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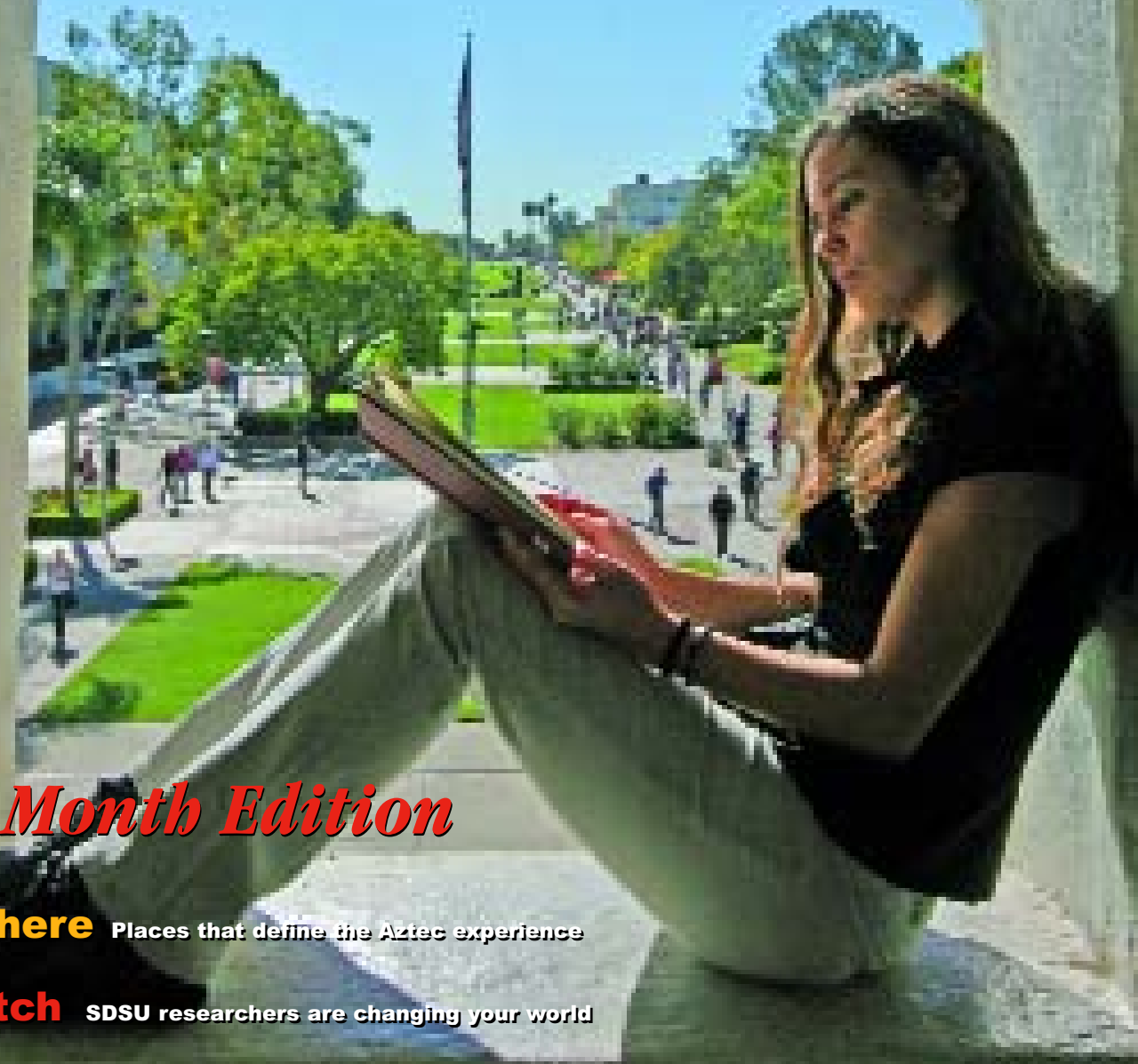
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SDSU Month Edition

Being There Places that define the Aztec experience

7 to Watch SDSU researchers are changing your world

Cancer Out Loud Talking through the fears

Directions

Any university administrator will tell you that ranking colleges is a subjective business. Several times a year, I receive requests from national magazines or education councils, asking me to rank, for example, the country's top research universities or California's best engineering colleges.

Never mind that my judgment, and that of my fellow university presidents, has little empirical grounding; we cannot possibly know enough about these thousands of colleges to offer truly informed opinions.

But alongside these subjective rankings, there are also several objective methods of comparison. I am proud to say that many of San Diego State University's degree programs are at the top of these empirically based national listings.

In 2007, for the second consecutive year, SDSU was named America's number one small research university ("small" is defined as offering fewer than 15 Ph.D. degrees programs). This rank is based, not on reputation or subjective opinion, but on the scholarly productivity of faculty as measured by their publications and citations, plus the federal research grants and financial and honorary prizes they received in 2006-2007.

Academic Analytics, the group of researchers responsible for compiling this Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, also recognized several joint SDSU doctoral programs. Speech and hearing sciences is first among similar programs; our math education and clinical psychology programs are second in their respective fields. The SDSU doctoral program in geography ranks seventh and the doctoral program in computational sciences ranks ninth.

We are also proud of our standing as number two in the nation and number one in California for students studying abroad (among public universities with high research activity). That objective ranking, based on actual numbers of students going abroad to study, is published annually in the Open Door Report released by the Institute for International Education.

[This issue of 360: The Magazine of San Diego State University features our study abroad program (on page 10) as well as profiles of faculty who have helped SDSU earn a national reputation for research excellence (on pages 16-19).]

Why are these rankings so important? Because they affirm the quality of an SDSU education and enhance our national status, enabling us to attract better students, faculty and staff. They add prestige to the SDSU degree held by hundreds of thousands of alumni in the region and across the country. Finally, they build pride in this university and its people as we pursue our commitment to teaching, research and community service.



Stephen L. Weber, president
San Diego State University

360

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SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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They Will Come

A record 61,500 students applied for fall 2008 admission to San Diego State University, and nearly 50,000 were first-time freshman applicants.

This continues the trend of significant annual increases in applications to SDSU since the university adopted enrollment management practices in 1999. As the academic reputation of SDSU rises, so do applications – climbing 141 percent in the past 11 years.

The record number of applicants augers well for enrolling yet another class of well prepared new students in the fall – about 9,200 by current estimates.

What attracts these applicants to the university? They cite exceptional academic opportunities, the wide range of degrees and SDSU's prime location in San Diego.

Undergraduate applications for 2007-2008, the current academic year, totaled 58,055, the third highest received by any university in the nation, according to a recent San Diego Union-Tribune analysis.

The current freshman class is the brightest ever to come to SDSU, with an average high school GPA of 3.44, up from 3.16 a decade ago.

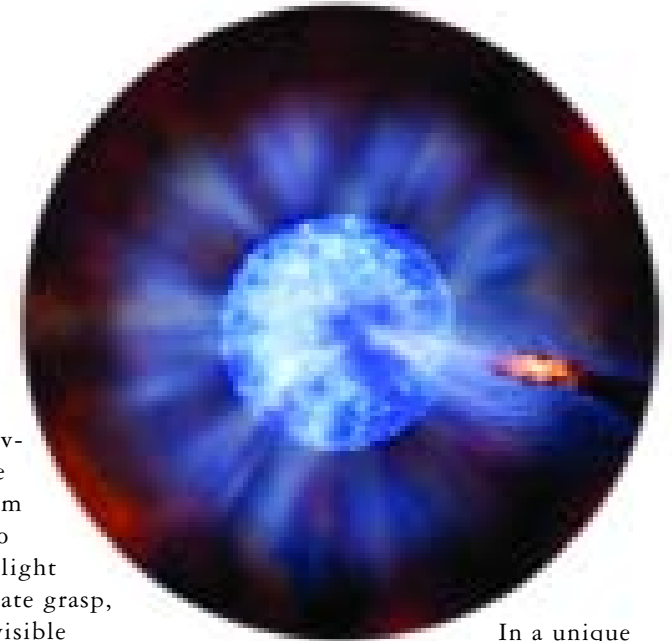
Hole New View

A black hole and its companion star make unlikely bedfellows.

For a black hole to be formed, a star 20 times the mass of the sun must undergo gravitational collapse. The gravitational force from the collapsed star is so intense that not even light can escape its immediate grasp, making the object invisible until swallowed gases heat up and emit X-ray radiation.

Scientific wisdom dictates that the star would either merge with the object or separate from it. But that is not the case with M33 X-7 and its companion star, and SDSU Astronomy Professor Jerome Orosz wants to know why.

Orosz leads the international team that confirmed the existence of M33 X-7, the most massive and most distant stellar black hole known. Measuring 15.7 times the size of our Sun, M33 X-7 was discovered as an X-ray source almost 25 years ago, but was only recently identified with an optical star.



In a unique arrangement, the black hole orbits its companion star – an exceptionally large star measuring 70 times the mass of the Sun – every 3.45 days. The orientation of the orbit causes the companion star to eclipse the X-ray source once every period, allowing for more precise determination of orbital properties compared with similar systems.

“This discovery raises all sorts of questions about how such a big black hole could have formed in such a close binary system,” said SDSU's Orosz. “M33 X-7 will be a key system in understanding both the formation of massive stellar black holes and the evolution of massive binary stars.”



**I ask Americans:
Why are you
converting your
best friends to
enemies?**

**Akbar Ahmed, former High
Commissioner of Pakistan to
Great Britain, speaking at
SDSU last October**



Blame Grandma

More time spent eating away from home could put kids at higher risk for obesity.

San Diego State public health researcher, Guadalupe X. Ayala, has found that consuming foods at the home of relatives, neighbors or friends once a week or more is associated with a higher risk of obesity in children.

Youngsters who ate away from home often drank more sugar-sweetened beverages and ate more sweet and savory snacks, such as chips and ice cream.

Ayala's research is the first to consider settings outside the home, apart from restaurants, as potential risk factors for childhood obesity. She also found that eating at restaurants weekly or more often not only increased the child's risk of obesity, but the parents' as well.

Her study focused on children in kindergarten through 2nd grade from 13 Southern California elementary schools. Latino children may be at particular risk because their culture is more family-oriented, Ayala said.

"Latinos appear to rely on friends and family for support and childcare more than other cultures do," Ayala said.

She recommended that parents discuss their children's health risks with friends and family members who may serve as secondary caretakers. Encourage the caretakers to reinforce at-home food rules and to negotiate what food is available to your child, she said.

Fit for Life

A violent car accident mangled Sylvia's body and damaged her brain. She spent two bedridden years trying to find the right physical therapy program.

Then she discovered the San Diego State University Fitness Clinic for Individuals with Disabilities, one of SDSU's most successful community outreach programs.

For the past seven years, Sylvia has come to the clinic twice a week

to work with student interns from SDSU's exercise and nutritional sciences program. One of 1,300 fitness center clients with severe physical and neuromuscular disabilities, she is certain that the individualized fitness program has diminished her pain.

Throughout 25 years of serving the community, the clinic has trained more than 3,000 SDSU kinesiology students. The mostly volunteer staff, supervised by Program Director Jan Thurman, helps clients recover from strokes, brain damage, multiple sclerosis and other maladies.

Peter Aufsesser, an exercise and nutritional sciences professor, is the clinic's founder and director. Under his leadership, its budget has grown from \$20,000 in 1983 to \$150,000 currently. Client fees pay for 60 percent of operating costs.

Aufsesser is currently raising funds to create an endowment to support the clinic's relocation from Peterson Gym to a larger site nearby, where more SDSU students can receive practical experience while helping a growing clientele reach its fitness goals.



Illustration: Tom Voss

Reel Story

Ibn Battuta left Morocco in 1304 C.E. for what would turn out to be almost 30 years of intrepid exploration.

He visited all of the Muslim regions of the time, including Turkey, Central Asia, China, Sub-Saharan Africa and India, covering no less than 73,000 miles before the age of steam.

