



Title: California State University Fullerton, Office of the President, Jewel P. Cobb (1981 – 1990) Papers

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Collection Number:

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Extent: 61 linear feet

Creator: Jewel Plummer Cobb

Language: English

Abstract: The California State University Fullerton Office of the President, Jewel P. Cobb (October 5, 1981 – August 8, 1990) papers document her tenure as university president. The records consist of administrative records, correspondence, manuscripts, meeting minutes, daily schedules, photographs, speeches, and newspaper clippings.

Administrative Information

Access:

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Organizational history

The Office of the President is the highest administrative office for the campus, reporting to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor and Board of Trustees, respectively. As such, the Office of the President records document the overall policies, practices, and procedures of the daily operation of the campus, as well as the interaction with other CSU campuses and with the CSU administration.

Biography

Dr. Jewel Plummer Cobb became the third president of California State University, Fullerton on October 1, 1981. As president and professor of biology, she was the chief executive officer of the sixth largest campus in The California State University.

Dr. Cobb, who is the first black woman to head a major public university on the West Coast, was a 1971 charter member of a Connecticut group called the Committee for Minority Involvement in Higher Education and, since 1976, has been a trustee of the National Fund for Minority Engineering Students.

Dr. Cobb is known for her work in cell physiology, her advancement of women in sciences, and her activities on behalf of minorities. She has published 36 articles about factors that influence growth, morphology and genetic expressions of normal and cancer pigment cells. In addition, nine of her articles have been published on the advancement of women in scientific fields, as well as the advancement of minorities.

Her bachelor's degree is from Talladega College and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, both in cell physiology, are from New York University. She holds 17 honorary doctorates and will receive her 18th from Northeastern University. On October 12, 1989, Douglass College at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, dedicated the Bunting-Cobb Math and Science Hall in honor of Dr. Mary Ingraham Bunting and Dr. Cobb, both former deans of Douglass.

Dr. Cobb was a board member of Allied/Signal Corporation; the American Assembly; the American Association of State Colleges and Universities; California Afro-American Museum Foundation; CPC International, Incorporated; First Interstate Bancorp; The Travelers Corporation; the U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Washington D.C.; Advisory Committee on Competitive Technology, State of California Department of Commerce; Boy Scouts of America - Orange County Council; Orange County Pacific Symphony; and Newport Harbor Art Museum. She was a member of the Advisory Council of the African- American Institute and the Board of Governors of The National Conference of Christians and Jews-Orange County. She served six years as a member of the National Science Board and was a member of the NSF's Alan T. Waterman Award Committee. She is a former board member of the Children's Hospital of Orange County and the Orange County Philharmonic Society.



Prior to her appointment as president of California State University, Fullerton, Dr. Cobb served as dean of Douglass College at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, for five years. Before her Douglass appointment she was dean of Connecticut College and professor of zoology for seven years and professor of biology at Sarah Lawrence College for nine years.

During her tenure, Cal State Fullerton has celebrated its 25th anniversary, awarded its 75,000th degree, the university endowment was established, and Rockwell International established the first endowed professorship for the School of Engineering and Computer Science. The School of Engineering and Computer Science and the School of Communications were established.

A long-range planning effort was launched, which resulted in identification of five and ten-year goals for the university and a new Mission and Goals statement was approved .

The university became a 1984 Olympic Games venue with Titan Gym used for team handball competition; the baseball team won the NCAA Division I championship for the second time within five years, and the softball team won its first NCAA Division I championship.

The first building on campus funded solely by contributed funds, the Ruby Gerontology Center, was completed in addition to the Fullerton Marriott hotel, on-campus residence halls, and the Computer Science Building. The Letters and Science Building was renamed Miles D. McCarthy Hall and construction funds were secured for the laboratory science building adjacent to McCarthy Hall.

The President's Opportunity Scholars Program was established, the Conference of CSUF Alumni was formed as a more broad-based alumni structure, and the Parents' Association was organized. The Faculty Council changed its name to Academic Senate.

