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Thu Tran will display his award-winning bonsai plants in Founders Gallery on August 27 and 28. Tran recently won three first-place awards from the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. (See story on page four.)

Staff Employee Association Update

Congratulations to Arts and Sciences' Diane West, who won the SEA raffle for a ticket to the July 14 All Star Baseball Game at Jack Murphy Stadium. West gave the ticket to her 76-year-old father, a long-time Padres fan. “My Dad had a great time,” says West. “He never thought he would ever make it to an All Star game.”

Admissions' Margaret Ames is looking for fellow employees to purchase Summer Pops concert tickets at a discount. Tickets will be available for the following performances:

- **Wednesday, August 12,** “George Gershwin,” featuring the overture to “Girl Crazy,” “Second Rhapsody” and a symphonic picture of “Porgy and Bess.” Tickets $8.50.

- **Friday, Aug. 28,** “Glen Miller Night,” from “Tuxedo Junction” to “Moonlight Serenade,” this show will put you “In the Mood!” Tickets $10.

- **Friday, Sept. 4,** “A Tchaikovsky Spectacular,” Finale from Symphony No. 4, Romeo and Juliet, excerpts form Swan Lake and Nutcracker. Tickets $10.

The tickets are for the gallery area, and money must be received 10 days before the performance. Make checks payable to Margaret Ames, and send to her in Undergraduate Admissions, Serra Hall 203. For more information, call Ames at ext. 2561.

Mark Sept. 16 on your calendars. That's when USD employees can celebrate Mexican Independence Day with food, dancing and music. The SEA will be selling Mexican food in front of the university center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call Kristen Zagerella at ext. 4754.

The next SEA meeting will be Aug. 19 in Serra Conference room. All employees are welcome to attend. For more information, call Pat Lee at ext. 2405, or Cheance Adair at ext. 4259.
**USD Job Opportunities**

**You can read about USD job opportunities in the following locations:**
- Copley Library: (Binder located at the Circulation desk)
- Human Resources: (Maher 127)
- Legal Research Center: (Bulletin board near the Circulation Desk and Copier Room)
- Physical Plant: (Bulletin board near the time clock)
- University Center: (Bulletin board near UC 232)

In addition, all hourly staff and administrative/professional positions are listed on the 24-hour Job Line. The Job Line is updated on a weekly basis. To access the Job Line call: on-campus, ext. 4626, off-campus, 260-4626.

For more information call Larry Gardelpie at ext. 8766, or Verdise Bradford at ext. 8761.

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**Coming Up in August**

**Sports Camps.**

- Ed Collins' Tennis Camp features instruction for tournament playing juniors and high school team players. Adult session is for advanced beginners and intermediate level players. USD campus, Aug. 2-7.
- Basketball Development Camp is for boys ages 13-17. This camp encourages in environment. USD campus, Aug. 2-7. Fee: 260-4829.

**13 Thursday**

- Family Breakfast Club meeting.

**30 Sunday**

- WSU's Soccer. Alumni event. 2 p.m., Valley field. Fee: 260-4803.

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**Mexican Flag Wanted**

Graduate student Kristen Zagarella is planning a campus celebration for Mexican Independence Day, but she needs your help. Zagarella needs a Mexican flag and any other decorations you may have for the Sept. 16 event, which will take place in front of the university center. The celebration is being sponsored by the Irvine Grant, and will include plenty of music, dancing and food staffed by the Staff Employees Association (SEA).

If you have a flag or decorations, would like to help with the event, or would like more information, call Zagarella at ext. 4754.

**Se Necesita Una Bandera Mexicana**

Kristen Zagarella, alumna de esta Universidad, esta planeando la celebracion del Dia de la Independencia Mexicana aqui en nuestro centro universitario y necesita su ayuda. Zagarella necesita una bandera Mexicana y cualquier otro objeto para decorar, para la celebracion del 16 de Septiembre que tendra lugar en frente del centro universitario (UC). La celebracion sera patrocinada por el Irvine Grant. Habra musica, baile y comida servida por Staff Employees Association (SEA).

Si usted tiene una bandera Mexicana o decoraciones, si quiere ayudar en este evento, o si quiere mas informacion, por favor comuniquese con Zagarella a la extension 4754.

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Tran Finds Tranquility with Bonsai

By Jacqueline Genovese

When Thu Tran saw an article about a man named Lit Phan in the San Diego Union some three years ago, he had no idea it would reshape his life.

But that's just what happened when the General Services supervisor read about Phan's hobby — shaping succulent plants into bonsai and penjing creations.

"The article interested me, and to my surprise, I met Lit Phan that weekend when I was fishing," Tran explains. "Now he is like a big brother to me."

Three years and 150 plants later, Tran's surrogate brother has reason to be proud. Tran's plants have won several awards, including three first-place and one second-place award at this year's Annual Show and Plant Sale of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. Last year he won the society's Most Artistic Award.

"It felt really good to win, because I'm competing against people who have been doing succulents for 10, 15 and 20 years," Tran says.

Now Tran will have the opportunity to fulfill a dream he has had ever since he started raising his plants. "I've always wanted to display my plants for the USD community, so the people I work with can see them," he explains. Along with his award-winning plants, Tran is working on a special waterfall display (Hon Non Bo) just for USD. (You can see Tran's work exhibited August 27 and 28 in Founders Gallery from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be a reception for Tran Thursday, Aug. 27, from 3-5:30 p.m. just outside the gallery. To RSVP for the reception, or for more information, call Stella Van degrift at ext. 4659.)

Bonsai is the art of training plants or shrubs into pleasing designs. Tran uses succulent and exotic plants from as far away as Africa and Australia for his creations. "Succulents are slower-growing, so they take longer to shape than traditional evergreens," he explains. "But the finished succulent looks a lot older, and that's desirable for a bonsai."

Tran spends at least three hours a day working on his plants. He says it is time well spent. "It's very relaxing. If I've had a bad day, once I'm with my plants, I forget my troubles." In fact, Tran's wife, Susan, calls his back yard the "tranquility garden."

"She and her friends like to go back there and just sit," he says with a smile.

Life for Tran's family was anything but tranquil in his native Vietnam. At the tender age of 13, Tran was a member of the South Vietnamese army. He was, he admits, a "radical child," and longed to come to the United States one day and drive a dump truck. "I had heard that truck drivers make a lot of money in America," Tran laughs.

He did make it to America as a high school student, and started working at USD in his senior year. "I was the pool guy," Tran explains. As a supervisor, Tran is now responsible for inventory control, pool maintenance and supervision of the swing and night shifts. "USD has been good to me," USD medical coverage, Medicare Part B. If you continue to work and carry USD medical coverage, Medicare Part B will pay only on those expenses not covered by your employers' plan. You are allowed to waive Medicare Part B coverage until retirement...

As of the writing of this article, I have not seen any notices extending the legislation excluding the first $5,250 of graduate Tuition Remission benefits from taxes. Federal legislation allowing the exclusion expired on June 30, 1992. Updates will be printed as soon as they are available...

While on maternity/medical leave, the university will pay the cost of the employees medical coverage or the BenUflex allocation, whichever is less. When the cost of employee coverage is less than the BenUflex allocation, the allocation will be changed to the lesser amount. Any premiums you pay in excess of the lesser amount will be reflected in each paycheck as additional salary reductions.

If an employee waives medical coverage, USD will stop BenUflex allocation on the first of the month following leave. The record would be reactivated once the employee returns to work.