Though not as renowned as his contemporary Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta did something the Venetian traveler did not – he inserted himself as a personality into the narrative. By combining his own perceptions of the Muslim world and its people with rich descriptions of the sites he visited, Ibn Battuta created one of the first modern travelogues.

The "Rihla," as Battuta's collected writings are called, is ripe for cinematic interpretation.

"In a movie, you have to have dramatic tension and story arcs, and it's all there," said Ross Dunn, an African and Islamic history scholar at San Diego State University.

Dunn authored the book "The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century," and is serving as academic consultant for two films dramatizing Ibn Battuta's epic adventures.

The first is a yet-to-be-titled full-length dramatic feature starring Said Taghmaoui, an actor known for his work in the movies "The Kite Runner" and "Hidalgo." The second is the IMAX documentary,

"The Greatest Journey: Pilgrimage to Mecca in the footsteps of Ibn Battuta."

The films are not based directly on Dunn's book, but producers of the untitled project are borrowing from his research to make sense of the copious material contained in the "Rihla."

Dunn has corresponded or met with the writers of both projects to review the scripts for historical accuracy. But while working with writers and producers, he has not always prevailed.

"The IMAX producers like the idea that Ibn Battuta is finding his way to Mecca using a pocket-sized astrolabe and I have serious doubts that is plausible," Dunn said. "I may not have all the answers, but I usually know people who do."

Update

The Global Perspective.

Study abroad gives students the edge.

SDSU liberal studies junior Cassie Conboy traveled to Cyprus in the summer of 2006 to learn about conflict resolution. The next summer, she studied literature in Oxford. Conboy said her experiences abroad were life-changing and taught her more about herself than she ever expected.

“It ended up being more than my finding a way to study abroad,” Conboy said. “Instead, it was studying abroad that helped me to find my way.”

In an era of economic convergence and cultural disconnect, there is no more powerful educational tool than knowledge of the world. Most universities offer study abroad programs, but San Diego State is a leader in the field.

The 2007 “Open Doors” report published by the Institute for International Education ranks SDSU first among California universities (with high research activity) for sending students abroad. Among all US universities, SDSU ranked 23rd, besting both Syracuse and Cornell.

In the 2005-06 school year alone, 1,440 SDSU students studied in more than 50 different countries. Some students spend a semester abroad; others opt for shorter, more intense programs. Alternative Spring Break South Africa is an example of the latter.

Every year, faculty from the SDSU Africana Studies department lead a study abroad program to the culturally rich nation at the foot of Africa.

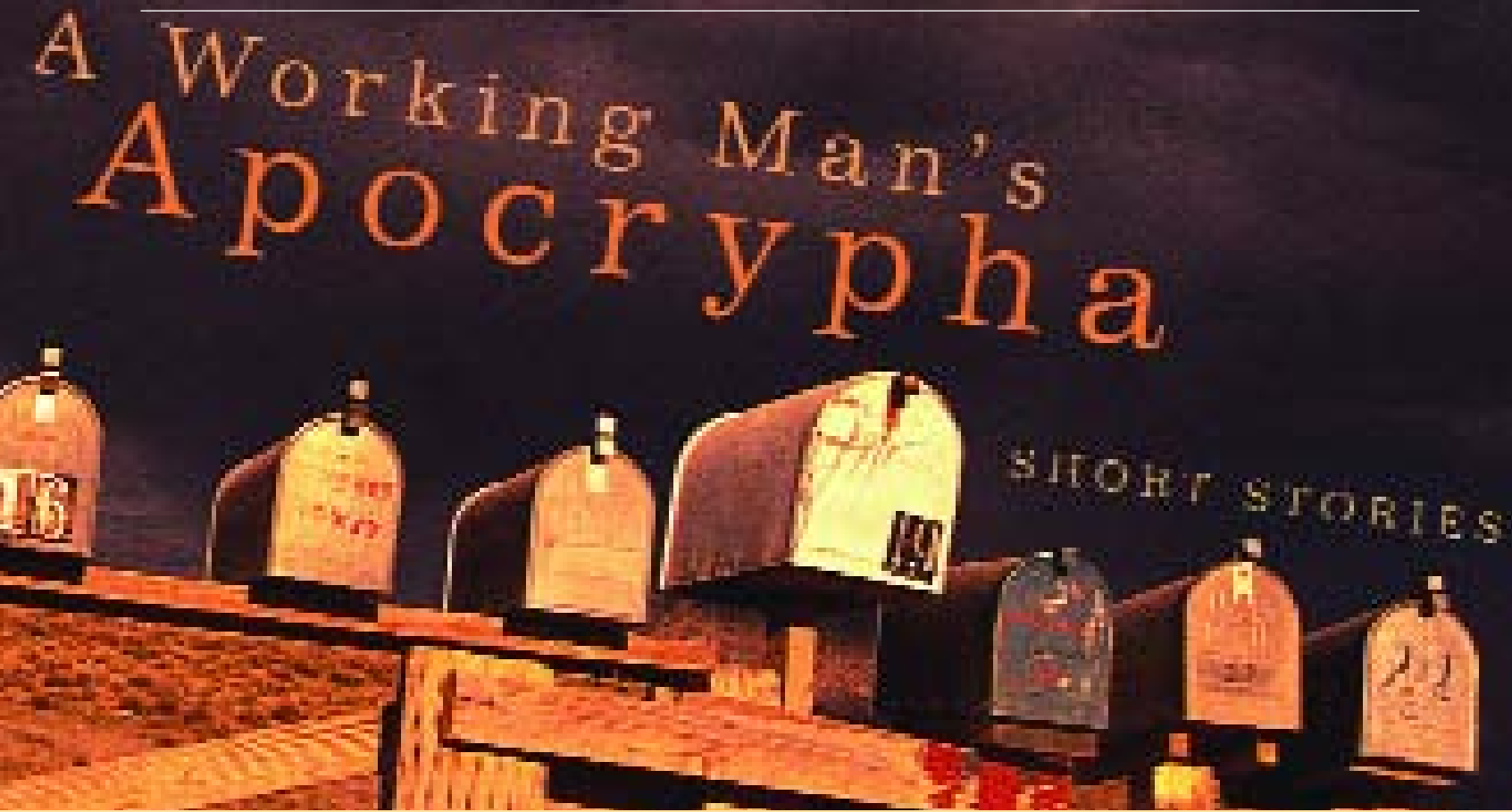
Visits to townships, museums and historic locations, as well as volunteer time at schools and orphanages across Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria, expose students to the beauty and bias that coexist in South Africa.

“South Africa is a laboratory of race relations,” said Shirley Weber, chair of the Africana studies department. “The students get to see the impacts of racism and sexism – how devastating it becomes in terms of violence, economics and education – and how people deal with it in their everyday lives.”

The trip starts well before the plane takes off, with participants collecting shoes and school supplies for South African schools and attending discussions about the country’s history, culture and current problems like AIDS. Upon their return, students give presentations on campus and at various community forums about what they’ve learned through firsthand experience.

“It is hard to put a period on this experience because I believe it is ongoing,” said Jessica Heard an SDSU alumna who visited South Africa during spring break in 2006. “I will always remember what the people there taught me about hope and community.”





Aztec Authors

"A Working Man's Apocrypha" by William Luvaas

In "A Working Man's Apocrypha" (University of Oklahoma Press, 2007), William Luvaas explores what happens when ordinary people face extraordinary circumstances. The 14 haunting story lines test everyday characters and leave them struggling to grasp the contemporary challenges of economic inequality, religious fanaticism and corporate greed. "Apocrypha" marks the third major publication for Luvaas, a 1994 graduate of the MFA program in creative writing, who taught creative writing and

literature at SDSU for 10 years. His, "The Firewood Wars" was co-winner of Fiction Network's second national fiction competition. Several of the stories in this new collection have earned him major recognition, including the title one, for which he received a National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship grant. The highly competitive grant is awarded every other year to 50 prose writers in the nation.

"From the Barrio to Washington: An Educator's Journey" by Armando Rodriguez

As a young Mexican immigrant who spoke no English, Armando Rodriguez never really fit in at school. But the man nicknamed "Shadow" by classmates for the dark color of his skin eventually found acceptance in his adopted

home. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in education from SDSU, Rodriguez turned his greatest difference into his greatest asset.

He consummated a commitment to social reform and equality during a long career in politics and civil rights, becoming the first Hispanic to serve in several high-level government positions.

"From the Barrio to Washington: An Educator's Journey" (University of New Mexico Press, 2007) follows Rodriguez's passage from the playground to the White House, where he served during four administrations.

In 1979, SDSU recognized his achievements with a Monty Award.

The Best and Brightest

For the second year running, San Diego State University holds the coveted designation of number one small research university in the nation.

Top-10-ranked programs in clinical psychology, education, rehabilitation counseling and language and communicative disorders attest to the talent and productivity of SDSU's faculty. The trickle-down effect is clear; productive faculty provide opportunities for students to participate in research and contribute to original scholarship.

Increasingly, the names of SDSU's best and brightest students appear alongside those of their faculty mentors on publications and poster presentations.

SDSU will recognize the outstanding scholarly accomplishments of its students during the first annual Student Research Symposium on Feb. 29 and March 1 in Aztec Center.

Helping to kick off SDSU Month, undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students from all disciplines will present their research, scholarship and creative works.

Ten Presidential Awards of \$500 each will be given to recognize outstanding achievement in original scholarship. The award winners will also represent SDSU at the CSU Student Research Competition in May.

Aztec Intelligence

Ron Fowler, founding chair of The Campanile Foundation (TCF), has stepped down after eight years of service. To honor his leadership, the TCF created a surprise \$100,000 endowed scholarship in Fowler's name. He was officially designated "chairman emeritus and founding chair" at the November TCF board meeting. The new TCF chair, L. Robert Payne, is one of three friends whose naming gift made possible the current construction of an Alumni

Center on the SDSU campus. Payne has served on the board for eight years and donated \$1.1 million toward the creation of the hospitality and tourism management program (now the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management). He is a founding donor of SDSU's Entrepreneurial Management Center... Carl Cohn, recently retired superintendent for the San Diego Unified School District, has joined SDSU's College of Education as Distinguished Leader in Residence. In his new post, Cohn will lecture, consult on projects and engage in scholarship and writing... Active duty U.S. Army nurse and 1985 nursing alumnus Lt. Col. Steven Drennen received the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal on Dec. 3. The International Committee of the Red Cross awards four medals every two years to nurses who have demonstrated exceptional courage and devotion to the sick, wounded and disabled in times of war or peace.



This restored WPA-era mural painted by an SDSU student will be unveiled in the library on March 7. Visit sdsu.com for details.

Healing Broken Hearts. Can science unlock the secret of the heart's regenerative powers?

By Coleen L. Geraghty

Wounds mend, broken bones heal, but the human heart, once damaged by stroke or cardiac arrest, defies repair. Such was accepted scientific fact. Until now.

Within the last 10 years, researchers have uncovered evidence of the heart's ability to heal itself – with a little help from friends. The ramifications are enormous. Temporary fixes such as heart transplants and drug therapy may yield to non-invasive treatments that restore heart muscle damaged during cardiac arrest.

"We've moved from thinking that heart cell regeneration was impossible to a new realization that is revolutionizing the way we approach treating heart disease," said Mark Sussman, a biology professor at San Diego State University and member of the SDSU Heart Institute.

In Sussman's lab, master's, doctoral and post-doctoral students study molecular signaling and stem cell transplantation as they relate to heart disease. Their pioneering research augurs a day when stem cells will be used to regenerate and repair damage caused by a heart attack.