International educational exchange agreements were signed with Fudan University in Shanghai, China; Northwest University of Xian, China; the Autonomous Universidad of Baja California; Autonomous Universidad of Guadalajara, Mexico, and Moscow Institute for Steel and Alloys, paving the way for student and faculty exchanges as well as other cooperative ventures.

In 1989, the historic El Dorado Ranch was given to the CSU by the Chapman family as the official residence for the president, the Mission Viejo campus opened and the first President's Medallion was awarded to Leo S. Shapiro of Continuing Learning Experience.

Dr. Cobb retired from the presidency on August 8, 1990 and was awarded President Emeritus status.

She was designated, by the CSU Board of Trustees, as a Trustee Professor at California State University, Los Angeles, where she served as principal investigator and director of The Access Center until her full retirement. Dr. Cobb served as a member of the Board of Trustees at California Institute of Technology, served as a member of the Board of Fellows of the Claremont Graduate University, and served as member of the Board of Trustees of Talladega College.



California State University, Fullerton Timeline

1957

Orange County State College established by act of the California Legislature.

1959

Dr. William B. Langsdorf appointed president by State Board of Education.

Official enrollment, consisting solely of upper division and graduate students, totaled 452.

1960

College moved to temporary buildings on permanent site.

First commencement held at Fullerton College.

1961

Full accreditation received from Western College Association (later known as Western Association of Schools and Colleges).

1962

First Intercollegiate Elephant Race held on campus.

Name changed to Orange State College.

1963

Letters and Science Building completed, providing space for classes and the administration.

First freshmen admitted.

First graduate degree programs offered.

1964

Name changed to California State College at Fullerton

Performing Arts Center completed.

1965

Physical Education Building completed.

School of Business Administration and Economics become youngest school in nation to win accreditation (undergraduate program) from the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

1966

Music program become youngest in nation to receive accreditation from National Association of Schools of Music.

Library (Building) completed.

Dr. Louis Booker Wright awarded honorary doctorate, the first authorized in Fullerton's name by the Board of Trustees.



1967

College became a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States and Western Association of Graduate Schools.

Los Angeles Rams conducted summer training camp on campus for the first time.

Commons (now Titan Bookstore) completed.

1968

Official enrollment surpassed 10,000 students.

Program called "New Educational Horizons" launched to increase opportunities for minority and disadvantaged students to obtain a college education.

1969

Humanities-Social Science Building and Visual Arts Center completed.

School of the Arts formed.

Alumni Association formed.

1970

Governor Ronald Reagan's appearance at the faculty-staff-student convocation resulted in attempts to disrupt him and marked the start of a semester of Vietnam War dissent and other protests on campus. Football became part of the intercollegiate sports program.

Dr. William B. Langsdorf resigns as president to become vice chancellor for academic affairs of the state college system.

1971

Dr. L. Donald Shields appointed president by the Board of Trustees.

Administration-Business Administration Building (later renamed Langsdorf Hall) and Engineering Center completed.

1972

Name changed to California State University, Fullerton in recognition of campus having met criteria for university status.

Heritage House moved onto campus.

1973

Center for Internships and Cooperative Education established.

1974

Student Health Center completed.

Enrollment surpassed 20,000.

Men's athletic program moved up to NCAA Division I standing by affiliating with Pacific Coast Athletic Association (later known as the Big West Conference).



1975

President's Associates formed.
25,000th degree awarded.
Professional Artists in Residence program initiated.

1976

Women's athletic program became founding member of the Western Collegiate Athletic Association.
Education-Classroom Building and University Center completed.

1977

Disabled Student Center established in permanent quarters in the Library.

1978

Memorial Grove dedicated as living tribute to seven employees who were slain and two were wounded in July 12, 1976, shooting on campus.
Cinderella performance by men's basketball team in NCAA playoffs attracted national attention.
Continuing Learning Experience formed.

1979

Visual Arts Center addition completed.
Fullerton Arboretum opened.
New cohesive general education program began.
President's Scholars Program started.

