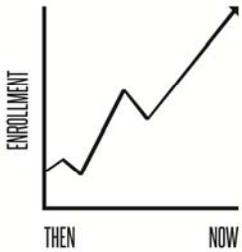




Record Enrollment, New Faculty Hires, and Student Success Set the Tone for the 2014-15 Academic Year



The first day of classes for the fall 2014 term began with another year of record enrollment with 8,867 students. The number includes the largest freshman class in CSUB history, 1400 first-year

students. We formally welcomed the Class of 2018 into the academy of higher learning at the New Student Convocation, where faculty, administrators, parents, and students expressed their mutual commitment to excellence and achievement. Faculty and staff were welcomed back to campus at University Day, where we launched this year's theme, "Building Partnerships for Excellence to Enhance Student Success." A copy of the University Day program is available at:

http://www.csub.edu/universityday/files/PDF/schedule_of_events.pdf

Celebrating our 45th Anniversary

Our campus was established in 1965 as a residential satellite campus of Fresno State. Five years later, in 1970, we became California State College Bakersfield, the 19th campus in the CSU system, and opened our doors for classes. We gained university status in 1987 and this year we celebrate the 45th anniversary of California State University, Bakersfield. You will see 45th anniversary celebrations woven into events throughout the year.



Provost Soraya Coley Named President of Cal Poly Pomona

At its September 10, 2014 meeting, the CSU Board of Trustees announced the appointment of



our Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, **Dr. Soraya Coley**, as the new President of Cal Poly Pomona. Dr. Coley has served as Provost since 2005. She will take the helm at Cal Poly Pomona

on January 1, 2015, succeeding **President Michael Ortiz**, who will retire at the end of this calendar year after 12 years of service. You may see the official CSU announcement at <http://bit.ly/1qDE4Es>.

Provost Coley will continue to serve until the end of October. Please join me in congratulating her on achieving this very high honor. I am confident that with her vision, experience, and leadership and management skills, she will be an outstanding president at Cal Poly Pomona.

Sculptor and Philanthropist Betty Younger Gives a Hoot

Arts patron **Betty Younger's** larger-than-life sculptures are dotted across the Bakersfield landscape. CSUB is the site of her latest public art piece, an oversized wise owl, which she gifted to the University's School of Arts and Humanities earlier this month. Dubbed the Academic Owl, the sculpture has an estimated value of \$30,000 and is located southwest of the Dore Theatre. We are grateful to Betty and Milt Younger for their longstanding support and artistic addition to our campus.

Fab Lab Opening

The CSUB Fabrication Lab ("Fab Lab") I announced back in April has now launched. The opening reception was held last week to a crowd eager to learn about the advanced digital equipment and rapid prototyping machinery that can be used to fabricate just about anything.

The lab is a community resource open to the public as well as to the University community and is an important step forward for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in the Central Valley. Training seminars on equipment safety and usage are in the planning stages and hours of the lab will be announced soon. For the back story on the Fab Lab, you may revisit the April issue at <http://bit.ly/1vqov7H>, or visit the Fab Lab website at <http://www.csub.edu/fablab/>. The Fab Lab is a collaboration of the Fab Foundation, Chevron, and CSUB.

***Honorary Degree Nominations***

Nominations for the honorary doctorate are open. Members of the CSUB community and the community at large are invited to submit two letters of recommendation and a copy of the candidate's resume to the Office of the President by Friday, October 17. Once nominations are submitted, the process is confidential. The CSU discourages letters of support, as such solicitations "could place the Board, the system, and the campus in a difficult position if the nomination were not approved." It is the policy of the CSU that honorary degrees are not awarded to previous recipients of honorary degrees awarded by the CSU, or to incumbent elected officials, members of the CSU Board of Trustees, the CSU chancellor, or campus presidents.

For the complete CSU guidelines as well as a listing of past honorary degree recipients, please visit <http://www.calstate.edu/honorarydegrees>.

2015 Alumni Hall of Fame Nominations

The CSUB Alumni Association is accepting nominations for inductees into the CSUB Alumni Association's 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame. The honor recognizes distinguished alumni who have made significant contributions in their field or in the community, and whose accomplishments and careers have brought honor and distinction to the university. The Alumni Association invites the CSUB community, alumni, and the community at large to identify potential honorees. The deadline for nominations is October 5. Inductees will be announced in November and will be honored at the HOF gala in February. For criteria, please visit <http://bit.ly/1sLmLcf>.

Grants Tsunami

Our faculty continue a streak of successful grant submissions to support the academic mission of the university. Please join me in congratulating our faculty for their outstanding work.

Dr. Charles Lam, Associate Dean of the School of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Engineering, and **Dr. Melissa Danforth**, Chair of the Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department, were awarded a three-year, \$1,002,206 grant from the National Science Foundation's Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) Program. The STEM Retention and Graduation: An Integrated Approach project includes the co-teaching of pre-calculus and calculus classes between mathematics and science faculty; in-class student tutors; a student ambassador program to connect first year and transfer students with upper-classmen in their respective majors for peer mentorship; and a one-week summer enrichment program for 36 freshmen and sophomores, with

priority for at-risk students.