REPLACING LOST CELLS

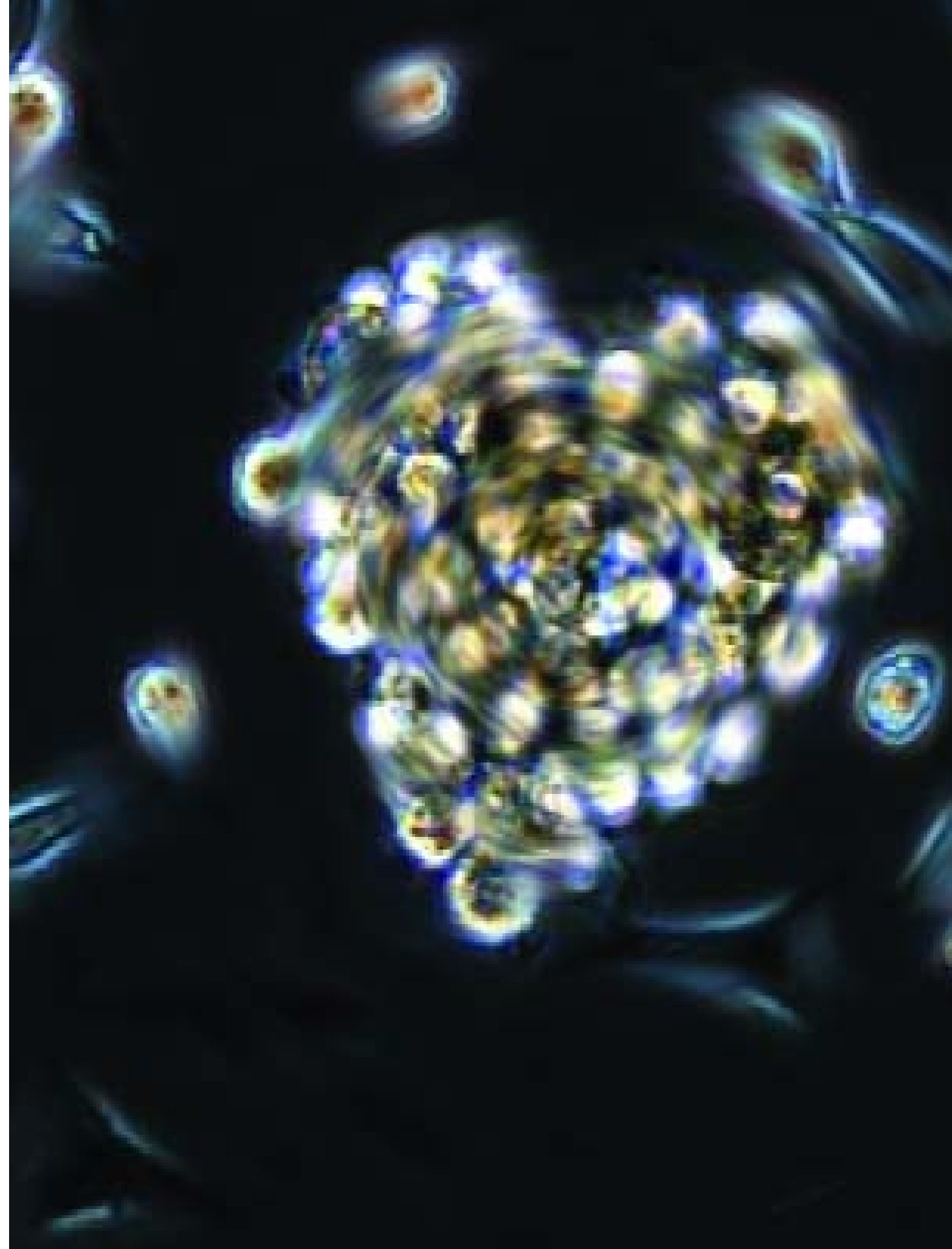
Heart disease remains the number one killer of Americans. According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly 700,000 people in the United States die from heart disease each year, about 29 percent of all deaths recorded annually.

The causes are myriad but doctors and biologists know that a heart attack occurs when coronary arteries become blocked, cutting off the supply of oxygen-rich blood to the heart. As heart cells are traumatized, the contents of mitochondria – a cell's energy center – leak out. So begins a downward spiral that leads to cell death.

Sussman's team studies the biochemical signals that comprise survival signaling cascades, responsible for protecting mitochondria from damage.

Funded in part by a \$9.5-million grant from the National Institutes of Health, Sussman is currently exploring how the signals work. He has discovered that Pim-1, a protein induced by injury to the heart, could be the key to regenerating heart cells and enhancing their survival.

"The heart evolved to replace cells lost from everyday activity, not to replace the massive quantity of cells lost during and after a heart attack," Sussman said.



"By using Pim-1, we can activate stem cells in the heart and regenerate heart cells.

"Our piece of the puzzle is bringing the entire field closer to the time when we will rebuild and repair the damaged heart at a molecular level to make it as healthy as it was at a younger age."

MAKING THE CONNECTION

Researchers have known that bone marrow continuously expresses high levels of Pim-1 throughout life, enhancing survival and proliferation of stem cells. But Sussman's team found that Pim-1 was also expressed in the heart during neonatal development and re-expressed in response to traumatic injury.

Based on these findings, Sussman envisions a connection between Pim-1 and the survival and regeneration of heart muscle cells. In ongoing studies conducted in the Sussman lab, researchers take stem cells from the heart and engineer them through molecular biology to express Pim-1. They implant the cells into hearts injured by a coronary blockage to simulate a heart attack.

In all cases, Pim-1 has done a remarkable job of enhancing the regeneration of heart muscle cells.

To recognize his seminal work in regenerative heart research and foster Sussman's continued accomplishments in this exciting new field, San Diego State has named him the Albert W. Johnson Research Lecturer for 2008.

Sussman will discuss his current research at the 18th annual Albert W. Johnson University Research Lecture on March 19 from 3-4:30 p.m. in the J. Dayton Smith Recital Hall. Admission is free to members of the public. For details visit: gra.sdsu.edu/research/lectures

Lorena Ruggero contributed to this story.

At left: These photomicrograph cardiac stem cells isolated from mouse hearts clustered together in the shape of a heart.



7 to Watch

These young researchers are changing your world

By Lauren Courtney

Climate change, heart disease, childhood obesity, barriers to education – these challenges define our world and shape our future.

The bad news is there are no simple solutions. An approach holds promise; then quickly becomes irrelevant. Researchers tackling complex global problems must be prepared to start over – and over and over – to rethink not only the solution, but even the problem.

Yet, they persist. Brilliant young researchers pursue the elusive cure for heart disease and the strategy to minimize global warming's devastation. Some of them live and work right here in San Diego as faculty members of San Diego State University.

As leaders in their fields, they could go almost anywhere, but

they choose SDSU, not only for its research excellence, but also for the opportunity to teach bright, diverse students and involve them in their vanguard work.

Over the last 10 years, enterprising researchers from every discipline have come to SDSU to get their hands dirty looking for answers to the dynamic problems facing society today.

With impressive credentials and millions of dollars in funded research activity, they are transforming SDSU into one of the top urban research universities.

Take a long, hard look at these seven faces – these are the people who may change how we deal with the pressing health, safety and environmental issues that define our times.

Roberta Gottlieb

"It would be the first time we could demonstrate a cause-effect relationship between the presence of gum disease and the risk for heart disease."

Since the advent of immunizations and antibiotics, few people in the Western world die from infectious disease – or do they? Maybe the bacteria, rather than going away, found more insidious means of infiltration.

"We're only now beginning to recognize how bacteria contribute in much more subtle ways to chronic disease," said Roberta Gottlieb.

A biology professor, Gottlieb came to SDSU last year to head the BioScience Center, which explores the connections between infection, inflammation and heart disease. With four grants from the National Institutes of Health, she is currently focused on two separate areas of research – finding ways to salvage heart muscle following heart attack and documenting a link between gum disease and heart disease.

Recent research on the latter topic indicates that inflammation is the body's response to bacterial infection. Even local inflammation can cause arteries to harden.

"We're moving toward this idea that it's not necessarily specific

pathogens going directly into the blood vessels and hardening them. The inflammatory response to multiple low-level infections is sufficient to create an environment leading to diabetes, obesity and heart disease."

Sheldon Zhang

"We interview people in the underworld and the forgotten corners of the community. What we learn can help governments make better policy decisions regarding this segment of society."

Wanted: Innovative entrepreneur with international experience and expert knowledge of interactive technology.

Not the words of a recruiter looking for a capable employee, the above describes the needs of law enforcement officials who find themselves always two steps behind Chinese organized crime.

Known for pulling off elaborate transnational human smuggling operations and financial crimes, such as credit card fraud and money launderings, these crafty perpetrators have long subverted justice.

"Government agencies have traditionally focused on uncovering a large, well-organized criminal entity," said SDSU Sociology professor Sheldon Zhang. "It makes sense, intuitively; but we interview the criminals and find that most Chinese organized crime is done by enterprising agents."

One of a handful of people specializing in transnational organized crime, Zhang does potentially dangerous work interviewing criminals and observing their tactics. His research helps officials undermine criminal schemes that bilk innocent people of millions of dollars.

Michelle Dean

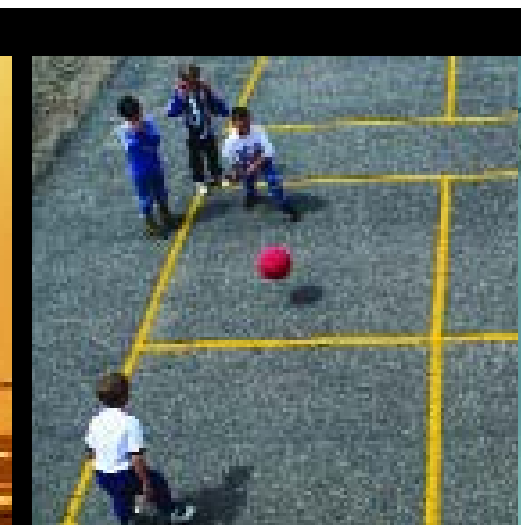
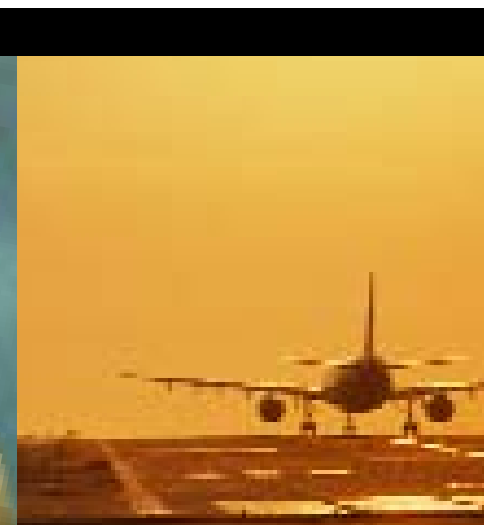
"Personnel selection is especially important in a knowledge-based economy; it is critical to understand how psychologically based knowledge, skills and abilities relate to on-the-job success."

You're at 30,000 feet in a line of planes waiting to land on a runway that's also used for takeoffs. Do you know who your air traffic controllers are? More importantly, does the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) know who they are?

A mistake by one air traffic controller can kill hundreds. But colleges don't offer this field of study, and the air space available for "practice" is hard to come by.

Management Professor Michelle Dean is helping the FAA hire smarter. The agency is faced with replacing about one-sixth of the aging air traffic control workforce as controllers hired after the 1981 strike begin to exceed the mandatory age limit.

Dean's focus on matching the life experiences of applicants with those of demonstrably successful



Portrait Photography: Dave Friend



“The problem is bigger than individuals; it’s environmental.”

controllers can help the FAA screen potential controllers efficiently and economically.

Applied to other industries, her research could become an important tool in finding the right people for high-stakes jobs where lives are on the line.

Simon Marshall

“The problem is bigger than individuals; it’s environmental. We need policy intervention and legislation that give children opportunities to be physically active.”

In a vicious cycle that often leads to heart disease and diabetes, overweight adults beget obese children.

Research blaming TV and Twinkies has grabbed the media coverage and worked its way into the collective conscious, but Exercise and Nutritional Sciences Professor Simon Marshall looks for deeper roots.

For more than 10 years, Marshall has been collecting data about the decisions made by children, parents and schools about diet and activity. He works directly with young people to find out whether vending machines and Nintendo or parental example and socioeconomic factors are at fault for poor diet and sedentary behavior.

