President Harrison: Progress everywhere

President Dianne Harrison hailed progress at CSU Monterey Bay in her 2008 “State of the University” address on Sept. 23, while urging a continued commitment to student success and being strongly relevant for the region and state.

Dr. Harrison also formally approved a new 10-year strategic plan for CSUMB, which she said is intended to continue the university’s rapid growth and development.

Calling CSUMB a “university on the move,” she pointed to the new strategic plan; to the new library and other new campus construction, signage and landscaping; to student and faculty accomplishment; and to several projects in which the university is engaged with surrounding communities and institutions.

“Never far from my mind, and I suspect not far from yours, either,” she told a World Theater audience of about 300 faculty, staff, administrators and students, “is just what a rare opportunity history has given us: the chance to transform this former Army base into a 21st century university.”

She called for a university-wide focus on helping students graduate in four years, with streamlined learning pathways, strong academic advising and efficient administrative practices.

She also cited a goal of growing enrollment to about 10,000 over the next 15 to 20 years and said CSUMB is on track to become one of the very best CSUs in the 23-campus system.

“Our early progress was hard for many in the community to appreciate,” Dr. Harrison said, “but our founders never lost faith in what they started. We are on the road — and excellence is our destination.”

Following Dr. Harrison’s speech, staff and faculty members enjoyed snacks and listened to band music as they visited with each other.

• President’s Speaker Series continues
• Counseling center’s groups reach out
• ‘Ergo Lab’ open for workstation decisions
• Where all those water bottles went
The new library: a pictorial visit

The Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library is nearing completion, with furniture and equipment now being moved in. Before the building can be occupied, it must be issued a certificate of occupancy by the state fire marshall, this being anticipated during October. In addition to the furniture, the transfer of books from the current library in November and detail work needed to ready the building for occupancy will not enable CSUMB to open the library to the campus until December.

A formal dedication ceremony, featuring public tours, is scheduled for Dec. 5. Details will be published in the November issue of Campus Connection.

The main staircase at the library's northeast entrance offers panoramic views of the Salinas Valley and Santa Cruz.

Viewing the library from the crescent, where a grassy meadow will offer students an inviting area to study and relax.

The atrium viewed from the third floor, showing the curved circulation desk at lower right.

On the second floor, approximately 17,000 square feet is devoted to stacks and study areas.
The circulation desk viewed from one of the group study rooms, which each seat six students and feature flat-panel displays.

View from the Archived Reading Room on the third floor overlooking the crescent. Horizontal louvers allow sunlight to enter but shade the interior to reduce the need for air conditioning to save energy.

The Extended Hours Cafe will serve coffee, smoothie drinks and premade sandwiches.

The large auditorium seats 215 with dual projectors and screens, full audio-visual systems and the capability to televise events to the campus. A smaller auditorium, with seating for 111, also has A-V capability.

A rock wall dissipates the energy of water collected from the roof, discharging it into a pond where it percolates into the soil to replenish the aquifer. No runoff enters campus storm drains.

The traffic circle roundabout defines the northeast entrance to the library.
President’s Speaker Series continues with Matt Bai

The first lecture of the 2008 President’s Speaker Series on Oct. 15 will feature Matt Bai, political writer for The New York Times Magazine and one of the most respected and widely read political journalists in America. Bai will look at the November election and how new media is challenging — and working alongside — traditional media to redefine political journalism as we know it. He is the author of The Argument: Inside the Battle to Remake Democratic Politics, which examines the grass-roots activism that is building an Internet Age political movement and remaking the Democratic Party. It was named a Notable Book for 2007 by The New York Times.

Bai’s lecture begins at 7:45 p.m., immediately following a live broadcast of the final presidential debate at the World Theater and University Center. Tickets are not required, but reservations for the debate and lecture are required for seating in the World Theater and can be made at csumb.edu/speakers.

