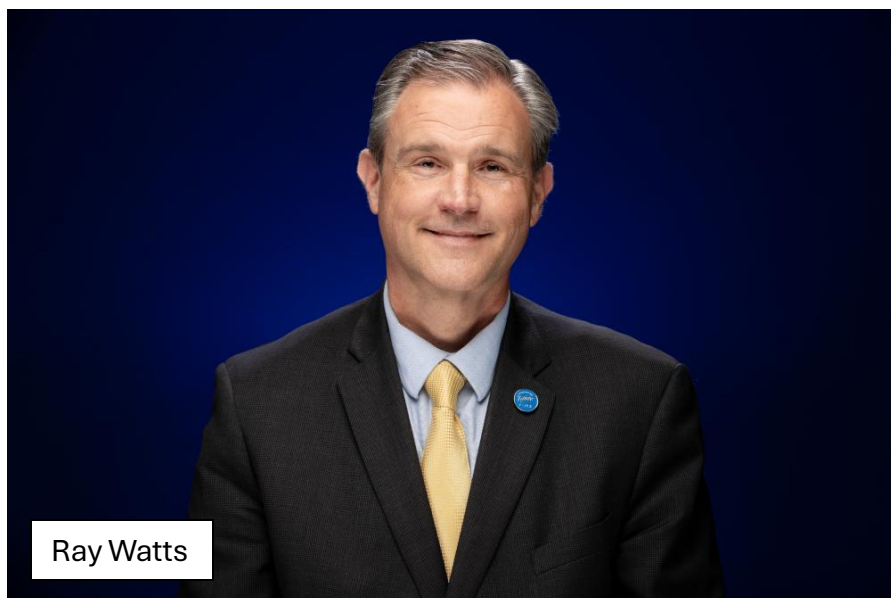


Coyote Howl

THANK YOU TO RETIREES FROM INTERIM V.P. RAYMOND WATTS



In April 18, 2026, the CSUSB community came together in a remarkable way to honor and celebrate the legacy of President Tomás D. Morales. A festive and wonderful gala was held in the Santos Manuel Student Union North to raise funds for a new endowment supporting international experiences for our students. I am excited to share that, together, we raised nearly \$250,000 toward this transformational fund. These resources will open doors for students who may never have imagined themselves studying in another country, broadening their horizons and deepening their understanding of the world.

What made this effort especially meaningful was the participation of our retiree community, as well as current faculty and staff who are already thinking about their legacy at CSUSB. Across all three groups, your combined generosity tells a powerful story about what it means to be a Coyote — not just during your years of service, but for a lifetime.

A special note of appreciation goes to our special retirees who contributed to the gala and its endowment fund. Your gifts reflect decades of dedication to this institution and to the students whose lives you helped shape. That commitment doesn't end at retirement — it deepens, and it inspires all of us who continue this work alongside you.

Study abroad experiences can be life changing. They build confidence, cultural fluency, and a sense of global citizenship that prepares our students for careers and lives we cannot yet imagine. Your collective philanthropy has helped to make those experiences possible for students who need financial support to make that journey. The Tomás and Evy Morales Endowment for International Experiences will live on in perpetuity for the good of CSUSB students as they venture off around the world...and then return to better the communities in which they work and serve.

Thank you for being partners in this mission. CSUSB is a better university — and our students have a brighter future — because of you.



New Performing Arts Center

By Eri F. Yasuhara



Eri F. Yasuhara, Dean Emerita,
College of Arts and Letters

On March 4, 2026, I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Performing Arts Center at CSUSB. It was a day we thought might never come—“we” being generations of theater and music students, faculty, and staff of the Theatre Arts and Music Departments, the College of Arts and Letters, as well as folks in the administration, operations, and physical plant sides of campus, including the architect’s office. During my tenure as dean of the college (2000 – 2013), I believe we did two feasibility studies, and, if memory serves, those were feasibility studies #3 and #4! So this was a very long time coming.

