Nearly 10 years to the day after he arrived at CSUMB, President Peter Smith told the campus community in late December that he is leaving for Paris, where he will become the first American to head the U.N's education division.

Smith will remain on campus through mid-June and begin his new job July 1.

"The honor of being asked to play a role in the education sector at UNESCO was not a challenge I could turn down," Smith told a reporter. "As sad as I am to leave CSUMB — which is something I hadn't envisioned doing — I couldn't pass this up."

But it won't be easy to leave the campus and the community that has been his home for 10 years.

"It has changed my life to work here," Smith said. "I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity at CSUMB. I feel privileged to have been here."

"The final thing a founding president does is leave. When you move to the second and third presidents, that's when the university is owned by the people of California. It's 'our' university, not the president's, not the faculty's, but 'ours.'"

CSUMB has received a gift of $2.4 million to provide seed money to build and operate a new Center for Reading Diagnosis and Instruction on campus.

The gift, from a donor who has requested anonymity, will allow the university to provide diagnosis, tutoring and instruction to children in kindergarten through 12th grade who struggle with reading, to train students who are studying to be teachers, as well as those already in

(continued on page 5)
The operations of CSUMB’s Mail Services, located a distance from the central campus in Building 36, may be the least understood department on campus. Most employees see mail delivery vehicles on the road and see mail carriers pick up and deliver mail, but know little else about the inner workings of this essential campus service.

Ron Novak, a longtime mail clerk Stamps had worked with at Fort Ord, came aboard in July 1995. The third member of the department, Andrew Lagance, joined up in February 1997.

Two mail clerks and one student assistant handle thousands of pieces of mail a day. The daily workload is significant, because it is a manual operation with no automation. Each piece of mail must be read and individually sorted by building before each mail run is started. During peak periods, the amount of mail needing sorting and delivery exceeds 5,000 pieces.

“I really like it here. It’s a nice job,” Stamps said. Each day, his dedicated crew does its best to make sure the mail gets through.

HELPFUL MAILING TIPS

- For mass mailings, be sure to place each item with all addresses facing in the same direction to help the mailroom sort the mail quickly.
- For on-campus mailings, bundle the pieces according to the building number where they will be delivered and place two rubber bands around each bundle.
- For mail destined for delivery by the U.S. Postal Service, it’s important to write the correct mail cost code and return address on the piece. Otherwise, it may be returned to the sender.
- For mass mailings, it’s recommended that mailers visit the Mail Services office in Building 36, to pick up a tub or two to hold the mail.
- Parcels over a pound must be taken to a U.S. post office location, not Mail Services.
- UPS and FedEx packages must be dropped off at Mail Services by 3:00 P.M. each day to ensure same-day pickup by those carriers.
Have a heart... for students

For seven years, CSUMB has raised money for student scholarships through the "Have a Heart for Students" dinner and auction. Every year, the event has helped scholarship programs support student achievement. Last year's dinner and auction raised over $56,000 to help provide scholarships to the 65 percent of CSUMB students who receive financial aid.

The theme for this year's event is "De Todo Corazón" (The Heart of the Matter). It will be held on Thursday, February 17 at 6:00 P.M. in the University Center. The gala evening will feature live and silent auctions, live entertainment and delicious cuisine of Mexico prepared by Paradise Catering. The dinner will be served family-style by CSUMB faculty and staff members.

Tickets are $50 per person, with the net proceeds funding scholarships. The ticket price includes dinner, musical entertainment and a special performance by Ollin, CSUMB's folklorico dance group. Staff and faculty interested in volunteering for the event, donating an item or service for the auction, or purchasing tickets may contact University Advancement at 582-4141.

Call for student award nominations

Is there a graduating senior who excels in your class? Does the student exemplify all that's good about the university and its Vision? If so, you can nominate him or her for one of five student awards. Each year, CSUMB recognizes outstanding students for their academic achievements and extracurricular work in the community. Nominations are now being accepted for the President's Award for Exemplary Achievement, which affords the winner the honor of speaking on behalf of the graduating class at commencement. Nominations are also being accepted for the Provost's Award for Exemplary Achievement, the Outstanding Senior Award for Tri-County Service, the Outstanding Senior Award for Social Justice, and the Alumni Vision Award. For information about each award and its nomination requirements, visit Student Activities in Building 8. Nominations must be submitted by March 11. An honors convocation ceremony will be held in April to recognize the winners. For more information about the awards program, contact 582-GRAD (4723), or visit CSUMB.EDU/grad or download applications from the Commencement conference folder on FirstClass.