He has found that the stresses of modern life – unsafe neighborhoods, rigorous academic standards and a schedule packed with extracurriculars – leave little room for the active behaviors that kept previous generations slim.

“We can all get involved in land use and urban planning



decisions that impact our children’s ability to walk, bike, or skate to school along safe routes.”

Frank Harris III

“What’s happening to discourage boys and men from taking education seriously? The unintended effect of the way we socialize boys is that they see academics as a feminine endeavor.”

For all the attention to equality in education, educators and others charged with stewarding youth still subconsciously interact with them in ways that reinforce gender stereotypes, prioritizing athletic prowess for boys and academic achievement for girls.

The disparity manifests later in university classrooms, where females outnumber males 3 to 2. While many people seek to improve college outcomes overall by looking at ethnic and socioeconomic discrepancies, Education Professor Frank Harris III is one of the few turning to gender for answers.

His dissertation on the subject earned him two national awards. It’s a strong start and it comes with an ambitious agenda: to help educators, counselors and coaches understand how American youth is impacted by gender issues.

“Someday, I’d like to know that people are using my work to develop programs and do what they can to support healthy, productive development for men through education.”

Karen Emmorey

“The goal is to use sign language to ask questions about the nature of language.”

Because signs like those meaning “to write” or “to hammer” resemble the action described, many people view sign language as simply elaborate mimicry.

But anyone who has ever created a poem in sign language, or struggled to remember a sign that was just on the tips of the fingers would argue it’s much more.

Karen Emmorey seconds that argument. Her ongoing study of sign language identifies which elements of human language are universal, and which are particular to spoken or signed languages.

A professor of speech, language and hearing sciences, Emmorey came to SDSU in 2005 to direct the Laboratory for Language & Cognitive Neuroscience. Her work shows that sign language is not a comprehensive set of gestures, but a viable language produced and comprehended in the same areas of the brain as spoken language.

Emmorey hopes her research leads to greater endorsement of sign language in the medical community.

“It would be nice if doctors who recommended cochlear implants also recommended sign language exposure, because research suggests that if you don’t get early language, whether it’s speech or sign, there are later problems with understanding language and cognition.”

Edward Beighley

“As the climate changes, rainfall is going to change everywhere; our research can predict what flooding might look like under any given climate scenario.”

For centuries – from the Nile to New Orleans – people have thrived around flood plains, where water cycles are perennially predictable. Abrupt changes in these cycles can wipe out entire communities and result in massive loss of life. With the onset of climate change, altered rainfall patterns have begun to wreak havoc on flooding cycles.

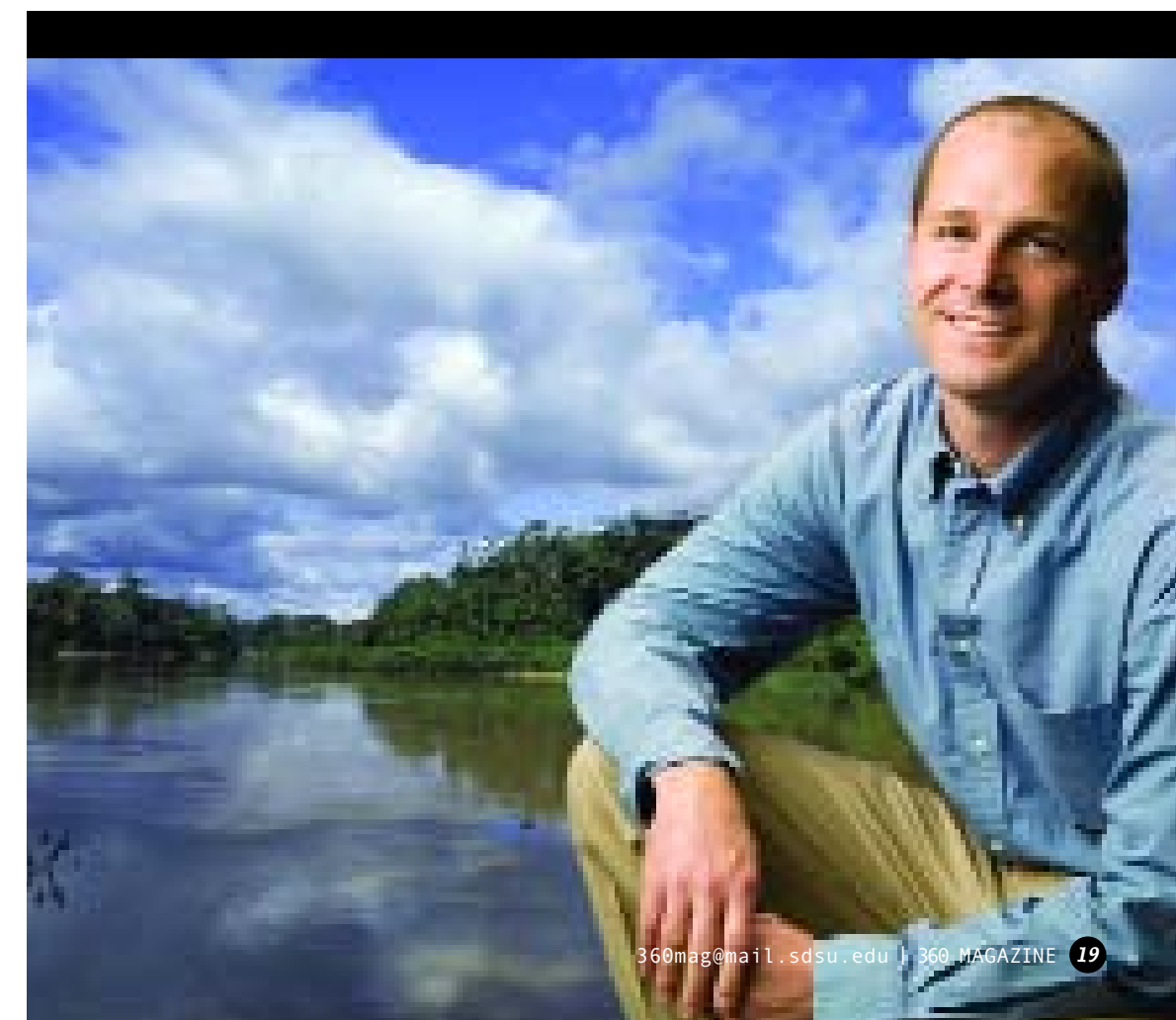
Edward Beighley is a civil engineering professor whose hydrological modeling of the Amazon and Congo basins could restore the predictability of flood cycles and provide critical information on flood plain characteristics. His technique to model global

“I’m trying to better understand how big flood plains behave.”

flooding is anchored in a GIS-based, real-time monitoring and reporting system.

The change in water mass resulting from floods has the power to change the earth’s gravitational signal. Using NASA satellite data, Beighley maps the volume of water throughout a basin for the entire year and compares the altered gravitational signal from his model and the GRACE satellite.

“I’m trying to better understand how big flood plains behave. Then I can tell how changes in rainfall, land use or deforestation will affect the flooding cycle and the corresponding biogeochemical processes in large flood plains.”





Cancer Out Loud

Talking through the fears

By **Gina Speciale**

The cancer journey often begins with a single devastating phone call. The calls rapidly multiply, not unlike cancer cells, into dozens of conversations between patients, doctors, family and friends. Each cancer diagnosis creates a web of individuals seeking hope, solace, remedy and resolution.

Inevitably, communication about cancer is charged with fear and uncertainty. Yet, communication can transform the difficult battle against cancer into a meaningful experience for cancer patients and those who make the journey with them – all of whom are cancer survivors.

Consider the story of San Diego State Communication Professor Wayne Beach. His mother was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1998.

“Once I was in that situation, I realized that the phone calls and communication with family were central to understanding and navigating through the cancer,” said Beach, a conversation analyst.

His mother passed away four short months after being diagnosed. Fresh off the emotional roller coaster, Beach began working on a series of audio recordings he had received from a former graduate student whose mother had succumbed to cancer 10 years earlier.

These cassettes captured 61 phone calls between the son and his family over the 13-month course of her illness.

In the first call, the father informed his son that biopsies revealed a malignant tumor in his mother. The final call occurred just hours prior to her death, as the son updated a long-distance friend of his mother’s impending demise.

Beach recognized the value of these tapes – the first recorded history, in the social and medical sciences, of a family talking through cancer diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. Initially funded by a grant from the American Cancer Society, Beach’s detailed analysis of the 61 taped phone

calls is to be published in a lengthy volume entitled “A Natural History of Family Cancer: Interactional Resources for Managing Illness” (Hampton Press Inc.).

The book analyzes a wide range of fundamental communication practices and patterns comprising family cancer journeys: delivering, receiving and

“All families have to talk through (cancer) to manage their feelings.”

updating bad and good news; managing life in times of uncertainty and crisis; offering and withholding compassion and support; reporting on and assessing medical care; and utilizing storytelling and humor when coping with cancer.

“All families have to talk through an experience like this to understand and manage their feelings of (facing) something very scary,” Beach said.



Getting doctors to listen

Cancer remains the second most common cause of death in this country, exceeded only by heart disease. The American Cancer Society predicts that nearly 560,000 Americans will die of cancer this year. In San Diego alone, 200 to 300 people are diagnosed weekly.

Not surprising, then, that Beach's work has been extended beyond family phone calls to clinical encounters. His research has been recognized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In a new twist on cancer research, Beach is

"Doctors get attached to the chart; it keeps them from hearing the patient."

the first investigator funded by the NIH to examine the details of interactions between cancer patients and their physicians.

As Principal Investigator, Beach collaborates with researchers and doctors at the Moores Cancer Center at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). The project involves video recording interactions between new cancer patients and their oncologists to discover how patients display uncertainties, fears and hopes – and in turn, how doctors respond to patients' concerns.

"The patients ask about how their illness is going to affect their jobs, relationships, their

eating and sleeping habits," Beach said. "Our mission is getting doctors to hear patients and address the questions on their own merits."

Eventually, these basic research findings can be used to design innovative educational opportunities – anchored in digitized video clips and transcriptions of "delicate" moments – for refining the communication skills of patients and their providers.

Dr. David Easter, a surgical oncologist who teaches surgeons during internship and residency, said the skill of learning to communicate with patients isn't explicitly addressed during medical training.

"I try to get my residents to keep from looking at the chart first," Dr. Easter said. "It gives them a new orientation. These are people, not paper. Doctors get attached to what a chart says; it keeps them from really hearing what the patient is saying."

Preliminary research by Beach and co-investigator Wayne Bardwell (UCSD) has turned up several insights into doctor-patient interaction based on the central tenets of conversation analysis.

"Gaze, gestures, touch, body position – we see things on the video that the doctors often miss," Beach said. "When we look back at the tapes, we can point them out and make suggestions as to how to improve responses."

He hopes to transform the research into a teaching tool that will help doctors respond

to the fear, uncertainty and hope their patients express, as well as to their symptoms.

Cycle of despair and hope

Though each cancer diagnosis is different, patients seem to have similar ways of talking through the experience. Beach said close friends and relatives of a cancer patient will recognize the conversations documented in his research.

"It's amazing because the chaos a family goes through, despite how caught up they get in it, seems to be ordered and structured," Beach said. "Bad news is countered with good news; difficult times are balanced with hope and optimism."

That cycle of despair and hope plays out in the 61 telephone calls Beach analyzed, and is at the core of "A Natural History of Family Cancer."

But Beach wanted the emotional power and life affirmation of the taped exchanges to reach a larger audience.

He and Lanie Lockwood, a communication lecturer, produced a theatrical script with language from the naturally occurring conversations between family members. They involved Patricia Loughrey, an SDSU theatre instructor and playwright, who was struck by the potency and authenticity of the material.

"No matter the content of the conversations, whether they were talking about the cancer or the weather, it was equally compelling," said Loughrey, an SDSU alumna with a master's degree in theatre arts. "The family was in this emergency

situation, but there was comfort in talking about how the car battery had died. It was the fact that life goes on."