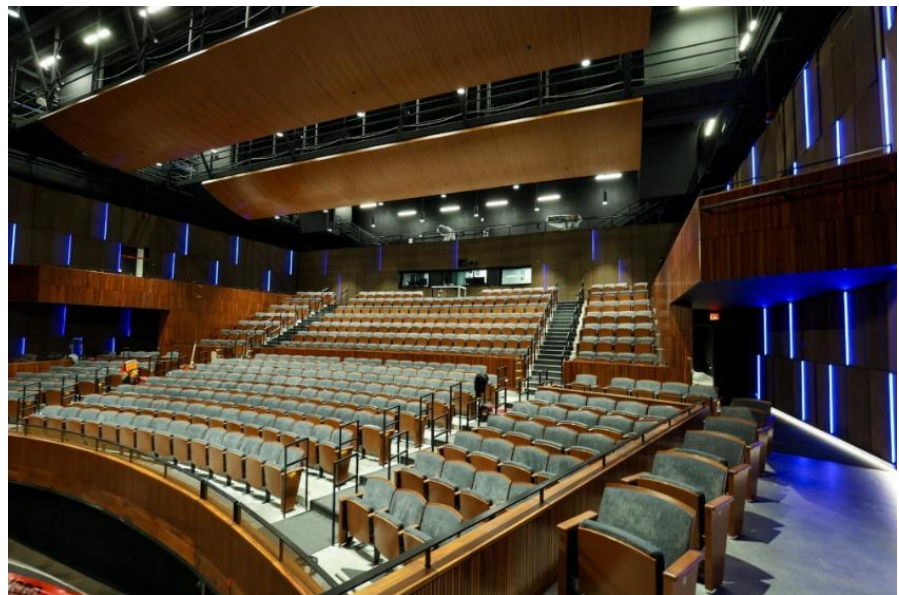


It was well worth the wait, though. It is a beautiful building, state of the art, and promises to help prepare our students for a wide range of careers in the performing arts, as well as serve as a center for the performing arts in the Inland Empire. I was

particularly impressed by the theater, just the right size at 478 seating, and with a spacious lobby that has a chandelier created by internationally renowned glass artist Katherine Gray, chair of the Department of Art and Design, with the help of three CSUSB students.

My only disappointment with the day was that there were so few familiar faces at the event, so few of the many who had worked on earlier stages of the project and were waiting for their efforts to come to fruition. But perhaps that was inevitable, given the length of time involved and the turnover of personnel over the years.

My hope is that they and all members of the CSUSB community, both past and present, get a chance to see and experience this wonderful, new, long-awaited venue by attending a performance here. They'll be glad you did!



Notes from the Retirees President-Kathryn Ervin



RETIREE'S

Hello Spring!

Hopefully the weather will hold for a while, and we can enjoy milder days! One of the many wonderful things about retirement is actually noticing; the weather, the sunrise, what's growing in this new season.

Plan to drive by the campus and see the new Performing Arts Center at the University Parkway Entrance. It's a beautiful building and it is open for foot traffic. The beautiful new theatre is still being fitted with electrical equipment and lighting etc. I expect we won't see a production until the Fall semester, but it has really changed the face of the campus.



A new Executive Director, Christina Mittler has been hired to manage this beautiful facility and she is currently meeting our campus and community members. Stay Tuned for a special event tour- maybe in summer?

The Spring semester will also showcase concerts and the Spring Theatre production “Little Shop of Horrors”. There will be viewings at the Murillo Observatory and shows in the RAFFMA. Our athletic teams are winding down but there are still some events. The grounds are looking especially beautiful there has been a lot of Xeriscaping and so many places are quite beautiful with their new looks. Hopefully you will use your annual parking pass to attend an event.

A special welcome to our newest retiree- President Tomas Morales!! President Morales has had an astonishing impact on our campus. At his retirement celebration I saw many fellow retiree’s. It also made me think about the impact all retirees have had on the students and the community that we serve. Congratulations!