Join Peter Smith's community chat

What will President Smith be up to next? What will happen to CSUMB? These questions and more will be answered at a community chat, being held Wednesday, February 9 from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. in the University Center Living Room. Faculty, staff, students and community members are invited to stop by to hear more about his new position at UNESCO, his move to Paris and his thoughts on CSUMB's future after his departure. For more information, call University Relations at 582-3352 or contact Nicole Mendoza via FirstClass.
Congratulations on your anniversary!

**ten years**

- Armando Arias, Jr.
- Debra Barbe
- Bonnie Brown
- Donald Burns
- Manuel Carlos
- Terri Cepeda
- Brenda First
- Gretchen Fuentes
- William Head
- Dino Latino
- Earl Lawson III
- Dorothy Lloyd
- Josina Makau
- James May
- Jay McTaggart
- Marsha Moroh
- Wynter Nichols
- Ken Nishita
- James Procida
- Stephen Reed
- Monica Rodriguez
- Peter Smith
- Chris Taylor
- Petra Valenzuela
- Robert van Spyk
- Richard Westing
- Linda Wight

**five years**

- Berj Amir
- Adrian Andrade
- Gulizar Baggson
- Linda Beam
- Rebecca Bergeon
- John Bernardi
- Kevin Cahill
- Stella Carmona
- Chris Carpenter
- Diane Cordero de Noriega
- Luisa Dizon
- Jerome Endres
- Julaine Esponio
- James Ferguson
- Victoria Fischer
- Francine Flores
- Dwight Goehring
- Loren Grossi
- Kathlene Hanson
- Caroline Haskell
- Hongde Hu
- Janet Johns
- Donald Kiser
- Suzanne Kroeze
- Linda Luna
- Melvin Mason
- William McClintock
- Jacqueline Means
- Susan Morse
- Alvin Moscovitz
- Liese Murphree
- Duncan Ogilvie
- Cynthia Olvera
- Lorraine O'Shea
- Samuel Pacheco
- Josephine Peña
- Donald Pierce
- Victor Ramos
- David Reichard
- Erik Rueppel
- Marlene Sabanal
- Juan Sanchez
- Kayoko Scherer
- Andrea Seitz
- KendallSilveira
- Gregory Smith
- Lila Staples
- George Station
- Judith Swartz
- Phillip Tabera
- Brenda Thompson
- Beatriz Toro
- Toni Uribe
- Craig Vershaw
- Hedy Wainscoat
- Patrick Watson
- Myriam Weber
- Cristina Whitacre
- Loretta Wyer
- Lynne White-Dixon
- Crescenda Zuccaro

Above information was provided by University Human Resources. At press time, this list was deemed complete.
the classroom; and to host a summer institute for educators to share the latest developments and best practices in reading and literacy instruction.

A recently released Rand Corporation report indicates that California's fourth and eighth graders ranked 48th in the country in reading — above only Mississippi and Louisiana. These results substantiate the need for this kind of center in the Tri-County area.

"We're talking about youngsters with learning disabilities, as well as those who are reading below grade level for other reasons," said Dr. Lou Denti, professor of special education and director of the new center.

"When children have problems with reading, their self-esteem is impacted. Our job will be to develop direct help for children to get them up to speed, to give them the assistance they need to handle their school work, as well as enhance their self-esteem," said Denti.

While a variety of services are currently available to help children who struggle with reading, "We hope to be neutral ground," said Denti. "We'll tailor practices and methods to the needs of each child — individualize the program for each youngster and his or her family, and use evidence-based approaches to ensure success."