1980

Dr. L. Donald Shields resigned as president, effective at year's end, to become president of Southern Methodist University.

1981

Dr. Miles D. McCarthy became acting president. Name of state college system became The California State University.
Dr. Jewell Plummer Cobb (on October 1) became president.

1982

50,000th degree awarded.

1983

B.F.A. and M.F.A. in art offered for first time.
Football team won its first NCAA championship and played Northern Illinois University in the California Bowl.

1984

University became a 1984 Olympic Games venue with Titan Gym used for team handball competition.
Letters and Science Building renamed Miles D. McCarthy Hall.



1985

Endowment established

Women's athletic program affiliated with PCAA.

1986

Softball team won its first NCAA Division I championship.

School of Engineering and Computer Science began operating.

Proposition 56 passed by California voters, ensuring construction funds for Computer Science Building.

1987

Construction started on Gerontology Center, the first building on campus funded solely by contributed funds.

1988

Founder's Quad dedicated.

75,000 degrees awarded.

Ronald Reagan made final Orange County public appearance as President when he spoke in Titan Gym on behalf of Bush-Quayle campaign.

1989

Historic El Dorado Ranch given to CSU as official residence for CSUF president.

Mission Viejo Campus opened.

Fullerton Marriott opened.

Computer Science Building completed.

1990

Carl's Jr. opened on campus by the CSUF Foundation.

Dr. Milton A. Gordon became president (August 9).

Construction started on sports complex.

1991

Construction started on Science Laboratory Center.

1992

Expansion of University Center completed.

Construction started on University Hall.

Sports complex opened with alumnus Kevin Costner throwing out first ball in baseball facility and commencement, being the first event in the multipurpose stadium.

Honorary CSU doctorate awarded posthumously to restaurant chain executive Donald F. Karcher.

1993

Los Angeles Salsa professional soccer team began using Titan Stadium as its home facility.

100,000 degrees awarded.



Titan Stadium served as venue for the American Professional Soccer League championship match.
Titans men's soccer team reached final four in NCAA competition.
University Advancement Foundation formed.
University Hall opened.

1994

A new Science Laboratory Center and University Classroom Building opened.
CSUF served as a 1994 World Cup training site.

1995

The Lifespan Wellness Clinic in the Ruby Gerontology Center, the Center for Molecular Structure (the only one of its kind in the nation at a non-Ph.D. granting institution), and the Center for Children Who Stutter opened.
The baseball team won its third NCAA National Championship and was honored by President Bill Clinton at the White House.
The softball team won the NCAA West Regional title, while Coach Judi Garman garnered the softball college coaching record for most victories (986).
Mahr House, the oldest original campus structure, is designated as the future Alumni Center.

1996

The inaugural Front & Center featured retired four-star General Colin Powell.
The largest grant in CSUF's history, a \$6 million from the National Science Foundation, is awarded to Dr. David L. Pagni, professor of mathematics.
Softball Coach Judi Garman reached her milestone 1,000 victory.
University Library-North, a \$30 million four-story addition, opened.
Alumni House renamed George G. Golleher Alumni House in honor of the 1971 CSUF graduate who is chairman of Ralph's Grocery Co. and a key donor for the facility renovation

1997

W.M. Keck Foundation Center for Molecular Structure, the nation's first comprehensive X-ray crystallography facility to be located at a predominantly undergraduate institution, was dedicated.
In partnership with the city of Santa Ana, groundbreaking was held for renovation of the city's Grand Central Building, where graduate students majoring in art will live, take classes and work.

1998

Guardian Scholars program launched in collaboration with the Orangewood Children's Foundation to encourage and support promising and motivated young people exiting the foster care system. Nine students, ages 18-23, were selected for the inaugural class of the program—believed to be the only one of its kind in California.
M.B.A. program begun at Irvine Spectrum.
Alumna Tracy Caldwell (B.S. chemistry 1993) was selected for the 1998 NASA astronaut training class. As a mission specialist scientist, Caldwell, who holds a doctorate in chemistry, served on the space station.



1999

CSUF institutes first M.B.A. program abroad in Lima, Peru.