The Retirees will be awarding Scholarships soon and you can look forward to an announcement in our next issue. Any donations you make to the Retiree’s go directly to support students. Meanwhile,

Smell the roses!

This newsletter is dedicated to highlighting the activities and achievements of our retired faculty and staff, keeping you informed about university developments, and providing opportunities to stay connected.

Click on the link to give us your thoughts.

<https://www.csusb.edu/retirees-association/newsletter-suggestions>



RETIREE PROFILE

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARY TEXEIRA

Where the journey started

As a woman of color, I was prepared for setbacks that came at an astonishing speed. However, coming from a long line of sturdy Louisiana farmers with a strict work ethic, I worked hard and succeeded. A very supportive partner and three teens at home kept me grounded and able to avoid most of the pitfalls of graduate school and the grueling tenure process. After a series of jobs I disliked, Sociology called as I began to pull back and see a bigger picture than my own micro experiences. In graduate school at UCR, my sociological exploration led me to a greater understanding of how the social world works as I read about systems of power in the US and beyond. In 1994 I finished my dissertation and began my adventure at CSUSB, the realization of a dream come true.

Teaching at the University

At CSUSB I tried to bring that expanded understanding of Sociology to the classroom, research, and service. I taught undergrads in critical thinking, introductory sociology, and race/gender formations, and sent a few students off to graduate school.

As a new professor I grabbed mentors wherever I could find them as I barely kept my head above water for the first five years. I will always be grateful for the kindness of staff and professors who were always willing to help. Campus mentoring resources have increased since then, and I would urge anyone starting the tenure process to take full advantage of our resources, even if all that is needed is a shoulder to cry on.

The friends I met along the way at CSUSB were another means of support, voices of sanity in a madcap world. I still remember how five of us, walking back to our offices from graduation in full regalia broke out in a doo-wop--a shout out to the amazing students whom I had the privilege of serving.

I learned that I could not teach like a traditional white male. My gender and race stood out, and there was no need to pretend they didn't. I viewed my own race and gender as assets given my

experience. Once, when I was proctoring a final exam as a student was handing in his test, this physically imposing but smiling white male leaned down and whispered in my ear, “You know I wasn’t gonna take this class ‘cause they said you were not just a feminist, but a Black “bell hooks” feminist. * You’re both, and I loved it.” I’ve had a good laugh each time I relate that and similar stories over the years.



Mary Texeira, (PhD) Professor
of Sociology, Emerita

As we all know, students see us as more than instructors, but as someone who can solve their problems from eviction, to financial aid, to a difficult home life including domestic violence, or food insecurity. My respect for our profession has grown by leaps and bounds because of our ability to make a phone call or two and get them help.

University Service

Most of my service was aimed at supporting Option House, a family violence prevention center serving the Inland Empire for decades. I was able to include students, who recounted their participation was a highlight of their academic experience. Responding to the murder of George Floyd, I was among a campus group composed of students, retired

law enforcement, and professors who began meeting to discuss the latest scholarship and personal experiences in our ongoing problems of a troubled criminal justice system ((CORP, Conversations on Race and Policing). I have continued to admire what the Department of History ‘s Professor Jeremy Murray and others have done to continue dynamic discussions.

Good-bye, Inland Empire; Hello, New York!

As a recent Brooklyn transplant, I am surrounded by libraries that are some of the best in the world. I have visited a few, most recently the Morgan in Manhattan which has a fascinating

history. The streets have become my proverbial home as I explore the nooks and crannies of this beautiful, crazy city. So much so, that for the first time in my adult life I do not own a car.

