

Title: California State University Fullerton, Office of the President, Milton A. Gordon (1990-2011)Papers

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Collection Number:

Bulk dates: 1990 - 2011

Date Range: 1957 - 2011

Extent: 350 linear feet

Creator: Milton A. Gordon

Language: English

Abstract: California State University Fullerton Office of the President, Milton A. Gordon Papers (August 9, 1990 – January 8, 2012) document his tenure as university president. The records consist of administrative records, correspondence, daily schedules, manuscripts, meeting minutes, videos, 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. Milton Andrew Gordon became the fourth president of California State University, Fullerton on August 9, 1990. As president and professor of mathematics, he is responsible for leading an institution with 25,000 students, more than 700 fulltime faculty members, a main campus in Fullerton and a branch campus in Mission Viejo.

Dr. Milton A. Gordon was born on May 25, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois. He attended public schools in Chicago. After graduation from high school, he attended Xavier University of Louisiana, where he received his B.S. in mathematics and secondary education in 1957. He then attended the University of Detroit and received his M.A. in mathematics in 1960. In 1968, he received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Prior to his arrival in California, Dr. Gordon was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Chicago State University for more than eight years (1978-1986) and director of the Afro-American Studies Program at Loyola University of Chicago for six years (1971- 1977). Dr. Gordon's earlier experience included teaching at the Illinois Institute of Technology and in the Chicago public schools. In addition, he served for three years as a mathematician at the University of Chicago's Laboratories of Applied Sciences.

Dr. Gordon came to California in 1986 as vice president for academic affairs at Sonoma State University. At Sonoma State, Dr. Gordon's responsibilities included academic programming, budgeting, staffing and personnel matters, admissions and records, and computing and telecommunications services. He also served as president of the Sonoma State Academic Foundation.

Dr. Gordon was the California state representative for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and was also a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Gender Equity Task Force. In addition, he was a member of the board of directors for the Associated Western Universities, Inc., the California Coalition for Mathematics, and the Interactive Mathematics Project based at San Francisco State University. In the California State University system, he served as a member of the Admissions Advisory Council, the system-wide Budget Advisory Committee, the advisory board for the CSU Institute for Teaching and Learning, and as a member of the Management Advisory Group. His past activities included membership on the Commission on the Older, Part-time Student, the Growth Plan Commission, the Task Force for the Recruitment and Retention of a High Quality Faculty, and the Instructional Equipment Committee. In 1988-1989, he chaired the impact and redirection review for the Admissions Advisory Council.



Dr. Gordon was involved in the Orange County community serving as a member of the board of directors of the Orange County Community Foundation, the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, Fullerton Chamber of Commerce, YMCA of Orange County, United Way of Orange County, and Pioneer Bank.

He was also a member of the St. Jude Medical Center Advisory Board and a member of the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Orange County.

During Gordon's more than two decades as the university's president, Cal State Fullerton has celebrated its 50th and 40th anniversaries and grown from an institution serving 25,600 students to more than 36,000 enrolled in 2012. For the past 12 years, Cal State Fullerton has been the No. 1 destination in California for community college students transferring to a public university. The number of academic degree programs offered since 1990 has risen from 91 to 104, including the establishment of a doctorate in education program, one of the first in the 23-campus Cal State system.

During Gordon's tenure, the university opened satellites in Santa Ana and Garden Grove and moved its south county branch campus from Mission Viejo to the shuttered El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, then to its current site in Irvine, where almost 2,700 students are enrolled this fall.

Graduation rates have mirrored the diverse enrollment increases. Cal State Fullerton currently ranks ninth in the nation, in terms of baccalaureate degrees awarded to minority students, according to *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, based on data from the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, CSUF is No. 1 in California and fifth in the nation among colleges and universities awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics, also based on data from the U.S. Department of Education and reported in *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* in May.

Under Gordon's leadership, the university has enjoyed its most successful fundraising era, securing the largest gift in the university's history and fourth largest gift to the CSU — \$30 million from Class of '69 CSUF business administration graduate Steven G. Mihaylo, a successful telecom entrepreneur and founder and retired CEO of Inter-Tel Inc. Both the business college and its building were named in Mihaylo's honor. Besides his, other donors' names now grace the library, alumni center, science building and performing arts center, in recognition of gifts from alumni and faculty — all donations made to the university during Gordon's tenure.

During his tenure, CSUF launched Front & Center, the university's signature community outreach and fundraising event for scholarship programs, featuring an array of luminaries, beginning with Colin Powell in 1996. Others who have shared the stage with Gordon and CSUF students at the Honda Center (formerly Arrowhead Pond) for Front & Center included: Walter Cronkite, Tony Bennett, Bill Cosby, Natalie Cole, Michael Eisner, Christopher Reeve, Stevie Nicks, Reba McIntyre and John Lithgow.

In athletics, Gordon has cheered the Titans on to two national championships in baseball in 2004 and 1995, and twice accompanied the team to the White House for ceremonies following their College World Series wins. He has served on the board of directors and the executive committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and currently serves on the NCAA Division I President's



Advisory Group.

Gordon has presided over the largest construction period in the university's history — more than \$636 million worth of new and revitalized facilities, ranging from buildings devoted to instruction and student support to residential and parking structures, among others. It's also been a period marked by sustainability, with all new buildings erected since 2006 meeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification standards. Such projects include: the Student Recreation Center, Children's Center, Fullerton Arboretum Visitor Center and Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum, as well as the newly opened student residence halls and dining complex.

Gordon received numerous awards during his tenure as Cal State Fullerton president. Honors include: the 2011 Illinois Institute of Technology Professional Achievement Award, the 2010 President's Award of Excellence from the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities, 2010 Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr. Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, and the 2010 Man of the Year Award from Christ Our Redeemer AME Church, the Black Chamber of Orange County, 100 Black Men of Orange County and the Orange County Ministerial Alliance.

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 degree 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, will serve 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 million 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.

CSUF News. *Marking a Milestone: Cal State Fullerton President Announces Retirement*. Sept. 13, 2011, No. 20. Accessed on August 11, 2014: <http://calstate.fullerton.edu/news/2011fall/Gordon-Announces-Retirement.asp>.

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

Collection Scope and Content

Scope and Content

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Collection Arrangement

Materials are arranged as received.

Series:

- Series 1: Academic Affairs, 32 linear feet
- Series 2: Academic Senate, 5 linear feet
- Series 3: Administration & Finance, 155 linear feet
- Series 4: Athletics, 13 linear feet
- Series 5: Events & Programs, 107 linear feet
- Series 6: Past Presidents' Historical Materials, 3 linear feet
- Series 7: Speeches & Addresses, 9 linear feet
- Series 8: Student Affairs, 8 linear feet
- Series 9: University Advancement, 5 linear feet
- Series 10: Audio/Video, 10 linear feet



Indexing terms - Subject Headings:

Gordon, Milton A.

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.