Loughrey penned "Blue Ducks: Conversations about Cancer," a full-length script written from the dialogue in those 61 phone calls. It was presented as a staged reading on the SDSU campus in March 2006.

A second Loughrey script, "listen," incorporating audience response from the "Blue Ducks" reading, was staged at SDSU's Experimental Theatre last fall.

"There was comfort in talking about how the car battery had died."

Beach is now working with theatre professionals in San Diego to produce a new script based on actual recorded conversations and transcriptions between family members experiencing cancer of a loved one.

He also continues to refine undergraduate and graduate curricula examining how patients, family members and health professionals communicate about cancer.

In this way – through research, books, lectures, plays and readings – the dialogue continues. Each new diagnosis will bring another family and network of health professionals into the conversation about cancer. Wayne Beach wants them to know that they are not alone.



Student Research Symposium
February 29 - March 1

AZTEC CENTER

Come find out why SDSU was ranked the number one small research university in the nation. The Student Research Symposium is a two-day event that recognizes the outstanding scholarly accomplishments of SDSU students. The symposium provides a public forum for SDSU students to present their research, scholarship and creative activities. Visit gra.sdsu.edu/research/studentresearch

Men's Basketball
March 1, 7 p.m.

COX ARENA

See high-flying, above-the-rim action as the Aztec men's basketball team tips off SDSU Month against conference rival Colorado State University in Cox Arena. Cheer on Lorenzo Wade, Kyle Spain, Richie Williams and the rest of Coach Steve Fisher's exciting team. Don't miss your last chance to catch the Aztecs play at home this season. For tickets and more information, visit <http://goaztecs.com>

Uncovering Our Past
March 7, 6 p.m.

HARDY TOWER

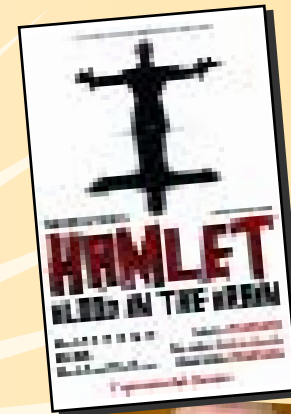
Three years ago, two WPA-era murals painted by SDSU students in the 1930s were found hidden behind ceiling tiles in Hardy Tower. Learn the significance of the paintings and how they were discovered, and experience the murals up close in a lecture by SDSU Anthropology Professor Seth Mallios, Ph.D. Participants will view the still-hidden mural in Hardy Tower; then watch as the restored mural is unveiled in the SDSU Library and Information Access.

SDSU Month 2008

Highlighted Events



Celebrating the minds that move the world.



Hamlet: Blood in the Brain

March 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15 at 8 p.m., March 9 & 16 at 2 p.m.
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE

The Experimental Theatre presents Naomi Iizuka's adaptation of "Hamlet," in which Shakespeare's kingdom of Elsinore is relocated to the drug-ravaged world of Oakland, Calif., in the late 1980s. Iizuka's play captures the tensions within families and between territorialized, shattered communities. For more information call (619) 594-6365 or visit www.theatre.sdsu.edu

Kyoto Laureate Symposium

March 13, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

MONTEZUMA HALL AT AZTEC CENTER

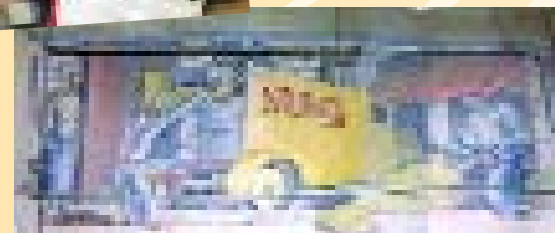
SDSU is proud to host the 2007 Kyoto Laureate Prize winner in Advanced Technology, Dr. Hiroo Inokuchi. His research established the academic basis for studying organic molecular electronics and contributed to the development of the field. Dr. Inokuchi's work has wide-ranging applications; for example, SONY now uses a new flat-panel technology, called organic light-emitting diode (OLED), to produce a brilliant picture on a screen only three millimeters thick. Register for this lecture at www.kyotoprize.org.

Explore SDSU: Open House 2008

March 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SDSU CAMPUS

SDSU welcomes future, current and past Aztecs to campus for an amazing day of information and entertainment. An estimated 15,000 guests will tour high-tech labs and information booths, dance to live entertainment on two stages or participate in our information fair with more than 150 interactive exhibits. Open house features a Family Zone, KPBS characters, games and fun for the whole family. Parking & admission are free.



Aztec Recreation Center

What would it take you to work out? How about a free month's membership at the Aztec Recreation Center during the month of March?



Landmark Theatres

Save on movie tickets during SDSU Month. Buy an adult ticket for the bargain rate.



San Diego Symphony

Take \$10 off of the San Diego Symphony's March 2008 concert tickets!



College of Extended Studies

College of Extended Studies is making it easier for you to "Never Stop Learning" during the month of March.



Costco

Be part of the "members only" club at Costco. Mention SDSU Month when signing up for a Costco membership and get valuable coupons!



Hike, Bike, Kayak

Receive a very special discount off of any kayak/biking tour or surf lesson, rental or team-building event.



Aztec Shops

Aztec Shops is rewarding all Aztecs who wear any SDSU clothing with a 15% discount on new SDSU gear!



The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD)

Visit The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego during March and pay half of the regular admission price.



SeaWorld

Keep the fun coming all year long with a SeaWorld Fun Card. Find out how you can purchase two SeaWorld Fun Cards for \$108!



Windmill Farms

Take 10% off your purchases at Windmill Farms during March!



Elyzium Surfshop

Receive 10% off regular-priced clothing throughout the month of March!



Zumwalt's Bicycle Center

Buy that beach cruiser you've been eyeing tax free or get a special discount off bicycle parts and accessories at Zumwalt's Bicycle Center.



San Diego Latino Film Festival

Attend a very special "Quinceanera" this March at the San Diego Latino Film Festival and save \$3 on admission.



SDSU Athletics

Cheer on the Aztecs at any of our spring games. Buy one ticket and get one free!

Scholarship Challenge

The SDSU Month Scholarship Challenge is back! Through individual donations or by patronizing our partners, you can help support a future leader of industry, science, arts, education or many other fields. For more information, visit www.sdsmonth.com.



Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill has combined the flavors of Baja in a special meal to benefit the 2008 SDSU Month Scholarship Challenge. Rubio's Aztec Plate includes one world-famous fish taco, one crispy shrimp taco, pinto beans and chips for \$6.29, with \$1 from every meal going to support SDSU scholars. Offer good throughout March 2008.

Visit sdsmonth.com for complete information on promotional offers from our SDSU Month Partners



Being There

Favorite places
as you recall them

When Ramon Ryan Tolentino remembers his years at San Diego State University, he recalls proposing marriage in the gardens of Scripps Cottage. Barbara Huntington's memories include watching a hawk raise her young in the towering eucalyptus outside Hardy Tower. For most Aztecs, recollections of their college years conjure up images of certain places on campus. While the mind's eye watches, a sound track replays youthful voices, chiming bells and palm fronds rustling in the breeze.

We asked SDSU alumni to tell us about their favorite places on Montezuma Mesa. Their choices and the associated memories evoke certain moments in time that will resonate with many Aztecs. If there is a common memory among SDSU alumni, it must be the delight of spending long, sunny days on a truly beautiful campus.

Photography by Sandy Huffaker Jr.

— Being There —

“ I have fond memories of the *Quad* between the old library and the archway to the “main” campus. At noon, the area was lively with students. I remember, in particular, a goldfish-eating contest! ”

Patricia Carone Bender, '57

“ An early memory – walking through the *Quad* and seeing a game of volleyball on the sand court. As a guy who loves the beach, I knew I was in the right place. ”

Ralph Rubio, '78



— Being There —

“ Sitting in the windows of *Hepner Hall*, the supports brace your back and the ledges are wide enough to hold you. The breeze blows softly. You can see friends and colleagues walking by. ”

Sharon Swanke, '84



— Being There —

“ The free speech steps at *Aztec Center* is my favorite stage for everything from political assemblies to pep rallies. I remember my fraternity performing step shows there. ”

Reggie Blaylock, '88



Being There

“ My very first concert at the *Open Air Theatre* was in 1992. Seeing the Indigo Girls there will always be a favorite memory. Even on chilly nights, it’s fun to be outside listening to great music. ”

Gina Spidel, '07



Being There

“ *Scripps Cottage*

was a beautiful spot to relax, study or take a quick nap. It’s the place where I first met my wife and also the spot where I proposed to her. ”

Ramon Ryan Tolentino, '03



Being There

“ A favorite place – the big eucalyptus tree in front of *Hardy Tower*.

One year I watched a hawk raise her young there. Another time, it was home to a family of owls. ”

Barbara Weeks Huntington, '68



Photo: Paul Parks

To Touch the Past

Students expose the life
of a San Diego legend.

By Coleen L. Geraghty

*History has a
way of rewriting
people's stories.*

*Its pen can turn eminent
men into gods or monsters.
Unconventional characters
become eccentrics; mavericks
attain hero status.*

About Nate Harrison, San Diego's first African-American resident, this much is fact: he lived on a Palomar Mountain homestead in the late 19th century.

Other details have been obscured by history's lens. Was he industrious or idle? Literate or illiterate? Esteemed or ridiculed?

Lengthy accounts of Nate Harrison's life by historians, journalists and travel writers present contradictory portraits of the former slave who became a legend in his own lifetime.

The real answer is buried on Palomar Mountain, where students from San Diego State University are excavating the Harrison homestead inch by painstaking inch. During four summers of digging, they have unearthed more than 20,000 separate artifacts that date Harrison's tenure on the mountain and reveal details of a life spanning nearly a century.

Life on the mountain

Among the finds are a pre-1865 shell button; a 1916 Buffalo Nickel; dozens of deer bones, indicating that Harrison hunted and sold meat; and several tobacco pipe mouthpieces, significant because in historic images, Harrison is photographed with his pipe and attached mouthpiece.

"In the late 1800s, you proved that you had made it to the top of the

mountain by having your photo taken with Nate – that's why there are so many photos of him in existence," said Jaime Lennox, a graduate student who assists SDSU Anthropology Professor Seth Mallios in running the summer field school on Palomar Mountain.

Lennox and other students brave the bugs, heat and dust for four weeks each summer to find the pieces that will complete the puzzle of Nate Harrison's life. After the dig, they clean, label and catalogue the artifacts, researching each one to determine its use as well as the place and date of manufacture.

An exotic anomaly

The archaeological process also involves poring over historical records that may reveal another dimension of the puzzle. In researching Harrison, SDSU students found written evidence of his impact on the developing San Diego landscape.

"He impacted the land directly by building a cabin, tending to livestock, planting trees," according to the Nate Harrison Historical Archaeology Project Web site compiled by Mallios and students (<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~histarch/>).

"Harrison also indirectly influenced activity on the mountain by facilitating greater use of the road. He supplied travelers with water, but he also provided something much more enticing – himself. This former slave who chose to live at a great distance from the city was an exotic anomaly for the region, and he was charismatic as well."

In summer 2008, SDSU archaeology students will climb Palomar Mountain once again. It will be Jaime Lennox's fifth dig at the Harrison homestead. Despite the inevitable bugs, heat and dust, she wouldn't miss it.

"Archaeology adds another dimension to history," Lennox said. "We get to touch the past."