The reading center will conduct a comprehensive assessment in order to develop strategies to help children meet their individual reading/literacy needs. Faculty, staff and student interns will be especially sensitive to acknowledge children's strengths in order to determine the best instructional plan to meet their reading challenges.

Services will be available for English-language learners. Assessments will be done in the child's native lan-

guage to determine if the child has a reading disability or a language issue that makes reading difficult.

Fees will be based on a sliding scale; no child will be turned away.

The center will be housed in Building 59 on A Street. Plans for the renovation have been drawn up, and construction will start as soon as the plans are approved.

CSUMB is the first university in the CSU system to house such a center. It is scheduled to open in summer 2005 with a weeklong training institute for professionals in reading, language and literacy. The center will accept school-age students from the Tri-County area in fall 2006.

Provost Diane Cordero de Noriega led the CSUMB team in the gift process. Denti, the university's Lawton Love Distinguished Professor in Special Education, helped shape the vision for the center.

"We are thrilled and honored by this magnificent gift, which will have an extraordinary regional impact."

— President Peter Smith

Dr. Lou Denti will lead the new center.

"Town hall meeting set for Marina University Villages"

A town hall discussion regarding the new Marina University Villages project will be held on Tuesday, February 8 at 6:00 P.M. in the University Center. The project will offer retail stores and restaurants in close proximity to CSUMB. The project's development team will give a formal presentation and show a short video, followed by a question-and-answer session. The community is encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. For more information, visit the University Villages website at www.marinauniversityvillages.com or contact Bob Shaeffer at 831-333-1984. ✤
You make a difference

As an employee, what are the most important things you want from your job? At the top of the list may be job security, increased salary, greater career growth or added recognition from supervisors. A recent survey conducted by Robert Half International for USA Today determined that 41 percent of employees quit their jobs due to lack of career progression. Another 25 percent leave because they're not recognized for their achievements by supervisors. Other reasons were cited, including salary, but the survey indicated that compensation alone was not the principal factor in retaining employees.

"In the current economic situation, we all need to further promote a positive working environment," said Linda Wight, associate vice president, University Human Resources. Wight indicated that 75 to 80 percent of CSUMB's operating budget is allocated to payroll. The last two years saw no systemwide salary increases from the CSU for the majority of bargaining units, MPP and confidential employees. Conversely, increases on a national basis across a number of industries averaged four percent last year. University employees, like students and other state employees, continue to share the burden of the fiscal crisis gripping California.

A systemwide salary increase may become a reality this year, depending on the state's finalized budget. At this point, nothing definitive is known.

During a recent campus management conference, Wight encouraged supervisors to solicit ideas for improving the workplace and recognize those employees who go the extra mile in contributing to a positive work environment.

To acknowledge employees who distinguish themselves in their positions, UHR has introduced a new program known as Who You Are Makes a Difference. It recognizes that compensation, while vitally important, is only one element of overall job satisfaction.

To take note of a specific job achievement, exceeding the supervisor's expectations, an employee is acknowledged by the supervisor and presented a personalized Who You Are Makes a Difference bookmark. UHR understands the frustration that the salary freeze has caused many employees, but continues to take steps such as this program to appreciate the individual accomplishments of employees.

Professional Development classes for February and March

CSUMB is committed to the personal and professional development of its staff and faculty. During February and March, the following Professional Development activities are scheduled:

- **February 15 — 3 P.M. to 5 P.M.**
  Microsoft PowerPoint (Intermediate)
  This class is ideal for employees who have mastered PowerPoint basics. Subjects covered include inserting hyperlinks, using animation in a presentation and including multimedia in a presentation.

- **March 15 — 3:00 P.M. to 5 P.M.**
  Microsoft Access (Beginning)
  Attendees will learn all about databases — what they're useful for, how to set one up, and how to use it.

To register for either or both of these classes, go to the [CSUMB.EDU/faculty_staff/development website](http://CSUMB.EDU/faculty_staff/development).

