Sisters Missy Hudgins and Marjorie Deck have a lot in common. They graduated from USD, share a job in Graduate Admissions and care for each other’s children.

Sisters Share Job, Child Care

By Jacqueline Genovese

When Missy Hudgins ’88 learned she was pregnant with her second child last year, she was faced with a dilemma. She was working as a graduate assistant for Dr. Ray Brandes, then the Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education, and working on her masters degree in history. She knew she would have to put school on hold with two children, but she still needed to work to help make financial ends meet.

It was her boss and academic advisor, Dr. Brandes, who suggested a solution. “Dr. Brandes knew my sister Marjorie worked nights at the Broadway so she could watch her daughter during the day,” Hudgins explains. “So he suggested that we look into a job-share situation. That way, we could watch each other’s children, and save the cost of day care, so that we wouldn’t have to work full-time.”

Dr. Brandes proposed a job-share arrangement for an administrative secretary position in graduate admissions to Maureen Phalen, director of Graduate Admissions, and to Provost Sr. Sally Furay, RSCJ.

Both Phalen and Sr. Furay supported the idea, so last summer the sisters began sharing job duties as well as child-rearing duties. “We feel so lucky that we’re able to do this,” explains Marjorie Deck ’86. “I think it’s great that USD is progressive and was open to the suggestion.”

Deck works in the morning, 8 a.m. to noon, while Hudgins cares for the three children at her home in Sabre Springs. The two sisters meet at their mother’s house (which is close to USD) at 12:15 p.m. to exchange children, car seats and work information. “I usually tell Missy what the status of work is, and what will need her immediate attention when she gets into work,” Deck explains. The sisters also keep a notebook at work to log in the day’s activities. “That way we have a reference for what has been done and what needs to be done,” Hudgins says. “We also use a lot of post-its!”

The sisters feel the job-share arrangement gives the university more for its money. “You get twice the brain power and twice the ideas for the same price,” Deck says with a smile.

“When I’m here in the afternoon, I’m energized and ready to go. I call this my ‘adult time’, “ Hudgins laughs. “I’m really happy to be here, because anybody who has kids knows that after awhile you really want to talk to another adult!”

Both Hudgins and Deck say they will always be grateful to Dr. Brandes. “I think it’s neat that he cared enough about us to take the time and help,” says Deck. “But that’s USD. People here care.”
Bennett Earns Runner-Up Honors

By Jacqueline Genovese

USD is in Mercedes Bennett’s blood. Along with her parents and five of her siblings, Bennett graduated from USD in 1980, and has worked at Alcalá Park for the past 12 years.

Attending USD was a natural, says Bennett, because she grew up in the Immaculata Parish and watched the university grow, too. “I remember when the area where the School of Nursing is now was a beautiful garden,” she says with a smile. Bennett counts her years as a USD student as some of the best. “This campus was so small then,” she explains. “Everyone knew everybody else. We had 10 to 20 people in each class.”

That experience proved so enjoyable that Bennett decided to stay after graduation. She worked in the office of Planned Giving (formerly Trust and Estates) for six years and then moved to Loan Administration, where she has tackled the difficult job of following up on delinquent student loans. It is a job she does well. Bennett was named a runner-up for the 1992 Staff Employee of the Year Award at this summer’s Employee Appreciation Picnic.

In nominating Bennett for Employee of the Year, Linda Camp, manager in Loan Administration, wrote: “Mercedes...has to contact USD alumni regarding their “past due” student loan accounts, a difficult subject that is not always favorably received...Mercedes manages to consistently do this in a friendly but firm manner...she has maintained a favorable relationship with alumni over the years in helping them resolve various loan issues.” Bennett says she is empathetic with students who have a hard time paying their bills. “I was a student once too,” she says, “I understand how hard it can be. We offer our alumni several options in paying the loan back, so they don’t feel like they’re stuck and can’t make a payment.”

Away from USD, Bennett loves to travel and cook. “My favorite country is Italy, because their food is so good! I love traveling in Europe, because of all the history there.”

Bennett also loves music and singing. She is a member of the USD Community Choir and the Immaculata Contemporary Choir. Bennett says she feels lucky to have even been nominated for the Employee of the Year Award. “There are so many people on this campus who work so hard, and never get any recognition. I would like to represent all of the people who are also deserving but didn’t get nominated.”
Department of the Month
Advancement Services

The Advancement Services staff includes (left to right): Marilyn Haskett, Laura Wade, Susan Fuhs, Pat Lee, Jonathan Montgomery, Diane Deerinan and Aimee Butcher. (Not pictured, Alicia Buenrostro.)

1. Where is your department located?
Guadalupe Hall, Room 203 until we move downstairs next month (hopefully!)

2. What are the functions of your department?
There are eight full-time employees in Advancement Services who provide all internal support for the university’s fund-raising activities. All gifts and pledges to USD are received in our office and entered into DALIS—the Development and Alumni Information System. Personalized acknowledgements are sent to all donors. A hard-copy filing system stores copies of all correspondence and donations. All alumni records are stored in DALIS and address records are updated daily for the alumni, parents and friends of USD. Each summer all new alumni are entered into DALIS and in the fall freshman and transfer students and parents are also added. We research all mail that is returned to update the addresses and keep “lost alumni” to a minimum.

