

# Senate FORUM

Volume XXVII, Number 1, Fall 2011

A publication of the Academic Senate, California State University, Fullerton

## *The Senate Forum celebrates* **President Milton A. Gordon**

Serving as the president of California State University, Fullerton these past 22 years has been one of the most exciting and professionally satisfying experiences in my professional career in higher education.

It is as clear to me today as it was when I assumed the presidency on August 9, 1990 that Cal State Fullerton is the outstanding university it is today thanks to our collective commitment to access and to excellence in all of our academic, administrative and student support programs demonstrated every day by our dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators and thanks to the commitment shown to our university by its students, alumni, support group members, corporate, business and government leaders, and the townspeople of the communities we serve. It is the Titan family working together that has made Cal State Fullerton into the extraordinary university it is today.

Shared collegial governance has been an integral part of our University since its founding in 1957. It is this collegial governance structure by which the faculty members of our university have recommended to me what academic goals and values should guide California State University, Fullerton.

I want to personally thank all the Academic Senate Chairs with whom I have



had the pleasure of working over these past 22 years including Dr. Stewart Long, Dr. Joyce Flocken, Dr. Al Flores, Dr. Keith Boyum, Dr. Vince Buck, Dr. Jane Hall, Dr. Sandra Sutphen, Dr. Lee Gilbert, Dr. Diana Guerin, Dr. Scott Hewitt, and Dr. John W. (Jack) Bedell. I want to also thank each of the Academic Senate Executive Committee members, and the members of the Academic Senate each year for their ongoing advice and important input to me with regard to our mission and goals which has been so important to me throughout these 22 years.

I love California State University, Fullerton and take great pride in what we have ac-

complished together. There is one particular person I very much want to recognize and that is my wife, Dr. Margaret Faulwell Gordon, who has been with me every step of these 22 years. An academician and administrator in her own right, she has been my chief advisor, biggest fan, and best friend. We all owe her tremendous thanks, too, for her essential role in the betterment of Cal State Fullerton.

Again, thank you for the confidence you have placed in me these past 22 years, and for being the source of so much professional and personal joy. I offer the Titan family my best wishes for what is surely a very promising future for our University.

**SENATE FORUM CELEBRATES**  
**President Milton A. Gordon**

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**Ed Royce**  
U.S. Representative

I would like to honor Dr. Milton A. Gordon for his distinguished career in serving as President of California State University, Fullerton.

President Gordon has had a great lifelong career in education, in which he served over two decades at CSUF.

I applaud President Gordon for his exceptional service to the community of Orange County. His staunch support of education and his commitment to the students at CSUF is admirable, and deserving of appreciation.

Among President Gordon's many accomplishments at the university is leading the campus into prominence

as one of our nation's largest and most inclusive institutions of higher education.

He has been committed to broadening access to a college education, particularly among underrepresented communities, as well as extending CSUF's reach across the globe.

Over the years, I have been pleased to work with President Gordon on many issues affecting CSUF, and I know that he has earned the respect and gratitude of the people that have come to know him.

I extend my best wishes to President Gordon and wish him future success in all his efforts.

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I am delighted to add my voice to the many who are recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of my friend and colleague Dr. Milton A. Gordon on the occasion of his retirement.

I echo what has already been assembled as examples of what Milt and Marge have achieved for California State University, Fullerton during their time on campus. I would, however, also like to recognize the significant contributions Dr. Gordon has made on a national level, which includes his service as the national Chair of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and as a member of the Division I Presidents' Commission of the NCAA.

Dr. Gordon has advanced the truth that diversity exists with quality. His leadership in these efforts has enabled Cal State Fullerton to function as a force in helping close the achievement gap.

He has been a champion of this cause, developing many innovative ways to enhance the success of underserved multicultural individuals. These innovations and the wide recognition of his personal investment in their success led to several mutually beneficial and effective international partnerships during his tenure.