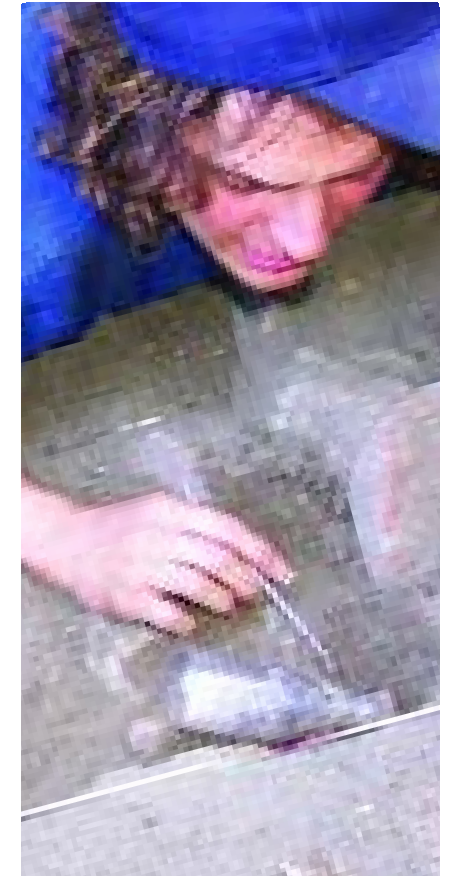


Photo: Courtesy of Seth Mallios

Above, anthropology student Gregory Jones excavates a complete bottle in the patio area adjacent to Nate Harrison's cabin.



Photo: Lauren Radack

Sister Act. There's magic at work when Quenese and Coco Davis share the court.

Off the basketball court, Quenese and Coco Davis could be any two friends grabbing lunch or hitting the books. Most observers would overlook a slight resemblance in the shape of their eyes and the curve of their jaws.

But when the buzzer blasts and the court erupts with sound and motion, there's no mistaking the chemistry that transforms these sisters into a potent force on the San Diego State women's basketball team.

Together this season for the first time as Aztecs, the Davis sisters inject a unique blend of energy and excitement into the game. Their strong sense of each other displays on the court with moves that transcend the playbook.

"They make the kinds of plays coaches don't write, the kind that happen when two people have been playing together for a long time," said Beth Burns, SDSU women's basketball coach. "They love, live and talk the game. It's their life."

Quenese (friends call her Q) was the first of the sisters to come to Montezuma Mesa. A freshman last season, she led the Mountain West Conference (MWC) in assists. She also ranked first in assists nationally among college freshmen. This year, as point guard and co-captain of the Aztecs, Quenese is the personification of Coach Burns' strategy.

"Q plays the fast, full-court game that is our trademark. I can give her keys to the car and let her drive," Burns said. "She joined when the team was at the bottom. She had to trust me and believe we could turn it around."

That the Aztec women have turned it around this season is due to no single player. Certainly a measure of the credit belongs to four young team members – freshmen Paris Johnson, Allison Duffy, Jene' Morris and Coco Davis.

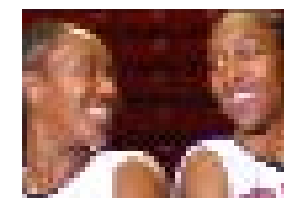
The youngest of seven Davis children, Coco is a star in her own right. A high school coach praised her "tremendous court vision," and Burns applauds Coco's work ethic and responsive style.

"After last year, I knew we needed a great guard," Burns recalled. "I scouted others, but I kept coming back to Coco; she was the best. Because she works hard and asks questions, she gets better all the time."

The Aztecs have been working hard this season to pull themselves up from a seventh place finish in the MWC last year and a ninth place finish the year before. Among the youngest teams in the MWC, they are poised to become a league powerhouse.

As Burns points out, when siblings commit to the same team, you know you're doing something right.

— Coleen L. Geraghty



Affair of the Heart. Shileys Establish Center for Cardiovascular Research

By Nicole K. Millett

A shared appreciation of the theater and an interest in science were catalysts for Darlene and Donald Shiley's enduring relationship.

Three decades later, it is their steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life for San Diegans, and all of humanity, that moved Darlene to establish the Donald P. Shiley Center for Cardiovascular Research at SDSU. A \$1.25-million leadership gift to the SDSU BioScience Center honors her husband's contributions to the field.

Donald and Darlene Shiley have worked tirelessly on behalf of the San Diego community for years, as philanthropists and dedicated civic leaders, advocates and volunteers for numerous causes. According to SDSU President Stephen L. Weber, their philanthropic savvy makes this gift all the more meaningful.

"The Shileys are astute investors, and they support innovative enterprises," Weber said. "The establishment of the Donald P. Shiley Center for Cardiovascular Research is a proud moment for San Diego State University, as it reflects Donald's commitment to entrepreneurship in the life sciences and the Shiley's shared belief in the importance of providing a strong educational foundation for future leaders in the field."

Some may say that the Shiley's love story is one of destiny or fate, since the wheels were set in motion years before they ever met.



Darlene and Donald Shiley

Darlene entered San Jose State University as a biology major intent on pursuing a teaching career. Over time, she retained her interest in science but realized the field was not her true calling. Her decision to change career paths – from science to theater – led her to Donald, the love of her life. The couple met after a production of "The Lion in Winter," in which Darlene starred.

Donald was an entrepreneurial and innovative engineer whose work focused largely on biomechanical inventions. He holds several patents, including one for creating the titling disc Bjork-Shiley artificial heart valve, an invention that revolutionized heart surgery and saved an untold number of lives. Darlene's interest in science made Donald all the more intriguing to her. It was, as they say, 'a match made in heaven.'



SDSU BioScience Center

But Darlene and Donald are not the type to ride off into the sunset. They care far too much. So, rather than resting on their laurels, the couple made it their mission to help others – through Donald's medical inventions, by enhancing understanding and building bridges in support of the arts in San Diego, and through funding groundbreaking scientific research and exemplary teaching in institutions of higher education.

"As a product of the California State University system, I'm keenly aware that San Diego State needs private support in order to produce the caliber of graduates capable of doing the kind of amazing work my husband did during his career," Darlene said. "I'm incredibly proud of him."

"Public universities simply don't have gigantic endowments to fuel innovation. They need help. Donald and I recognize that the research being done in SDSU's BioScience Center is on the cutting edge. Faculty and students are working side by side, studying how underlying factors such as infection and inflammation could identify new approaches to heart disease."

The BioScience Center brings together accomplished researchers from a variety of fields, including microbiology, cardiovascular biology, infectious disease and immunology, to work toward finding cures for heart disease.

SDSU BioScience Center Director Roberta Gottlieb, M.D., said it is an incredible honor for the center's third floor to bear the Shiley name. "Donald's development of the artificial heart valve was an innovative response to a very real need in the cardiovascular field," Gottlieb said. "The BioScience Center intends to develop creative responses just like his to address today's pressing health concerns."

The Shileys will soon celebrate 30 years of marriage. Their bond is stronger than ever, as is their love of the arts, science and San Diego.

Study Abroad Bolsters Hospitality and Tourism Management

Mary Sample Willette was a teenager when she met Meral Korzay, a Turkish student studying in San Diego through a Rotary exchange program. The two have maintained a lifelong friendship while living on different continents.

Cultural differences have enriched their bond, and so has a common interest in hospitality and tourism. William Sample, Mary's father, was co-founder of Atlas Hotels, which started with the Town and Country Hotel, a premier property in Mission Valley. Meral's interest in the field arose later, when she began a career teaching hospitality and tourism management classes at Istanbul's Bogazici University.

According to Mary, her lifelong friendship with Meral, as well as her parent's devotion to their business, motivated her to create a legacy within the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) at San Diego State. Her significant planned gift to the university created the William Sample and Fern Sample

Stanford Memorial Endowment to Enhance International Exchange, a source of funding that will exist in perpetuity.

"I felt it was important to honor my parents while also encouraging students to study abroad," Mary said. "Through my own experiences, I've learned that international travel helps to expand your perspective and how you view the world."

The Willette endowment will eventually provide a minimum of \$60,000 annually in support of international study for HTM students and for international students interested in studying the field at SDSU. Honoring Mary's strong connection to Meral, preference will be given to those who study abroad at Bogazici University. A portion of the funding will also support HTM faculty participation in foreign exchange programs and activities.

HTM Director Carl Winston said Mary's contribution aligns perfectly

with the vision of SDSU's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

"SDSU has one of the largest study abroad programs in the country, and we're consistently ranked with the best," Winston said. "Global orientation is a component of all SDSU schools and programs, especially within the tourism specialty."

"Our new emphasis in sustainable tourism requires a semester abroad. Mary's gift will make this possible for many students, including those who couldn't otherwise afford it. She is helping us offer invaluable hands-on experience to support our students' personal growth, as well as their careers, and we are grateful for her vision and generosity."

To read about other "gifts in action," visit our online Donor Honor Roll at makingadifference.sdsu.edu. For more information about planned giving at SDSU, go to SDSUGift.org or call 619-594-1793.

—Nicole K. Millett

Class Notes

1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s

1950s

'50: **John S. Moorhouse** (mathematics), a retired manager with the U.S. Postal Service, is a member of the Coronado Police Department's senior volunteer patrol.

'51: **Rev. Earl Langguth** (zoology) is the author of "Illuminations," a book of Christian poetry (Tate Publishing).

'59: **James Sinegal** (real estate; '99, honorary LHD) was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Byrd School and its Institute for Entrepreneurship. He is co-founder and CEO of Costco Wholesale Corp.

1960s

'68: **Barbara Wetherbee Hightower** (kinesiology; '81, MA education) taught for 20 years in the Lakeside Union School District. She is listed in the 2006 edition of "Who's Who among America's Teachers."

'69: **Edward Wright** ★ (accounting) finished 26th in his age group in the duathlon world championship in Hungary last year. He was representing the U.S. for the seventh time in that event; **Robert Svet** (public administration) is chair and founder of the Eastridge Group of Staffing Companies, which is among the top 100 staffing companies nationally.

1970s

'72: **Patrick Joseph Heacock** ★ (mathematics; '79, MA education) retired after 35 years in education. He was principal of the year in 1995 for the Moreno Valley School District; **Richard Rose** (English; '75, MA English), author of "Moveable Forts and Magazines: A Novel of Vietnam," has moved to Aztec Ruin Way in Henderson, Nev. He writes, "There is no doubt I'm an Aztec, and since I'm 76, some may consider me a ruin."

'74: **Lizbeth Urick Heacock** ★ (child development; '76, teaching credential), retired in 2007 after 23 years teaching 8th grade. She was middle school teacher of the year in 2000 and 2001 for the Moreno Valley Unified School District; **Susan Mitchell** ('79, MA, both in English) recently retired as associate vice president for student academic support services with emeritus status after 32 years in the CSU system. She held Student Affairs positions at SDSU and Cal State San Marcos.

Please send your news to the SDSU Alumni Association, 5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA 92182-1690 or aluminfo@mail.sdsu.edu. ★ = annual member; ☆ = life member

When I was at State...

The top steps of the old football stadium was my favorite spot on campus. From there, you could sit and enjoy the mighty Marching



Aztec Bowl

Aztecs (nearly 300 strong in the 1970s). Not only was it a place to escape the crowds, it was also the most open part of the campus. The view to the northwest was fantastic. If you were fit enough

to climb a million stairs, there was often a place to park at the open end of the bowl.

Lt. Dexter Thomas of the Ontario, Calif., Police Department was a member of the Marching Aztecs from 1976 to 1979.