Chinese government officials begin M.B.A. studies in accelerated CSUF program.

Cal State Fullerton celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana opens as satellite campus.

CSUF granted approval for its 100th degree program, an M.S. in Gerontology.

2000

California State University, Fullerton Foundation buys College Park building.

Baseball stadium is named for longtime fans and donors Jerry and Marilyn Goodwin, following their \$1 million donation towards the expansion of baseball and softball facilities.

2001

Joint doctoral program in education is approved as historic agreement between the California State University and the University of California is signed to create an Ed.D. degree statewide.

Orange County approves the El Toro satellite campus, classes to begin in fall 2002.

Enrollment surpasses 30,000 students.

CSUF is among the Top 10 of Top Public Schools in "Top Public Western Universities—Masters"

Actor Nicholas Cage presented with honorary doctorate at Commencement.

2002

Voters approve Prop. 47, a \$13 billion education bond act to support construction and renovation of facilities \$496 million will go to the California State University system in the next two years; of that, \$17.4 billion is slated for CSUF.

CSUF opens its El Toro campus. More than 300 attend festivities at the grounds of the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. About 2,400 students are registered for classes at the campus.

The university's first online master's degree debuts in fall '02: the MS in instructional design and technology.

2003

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

CSUF climbs to eighth (up from 10th) among "Top Public Universities—Masters" in the West listings in the U.S. News & World Report annual rankings.

Campus receives Orange County Business Council's inaugural Educational Partnership Award, to recognize an institution that has shown a deep commitment to working with the private sector to achieve an educational workforce and an organization that has used its assets to address the needs of the economy and the business community.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is created with a \$100,000 grant.

2004

Steven G. Mihaylo - the chairman and CEO of InterTel and a CSUF alumnus - pledges \$3 million to the College of Business and Economics, the largest pledge of cash in university history.

The new Kinesiology and Health Science building is dedicated.

The first online master's degree program's first class of students is graduated.



2005

EL Toro campus is renamed the California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus.

University breaks 35,000-student population mark.

College of Business and Economics announces \$15 million campaign to build the Steven G.

Mihaylo Hall and to create endowments for student scholarships, academic programs and centers.

Titan Athletics Hall of Fame is launched.

The new 102,000-square-foot Performing Arts Center opens with an inaugural concert by international opera star and alumna Deborah Voigt.

2006

CSUF is one of seven campuses to introduce Ed.D. as part of California State University system-wide effort.

Fullerton Arboretum dedicates its new \$2.28 million Visitor Center.

The Science Laboratory Center is renamed Dan Black Hall in recognition of an alumnus's \$4.2 million gift to the College of Natural Science and Mathematics.

CSUF is fourth in the nation for awarding undergraduate degrees to Hispanic students, according to the "Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education." Its rankings are based on 2005 data gathered by the National Center for Educational Statistics.

Citations:

CSU Fullerton. *50th Anniversary Convocation Booklet*. September 14, 2007.

Office of Strategic Communications. *Milestones of Cal State Fullerton*. Accessed on August 11, 2014: http://webcert.fullerton.edu/50/looking_back/milestones/index.html.

Office of the President. *The Legacy of a President: Jewel Plummer Cobb, President, CSU Fullerton*. June 3, 1990.

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Collection Arrangement:

Materials are arranged as received.

Series:

- Series 1: Academic Affairs, 1979 – 1992, 12 linear feet
- Series 2: Administration & Finance, 1979 – 1990, 44 linear feet foot
- Series 3: Athletics, 1986 – 1992, 1 linear foot
- Series 4: Events & Programs, 1981 – 1989, 3 linear feet
-

Indexing terms - Subject Headings:

Cobb, Jewel Plummer
California State University Fullerton President's Office -- History.
California State University Fullerton President's Office -- Records and correspondence.
California State University Fullerton -- History.
California State University, Fullerton -- History.
Education, Higher -- California -- Fullerton.
College presidents -- California -- Fullerton.
College administrators -- California -- Fullerton.
