, the first on-campus student housing was opened for 450 students. In spring 2008, the University celebrated the grand opening of the John Spoor Broome Library. By 2010, the student body had become actively involved in the creation of their campus

and helped to open the new Student Union. Last month, the CI community celebrated a new main university entrance, a fitting closure to 10 years of growth.

Academically, the University has grown just as quickly. Accreditation, which is critical to any new university, began with the first Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) site visit in 2003. Just four years later, CI achieved initial accreditation. New programs continue to be added as faculty garner state and national awards for their research. Just last February, CI Professor Sung Won Sohn was ranked among the top three economic forecasters in the nation by The Wall Street Journal. Other faculty have been awarded grants by the National Science Foundation and the Keck Foundation, to name just a few. And this has all been achieved in an environment distinguished for its collaborative and collegial nature, earning CI the honor of being named "A Great College to Work For" by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Looking ahead, President Rush imagines even more for the University. "What do I want for CI? I want us to be a place that is significant, meaningful, and innovative. I want us to serve students so they can realize their dreams, change their lives for the better, and by extension, have an enormous impact on the regional and state level," he said.

"Now I suppose that's an awful lot to hope for – it's what I wanted then and what I want now. We didn't aspire to be mediocre, we aspire to be great." ◀

## 10th Anniversary public celebrations planned for fall 2012

### August

Convocation Ceremony . . . . . 24

Welcome Celebration . . . . . 26

### September

Peace Pole Dedication . . . . . 21

Alumni & Friends

Dodger Day . . . . . 30

### October

President's Dinner . . . . . 6

Student Success Week . . . . . 8

Campus Reading

Celebration . . . . . 11

Family Weekend . . . . . 12

"Politics to the Extreme:

American Political Institutions  
in the 21st Century" Keynote

Speakers: Norman Ornstein  
and Thomas Mann . . . . 15 & 16

### Early Fall

North Hall Dedication