Dr. Gordon's brand of quiet competence has made him an unusually effective spokesperson advancing the interests of Cal State Fullerton, and the CSU as a whole, while making the case for higher education as a societal imperative. We will do well to try and preserve the wisdom and example of Dr. Gordon's presidential leadership as we continue to strive, as a system and as a society, to make good on the promise that higher education will remain accessible and that the students we serve will compete with the best minds globally and prevail.



**James L. Rosser**  
President, California State University, Los Angeles

SENATE FORUM CELEBRATES  
President Milton A. Gordon

Senate  
FORUM

It has been a singular honor to prepare this issue of the *Senate Forum* celebrating President Gordon's tenure at Cal State University. The enclosed timeline and photographs highlight his many contributions to the life of this campus and underscore his dedication to the institution and the hundreds of thousands of students who have graced this campus during his presidency. So many of these students and faculty never would have come to Cal State without President Gordon's tireless commitment to diversity in the student body and to academic rigor among the faculty. His support of technology in particular has transformed both learning and teaching for everyone.

The broader impact of President Gordon's time here is apparent in these tributes. From these essays we learn not just of his accomplishments, but of the person that Milton A. Gordon has been to so many people on this campus. The writers comment on his "gentle humor," warmth and exceptional ability to express interest in the people with whom he has dealt. In changing the institution he also has profoundly affected those who comprise the CSUF community.

While both current economic circumstances and political vicissitudes make life outside CSUF seem difficult, President Gordon's legacy will be to have left this particular institution strengthened and equipped to face the challenges of the future. We thank him for all he has done.

~ Jack Bedell  
Professor & Chair of  
the Academic Senate

To some, we must appear to be opposites. Dr. Gordon, an innately reserved figure, always acts with the highest degree of propriety, while I am a wholly unreserved extrovert.

But as different as Dr. Gordon and I seem to be at first, we have forged an effective partnership over the years because of certain deep traits we have in common. Not only do we place the same value on affability and open-door availability, but we also have a mutual respect and joint commitment to public education and its values of access and diversity.

These shared visions have served as the bedrock for our professional relationship. And in time, it became evident, too, that together our combined interests and knowledge would allow us to effectively engage with a wide swath of donors and other university stakeholders in a spirit of true teamwork.

I have treasured the opportunity to work with him. His confidence in my professional expertise, his high ethical standards, his even disposition, and certainly his wit have all enriched me. Indeed, that quality of gentle humor can come in handy in the work of advancement — not only in helping to build relationships, but in keeping spirits high as we frequently journeyed together from luncheon to meeting to reception to dinner. One of my fondest memories was when he turned to me during one of those routine marathons and dryly said,



**Pamela Hillman**  
Vice President for University Advancement

"I didn't know there were this many ways to cook chicken!"

It is hard to overstate the transformational effect that Dr. Gordon has had on this institution. Among his many other accomplishments, we can include a mature advancement operation that evolved under his leadership. His steady guidance and vision and his talent for empowering those with whom he collaborated profoundly affected me and so many others.

He will be missed, and he will forever have my admiration and gratitude. He carries with him a bundle of wholly unreserved best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

SENATE FORUM CELEBRATES  
**President Milton A. Gordon**



Dr. Gordon is hired as CSUF's new president

**1990**

Enrollment is 25,736  
 \$5.6 million in grants & contracts  
 Endowment valued at \$1.67 million  
 31% of CSUF students are minorities  
 19% of CSUF faculty are minorities

**1991**

Construction begins on Science Laboratory Center

**1992**

**1993**



Titans beat Trojans to win National Championship

WORLD-HERALD

**1994**

Associated Students President Chris Lowe is first Fullerton student appointed to the CSU Board of Trustees

**1995**



Gen. Colin Powell headlines CSUF's first annual "Front & Center" scholarship fundraiser. Photo by Patrick O'Donnell

**1996**

**1997**

Fullerton First Year program begins with 125 freshmen. Its goal: To create a rich learning environment for freshmen

**1998**

Guardian Scholars program is established. Its goal: To help students from foster homes thrive in college



**1999**

**2000**

SENATE FORUM CELEBRATES  
**President Milton A. Gordon**

2001

Orange County approves the El Toro satellite campus, with classes to begin in Fall 2002

2002



2003

CSUF is awarded the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities member institution award

2004

Titans beat Longhorns to win National Championship

CSUF is 4th in the nation for awarding undergraduate degrees to Hispanic students.