Other speakers scheduled for the series are feminist and Muslim reformer Irshad Manji, who will talk on Dec. 1; investigative journalist and author of The Wal-Mart Effect, Charles Fishman, is scheduled to be on campus Feb. 4; and biologist Sandra Steingraber, who studies environmental links to cancer, will lecture on March 11.

The series, now in its third year, is offered to enhance the intellectual life of the campus and the community.

To request disability accommodations, call 582-4189 at least 10 working days prior to the event.

Where all those water bottles went

A sparkling addition to the Benefits & Wellness Fair on Sept. 10 was a chandelier hanging in the middle of the University Center Ballroom. The fair’s 50 vendors provided information to more than 300 employees and family members attending.

“When I was brainstorming the decor for a Venetian masquerade ball, I found the idea for round chandeliers made out of cups,” said Kristi McMahon, benefits specialist in Human Resources. “I came across an artist from England who made a chandelier out of crushed water bottles. When light hit the bottles, it looked just like crystal. It produced the effect I was looking for.”

McMahon began an email campaign to the campus community, family and friends to send her empty water bottles.

“I created a shape for the chandelier which used only the bottoms of the bottles,” she said. “We recycled the remaining bottle parts. With the recycling money, we bought raffle prizes for the fair.”

The structure of the chandelier was made out of recycled cable provided by Information Technology. It supported 686 water bottle bottoms, 68 cups and 30 straws. With a total of 784 pieces, the spare-time project took approximately two months to complete.

Complementing the fair’s Venetian masquerade ball decor, Kristi McMahon’s costume was a yellow ball gown. The water bottle chandelier is in the background.
Meet Christina Bailey

Christina Bailey’s working world revolves around special events. In University Advancement, her responsibilities include coordinating all events for the University House and helping to produce other events involving President Harrison. Her position is a natural for someone who loves the energy of the hospitality business.

The enthusiasm Bailey shows in executing a well-produced event is obvious to many on campus. She shares that enthusiasm with another passion: a consuming interest in the performing arts and the music business.

Bailey’s sister-in-law, Sara Bailey, then a music major and now a CSUMB alum, was a student here in 2006 when Christina came on campus to record songs in the Music and Performing Arts Department recording studio.

“Over the two weeks I was here, I felt I got a little taste of the Vision of CSUMB, and how the school put into practice education that extended beyond the classroom into real life,” Bailey said. Impressed, she landed a job as catering supervisor on the campus working for Sodexo Food Services about a month after her visit.

“After awhile, I felt like I knew the campus community, the passion for the vision, and the future direction of the university,” she said. “It would pump me up every time I observed events from the catering sidelines. I felt I wanted to be a bigger part of it, and I wanted to finish my music degree here.”

In July 2007, Bailey joined University Advancement, enabling her to become an integral part of the events that inspired her to work here.

“I wanted to make my mark on a young university to help it grow and learn from the inside out all perspectives of university life,” she said.

Her work tasks vary from day to day. Some days she sleeps in to rest before working an evening event at University House. Some mornings she gets up early to set up a breakfast event. And some days she’s in the office to design event decor and layouts. She describes her job as “fun, sporadic and unexpected.”

The musical side of Bailey’s life has not eluded her, either.

“I’ve been a singer and songwriter for the last seven years and formed a band called Big American Family in February — with my actual family. In a short amount of time, we’ve been able to play amazing venues, write great songs collaboratively and were recently asked to open for the iconic music group The Doobie Brothers,” Bailey said. “We are set to release our first album in February 2009. Music has always been my passion, and over time has infused with my love for spectacular parties and networking with amazing people in all professions.”

When she’s not working or practicing with her band, she is pursuing a music education degree at CSUMB. She hopes to become a choir director. She also works part-time as a private event consultant to Monterey Peninsula Brides. “And most immediately, working with my team Diva Dashers to beat everyone in the Workplace Walk-Off Challenge,” she added.