In addition, the duo was awarded a \$734,735 U.S. Department of Education Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Award. The MSIEP funding will be used to create a tablet-based classroom for pre-calculus instruction to science and engineering students; provide mathematics faculty enrichment in science education; and a four-week summer research program for 30 freshmen and sophomores.

Dr. Yeunjoo Lee, Associate Professor, Special Education, has received a 5-year U.S. Department of Education grant totaling \$904,164. Her project, "Preparation Using Research-based Practices to Optimize Special Education (PURPOSE)," will recruit and train 30 highly qualified special education teachers for training and certification in Early Childhood Special Education Added Authorization (ECSE AA) to help alleviate the shortage of special education teachers in our service region. Ten teacher candidates per year beginning Fall 2015 each will receive up to \$18,000 in stipends to cover tuition, textbooks, conference participation, and other educational expenses to earn the credentials to teach California children with moderate to severe disabilities from birth to age 22. The project was developed with strong support from Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Kern County SELPA, Delano Joint Union High School district, Kern High School District, Lamont School District, Lancaster School District, Antelope Valley Union High School District, and Palmdale School District.

English professor **Dr. Charles MacQuarrie** has received his fourth National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar directorship award. The 1-year \$149,260 grant will fund 16 outstanding university professors as summer scholars in the study of medieval language,

literature, and culture via texts and artifacts on the Isle of Man and in Glasgow, Scotland in the project: "The Irish Sea Cultural Province: Crossroads of Medieval Literature and Languages." Dr. MacQuarrie has received more than \$500,000 in directorship awards.

Dr. Anna Jacobsen, Assistant Professor of Biology, and **Dr. Brandon Pratt**, Associate Professor of Biology, are recipients of the National Science Foundation's most prestigious award to support outstanding junior faculty teacher-scholars in their integration of education and research. The 5-year Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) grant supports the research of non-tenured, tenure-track assistant professors. Dr. Jacobsen's \$739,824 award funds "Examining xylem vessel network structure and function in woody plants using developmental and intra-organismal systems," which evaluates water use and transport in plant vascular systems. Dr. Pratt's award of \$782,253 supports undergraduate, master's and post-doctoral education and research into how California plants' wood storage interacts with transport and biomechanical traits. His research is entitled, "Integrated xylem function: An analysis of storage, transport, and biomechanics." Research is conducted on campus in the Environmental Studies area.

Dr. Randy Schultz, Associate professor of Teacher Education at the Antelope Valley Center, and **Sarah Brooks**, Director of Grants and Community Engagement for the School of Social Sciences and Education, were awarded a 5-year, \$7,339,062 grant from the US Department of Education. Their "*Growing Rural Opportunities (GR→STEM) Residency Program*" aims to reduce the attrition of teachers in high-needs areas, build a pipeline of credentialed teachers, enhance administrative and leadership skills, and help teachers develop students' 21st Century critical

skills. The initiative is a 15-month residency program for teachers to develop high quality STEM curricula in the Buttonwillow Unified School District, Lamont Elementary School District, and Semitropic Elementary School District.

CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement



Senior political science and communications double major **Faith Ihem** has been named by the CSU Trustees as the 2014-15 Angelina Aliberti and Lawrence L. Ruggie Scholar.

The first in her family to attend college, Faith maintains a 3.69 grade point average despite the challenge of systemic lupus. In addition to focusing on academics, she volunteers for Relay for Life, Mastering Abilities Riding Equines, and the CSUB Dance marathon which benefits the Children's Miracle Network, and has held leadership positions in Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. Faith aspires to attend law school to become an entertainment attorney.

Student Leaders' Reception

First Lady Barbara Mitchell and I, along with Vice President for Student Affairs **Dr. Thomas Wallace**, hosted our annual student leaders' reception. The event is an early opportunity for student leaders to meet each other and identify potential areas of collaboration throughout the year.



Upcoming Events

Whether you are looking for academic, alumni, arts & culture, campus life, community, sports, or a calendar of highlight events, find them on [RunnerCal](#).

Upcoming events include:

- 9/30 Charting the Future of the SJV
- 10/1 Kegley Institute of Ethics Fall Lecture
- 10/9 Cesar's Last Supper Documentary
- 10/24 Visual Arts Center Ribbon-Cutting
- 10/24 Party-in-the-Park
- 10/25 Campus Gamers 12-Hour Marathon
- 10/27 Celebrating Provost Soraya Coley

University Council

University Council is an open forum for members of the campus community to voice concerns or make suggestions for continued improvement. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend. Meetings are held during the academic year every third Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the Albertson Room. The next meeting will take place October 24, 2014.

I look forward to seeing you around campus or at an upcoming community or University event. Take care.

Horace Mitchell
President