President’s Convocation Address Shows Cal State Fullerton Leading on Student Success

With the delivery of her third Cal State Fullerton convolution address, President Mildred García ushered in the 2014-15 academic year, expanding on one of her signature themes: “We are all educators; we are life-changers ...” She also cited instances of the University’s leadership in bolstering student success as the springboard for achieving the American Dream. García expressed excitement about the start of the new academic year, announcing the recruitment of 62 new tenure-track faculty members as progress to date on last August’s goal of adding 133 tenure-track faculty members in two years. About 500 members of the campus community, including incoming faculty members, students and community members gathered in Meng Concert Hall for the occasion. Cited as progress toward achieving the goals of the University’s strategic plan, she highlighted the following:

- Hiring a diverse group of nine new advisers as part of a two-year campaign to ensure that at least 75 percent of students participate in an advising system that integrates academic, career and personal development components.
- Creation of the Student Success Dashboard, heralded as a national model by the Lumina Foundation and praised by the Chancellor’s Office as a “breakthrough that is well worth emulation systemwide.” Already, its use has helped more than 250 students sidestep delays in earning their degrees, García noted.
- Efforts targeting college readiness, including the Early Assessment Program, Early Start, Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum and the college readiness website.
- Supplemental instruction efforts to identify and expand programs with a proven impact on increasing student achievement.

García credited the creation of the Division of Human Resources, Diversity and Inclusion, the hire of its vice president, and the collaborative efforts of faculty search committees, academic deans and the new division in the “dramatic increase in overall diversity and quality of our newly hired Titans.” The development of a Diversity Action Plan will follow.

García also announced that this past year the University surpassed its five-year goal by raising $16 million and also boosted the endowment in the span of two years from $34 million to $50 million.

Gravitational Wave Researchers Awarded Funding

The National Science Foundation awarded Cal State Fullerton a $119,791 grant that will go toward doubling the size of a supercomputer used by faculty and student researchers in the Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy Center at Cal State Fullerton. Physics faculty members Geoffrey Lovelace, Jocelyn Read and Joshua Smith will be conducting the research.

Mezzo-Soprano Renée Tatum ’04 Performed on Campus

Class of 2004 music grad Renée Tatum, who made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 2010, recently performed on campus in the Recital Hall.

The mezzo-soprano has performed at the Met many times, including in 2012 to portray Emilia in “Otello” and in 2013 in “The Magic Flute, and “Das Rheingold,” where she shared the stage with opera star Deborah Voigt, another CSUF alum.
Conference Focused on Living Well, Successful Aging

A two-day conference and expo celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Center for Successful Aging and the field of gerokinesiology at Cal State Fullerton featured a number of experts addressing “Living Well in the Third and Fourth Age.” Topics included growing and changing as you age, treating chronic pain, and health and exercise. Established in 1994, the Center for Successful Aging (formerly known as the Lifespan Wellness Clinic) was created due to a recognized need for theory-driven wellness programs and curriculum promoting health, vitality and well-being for older adults.

Did You Know?

- There are more than 4,600 freshmen attending Cal State Fullerton this semester. The most popular majors are pre-business (814), undeclared (645), psychology (304), mechanical engineering (199), criminal justice (193) and computer science (192).
- Cal State Fullerton is Smoke-Free. The University recently celebrated the first anniversary of the banning of cigarettes, cigars, pipes and e-cigarettes on campus and at campus-owned buildings.
- There are two bodhi trees at the Fullerton Arboretum — one blessed by the Dalai Lama when he spoke at the University in 2000.

Exhibit at Pollak Library Examines the Great War

Cal State Fullerton’s Pollak Library presents “The Great War: A Community Remembrance of the First World War, 1914-1918,” an exhibit of photographic and historical artifacts from World War I to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the war. The exhibit examines the First World War as a worldwide event experienced by the international community and also as a local event experienced by family members of current Orange County residents.

The exhibit runs through September 29.