“A lot of people on campus don’t actually know what I do because they see me in many different positions. I work events on campus and at the University House. I work part time at the World Theater. I still work for Sodexo occasionally. My band plays CSUMB events sometimes. And I still look like a student. So for those who wonder, I work for the university in whatever way I can!”

Tech news from WeTEC

The Wireless Education and Technology Center (WeTEC) is assisting Dr. Juan Gutierrez, associate professor of anthropology in the Division of Social, Behavioral, & Global Studies, on a project to assess the viability of using wireless reading devices as an instructional tool to help enhance student reading and comprehension. According to Arlene Krebs, WeTEC director, Sony Corporation has donated 30 eReaders for this pilot project. In another technology initiative, the Center for Academic Technologies is evaluating the use of student response systems, known as “clickers,” in courses across the curriculum in order to determine a campus-wide usage strategy for the spring 2009 semester.

WeTEC hosted its fourth Roundtable on June 20, entitled “Broadband Initiatives for a Connected Central Coast.” It was produced in partnership with the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), the Community Foundation for Monterey County, and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). Tri-county leaders representing the public and private sectors discussed key regional issues, assets, activities and opportunities concerning broadband deployment, access and digital inclusion.
Help comes through groups at counseling center

Long a major resource on campus for helping students with mental health issues, the Personal Growth and Counseling Center offers services for both prevention and treatment. Identifying problems at an early stage and working with students to resolve them through group settings is an important aspect of the center’s operations.

"First and foremost, I spend a lot of time on the prevention aspect,” said Gary Rodriguez, the new prevention counselor at the center. “I believe if we can help people before problems start developing and stress sets in, we can prevent the consequences of not taking care of ourselves. Through group work, we provide people with additional skills to successfully manage their lives.”

By working with students in groups, the center can help more people, as the student population increases.

In a typical group, three to eight people meet with one or two trained facilitators. The group members air various concerns to generate topics for discussion. Often, the theme of the group generates the discussion. Besides talking, group activities may also include self-exploratory writing or art exercises, meditation and guided imagery. Group members all agree to keep the names of other members and the content of group discussions strictly confidential.

With a teaching credential earned from UC Davis, Rodriguez first taught elementary school, followed by assignments at the middle and high school levels. He enjoys all age groups, but especially likes working with a college-age population.

In 1998, Caroline Haskell, administrator of the Personal Growth and Counseling Center, hired Rodriguez to bring a suicide prevention program to the center. His work also included alcohol and drug prevention, as well as other counseling assignments. In 2004, he left to become education director at Planned Parenthood and earn a master’s degree in public health. He rejoined CSUMB this July.

In addition to the current offerings, more workshops are being planned.

“Looking toward the future, we are now developing a lunchtime series of workshops, to be run probably once a month with faculty from the Kinesiology Department,” Haskell said. “The workshops will focus on a different wellness topic each time. They will be free and open to everyone, including staff and faculty. We’ll rotate facilitators, each being a specialist in the area of wellness that’s being addressed. Attendees can choose one or two classes or attend the entire series.”

By helping college students succeed in their lives and academic careers, Rodriguez has found his niche.

“I see students attending college here who I taught during my teaching career,” he said. “This is my community, near Salinas where I grew up, and I want to help in any way I can.”

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2008 workshops and groups for students, staff and faculty

**Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation**

The Mindfulness Meditation workshop offers a method of training the mind to relax and simply notice what’s happening in the present moment. Judgment, worry and planning are suspended and space for sensing peacefulness is opened.

**Advanced Mindfulness Meditation**

This workshop is open only to those who have taken the introductory meditation class (above) or who have been practicing meditation on a regular basis for at least six months.

**Fulfill your Dreams While Creating Life Balance**

Learn how to overcome procrastination and fear, build self-confidence and create life-balance through writing, interaction, storytelling, relaxation exercises and enlightenment.

