Celebrating Our Past, Transforming Our Future
On the cover: In 1984, President Anthony Evans attached the ceremonial final letter to the new entrance sign as California State College officially gained university status, changing its name to California State University, San Bernardino.

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John M. Pfau
1962-1982

Anthony H. Evans
1982-1997

Albert K. Karnig
1997-2012

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John Pfau’s vision for the new campus in San Bernardino stretched far and wide. Where one would peer at the open desert space beneath the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains and see brush and wildlife, said one of the college’s founding faculty members, the first president of the college saw one building here, another there. But did he ever imagine it could become one of the region’s thriving centers of education, a cultural center of activity, picturesque lawns and landscaping over dirt and tumbleweeds and so many buildings, including the Palm Desert Campus? By way of the images contained in these pages, recall the people and events that have shaped California State University, San Bernardino during its first half-century.
Choosing exactly where to build the new California State College San Bernardino-Riverside was no walk in the park. State legislators considered two sites in Colton, including Cooley Ranch, and ones in Riverside, Fontana-Rialto and San Bernardino. After answering questions of how the campus would supply water to the area, and allaying fears of fire hazards and earthquakes, the northern site in San Bernardino was approved in January 1963.
Student researching in the library, 1968.
Classroom scenes from the late 1960’s.
A Sunday afternoon Campus Tour conducted outside of the Library (now Sierra Hall), Winter 1969/70.

Planting a time capsule in front of the Administration Building, 1967. Physics professor Russ DeRemer poses with his St. Bernard, the college’s first mascot.
The college library opened in 1971 and was renamed the John M. Pfau Library in 1982. Planning the new library in this 1968 photo (from left) are Joseph Thomas, vice president for administration, President Pfau, Art Nelson, the library’s first director, and Gerald Scherba, vice president for academic affairs.

Student researcher, early 1970’s.

Ping pong was one of the most popular social events on campus.
Early Commencement ceremonies were held on the lawn, moving indoors on a permanent basis in 1996. In June, 2015, in an effort to accommodate more family and friends of graduates and for the first time in campus history, ceremonies were held off campus at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario.
1970's

With the opening of Serrano Village, students began to live on campus in the early 1970's. Student activities grew quickly, including mud volleyball and other fun social events.
Students in the library, early 1970’s.

Faculty/Student Advising Session, 1969.

Lawrence (Larry) Johnson (shown in this 1971 photo advising two students), was appointed director of the Experimental Admission Program (E.A.P.) in 1969. E.A.P. was established in September, 1968 to provide additional educational opportunities for underrepresented students.
In a 1984 ceremony, Dr. Yolanda Moses ’68 adds a letter to the new entrance sign as California State College officially gained university status, changing its name to California State University, San Bernardino.
Clouds of smoke rise behind the Pfau Library during the Panorama Fire in November, 1980. The fire hit many parts of San Bernardino’s north end, including the CSUSB campus.

The Emergency Operations Center on the CSUSB campus during the Panorama Fire.

President Anthony Evans meeting with U.S. Representative Jerry Lewis on campus during the late 1980’s.

Evacuating campus during the Panorama Fire, November, 1980.
The Student Union has always been a vibrant and active center for clubs, meetings, and activities. Foosball became a popular student activity in the late 1980’s.

Laboratory work took place in the classroom, gymnasium, and in the field.
Early laser work on the CSUSB campus, late 1980's.
1990's

New graduates enjoy the 33rd Commencement exercises, held at Coussoulis Arena in June, 1999.

President Evans visits with Stater Bros. Chairman of the Board and CEO Jack Brown during construction of Jack H. Brown Hall. Since its opening on September 23, 1991, Jack H. Brown Hall currently houses the College of Business & Public Administration, the Department of Mathematics, and the Department of Computer Sciences.

Val Limar, a 1990 CSUSB graduate, starring as blues artist Ethel Waters in the original one-woman play, Ethel, written by Limar and Theatre Professor William Stout.
CSUSB communications students producing a local newscast in the Television Studio in 1994.