2005

President Gordon establishes the Faculty Hiring Initiative

The new Performing Arts Center is completed

2006



CSUF celebrates its 50th Anniversary

2007



Alumnus Steven G. Mihaylo gives \$30 million to support endowed chairs, faculty, student scholarships and programmatic initiatives.

2008



Newly constructed Mihaylo Hall & Student Recreation Center open

2009

2010



CSUF's new student-housing complex is completed.

2011

Enrollment is above 36,000  
 \$26.6 million in grants & contracts  
 Endowment valued at \$32.3 million  
 52% of CSUF students are minorities  
 29% of CSUF faculty are minorities

President Gordon retires

2012

SENATE FORUM CELEBRATES  
**President Milton A. Gordon**



**Diana Wright Guerin**  
Professor & Former Chair of the  
CSUF Academic Senate

A tribute is defined as a gift showing respect, gratitude, or affection given voluntarily, or as something indicating the worth, value, or effectiveness of the

one in question. I am honored to offer this well-deserved tribute to President Milton A. Gordon, who has led our campus collegially and with great care and commitment for over two decades.

I was a junior faculty member when Milt was appointed President. Probably similar to most junior faculty members, my direct interaction with President Gordon was quite infrequent during his early years on campus.

Over time, as I observed Milt in venues such as the Academic Senate, CFA Fullerton Chapter Board, and other campus events, I came to appreciate him as an individual. As a student of temperament and human development, I appreciated Milt's calm and patient demeanor, openness, positive attitude, quick smile, and sense of humor. As a social scientist and academician, I found his responsiveness to data—both quantitative and qualitative—in decision-making and planning reassuring.

But it is a person's actions that matter

most. In thinking about Milt's accomplishments during his tenure as President, I recall many that demonstrated his commitment to the faculty. In response to his 2005 Faculty Hiring Initiative, the campus made a tremendous investment in recruitment and retention, hiring over 300 outstanding new faculty colleagues and establishing practices to ease their transition to the professoriate.

President Gordon established the 2005 Faculty Salary Equity Program in response to campus data showing salary inversion problems. More recently, Milt worked quickly to establish a CSUF Furlough Loan Program with SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union to help faculty and staff cope with unexpected pay cuts in 2009. His consistent commitment to technology has also made faculty more effective.

Under President Gordon's collegial leadership involving students, staff, faculty, and the community, we have together built a campus of the highest caliber. Cal State Fullerton's current success is the ultimate tribute to President Milton A. Gordon.

## Twenty-one years of growth at Cal State Fullerton

During President Gordon's service, enrollment growth has resulted in campus expansion, including 22 building projects and more than 4 million square feet of interior space. Private philanthropic support raised more than \$179 million. Of this, more than \$15 million has been earmarked for capital projects. Deferred gifts and bequests expectancies have totaled \$25 million. Philanthropic support has named a host of buildings on campus including:

June and George Pollak Library  
Merilyn and Jerry Goodwin Baseball Field  
George Golleher Alumni House  
Steven G. Mihaylo Hall  
Dan Black Hall  
Joseph Claves III Performing Arts Center  
Steven G. Mihaylo College of Business and Economics



**SENATE FORUM CELEBRATES**  
**President Milton A. Gordon**

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**Robyn Harney**  
Alumnus of CSUF's Guardian  
Scholars Program

If you haven't heard of the Guardian Scholars program at California State University, Fullerton it isn't because President Milton A. Gordon's hasn't spread the word. He has championed the Guardian Scholars program,

designed to provide access to college for foster youth, from day one and helped make the program a successful model for universities across the nation.