Emergency phone number

In case of an emergency, up-to-date information will be available to members of the CSUMB community on the Public Information Phone Line. Keep this number handy in the event of an emergency.
New employees

Kent Adams, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science — HPWE
Michael Bond, Coordinator of Sports Information — ASRH
Issac Davis-King, Web Programming Specialist — TSS
Cynthia Eastin, Payroll Technician — UHR
Tyson Gingery, Institutional Research Analyst — IAR
Nicole Grundowski, Business & Support Services Assistant — BSS
John Jones, Financial Services Analyst — Extended Education
Jacklyn Margo, Administrative Support Assistant — HCOM
Kristi McMahon, Benefits and Operations Assistant — UHR
Andrew Michaelis*, Research Scientist — SEP (NASA)
Irene Moulton*, Administrative Support Assistant — UA
Katherine Pedersen, Graduation Counselor — Records & Registration
Michael Scott, Assistant Professor of Mathematics — MATH
Any Spear, Campus Planning Analyst — CP&D
Ronald Thompson, Broadcast Engineer — ISNS
Camille Walker, Admissions and Records Specialist — AsR
Karen Welsh, Administrative Support Coordinator — ITCD
Morgan Wilkinson*, Events and Clerical Assistant — Watershed Institute

Transfers & Promotions

Celeste Akkad, Administrative Support Coordinator — SEP
Liz Maul, Science Laboratory Support Technician — SEP
Tania Mitchell, Faculty Coordinator of Service Learning Leadership (Assistant Professor) — SLI

Probation Passed

Janine De Leon, Systems Support Technician — Records & Registration
Alethea Horne, Career Development Office Assistant — Career Development
Pat Iampietro, Instructional Support Technician — SEP

*Foundation employee

Angela Martin, Cashier/Accounting Technician — Accounting
Graciela Mendez, Financial Aid Counselor — FA
Amber Perez, Administrative Support Coordinator — Office of the President

Departures

Thanks for your service to CSUMB:
MaryAnne Drummond, Student Life — hired October 2003
Carlos Gonzalez, MSSS — hired August 1995
Melissa Lohmann, UA — hired November 2003
Yolanda Munoz, Accounting — hired October 1997
Jane Skoric, Library — hired July 1996
Gregory Smith, TSS — hired June 1999
Amy Tomasi, Auxiliary Services — hired July 2000
Paul Tomasi, UPD — hired January 1998
Yvonne Wilson, Auxiliary Services — hired December 1996

Note: Separation dates previously noted on internal announcements may not coincide with an employee’s last day on the payroll, which is reflected in the list above.

Thanks to University Human Resources for this information.

Know any alums?

The spring issue of Alma Otter, CSUMB's alumni newsletter, will once again highlight the academic, professional and personal achievements of our graduates. Many faculty and staff members stay in touch with alums. Here's the opportunity to see the successes of those alums profiled in Alma Otter. Simply forward their names, including how to contact them, to alumni@csumb.edu. The editor will contact them to get their stories into print. Help make the next issue of Alma Otter the best one yet.
Join CSUMB's Black Students United club as it celebrates Black History Month. The BSU, in collaboration with other CSUMB student groups, has planned a month filled with activities to celebrate and honor individuals of African-American descent who have made significant contributions to the community.

“The importance of Black History Month is to honor, recognize and preserve the legacy of praiseworthy authors, lecturers, inventors, athletes, musicians and the like who come from African-American descent,” said Princess Pope, student BSU event planner.

CSUMB staff and faculty members, as well as members of the community, are invited to attend the events. Included is a film presentation and Q&A by African-American filmmaker Kevin Epps at the Black Box Cabaret (BBC) on February 17 at 6:30 PM.

A chat with CSU Student Trustee Corey Jackson is planned for February 7. The BSU and Epsilon Sigma Rho Fraternity will hold a discussion with the African-American Staff and Faculty Association on February 16. Every Tuesday, from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., CSUMB faculty and staff members will offer presentations on renowned African-American historical figures. Women of the Black Panther movement will convene for an event on February 21. The month’s events will conclude with the BSUs 5th Annual Black History Month Banquet. It will feature the CSUMB gospel choir, a guest speaker and food catered by Soul Food of Seaside. Tickets for the banquet are $10 per person or $15 for two. All of the events will be held in the University Center.

For a full list of activities for Black History Month, email princess_pope@csumb.edu.