Do you have a favorite memory from your days at San Diego State? Write to us at 360mag@mail.sdsu.edu

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Immediate Past President: Chuck Luby '64
President Elect: Adrienne Finley '71
Vice President for Membership, Marketing and Communications: Brigand Kline '01
Vice President for Finance and Contracts: Marco Polo Cortes '95
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Vice President for AC Operations: Jerry Dunaway '99
Vice President for Constituency Relations: Martha Beckman
TCF Liaison: Bruce Ives '89
Executive Director: Jim Herrick
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Past Presidents: (* denotes deceased)
 2007 Chuck Luby; 2006 Erica Opstad; 2005 Bruce Ives; 2004 Jerry Dressel; 2003 Matt Dathe; 2002 Tamara McLeod; 2001 Bill Trumpfheller; 2000 Ash Hayes; 1999 John McMullen; 1998 Richard West; 1997 Frederick W. Pierce, IV; 1996 Lois Bruhn; 1995 Tom Jimenez; 1994 Nancy Reed Gibson; 1993 Jerry Dressel; 1992 Walter Turner, Jr.; 1991 James B. Kuhn; 1990 Art Flaming; 1989 Bernard P. Rhinerson; 1988 Craig Evanco; 1987 David E. DeVol; 1986 Dr. Morton Jorgensen; 1985 Denise Carabet; 1984 Robert Chapman; 1983 William Hastings; 1982 Thomas Carter*; 1981 Walter Weisman; 1980 Don Harrington; 1979 Nicole Clay; 1978 Daniel Bamberg; 1977 Allan Bailey; 1976 Richard Troncone; 1975 & 1974 Robert Battenfield; 1973 Robert Butler; 1972 R. Scott Snell; 1971 James H. Ashcraft; 1970 A. Kendall Wood; 1969 Michael Rogers; 1968 Gerald S. Davee; 1967 Dr. Louis Robinson*; 1966 Daniel Hale; 1964 Wallace Featheringill; 1963 Ed Blessing; 1962 Hon. Frank Nottbusch, Jr.*; 1961 Bryant Kearney*; 1960 & 1959 Lynn McLean; 1958 Harvey Urban*; 1957 Ken Barnes*; 1954 Dwain Kantor*; 1948 Joe Suozzo; 1947 Robert Breitbart; 1945 Barney Carman*; 1940 Sue Earnest*; 1939 Bert McLees, Jr.*; 1938 Donald Clarkson*; 1937 Robert Barbour*; 1936 Jefferson Stickney*; 1935 Terrence Geddis*; 1934 Richmond Barbour*; 1933 Helen C. Clark*; 1932 Earl Andreen*; 1931 Vesta Muehleisen*.

Ex-officio/ Non-voting Directors:
 Edith Benkov, Mary Ruth Carleton, Michelle McBride, James Poet, Stephen L. Weber

STAFF

Executive Director: Jim Herrick
Associate Director: Tammy Blackburn '94, '01
Director, Alumni Programs: Cheryl Trtan
Alumni Chapter Coordinator: Diane Barragan
Assistant Membership Coordinator: Robin Breen
Administrative Assistant: Donna Buttner '91
Alumni Center Campaign Coordinator: Andy Hanshaw
Program Coordinator: Jen Ranallo
Membership & Marketing Assistant: Kelley Suminski
Analyst/Programmer: Ed Tuley
Communications Specialist: Tobin Vaughn
Lifetime Membership Coordinator: Ashleigh Yturralde '04
Student Assistants: Michelle Adams, Diana Moreno

Class Notes

1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s

1970s

'74: **Lizbeth Urick Heacock** ★ (child development; '76, teaching credential), retired in 2007 after 23 years teaching 8th grade. She was middle school teacher of the year in 2000 and 2001 for the Moreno Valley Unified School District; **Susan Mitchell** ('79, MA, both in English) recently retired as associate vice president for student academic support services with emeritus status after 32 years in the CSU system. She held Student Affairs positions at SDSU and Cal State San Marcos.

'75: **Mary Dacey** (graphic arts) was co-winner of the Los Angeles Police Department's detective coin design award; **Jean Buehner Marmet** (kinesiology) is in her eighth year at Dana Middle School in Point Loma. She teaches fifth graders to be "Too Fit to Quit."

'76: **Chris Hardaker** (anthropology) has written "The First American: The Suppressed Story of the People Who Discovered the New World" (New Page Books).

'77: **Sue Blackman** (political science) relocated to San Francisco as secretary/custodian of records for the San Francisco Public Library; **Lisa Lieberman** (MSW) is a psychotherapist in Lake Oswego, Oregon. She wrote "A Stranger Among Us," a guide to hiring one-to-one support for children and young adults with disabilities.

'78: **Claudia Dunaway** (MA communicative disorders) received the Rolland J. Van Hattum Award for outstanding commitment and contributions to the schools from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.

1980s

'79: **Eunis Christensen** ★ ('93, MBA, both in finance) is president of the American Association of University Women, San Diego branch. She owns C.A.S.H.Fit Financial & Insurance Services, which creates retirement income strategies for Baby Boomers; **Melinda Morgan** (journalism) president of Morgan Marketing & Public Relations, is also an adjunct professor in the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University.

'80: **Chris Coles** (accounting) is CFO for Cobblestone Homes, a residential land development and homebuilding company. He also serves on the California Building Industry Association's budget & finance committee; **Jim Kentris** (history), principal at Independent Elementary School, was named Administrator of the Year for the Castro Valley School District in California.

'81: **Tim Grotts** (geological sciences) recently joined Summit Consulting International in Orange County, specializing in construction management/litigation.

'84: **Darrell Guillaume** ('87, MS, both in mechanical engineering), was named outstanding professor at Cal State Los Angeles. His NASA- and NSF-funded research involves unmanned aerial vehicles and gas turbine engines; **Judy Bell Forrester** (management) is president/CEO of LEAD San Diego, educating civic leaders in the San Diego/Baja region; **Blaine Bachman** (information systems) was named a certified software quality engineer by the American Society for Quality. He is a test engineer with Justice Systems, Inc.

'85: **James Desmond** (electrical engineering) is mayor of San Marcos, a board member of SANDAG and the San Diego Airport Authority, and a pilot with Delta Airlines; **Craig Horowitz** (psychology) is publisher of Aquarium Fish International, Water Garden News and Pond magazines.

Class Notes

1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s

1980s

'86: **Sue Ganz-Schmitt** (marketing) published the children's book "Even Superheroes Get Diabetes" about a boy who uses superpowers to help other children with diabetes; **Mark Olesh** (television/film) is South Florida regional director for Keller Williams Realty, overseeing 30 offices; **David Cook** (political science) is regional vice president, commercial lines, for AIG Companies, Japan and Korea.

'87: **David Gibbs** (MS computer science), professor of computer information systems at the University of Wisconsin -Stevens Point, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at the Malta College of Art, Science, and Technology; **Terri Funk Graham** ★ (marketing) was promoted to senior vice president

and chief marketing officer for Jack in the Box Inc., responsible for the research and development group; **Christopher Cady** ★ (finance), a division president for Pulte Homes, is also president of the Building Industry Assn. of Northern California.

'88: **Karen S. Stiner** (management) won an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator fellowship. A mathematics teacher in Oregon, Stiner will work at the Department of Energy in 2007-2008; **Gregory Finch** (aerospace engineering) was a U.S. Air Force combat pilot in the first Gulf War and a commercial pilot for American Airlines. He is now a broker with Crown City Real Estate; **Anna Carney** (MM clarinet performance) is an assistant lecturer in music at Texas A&M University; **Tamela Ridley**

(finance) founded and operates Friars Folly Wine Cellar, a wine bar, restaurant and live entertainment venue in San Marcos; **Stephen LeVine** (communicative sciences), a senior vice president with the International Service Center, is responsible for real estate development and construction management.

'90: **Roxanne Ornelas** (criminal justice) received a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Minnesota and was awarded the 2007-2008 post-doctoral fellowship in the Program on Race, Gender, and Public Policy at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

'91: **Jeffrey Haire** (criminal justice) retired after 20 years with the Torrance Police Department;

Digging Deep

Construction is scheduled to begin in March on the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center at SDSU.

By the end of 2009, the \$11 million center should be open for events, reunions, seminars and SDSU Alumni Association activities. Features will include a Great Hall, a Past Presidents' Board Room, smaller meeting rooms, a reception area featuring a donor honor wall and a large rotunda with inscribed pavers and tiles.

"The Parma Payne Goodall Center will be the place where the campus and community connect," said Jim Herrick, executive director of the SDSU Alumni Association.

The center is named for three friends who made construction possible with their joint gift of \$2.7 million. They are Leon Parma ('51), Robert Payne ('55) and Jack Goodall ('60).

Located at 55th Street and Montezuma Ave., with ample parking right next door, the center will serve 200,000-plus alumni in San Diego County and beyond. Look for an opportunity to purchase pavers and tiles during the spring.



Dreaming Big

A little girl with big dreams has been given the chance to attend San Diego State on full scholarship.

Ten-year-old Brittnie Pemberton was part of a Salvation Army project through which homeless youngsters used disposable cameras to express their hopes for the future. Pemberton snapped a photo of the stone marker that designates the entrance to campus and added the caption – “I hope to get a scholarship.”

Her image made the Pictures of Hope holiday card collection distributed by the Salvation Army last year, and found its way to the desk of Bill Trumpfheller, president of the SDSU Alumni Association. At Trumpfheller’s urging, the executive committee of the alumni board approved a full tuition and fee scholarship for Pemberton if she can meet admission requirements to SDSU and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 during her attendance.

Pemberton and her mother, Tonya, got to visit the campus in December and meet SDSU President Stephen Weber, who told the youngster that if she works hard, “there will always be others working just as hard to help her achieve her dreams.”



Class Notes

1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s

1990s

Educator fellowship. A mathematics teacher in Oregon, Stiner will work at the Department of Energy in 2007-2008; **Gregory Finch** (aerospace engineering) was a U.S. Air Force combat pilot in the first Gulf War and a commercial pilot for American Airlines. He is now a broker with Crown City Real Estate; **Anna Carney** (MM clarinet performance) is an assistant lecturer in music at Texas A&M University; **Tamela Ridley** (finance) founded and operates Friars Folly Wine Cellar, a wine bar, restaurant and live entertainment venue

in San Marcos; **Stephen LeVine** (communicative sciences), a senior vice president with the International Service Center, is responsible for real estate development and construction management.

'90: **Roxanne Ornelas** (criminal justice) received a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Minnesota and was awarded the 2007-2008 postdoctoral fellowship in the Program on Race, Gender, and Public Policy at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

'91: **Jeffrey Haire** (criminal justice) retired after 20 years with the Torrance Police Department; **Jeffrey Barger** (finance) completed the graduate-level program in advanced management at Pacific Coast Banking School.

'92: **Andee Aceves** (teaching credential; '03, MA math curriculum) was a California Teacher of the Year for 2008. She teaches third grade at San Altos Elementary School in Lemon Grove.

'93: **Jason Belpert** (psychology)

Class Notes

1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s

1990s

is an underwater photographer and manager of dive operations for Brac Reef Beach Resort in the British West Indies; **Colin Mason** (BM jazz performance) is chair of the Department of Performing Arts at Temple College in Texas; **Mark Regan** (accounting) is controller for Clarus Systems, a provider of IP telephony software and services.

2000s

'94: **Timothy Towler** (MA education) was the 2006-2007 high

school teacher of the year for the San Diego Unified School District. He teaches biology and computer science at the San Diego High School of International Studies.

'95: **Todd R. Vaccaro** (MS astronomy) has joined Francis Marion University in South Carolina as an assistant professor of physics. **Laurie Firestone Siedelman** (psychology; '97, MA rehabilitation counseling) is program manager of Pathway at UCLA Extension, a two-

year college program for young adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. She also serves on the California Consortium on Post Secondary Education for People with Developmental Disabilities.

'96: **Robert J. Frank** (MS geological sciences) is a senior hydrogeologist at CH2M HILL in Tempe, Ariz. He was recently appointed to a two-year term on the Arizona

In Memoriam

1928: Sue Earnest; 1929: Lucile Couvrette Banks.

1934: Virginia Paul; 1935: John Northall Williams; 1938: Katherine Wilson Clark; 1939: Betty Curtis Dose.

1941: Loy Flor, Mary Virginia Gault; 1943: Henry Ahler, Dorothy Linthicum; 1944: Richard Fritzenkotter; 1945: Frances Burney, Janet Stewart Stockdale; 1947: Marilyn Clark, Patti Jean Click, Benjamin Hamrick; 1948: Gerald Allen, Iris Seewald; 1949: Edward Johns, Dwain Kantor, Norman Polonsky, Roy Vickery, George Ziegenfuss.