College is daunting for most students no matter how much family support there is. This is particularly true for a Guardian Scholar. You take all of the fears and uncertainty that most students face and then multiply them by the fact that you're an emancipated youth with very little support and no safety net. Compound that with having to figure out admission, registration, financial aid and housing on your own and you can see why most foster youth would dread the process.

President Gordon's support for the program has meant that in the 13 years since its inception, every scholar has received guaranteed year-round housing, preferred registration and a support network of people who are invested in their future. From the moment you apply to be a Guardian Scholar you have dedicated employees in the walk-in center that help you with the application process and registration processes. They walk you through the Financial Aid red tape and are there 24/7 to help tackle

any unforeseen problems. To top it off, they do it all with a smile!

For someone who hasn't grown up in foster care, this may seem like a luxury, but as a former Guardian Scholar, I can assure you that having a place to call home and someone to care about you is the key to a successful experience. To go from being treated like you're barely human to being selected from a crowd of 33,000+ students, invited to the home of the president of the university and formally acknowledged, is an incredible experience. This honor cannot be measured but you can see it in the eyes of every Guardian Scholar who walks across the campus.

Without the president's support, the program would not be what it is today. Its graduates represent successful, contributing members of society who might otherwise have been not just overlooked and forgotten but would never have achieved their potential. We are social workers, teachers, publicists, designers, mothers, and fathers. But most importantly we are living, breathing, functioning examples of the great generosity and support that President Gordon has bestowed upon this amazing program.

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It has been an honor and a pleasure to work alongside President Gordon for the past 13 years. Milt has inspired all of us with his wisdom and experience in all facets of higher education leadership.

At Cal State Fullerton, he has overseen an incredible transformation as the university has expanded to serve more students and provide even more services. It is now one of the country's largest and most inclusive universities, and it is one of the top four-year institutions in the country in terms of degrees awarded to minority students. With new facilities in areas from performing arts to business, CSUF has grown its

reputation throughout the region and across the nation as a top-notch educational and cultural destination.

There is no question that being a president or chancellor is a tough job, but Milt has taken joy in each new challenge and accomplishment. He has inspired Titan pride throughout Southern California, and he leaves an admirable legacy at the university.

On behalf of the California State University system, I want to thank him for all of his years of service and wish him all the best in his retirement.



**Charles Reed**  
CSUF Chancellor

**SENATE FORUM CELEBRATES**  
**President Milton A. Gordon**

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President Gordon led Cal State Fullerton for the majority of the 38 years I served first as a faculty member and then in the administration. In fact, he is the one campus president whom I have actually known and felt I was working with as a partner and colleague.

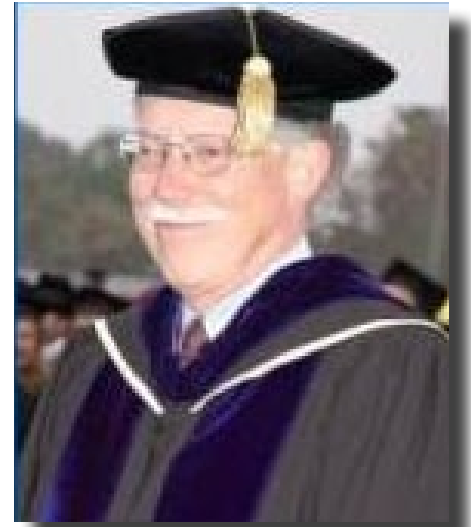
The long list of major accomplishments attributable to President Gordon's leadership is well known. He took the campus from the middle of the CSU pack to the very forefront in California and an elevated position among its peers nationally. He came to a campus firmly rooted in the traditions and ideas of the mid-20th century and redirected the institution thereby insuring it will prosper in the 21st century and beyond.

Cal State Fullerton today is far more open to new ideas, to evolving technology, to students of every background, origin, and income-level than it was a quarter of a cen-

tury ago. His vision, perhaps especially in tough budget times, has transformed the professoriate through his support of aggressive recruitment of a new generation of faculty of unprecedented quality. Even the most senior faculty are now immersed in new teaching and research technologies, often taking for granted tools that were undreamed of when he came.