These workshops are offered to CSUMB students free and to staff and faculty members for a small fee. For more information or to register, call the Personal Growth and Counseling Center at 582-3969 or via FirstClass at counseling_center@csumb.edu.

Gary Rodriguez facilitates groups and workshops.
New employees

Krista Almanzan,* News Director/Program Host — KAZU Radio 90.3 FM

Martine Armstrong, Administrative Support Coordinator — Teacher Education

Mercedes Richter,* Payroll Specialist — Foundation Accounting

Status changes
Temporary to permanent

Johanna Mahoney, Admissions Specialist — Admissions and Recruitment

New assignment

Denise Huey, Mathematics Coordinator — Academic Skills & Achievement

Probation passed

Iryna Berezhna, Administrative Support Coordinator — Div. of Science and Environmental Policy

Carina Cisneros, Student Services Professional I — Outreach & Student Support Programs

Lynn Downey, Confidential Administrative Support — Human Resources

Charles Frakes, Information Technology Consultant — Technology Support Services

John Greene, Analyst/Programmer — Information Systems and Enterprise Resource Planning

Phyllis Grillo, Administrative Analyst/Specialist — University Advancement

Mark Lasnik, Administrative Support Coordinator — Office of the President

David McNeil, Health Education Assistant — Athletics, Intramurals and Recreational Sports

Christine Pressas, Administrative Support Coordinator — Transportation and Parking Services

Eva Salas, Buyer III — Purchasing

Jennifer Stone, Information Technology Consultant — Technology Support Services

Karen Wallace, Student Services Professional I — Div. of Science & Environmental Policy

* Foundation employee

Thanks to Human Resources for this information.

IN MEMORIAM

John Paul 'JP' Jones, financial services analyst in Extended Education & International Programs, passed away on Sept. 4.

Workstation Rx: 'Ergo Lab'

Diane Ehlers, director of environmental protection, health and safety, has set up an ergonomics lab in the Environmental Protection, Health and Safety Office (# 84A).

"The lab is a place where employees can come and 'test drive' a wide variety of EPHS-approved ergonomic office equipment," Ehlers said. Chairs, flat panel monitor arms, monitor risers, keyboard trays, keyboards, foot rests and a cordless telephone headset are available for employees to test.

Diane Ehlers operates the new ergonomics lab.

The equipment is set up to simulate typical campus workstations, complete with computers, to give employees the opportunity to try new equipment in an environment that matches their actual work space.

"Providing an opportunity to 'try before you buy' will allow employees to find the right product and avoid purchasing inappropriate equipment," Ehlers said.

To learn more about the services provided by the campus Office of Environmental Protection, Health and Safety, go to cphs.csumb.edu.

Make sure ‘snail mail’ reaches you

The address labels for publications delivered by Mail Services on campus are derived from the campus A to Z Directory listings on the CSUMB website. When an employee changes positions, moves to another building on campus or separates, the employee or department administrator should update the personal profile in the A to Z Directory. If this is not done, publications may be delivered to the wrong buildings for existing employees, new employees won’t get publications and people who have left the university will continue to remain on the mailing list.

To update listings, go to csumb.edu/az.
First up at the World Theater: Paul Taylor Dancers

A dominant force in modern dance for over five decades, Taylor’s imaginative choreography, rare sense of beauty and superb musicality — not to mention the brilliance of his dancers — are beyond compare. Plan to attend this return engagement of a group The New York Times called “one of the most exciting, innovative, and delightful dance companies in the entire world.” For further information, call the World Theater box office at 582-4580 or purchase tickets online at the CSUMB.EDU/worldtheater website. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the box office.

Event dates, programs and artists are subject to change.

To attend

What: The Paul Taylor Dance Company
When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28
Where: World Theater
Cost: $20 for CSUMB faculty, staff and alumni

Ticket prices for CSUMB staff and faculty members who attend World Theater Performing Arts Series performances have been reduced to $20. If two or more tickets for a performance are purchased at the same time, they are $15 each.

Info: 582-4580

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