1950: Edward Alf, Robert Arnold, Joseph Benintende, Jay Timmons, Barbara Wahler Watkins; 1951: Edward Eiche, Daniel Gibbs; 1953: Barbara Maltby Welton; 1954: Patricia Peterson Fink; 1956: Barbara Sawers Beckstrand, Ronald Stewart; 1957: Lawrence Haley, Janet Lueken, Larry Lynes; 1958: Chris Demos, Hazel Osborne; 1959: Gary Letson, Phyllis Street Niewoehner.

1960: Stephen Andrews; 1961: William Darton; 1962: Elwyn Loss; 1964: William Garrison, Ruth Rowe; 1966: Gary Barnes, George Byrom, Nancy Christian, Robert Ewalt, Timothy MacNeill; 1967: Leon Osborne; 1968: Gail Lee Markland, William Schaefer; 1969: Gale Burkey.

1970: Harry Conner; 1971: John Bradford, Gary Vance; 1973: Wilfred Boettiger, Juanita Value Davis,

Joe Henry Duran, Steven Hossman, Kerrylou Keehn, Robert Melton; 1974: Stanley Metelski, Norman Nilson; 1975: Louise Darby, Joan Goossens; 1976: Martin Hauck, Robert Lewis, Dorothy Wheeler; 1977: Debra Brassard, Valdene Vanote, Mildred Williams; 1978: James Creasy, Scott Forsberg, Barry Parr; 1979: Beatriz Arreola, Stephen Balint, Kathryn Rotzinger.

1980: Everett Bobbitt, Jeffrey Deardoff, Jason Treiber; 1981: Kirk Brisbin, Briana Elliot, Kevin Purtell, Kenneth Rush, Sarah Thompson; 1982: Robert Eberhardt, Art Gargiulo, Charles Garten, Josephine Barbeau Gwynne, Amelia Luera Martinez; 1984: Matthew DeRosa; 1987: Carol Drogan Hill, Joan Nelson Lindgren, Louise Thistledicken; 1988: Suzanne Fisher Carroll; 1989: Paul Johnson.

1990: Mary Frances Bayles; 1991: Hilary Aline Hardin, Christopher Starkovsky, Joyce Yeldell; 1992: Diane Ameng; 1993: Trina Mescher; 1995: Dennis Brown, Emily Wade; 1996: Neil Hepburn; 1998: Benjamin Sherman; 1999: Brigitte Bardell.

2000: Ingrid Arambulo; 2001: Eric Cabral; 2005: Carolena Hinojosa.

YEAR UNKNOWN: Noeline Delgado, Raymond Jones, Ruth MacKenzie, Rene Sevilla, Frederick Shapley, Minnie Turner, Richard Wheelock.

The 2008 Monty Award Winners

The Montys, sponsored annually by the SDSU Alumni Association, is one of the most anticipated events on the San Diego State University calendar. This year's gala dinner and awards presentation, honoring 11 distinguished alumni and friends of the university, is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, 2008, at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina. For tickets and additional information, visit alumni.sdsu.edu/montys or contact Cheryl Tritan at 619-594-ALUM (2586) or crtan@mail.sdsu.edu.

College of Arts and Letters Pam Slater-Price

Pam Slater-Price ('70 English, '85 teaching credential) has been involved in local government for nearly two decades, serving as Encinitas councilwoman and mayor before her election to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. She has a reputation as an advocate for open-space preservation, economic growth, increased transportation spending, law enforcement, animal welfare, arts promotion and programs protecting victims of domestic violence.

College of Business Administration Mark McMillin

Mark McMillin ('79 marketing) is co-chair and CEO of The Corky McMillin Companies, which operate in three states and include San Diego's largest commercial developer and independent real estate firm. He serves on The Campanile Foundation Board and the President's Leadership Fund while providing support for SDSU's real estate program, the SDSU Alumni Association and civic, arts and educational programs throughout San Diego.

College of Education Janet Sinegal

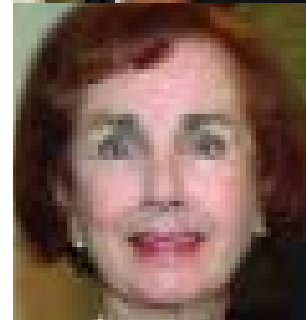
Janet Sinegal ('62 business administration, '63 teaching credential) supports education and a variety of educational causes through her philanthropic work. In the past few years, her commitment has enabled scores of low income, high-achieving teaching-credential candidates to attend SDSU. Her endeavors include support for The Foundation for Early Learning, MENTOR and many other organizations focusing on the health and well-being of children.

College of Engineering Stephen Doyle

Stephen Doyle ('80 civil engineering), president of the San Diego-Riverside division for Brookfield Homes, has served as president of both the California Building Industry and the Building Industry Association of San Diego, and is currently a member of San Diego's Affordable Housing Task Force. He was 2007 chair of the Pacific Coast Builders Conference and is a recent inductee into the California Building Industry Foundation's Hall of Fame.

College of Health and Human Services Darlene Gould Davies, Professor Emerita

Darlene Gould Davies ('62 communicative sciences, '65 communicative disorders), a professor emerita, has made important contributions to the university and the San Diego region as an educator, speech language pathologist, producer and supporter of the arts. She has served on several mayoral committees and cultural and philanthropic boards, contributing vision, dedication, leadership and innovative thinking.



College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts Cupcake Brown

Cupcake Brown ('98 criminal justice) is an attorney, author and motivational speaker whose personal success story has received worldwide attention. Her extraordinary journey from life on the streets to the New York Times best-seller list includes graduating magna cum laude from SDSU and earning a degree from one of the most prestigious law schools in California. Through her writing and public appearances, she inspires audiences around the globe.



College of Sciences David Warner, M.D., Ph.D.

David Warner, M.D., Ph.D. ('86 physical science), is known internationally for pioneering new methods of physiologically based, human-computer interaction. He is CIO and director of medical intelligence for MindTel LLC, which solves communication, health care, education and recreation problems. He also directs the Institute for Interventional Informatics, an organization dedicated to the intelligent use of interactive information technologies in healthcare and education.



Library and Information Access Michael John Novacek, Ph.D.

Michael John Novacek, Ph.D. ('74 biology), is senior vice president and provost of science and curator of paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History. An internationally celebrated paleontologist, he has led successful expeditions throughout the world and is well known for his authorship of more than 200 publications, including articles in the preeminent international journals *Science* and *Nature*.



Imperial Valley Campus Miguel Rahiotis

Miguel Rahiotis ('82 psychology, '89 counseling) is assistant dean of student affairs at SDSU's Imperial Valley Campus, where he has been voted Outstanding Staff Member four of the last five years. His work on the Imperial County Preschool-16 Council and his outreach efforts promoting a culture of college attendance throughout the Imperial Valley have contributed to Imperial County's statewide rank of seventh for high school graduates going directly to college.



Distinguished Alumni Service Award James Erkenbeck

James Erkenbeck ('53 entomology, '58 biology) is a former Aztec football player and coach, an NFL coach, and retired U.S. Marine Corps. lieutenant colonel, who now employs his leadership skills as chair of the SDSU Alumni Association's War Memorial Committee. With his guidance, the committee recently invited representatives of the SDSU Student Veteran's Association to join, bringing multigenerational participation to the annual War Memorial ceremony.



Distinguished University Service Award Jeff Glazer

Jeff Glazer ('81 MBA), a full-time lecturer in the College of Business Administration, is in his second term with The Campanile Foundation. A past member of the President's Council and the College of Business Advisory Board, he also served a six-year term on the SDSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. In that role, he was a member of the executive committee and actively involved in the Alumni Center Campaign.

By Degrees

Jake Falzone

Hometown: Newbury Park, California

Career ambition: music industry executive

As a resident adviser at Chapultepec, you got good reviews for the drug and substance awareness program you developed for residents this year. Yes, another R.A., Alyssa Root, and I decided to get creative. We asked students to fill out an anonymous survey about tobacco, drug, alcohol and substance abuse. Then we showed them a PowerPoint based on their answers. We didn't want to point fingers and say, "don't do this." We wanted to give them information so they would understand the consequences of their actions.

Some people call SDSU a "party school." What's your take on that? I think that reputation is unfair. Yes, the environment here is very social, but that's not bad. What I love about SDSU is that I'm constantly meeting new people. In the residence halls, I try to create a friendly atmosphere that brings out the best in everyone.

What's your favorite place on campus? I really enjoy the campus as a whole. One of the best parts of my day is plugging into my iPod and walking to class, enjoying the scenery this place has to offer. I fell in love with the campus the first time I saw it, and that was a key reason I chose State. I want the place I live to be a place I enjoy seeing every day.

What do you want to do after graduation? Music defines me. I want to work in the music industry, but I'm more of a behind-the-scenes guy.

I'd love to be in a position to steer the industry in a certain direction like Bono and Al Gore, who mix humanitarian ideas with music and make big things happen. I want to use music to bring harmony and peace to the world.

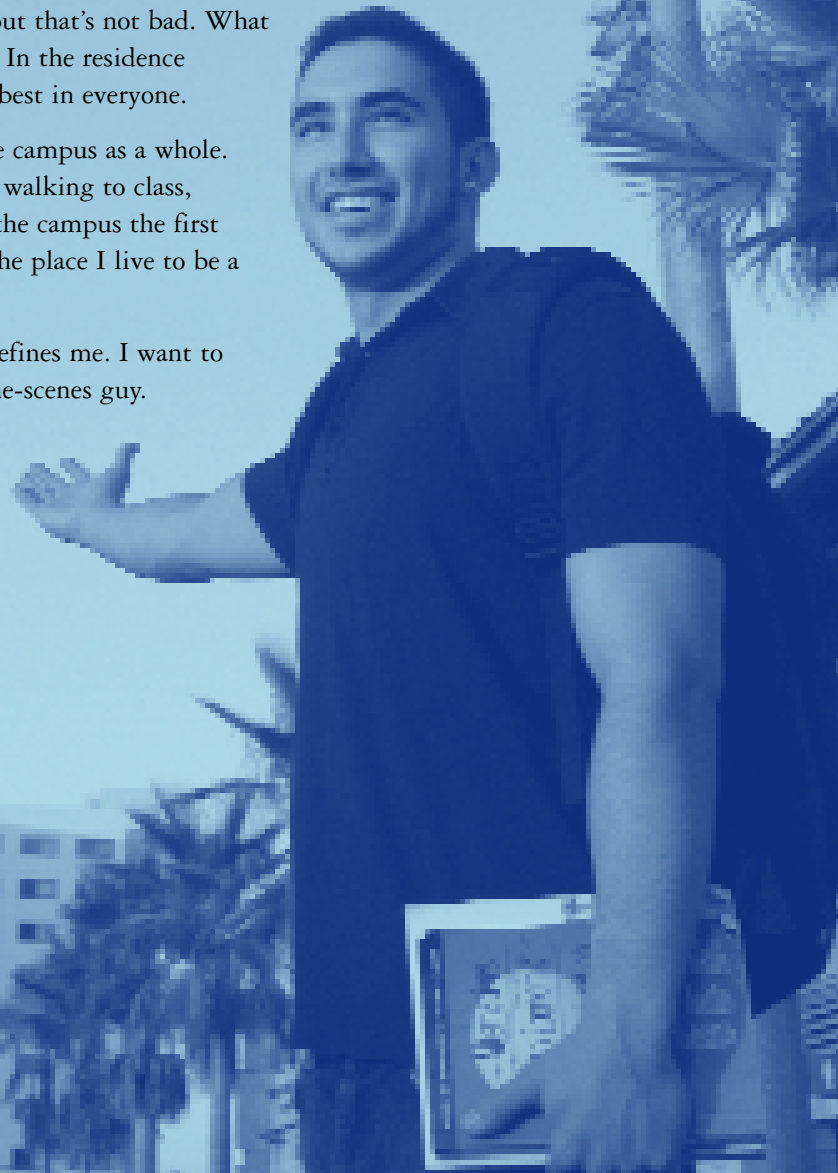


Photo: Ion Moe

San Diego State's high-caliber students, stellar faculty, entrepreneurial research and academic programs of distinction benefit from contributions received from dedicated alumni, faculty and staff, students, parents and friends.

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