In every interaction I have had with President Gordon, I have felt his support for my excelling to the best of my ability. I think my experience is representative: with everyone, President Gordon shows consistent personal regard, kindness, and generosity, and a respect that one cannot take for granted in life. President Gordon enabled us all to feel the satisfaction of working together on common goals for the University.

At this time of transition for the campus and for its President, we pause to express



**Thomas P. Klammer**  
Former Dean & Professor Emeritus  
College of Humanities & Social Sciences

our deep and heart-felt gratitude for his leadership of the University for these many years.



**Brian Quinn**  
CSUF Director of Athletics

I have had the very good fortune to work at Cal State Fullerton for ten years, all under the leadership of Milt Gordon. I remember my interview with him prior to my selection as Director of Athletics. We met in his office, and he was so relaxed and cordial that I immediately felt comfortable in his presence. We talked about our similar experiences with Jesuit education and immediately connected.

When I received the call inviting me to lunch at Taps I was ecstatic. Once again our time together, on this occasion over a meal, was so comfortable that I knew this was the place for me to finish my career in intercollegiate athletics. Milt had a talent for making you feel relaxed and at ease. It was a great start to many successful years.

Milt loved going to Titan games, especially the playoffs. I remember how excited he was when we won the national championship in

baseball. He literally dragged me down to the field after the game to enjoy every minute of the team's success. He was so proud of their accomplishments, just as he also was at the Big West basketball tournament. We would sit together, often agonizing over the game. The loss at the super regionals at UCLA in baseball was especially painful for both of us.

Milt will be missed by so many of us, not only because of his remarkable leadership in all the visible ways seen on campus, but for the warmth and friendship he extended to so many of us. He would always take the time to visit and make everyone feel important. I personally feel a loss and will always appreciate his giving me the opportunity to continue my life's passion, working with student-athletes.

God Bless you Milt; you will always be the #1 Titan.



## SENATE FORUM CELEBRATES President Milton A. Gordon



### **Norma Morris**

Staff Assistant to the President

People say that a university president must possess the wisdom of Solomon, the charm of a Greek God, the cunning of Machiavelli, the courage of a lion, the political sophistication of a career legislator, the stamina of Hercules, and the stomach of a goat.

More seriously a university president must have both an exceptional academic background and the administrative and communication skills of a corporate CEO. He must connect locally, think globally and be a superb fundraiser. He must be committed to excellence in education, shared governance, and have the ability to mediate between competing constituencies.

Madeline Green of the American Council of Education once said, "A university president has to be someone who not

only walks on water, but can skip on it." Fortunately for California State University, Fullerton, Milton A. Gordon has been just such a president.

He is dedicated to academic freedom and making education accessible for all. He has worked effectively with all university constituencies. A strong, highly principled leader, with a keen sense of humor, his open office policy demonstrated the importance of dialogue and discourse, affirming that there is room in the University for divergent viewpoints. President Gordon always emphasized the university's mission to provide the best education possible for our students.

I have had the honor and pleasure of working as President Gordon's staff assistant for the past 22 years.

His presence and leadership made work each day an absolute joy. I have seen him handle situations, both delicate and volatile, with discretion and compassion.

A man of honor and principle, he worked tirelessly to provide students with the best faculty, staff and resources for their education. He also, by his own example, taught us to care for the members of the Titan family.

We also benefited from the presence of his wife Dr. Margaret Faulwell Gordon. They have been a dynamic duo for our University. Even with her own responsibilities as a dean at CSU, Dominguez Hills, Marge never missed an event at our university.

I wish President Gordon and Dr. Marge Gordon much happiness, good health, and the peace that they so richly deserve in their retirement.

## Senate FORUM

The Senate Forum is a publication of the Academic Senate at California State University, Fullerton.

It is designed to stimulate discussion, debate, and understanding of a variety of important issues that the Senate addresses.

Individuals are encouraged to respond to the materials contained in the Senate Forum or to submit their own contributions.

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