Students in the Serrano Village dormitory, 1993.
CSUSB began its intercollegiate athletics program in 1984 and joined the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The Coyotes participate in the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) as an NCAA Division II program. The Coyotes offer four men’s sports (baseball, basketball, golf, and soccer) and seven women’s programs (basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, volleyball, track and field, and cheer and dance). CSUSB has captured NCAA regional championships in volleyball, men’s basketball, and golf.
1999 NCAA Division II
Men's Basketball Regional Championship trophy.

Biology professor Stuart Sumida teaching students, circa 1990.

Professor Mayo Toruño teaching economics, circa 1980’s.

Basketball Homecoming Game, 1997.
President Albert Karnig plays host and visits with students, faculty, and staff during the Spring, 2002 campus-wide picnic.

Since its inception in 1995, the annual San Manuel Pow Wow brings the community together to celebrate Native American culture across North America. The three-day experience includes arts and crafts, competitive dancing and traditional foods.
On the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, the first building to be constructed and occupied in 2002 was the Mary Stuart Rogers Gateway Building, built with funds from the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation, the Berger Foundation, the City of Rancho Mirage and Florence Rigdon, a long-time resident of Rancho Mirage.

Twenty-three years after the devastating Panorama Fire, a second major blaze, the Old Waterman Canyon Fire, reached the CSUSB campus in 2003. The Old Waterman Canyon Fire destroyed a temporary classroom building and damaged multiple structures.

Psychology professor Eugene Wong received the Golden Apple Award for teaching excellence in 2005.
The 2008 Coyote volleyball team defeated Cal Poly Pomona, 3-0 to capture the NCAA Division II West Regional Championship enroute to a national runner-up finish. The 2008 and 2011 Coyote volleyball squads reached the NCAA championship match, hosting the 2011 finals.
On November 19, 2009, legendary blues guitarist B.B. King performed in front of a sold-out crowd at Coussoulis Arena. Special guest performance artist Gregory Adamson joined the CSUSB Jazz Band as the opening act.

During the 40th anniversary black-tie Gala Celebration in 2005, CSUSB presidents John Pfau, Anthony Evans, and Albert Karnig appear alongside their portraits.
2010's

Palm Desert Campus first freshmen class, 2014.
CSUSB staff and student volunteers teamed up to build a playground and clean up the exterior at the San Bernardino Salvation Army Emergency Center as part of 2015 Coyote Cares Day.

CSUSB student-athlete Patricia Cortez participates in the Rossi Relays at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges on Saturday, February 28, 2015 – the first CSUSB track and field meet.

President Morales surprises instructor Joyce Ahlgren in her mathematics classroom with the presentation of the Outstanding Lecturer Award in June, 2014.

In November, 2011, CSUSB opened the Murillo Family Observatory, the Inland Empire’s first teaching observatory, allowing researchers, students, and the public to study the night sky. Standing atop Badger Hill, the Murillo Family Observatory features a telescope in each of two 40-foot towers alongside an observation deck.
2010's

The annual "Pack the House" event draws a sellout crowd for the CSUSB-Sonoma State men's basketball game.

Campus Aerial photo, circa 2014.

Computer Science and Engineering Associate Professor Haiyan Qiao (third from left) in the CSUSB Robotics Lab in Jack Brown Hall with students Muhammad Ali, Richard Quon, and Sonia Perez.
The Veterans Success Center opened its doors in 2013, providing an on-campus home to veterans and sponsoring events such as the Memorial Day flag folding ceremony to pay tribute to fallen military service members, performed by cadets from Sunburst Youth Academy.

President Morales presents an honorary doctorate to longtime university supporter Judy Rodriguez Watson at 2015 College of Education commencement exercises.

CSUSB Lavender Graduation 2015, an annual ceremony to honor lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and ally students.

Dionysius Fernandes, CSUSB art major, working in the art laboratory.

President Morales presents an honorary doctorate to longtime university supporter Judy Rodriguez Watson at 2015 College of Education commencement exercises.
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