3. What is the biggest challenge your department faces?
We struggle in identifying ourselves to the university community. Many people are unaware that Advancement Services exists, and if they have heard the name, they often don’t understand what it means.

4. How has your department changed over the last 10 years?
Dramatically! We have nearly tripled our number of full-time employees. The amount of work we produce, and the quality and integrity of our database has markedly improved. The number of gifts processed and acknowledged has increased over 300 percent. Each year there are approximately 800 alumni records added to our system that need to be kept up to date. Our hard-copy filing system has increased proportionately with the number of records and donors in our database.

5. What is one thing you would like the campus community to know about your department and its functions?
We would like everyone in the university community to know whenever they receive calls from people with name or address changes, they should forward that information to our office. Also, when people receive donations to USD, they should be processed through our office first. We will ensure the donations are deposited in the proper account, forwarded to the cashier, and thoughtfully acknowledged.

Employee Dining Room
Menu (Menu subject to change)

Monday, Nov. 2
Teriyaki Beef; Cheese Ravioli

Tuesday, Nov. 3
Baked Chicken; Polish Sausage

Wednesday, Nov. 4
Meat Loaf; Cornish Game Hen

Thursday, Nov. 5
Turkey A La King
Stir Fried Ginger Beef

Friday, Nov. 6
Italian Beef; Zesty Perch

Monday, Nov. 9
Salisbury Steaks
Pork Mandarin Medallions

Tuesday, Nov. 10
Chicken Calvados
Beef Burgundy Tips

Wednesday, Nov. 11
Monterey Pork Chops
Shrimp Crepes

Thursday, Nov. 12
Turkey Mole; Mexican Plates

Friday, Nov. 13
Pot Roast; Seafood Newburg
Poppyseed Noodles

Monday, Nov. 16
Chicken Noodle Casserole
Baked Cod

Tuesday, Nov. 17
Roast Beef
Macaroni and Cheese

Wednesday, Nov. 18
Pasta bar; Baked Fish

Thursday, Nov. 19
Braised Short Ribs
Baked Chicken with lemon
Dill Sauce

Friday, Nov. 20
Pepper Steak; Asian Shrimp

Monday, Nov. 23
Mexican Plate; Baked Ham

Tuesday, Nov. 24
Seasame Roast Pork
Shepards Pie

Wednesday, Nov. 25
Baked Shark; Italian Steak

Closed Nov. 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving

Monday, Nov. 30
Stuffed Cornish Hens
London Broil
Passages

Birth
A girl, Madeleine Louise, to Jeff Jones, senior staff psychologist, Academic Services, and his wife, Cindy, on Oct. 2. Baby Madeleine weighed in at 7lbs., 14 oz. and was 20 3/4" long.

Retired
Maria Barradas, custodian, General Services, in September after 14 years.
Bonnie Ritenour, secretary, School of Law, in November, after 17 years.

Death
Harold K. Goodman, husband of Beth Goodman, faculty secretary, School of Law, in September.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings
Tuesdays, Serra 315 12:15 p.m. For more information, call Cynthia at ext. 4756.

USD Job Opportunities
You can read about USD job opportunities in the following locations: Career Services, Copley Library, Human Resources, Legal Research Center, Physical Plant, Sports Center and the University Center.

In addition, job information is listed on USD's 24-hour Job Line at ext. 4626. For more information call Patrick Noma at ext. 8761.

Coming Up
For a complete listing of the month's events, please see your Update calendar, or call ext. 4681.

The USD Community Choir is made up of some 80 employees, students and neighbors. The choir practices every Monday from 7 - 9 p.m. This year they are under the direction of Ron Gillis, who also directs the San Diego Choral Artists, a professional choral group. The choir, along with USD’s Choral Scholars, will perform “A Festival of Lessons and Carols” on Dec. 11 and 12 in Founders Chapel. The performance will feature Britten’s “A Ceremony of Carols.” If you are interested in joining the choir for the Spring session, call Monica Wagner at ext. 4936.

Turkey Reminder
Are you looking forward to the Thanksgiving holidays but not to the hours it takes to prepare a traditional turkey dinner? Then USD’s Catering Department has the answer for you.

Once again, Dining Services’ Nona Janus wants all employees to know that her department is “cooking up a storm” for the Thanksgiving holidays.
Employees can order a complete dinner, which includes a whole roasted turkey, choice of stuffing or whipped potatoes, choice of cranberries or sweet potato souffle, gravy, rolls, and pumpkin pie. If you don’t want a complete dinner, you can order just one or two items from a menu that includes Southern Pecan Pie, Butternut Squash and Apple Soup.
Orders must be in by 3 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 19. Orders will be available for pick-up between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 25.
Watch intracampus mail for a flyer to order your dinner. For more information, call Nona at ext. 4560.