



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON

60
YEARS

TITAN REPORT

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(from left) Jolene Fuentes,
Wylie Aitken, Natalie Fousekis,
Dick Ackerman, Fram Virjee,
T.J. Fuentes, Joey Fuentes

HONORING OC POLITICAL LEADERS

Cal State Fullerton's Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History unveiled the three newest narratives that will be added to its Orange County Politics Project.

Launched in 2013, the project records the memories of those who have played an important role in shaping the political landscape of Orange County. The stories of Dick Ackerman, former California state senator, assemblyman, city councilman and mayor; Wylie Aitken, nationally recognized trial lawyer and former chair of the Democratic Foundation of Orange County; and the late Tom Fuentes, the first elected chairman of the Republican Party of Orange County; will become part of COPH's archive of more than 6,000 oral histories, one of the largest collections in the state of California. These three leaders were honored last month at the fourth annual "Celebrating the Legacy of Orange County's Political History" event.

"We are enriched by your stories, history will be enriched by your stories and future generations will benefit from what you have to say," said Natalie Fousekis, the center's director and a professor of history.

OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR LECTURE FOCUSES ON NATURAL DISASTERS

Cal State Fullerton's 2017 Outstanding Professor Binod Tiwari presented "Living With Natural Disasters" at his recent Outstanding Professor Lecture.

Tiwari, professor of civil and environmental engineering, and an expert in geotechnical engineering, discussed his faculty-student research to reduce the destruction and loss of property and lives from natural disasters, such as landslides, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and wildfires.

The researcher spoke about his experiences as a member of the Geotechnical Extreme Event Reconnaissance Team following destructive earthquakes in Nepal and Japan. Tiwari, a native of Nepal, led a team of U.S. and international engineering and geotechnical experts who

collaborated with various Nepalese organizations, including academic institutions, government organizations and professional societies.

In the United States alone, natural disasters are responsible for the deaths of 477 people and approximately \$104 billion in property loss each year, according to the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reductions. In many other parts of the world, these numbers are significantly higher.

"Natural disasters are inevitable," Tiwari said. "But learning about those disasters help us prepare to face or reduce the consequences.

"At Cal State Fullerton, we have more than 100 students working on various projects to build safer infrastructures that can better withstand these forces of nature."



SUPER SUNDAY: "COLLEGE IS FOR YOU!"

"College is for you!" proclaimed President Fram Virjee, as part of Super Sunday presentations taking place throughout the state. Virjee spoke to more than 900 congregants at Christ Our Redeemer African Methodist Episcopal Church in Irvine.

Each year, the California State University's 23 campuses send campus presidents, administrators and faculty to more than 100 predominantly African American churches throughout the state.

Virjee outlined the ways that Cal State Fullerton is committed to diversity and inclusion on campus.

"We are fifth in the nation in graduating students of color," he said. "We were also the first university on the West Coast to appoint an African American woman, Jewel Plummer Cobb, as its president ... 37 years ago! Diversity and inclusion isn't something new to us."

EXPLORING PERFORMANCE OF WORLD-CLASS WEIGHTLIFTERS

What changes occur in the muscles of a competitive weightlifter? Student and faculty researchers in Cal State Fullerton's Center for Sport Performance have been exploring muscle cells of these athletes at the molecular level. Test subjects included competitors from last fall's International Weightlifting Federation World Championships in Anaheim and competitors from the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"Our goal was to analyze elite athletes and explore the changes that occur in their muscle mass — what makes them special, different from everyone else," explains Andrew Galpin, associate professor of kinesiology and co-director of the university center. "We use athletes as a model to understand why and how muscle grows, shrinks, dies and repairs.

"With all health studies, we're trying to understand how best to improve the human condition; so while most 'health'-related studies focus on treating and managing disease, we feel it's imperative to study the elite. How else do we know what to aim for? To understand how to optimize, we need to study those who are the best."



TUFFY BASIC NEEDS CENTER OPENS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Tuffy's Basic Needs Center opened recently to provide support to students that enables them to complete their education. The Center offers resources such as gift cards to campus dining locations, gently used professional attire, and temporary housing for up to two weeks.



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Did You Know?

Celebrating CSUF's 60th Anniversary

When Jewel Plummer Cobb was appointed president of Cal State Fullerton in 1981, she was widely reported to be the first black woman to head a major university in the western United States.

After graduating from high school, she attended the University of Michigan but, because black students were not allowed to live on campus there at the time, soon transferred to historically black Talladega College in Alabama. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in biology, then received a fellowship to New York University, where she was awarded a master's degree and, in 1950, a doctorate in cell biology. It was during her administration at CSUF that the first on-campus student residence halls were built. Today, those first residence halls bear her name. The fact that students of all ethnicities are residents was always a source of pride to Cobb.

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