1993

Alcalá View 1993 09.07

University of San Diego Publications and Human Resources offices

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Every Day is “Earth Day” for Anderson and Brashares

By Jacqueline Genovese

April 22 marks the 23-year anniversary of “Earth Day,” the nationwide effort to call attention to the state of the environment. For some employees, Earth Day is not just one day a year, it’s every day.

If you ask June Brashares what motivated her to buy an electric car, she answers quickly and concisely. “The Exxon Valdez disaster, Persian Gulf war, and other environmental concerns.”

Brashares says she was sickened by the war and the Valdez spill, but felt she had no right to complain. “I was contributing to the problem by buying gasoline and contributing to this country’s dependence on oil,” she says.

Brashares, who is the subscription coordinator in the Center for Public Interest Law, decided to have her Volkswagen Rabbit converted to an electric car last February.

The conversion cost $8,500 and Brashares says it was worth every penny. “I’m not polluting the environment, I’m not consuming gas, and I don’t have to spend as much money on maintenance. There’s no oil to change, no antifreeze, no transmission fluid. Just batteries that need water and wires that need to be replaced.”

Brashares says there are a few drawbacks to electric cars, but nothing that has caused her to regret her decision.

“The biggest drawback is not being able to go over 40 miles on a charge. But that’s good because it forces me to plan ahead and not make wasteful trips. The car also goes slow on hills. That’s why I have the sign that says ‘Electric Car’ in the window, so people know why I’m not going as fast.”

Brashares belongs to the San Diego Electric Car Club, an organization that seeks to educate those interested in the electric car and lobbies for legislation that promotes its use. “In Los Angeles, they have all kinds of incentives for people who use electric cars. It would be nice to see some of those incentives, a lower SDG&E rate for example, in San Diego.”

Jim Anderson had a very practical reason to start riding his bike to work in 1977. “I was too poor to own a car,” he laughs.

On a more serious note, the philosophy professor elaborates, “I think of it this way: Every time you start a car, you’re making someone sick with the exhaust. And when you buy gasoline, you’re helping support someone, somewhere. It was recently revealed that the king of Saudi Arabia had provided $5 billion for Saddam Hussein’s nuclear weapons program. A good chunk of that $5 billion came from the U.S. buying oil.”

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Benefit Briefs
By Vicki Coscia

USD is pleased to announce that tuition remission benefits are available for the 1993 summer sessions. In fact, there should be enough tuition remission funds available to cover all of the requests received in Human Resources before the March 24, 1993, deadline. Registration for summer classes started March 31. Call Vicki Coscia at ext. 8764 on the availability of tuition remission benefits.

Valic will sponsor a repeat of Tonya Nieman's seminar about Social Security. The seminar will be held on April 28 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Be sure to mark this meeting on your calendar, especially if you were unable to attend the seminar held in November. This is an extremely interesting and informative session about how the Social Security Administration determines your retirement benefits. The seminar is not limited to employees who plan to retire soon. Nieman, a retirement consultant, will cover such issues as what to expect as a benefit when you retire, what happens if there is a divorce or death, did your employer(s) report the taxes withheld from your paycheck(s). Each participant will receive an information workbook to keep as a reference. An RSVP announcement will be sent in campus mail approximately two weeks before the meeting.

ALERT: Are you planning to send your child(ren) to a camp this summer? Many USD employees enroll their children in special summer camp programs between June and September as a replacement for their regular day care provider. You should know that the costs of certain summer camps do not qualify for reimbursement from your Dependent Care Reimbursement account. The IRS allows reimbursement for day care expenses when the day care allows the parent(s) to work or look for work. Expenses for food, clothes, schooling and entertainment are not eligible for reimbursement. A good guideline for determining whether or not summer camp day care expenses qualify: Is the sponsor a good guideline for determining whether or not summer camp day care expenses qualify: Is the sponsor.

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Department of the Month
Project Management

The Project Management staff includes (left to right) Conley Robinson, Able Valencia, Pete Martin and Richard Boynton.

1. Where is your department located?
   The Project Management department is located in the Physical Plant Administration building behind Camino Hall.

2. What are the functions of your department?
   Our function is to develop construction documents for and manage the renovation and construction of existing building interiors. We also act as project managers on new construction projects and maintain cost accounting of renovation/construction projections. We're the guys you see out there in the buildings with the measuring tapes and the cameras. Before we can begin to plan a new space, we must know exactly what exists. We also maintain an inventory of plans for every building on campus.

3. What is the biggest challenge your department faces?
   Getting the comfort level right. That is, taking an employee request and developing a plan that satisfies the user's functional needs while ensuring that the space meets building codes, is comfortable and attractive, and can be built within the established budget and time constraints.

4. How has your department changed over the last 10 years?
   Ten years ago our plans were drafted on a board with pencil and paper, and our job specifications were usually typed on a typewriter. Today, all of that is done on the computer. The use of computers is probably the single biggest change our department has seen.