I'm also an active member of a group of retirees, Brooklyn Lifelong Learning (BLL) whose members are retired teachers, bureaucrats, and healthcare professionals. They are passionate about discovery. We take trips as far away as D. C. and Boston, visit the Presidential homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, deliver and attend lectures covering everything from the history of Brooklyn to folk dancing. I've also had the opportunity to join others within BLL to explore the history of African Americans, from ancient times to the present. I am fascinated to learn that burial grounds for enslaved people are still being discovered in Manhattan.

Ever Onward

Finally, I can attest that retirement is not a proclamation of infirmity and endless hours of boredom. There are still places to go, people to see, and needs to be met. I hope you, my fellow retirees, will continue to enjoy this new, exciting adventure and keep yourselves in tip-top shape. I hope my story demonstrates that retirement is most assuredly not for the faint of heart.

* “belle hooks” (September 25, 1952-December 15, 2021) was an early proponent of intersectional feminism -the perspective that race, gender and class are inseparable. She taught at Yale, Oberlin College and Berea College where the Bell Hooks Institute maintains her papers, art, and research. Her work includes over 70 publications including well-known books *Feminist Theory* (1980) and *Ain't I a Woman* (1981)

Click to tell us what YOU'RE up to:

<https://www.csusb.edu/retirees-association/what-are-you-up-to>

BITS OF THIS AND THAT

- Coyote Cares Day 2026, held Saturday, February 28, at the Palm Desert Campus, brought the community together for a campus beautification project at Desert Springs Middle School in Desert Hot Springs. In partnership with Palm Springs Unified School District, the event included students, parents, alumni, educators, and campus leaders from PDC and CSUSB, along with San Bernardino City Unified representatives. PDC's Cody Coyote added energy to the day with spirited dance performances.
- The program opened with remarks from Dr. Marcus Funchess, Superintendent; Joseph Williams, CA Community College Trustee; Dr. Lori Caruthers Collins, PDC Site Leader; and Maria Oregel, Vice Principal, all highlighting the value of service and volunteerism. Dr. Funchess, the district's first African American superintendent, was recognized for his impactful leadership.
- Eri Yasuhara (Dean Emerita, College of Arts and Letters) recently participated in a panel presentation titled "*Recovering Stories of Displacement and Dispossession through Issei Tanka Poetry*" at the annual conference of the Association for Asian American Studies, which took place April 2–4 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The panelists offered four views of the book *By the Shore of Lake Michigan* (UCLA: Asian American Studies Center Press, 2024), to which she contributed an introductory essay. The book is an English translation of a poetry collection by Tomiko and Ryokuyō Matsumoto that offers a rare glimpse into the inner life of an Issei (first-generation Japanese immigrant) couple during their wartime incarceration at Heart Mountain and subsequent resettlement in Chicago.
- DeShea Rushing (Retiree, English Department) published *Grammar for the Average Joe: A Writing Resource for the Rest of Us*, which will be available in June 2026 on Amazon and other retailers. It is an atypical reference text for writers who shy away from traditional writing handbooks because of their encyclopedic style and use of unfamiliar grammar terms. This reference book offers simple explanations for common writing dilemmas for people who want a no-frills resource to help them, whether they are writing for work, teaching writing, taking a writing class, or writing creatively.
- On March 4, 2026, the University celebrated the opening of its new Performing Arts Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by more than 400 guests. The facility

features a 478-seat theater, along with rehearsal rooms, teaching studios, recording suites, a scene shop, and ensemble spaces. In addition to serving CSUSB students, the venue will host performances open to the community. Early productions are expected to include the musical *Little Shop of Horrors*.

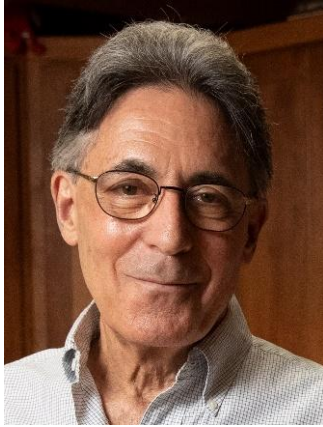
- A Presidential Search Open Forum was held on Monday, March 23, 2026, providing members of the campus community an opportunity to learn about the search process and share their perspectives on the qualities and attributes desired in the university's next president. Professors Beth Steffel and Tiffany Jones were elected by the faculty to serve as representatives on the Presidential Search Committee, and Senate Chair Jordon Fullum will also serve on the committee. A recording of the open forum is available on the California State University, San Bernardino presidential search page: <https://www.csusb.edu/presidents-office/president-search>
- On April 18, 2026, a Legacy Gala honored President Tomás D. Morales for his transformative leadership since 2012. The event featured the unveiling of his statue at the Legacy Fountain and supported the creation of a new endowed fund to provide study abroad and global learning opportunities for CSUSB students.
- In partnership with CSUSB's Art and Design Department, the 54th annual student art show is back. Comprised entirely of CSUSB Art and Design student work, this exhibition gives CSUSB students a chance to show the public what they have been working on this past school year. This year's exhibition was curated by Casey Lee, Curator at the San Bernardino County Museum. The show closes on June 11, 2026.
- Tóonavq cham 'áa'alvichum RAFFMA, in partnership with CSUSB's Tribal Relations Department and the Culture Department at Noli Indian School, hosts an exhibition showcasing "Indian education." Comprising various objects that highlight traditional weaving practices, this exhibition emphasizes the importance of education and culture within Indigenous communities. The exhibition closes on June 11, 2026.
- *Journey to the Beyond* (ongoing): Visit RAFFMA's *Journey to the Beyond* exhibition to learn how the ancient Egyptians prepared for the afterlife. After June 11, appointments will be needed to view this exhibition. To schedule an appointment, email RAFFMA (raffma@csusb.edu) or visit the RAFFMA website (<https://www.csusb.edu/raffma>).

- Sophia Michelle Texeira Davis was one of the “Spelman 7” valedictorians who graduated on Sunday, May 17, 2026. Sophia is the granddaughter of Dr. Mary Texeira**, retired professor of Sociology. The graduation was historic, as it marked the first time in the history of Spelman College that seven co-valedictorians were named in a single graduating class. All seven women earned perfect 4.0 GPAs. Sophia graduated with dual majors in Sociology and Anthropology.



1. Sophia Davis (top right)
2. Mariama Diallo
3. Nia-Sarai Perry
4. Alyssa Richardson
5. Aiyana Ringo
6. Alexis Sims
7. Cori'Anna White

** See pages above to read about Dr. Mary Texeira, retired professor of Sociology



Blackey's Blurb

By

Robert Blackey

The Early Years at CS San Bernardino

I have not tasked myself with writing a definitive history of the early years of what eventually became CSU San Bernardino—although the State Legislature first called us *San Bernardino-Riverside State College*, and Rialto was one of several sites considered for the new campus. For a fuller view, read *In Search of Community: A History of California State University, San Bernardino* by Ward McAfee, a founding faculty member and my colleague in the history department. What follows are a few personal stories from the early years as I remember them.

My First Day on Campus

It was a dark and stormy night when I first laid eyes on Cal State San Bernardino...Okay, that's not exactly accurate. My initial introduction to the young campus was over the Memorial Day weekend, 1968—which in the fall would begin its fourth year with students. What I saw were three one-story, temporary buildings—that continue to be temporary after more than half a century—as well as 2 taller, newer buildings set against the San Bernardino Mountains with all of it seeming to emerge from the desert floor; the site was on a path destined, it was hoped, to become an oasis of learning. On the day of my visit smog shrouded the mountains as if they were behind a gauze curtain. My wife and I had flown from New York City—specifically on the island where I had spent most of my first 26 years: Manhattan—to rent a house, buy a car, and visit the campus. And that is what we did over the holiday weekend.