5. What is the one thing you would like the campus to know about your department and its functions?
   That our goal is synonymous with the university's: We strive to develop space that is of high quality and conducive to a quality education.

SEA News

Congratulations to the new officers of the Staff Employee Association (SEA):
Kay Norton from the Registrar's Office and Diane West from Arts and Sciences are the new co-presidents, and Carolyn “C.C.” Costanzo from Financial Aid is the new vice president. Laura Nottoli from University Relations will continue as treasurer, and Perla Bleisch from the Law School will continue as secretary.

The SEA is sponsoring employee night at the Padres opening game April 12. Tickets are for the loge area and are $10 each. Seating is limited, so get your ticket today. Call April at ext. 4724 for details.

Benefit Briefs
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Is the camp a licensed day care provider? EXAMPLE: YMCA camps are eligible because the YMCA has day care programs and they are licensed day care providers. On the other hand, USD's Creative Kids summer program through the department of Continuing Education does not qualify because the department of Continuing Education is not a licensed day care provider.

Dependent Care Reimbursement claims for certain summer camps may be denied if it appears the expenses do not meet IRS guidelines. See IRS Publication 503 for an explanation of qualified child and dependent care expenses.

Summer Reminder: Will your vacation plans take you out of the San Diego area? Each medical and dental carrier has out-of-area utilization guidelines. Contact Esther at ext. 8762 for information about benefits when traveling.

Go-Cart For Your Snack Needs
Tired of walking all the way across campus for a snack? Then stop by the GO-CART located in the Camino-Founders courtyard Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The GO-CART offers breakfast muffins, scones, bakery goods, coffee, hot and cold beverages, specialty sandwiches, salads, hot pretzels and churros. For more information, call Holly at ext. 8883.

New Hires, Promotions
Welcome to the following individuals who recently joined the USD community:
Janet Littrell, admissions officer, Graduate Admissions; Richard Moy, Jr., user services consultant, Academic Computing; Beverly Peterka, financial aid counselor, Legal Assistant Program, Financial Aid; Katherine Petersen, faculty secretary, School of Business.
Training Tracks
By Calista Frank

Important! Please note...In an effort to reduce costs and paper usage, invitations to all lunchtime workshops will now be limited to the monthly Alcalá View, a memo distributed at the beginning of each semester to the USD community, and postings on the Human Resources bulletin boards.

On-Campus Training Calendar for April and May

April 13, Stress Reduction, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
April 15, Dealing with Multiple Roles, Noon to 1 p.m.
April 27, Cancer Awareness, Noon to 1 p.m.
May 7, Enhancing Your Self-Esteem, Noon to 1 p.m.

Please remember if you are interested in any of these classes, call Human Resources at ext. 4594 for reservation and location information. Space is limited so please call as soon as possible.

Passages

Death
Jerome Leo Heinrichs, father of Rosemary Lestyk, payroll clerk, Accounting, in March.

Classifieds

For Sale
Twin mattresses. Box with base frame. Excellent condition. $100. Call Barbara at ext. 4516.
Teak desk. Excellent condition. $75. Call Colette at ext. 4562.
8 x 10 Persian carpet. Excellent condition. Incredible value at $2,200. Call Miriam at ext. 4865 or 296-1420.
B.C. (buoyancy compensator) New, large, black. $100. Call Judy, ext. 4684.
Beige couch, matching chair, both $40. Two octagonal end tables, $5 each. Oak computer desk, $30. Two stack tables, both for $5. '82 BMW 320I, 102,000 miles, excellent condition, $3,800. Call Del at ext. 4407 or 437-0505.

Alcalá View is published monthly September through July by the Publications and Human Resources offices. The newsletter is distributed to all University of San Diego employees.

Join Team USD for WalkAmerica

Join your fellow employees and USD students for the April 24 March of Dimes WalkAmerica! Last year some 78 employees and students raised over $4,000 by participating in the walk. There will be March of Dimes T-shirts on sale for $5 in front of the UC during the lunch hour through April 24. Buy a T-shirt and enjoy the fun!

For more information, call Sandi West at ext. 4627 or Donna Dinan at ext. 4773.

Show Your Appreciation

Don't miss this opportunity to show your administrative support staff how much you appreciate their efforts.

In honor of National Secretaries Week, Dining Services will be sponsoring a special luncheon on April 21 in the forum of the Hahn University Center from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Choral Scholars will perform during the luncheon. Reservations must be made by April 16. Cost is $10 per person. Call ext. 4560 for reservations and information.

Electric Car...
(Continued from page one)

Anderson says he also derives health benefits from his 1,000-mile-a-year cycling habit. "I have an eight o'clock class, and I'm so energized from my ride to work, I wake the students up."

He's also quick to point out that biking to work doesn't take as much effort as people think. "It only really requires that you plan ahead. Every two weeks I bring clothes that I'll change into for the next few weeks, and I have to allow myself about 30 more minutes to get to work. Other than that, it really is quite simple and quite invigorating."

For more information on electric cars or biking to work, call Brashares at ext. 4806 or Anderson at ext. 2559.