Like so much of the *Inland Empire*—an odd name for a land without an emperor and only the beginning of an army of students who would, over time, help to improve the lives of families who lived there—many communities had been or still were home to orange groves and even

vineyards. As an aside, the house we rented was in neighboring Rialto which still included orange groves and smudge pots. In fact, countless homes across the region continue to have orange trees in their front or back yards. Part of the campus in those early years, where parking lots now grace the land, included the remains of champagne vineyards (last harvested in the summer 1963) that were bearing dying grapes into the late 1970s.

That first day on campus included a meeting with John Pfau, the University's founding president, which, frankly, surprised me. Both my undergraduate and graduate schools, in Manhattan, were places where most students only glimpsed their presidents at graduation. But there we were, with President Pfau along with the chair of the Social Sciences Division, Bob Roberts. What stands out about that initial—and warm and friendly meeting—is that we mostly talked about football, especially the Chicago Bears (i.e., John was an ardent fan).

Who Was San Bernardino?

There was something curious to me, as an historian who focused on much of early modern European history, about the name *San Bernardino* which is affixed to our college, the city, and the county, even as saints' names grace many California cities and sites. St. Bernardino, the man, was a priest and popular preacher who presided over Siena (Italy) in the mid-15th century, a time of growing fear and prosecutions of alleged witches (a number of whom were burned at the stake). This fear of witches was developing into a European-wide phenomenon that would last, in its final decades, into the mid-18th century (note: about 80% of those accused of being witches were women). As a present-day aside, members of the Cal State community who have traveled by car or bus through Switzerland might have seen on at least one Swiss freeway a familiar sign that announced what lay ahead—"San Bernardino"— as a destination. [Google him and the Swiss San Bernardino if you wish to learn more.]

The first 3 years of Cal State San Bernardino

During most of the first 3 years of campus life, classes were held in the 3 older buildings, with the library housed at one end of Sierra Hall and PE classes conducted on concrete courts around where a new Gymnasium and Physical Education building was about to open. As best as I can figure, the Social Sciences and Humanities were housed in the Administration building while the

arts, music, drama, and science labs were in Chaparral Hall—with science classes held in the other half of Sierra Hall. It must have been cozy.

Most classrooms, including in the 2 new sciences buildings as well as in the Pfau Library when it opened in January 1971, were meant to seat 20 students (22 if a couple of extra chairs were brought in). There were also a few larger and mid-size classrooms which paid for the maintenance of the smaller classes. Most courses were assigned 5 units, not the more customary 4; the theory was that for the 5th unit students could expect extra reading, writing, projects, or lab work. Ah, those best laid plans did not survive long due to the criticism of WASC (Western Association of Schools & Colleges, an accrediting source); soon enough 5-unit courses metamorphosed into 4. In addition, for those first 3 years, a book was chosen to be read by all students and faculty which ultimately was to be discussed in most classes; however, the requirement soon came to be seen as oppressive, especially by students, and was dropped before my first year (1968-69) as was the required comprehensive exam which was dropped in 1969; the latter was dropped because students with good GPAs were failing it. A foreign language graduation requirement was dropped in 1972 when students realized they could bypass the exam by going to other CSU institutions. Some of these and other changes came about following a 2-day faculty and administrators retreat at the Monte Corona Conference Center, in Twin Peaks, to discuss campus development and to consider possible changes to the curriculum and graduation requirements.

The faculty, administration, and staff—including grounds crew, painters, tech workers, and secretaries among others—were relatively few in number so that if one didn't know everyone else by name, at least the faces soon became familiar. A degree of camaraderie among the faculty existed as there were relatively few of us. There were occasional “progressive parties” with faculty and spouses starting their meals at the homes of some of the administrators followed by desert at either the Pfaus or Sherbas (Gerry Scherba was the academic vice president). With families in mind, a Faculty Wives social group was formed in 1966; in 1980 the name was changed to Faculty Associates to include faculty women and staff as well.

At these and other faculty gatherings there was—although I didn't think about it at the time—a noticeable majority were men. Over time, however, the number of women, as well as minority,

foreign, and LGBTQ colleagues were added to our ranks, all of which, I believe, was healthy for our growth and was reflected in our student body.

Another point to make about the early years: long before the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), little or no attention was paid to making life on campus easier for faculty, staff, and students with disabilities. I expect there were developments I was unaware of, but what stands out in my mind was the contribution of a member of the Sociology Department, John Fine, who was wheelchair bound. While I don't know the details or the extent of our progress, John pressured the administration to build ramps into buildings, provide wider toilet stalls with bars for gripping, and perhaps more. Eventually, in 1978, an Office for Students with Disabilities was created.

After a few years the glow and excitement that characterized the newness of the college community began, inevitably I think, to dim. This was aggravated, in no small part, by the growing contention between the state universities and colleges, especially the faculty, on the one hand, and Governor Ronald Reagan, who in 1970 criticized student protests, some of which were violent, and called for "a bloodbath." A year or so later, Reagan effectively punished faculty—but not administrators—for the protests of students by denying us cost-of-living raises. These events certainly left a bad taste in my mouth.

Friday afternoon touch football & other sports

Intramural sports would soon be launched, but on Friday afternoons, for those male faculty so inclined, there was a friendly touch football game on the open grass field beyond the swimming pool and outdoor courts for tennis and basketball. Our game changed a few years later to flag football and with students being allowed to join in. I enjoyed playing until one memorable day: 2 teams were running toward each other, one to protect the player carrying the ball as he tried to score a touchdown, the other to pull the flag affixed around the ball carrier's waist. One of the players, a new faculty member, had been a former college football player. He decided to slow the other team's progress by bumping opponents who were in his way. He had been a lineman at a Pac 8 school; he was built wide and strong. Suddenly he was on a path to collide with a student from the other team who was himself solid, but leaner at 6'5". As they reached each other, the former college player raised his forearm horizontally and slammed it into the chest of the taller

guy. The sound of the hit was audible and reverberated so that even I felt the impact. At that moment I decided to end my touch-football career.

The pool attached to the Physical Education Building and Gymnasium was, by design, a few feet short of being Olympic size; this was meant to discourage the establishment of potential intercollegiate swimming competitions. Intramural sports were encouraged by President Pfau; he was adamant about not having intercollegiate sports (as per his alma mater, the University of Chicago), but under President Tony Evans that changed, with the first intercollegiate teams beginning competition in 1984 at Division III.

Dartmouth of the West

I don't know who dubbed us "the Dartmouth [or Harvard] of the West," but that was a tall order. Although we had significant numbers of students who were as bright and capable as those, say, at the campuses of the University of California, until the first dorms were opened, in 1972, all our students commuted while a majority had jobs, part- and full-time, and many also had families; still, many went on to graduate school and into professional fields. In the early years at least, our freshman classes were small whereas the majority came to us as transfers from area community colleges.

Some of those community college students had not yet acclimated to the normal demands of four-year colleges. I remember one student in my class in my first year who was upset at receiving C grades from me whereas, as she asserted, she had received A grades at her community college. I calmly explained to her that expectations were often higher at 4-year schools. I want to add, however, that one of my department colleagues began his undergraduate work at the local community college, and I've worked with a few first-rate community college teachers through the professional organizations I worked with.

Student life: graduations, SETEs, mascots & colors

In June 1967 the first commencement was held in the open area between the original 3 buildings; 59 students received their degrees. I attended my first commencement in June 1969; it was held in the still-new Gymnasium, and 185 students were awarded degrees (27 of whom were part of the inaugural class in 1965).

Also in 1969, students published *The Unicorn Horn*, an unofficial evaluation of faculty teaching; not all faculty were happy at the way they were judged. 1971 saw the launching of the college-approved Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness form (familiarily known as SETEs). Such evaluations had their supporters as well as opponents, but as someone who served at some length on faculty evaluation committees, both at the college and university-wide levels, my experience was that over time those evaluations were reliable measures for making decisions and determining judgments for retention, promotion, and tenure (RPT) **along** with other considerations (e.g., peer evaluations, portfolios submitted by faculty being reviewed).

In January 1966 *The Friday Bulletin* began to appear weekly to provide news and information for the college community (I for one looked forward to reading it); its last issue was in February 2000. The college has had 3 different mascots over the years: the Golden Condor, a St. Bernard (boosted by the fact that one faculty member, Russ DeRemer, owned a St. Bernard that he would occasionally bring to campus), and finally a Coyote (“Go Yotes!”). School colors also changed from brown & gold to light blue & brown, and then to blue & black in 1996. The student newspaper was *The Pawprint* (later changed to *The Cal State Chronicle*) which was also widely read. [Note: The most factual and chronological history of CSUSB is *The Coyote Chronicles, 1960-2010* by librarian Michael Burgess, which I consulted as needed in preparing this essay.]

Enrollment crisis: The College/University that almost wasn’t

In late 1971, in the face of an enrollment crisis, I was asked by V.P. Gerald Scherba, to suspend my teaching for the winter and spring quarters (1972) to visit and talk to counselors and students at virtually all the high schools and 2-year colleges in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties; I was thus the college’s first Relations with Schools Officer. With the use of a State car (i.e., a necessity as mine was a one-car family), I covered a lot of miles. There was talk during this time, with UC Riverside also facing an enrollment crisis, that our 2 campuses might be joined, in some fashion, with accompanying loss of jobs. In my contacts with the schools and colleges I visited, I tried to present a down-to-earth, human face as I promoted the value of an education at Cal State San Bernardino. I like to think that my contacts contributed to the eventual upswing in enrollment.

My work was not helped, however, by the publication, on the first page of *The San Bernardino Sun-Telegram*, on a spring Sunday, 1972, of an article: ”Cal State S. B.—Bright Promise Gone

Awry.” The reporter alleged that the college was in serious trouble which might hamper our effectiveness “for some time to come.” I took this attack personally and wrote a lengthy response calling attention to the flaws and errors in the article. *The Sun* published it, but only among other letters at the back of a Saturday edition. The *Sun-Telegram’s* article notwithstanding, CSUSB soon began to grow to where the student body eventually reached about 19,000 students and, in time, the University became a nationally recognized institution of higher education with many faculty singled out for their achievements (e.g., publications and shows, honors and awards, elected and appointed leadership positions in professional associations). Many of our students have also achieved distinctions in their fields. I know I am not alone to feel proud to have been a part of the history of CSUSB for 50 years.

Addendum: The Panorama Fire (Nov 24, 1980)

The Panorama Fire is beyond the chronology set for this essay, but the impact on the campus was memorable enough to include brief mention here. November 24th was on the eve of Thanksgiving Day, and the Santa Ana Winds were strong. As I left the lunch area in Sierra Hall I glanced up toward the mountains where I saw smoke from a fire. It didn’t take long for the growing blaze to work its way down the mountain toward the campus and the homes in the northwest portion of San Bernardino. I joined a couple of friends from the Art Department who lived in some of the homes close to the campus. As we drove past neighboring Cajon High School, the bright, sunny day suddenly turned darker as smoke from the fire covered the Sun and sky. I remember thinking about the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius and Pompeii and how that might have seen to inhabitants before their demise. We managed to reach the homes of the 2 artists; firemen on top of roofs were trying to save homes; flames and smoke prevailed; it was unnerving. We quickly returned to campus, which had already closed, to retrieve our belongings and cars. I went home to hose down my roof, not for the first time, as embers caught up in the wind traveled miles away. The fires destroyed 284 homes (14 belonging to faculty & staff), burned the perimeter of the campus, and damaged or destroyed parts of the service buildings at the far north of the campus.