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alcalá VIEW

University
of
San Diego

Employee Newsletter
August 1993
Vol. 9, No. 11



New scrollwork on the Legal Research Center will be complete in mid-August.

Physical Plant Takes On Summer Projects

It's summertime, and the Physical Plant Department is busy with various projects on campus. Those projects include:

- School of Law: Currently renovating the exterior of the building. Removing and replacing the belt course, parapet crestings, and building finials with foam, fiberglass and plaster. Will paint the exterior of the building when renovation is complete. Also, will replace 5KVA electrical system with 12KVA, to upgrade electrical capacity.
- Renovation of Fletcher Lecture Hall: Will transform lecture hall into two classrooms and faculty office space.
- Guadalupe Hall: Renovation of second floor office space to accommodate alumni relations, special projects, planned giving, capital programs.
- Copley Library: Will install environmental control in the rare book room.
- Camino Hall: Will install an eight-foot fume hood in Camino 43, currently a marine studies lab, so it can be used for chemistry experiments.
- Founders Hall: Convert two rooms to accommodate a resident director.
- UC 116 and 117: Will renovate to house a student multicultural center.
- Americans With Disabilities Act compliance: Will fix curb ramps and

paint for better visibility. Replace and install ramps at the Law School, Serra Hall and Maher Hall. Replace exterior doors in Camino and Founders halls.

For more information on physical plant projects, call ext. 4666.

An 'American Dream' leads Thein to USD

By Jacqueline Genovese

It's a long way from the country of Burma to Leilei Thein's office in physical plant. But for Thein, who is USD's manager of environmental, health and safety programs, traveling that distance was well worth it.

Thein's arrival in America meant the fulfillment of a lifelong dream of freedom. "Burma was a socialist country, where the government controlled everything, even the universities," Thein explains. "In America I knew I could have the freedom I had always dreamed about."

After earning a master's degree in zoology at the University of Rangoon in the capital city of Burma, Thein secured a teaching position at the university.

After almost five years of planning, Thein left Burma in 1983 to travel to the country she had only seen in the movies.

She arrived in Washington state and then traveled to San Diego, where she
(Continued on page two)

Benefit Briefs

The Consolidated Reconciliation Act (COBRA) was signed into law in 1985. Any employer who offers health coverage is required to extend coverage to all those who participate when one or more of the following events occurs: separation of employment; death of the employee; divorce; dependents no longer attending school full time and not yet 25 years old; retirees not yet eligible to participate in Medicare; etc. The cost of COBRA coverage is paid by the participant. Coverage is the same as prior to the COBRA event.

Some of the above events have coverage that extends up to 18 months, and others to 36 months. An employer has 30 days from the date they are notified of a qualifying event to send the participant information about his/her COBRA options. The participant has 60 days from receipt of the notification to make an election. Caution: coverage must be continuous. If possible, the participant should inform the employer of his/her decision to either continue or drop coverage as soon as the COBRA letter is received. COBRA is especially helpful when an employee changes employers, and the new employer's plan has a waiting period....

Kaiser offers a supplemental medical plan to Medicare called Health Pledge. Both the employee and/or his/her spouse is eligible for this plan if he/she is currently participating in Kaiser, as well as Medicare Part A and B. You can be actively employed at USD and still be eligible to participate in Health Pledge. Call ext. 8764 for further information....

Fall tuition remission applications from part-time students are due in human resources 10 days before the first day of classes. Student accounts will impose a \$60 late fee for late applications....

How are we doing? It is important to the benefits department that "Benefit Briefs" reflects information that interests university employees and keeps them informed about benefits issues. We would like to hear from you! Please call me at ext. 8764 if you have a benefit issue that you feel we need to address.

— Vicki Coscia

Leilei Thein

(Continued from page one)

quickly found a job at a biotech company in La Jolla. There, she discovered she wasn't cut out for pure research and decided to pursue a master's degree in environmental and occupational health at San Diego State University.

While studying at SDSU, Thein met her future husband, who had left Burma under much more dire circumstances. "My husband's father was Aung San, the man who led Burma in its fight for independence after 200 years of British rule," Thein explains. "At the age of 32 he was the first premier of Burma, and loved by the people. He was assassinated when my husband was only 4 years old."

Although it has been years since her father-in-law's death, Thein's family is still affected by his legacy. "In 1988, my sister-in-law, Aung San Suu Kyi, went back to Burma because her mother was sick. That same year, people protested against the socialist government in Burma. They wanted one of Aung San's children to lead the country. Because of this, she was placed under house arrest while she was leading the opposition party."

Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, but was not allowed out of the country to accept it.

Learning about Thein's background, it's easy to understand her easygoing attitude toward the formidable job she faces as manager of the campus environmental, health and safety programs.

Her responsibilities include monitoring and recording all chemicals and hazardous materials on campus, writing and conducting health and safety training programs for employees throughout campus who deal with chemicals and hazardous wastes, ensuring that the university is in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations regarding environmental, health and safety standards, and evaluating computer work stations throughout campus to prevent work-related injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome.

"What really scares me about this job is that, in certain cases, if the university is found negligent, or doesn't meet a standard, I could go to jail," Thein says. "That's why I get Roger (Manion) to sign everything, too," she laughs. "That way if I go, he goes with me."



Leilei Thein is USD's manager of environmental, health and safety programs.

Thein says meeting the requirements of the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has been one of the more difficult aspects of her job. "For example, if one of our painters leaves a can of paint open unused for more than five minutes, and an APCD employee sees it, we would be fined."

Despite the overwhelming nature of her job, Thein says she appreciates the cooperation of the university community. "Everyone here has been very cooperative and willing to do what they needed to meet regulations."

Thein is also over her initial uneasy impression of the Physical Plant Department. "When I came here, I wondered why we were in the back of the university," she laughs. "I didn't know if they were hiding us! But then I saw my office, and I really like the view."

Wanted: Tips for Working Parents

Do you have a time-saving morning routine or ingenious solution for day care when your child is sick? If so, send those and other helpful hints for working parents to the Office of Publications, Maher 274.

We'll be collecting everyone's suggestions and printing them in an upcoming issue.

Department of the Month

Media Center



The telecommunications staff includes: (front row from left to right) John Frazer, David Tiedeman, Margi Peoples, Kris Andrysiak; (back row from left to right) Kevin Galbraith, Doug Stalb, Joey Garcia, Carl Boals. (Not pictured: Tessie Camina, Janet Finney.)

1. Where is your department located?

The Media Center is located in the northeast corner of Maher Hall's first floor, with offices off the main corridor.

2. What are the functions of your department?

The Media Center is broadly charged with supporting the university's instructional functions. We provide instructional technology support services in three major areas: audio visual (AV) software services — we have a permanent collection of more than 4,000 educational programs as well as a reserve collection; classroom support services — we schedule five in-center AV classrooms, support nine others, and operate a hardware and software delivery system to eight AV storage areas; and AV software production services — we do photography, audio taping, and video recording of lectures and off-air/satellite programming. Other functions include: employee development workshops; training for effective use of instructional technology; equipment repairs; and maintenance of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature's language lab, the School of Business Administration's behavioral lab, and the School of Law's video recording and playback systems.

3. What is the biggest challenge your department faces?

Our biggest challenges include keeping up with the rapid changes in technology, growth in demand for service, and USD's physical growth with its additional buildings, rooms, keys, etc., which have a service impact on the Media Center.

4. How has your department changed over the past 10 years?

About the only things that haven't changed are our service orientation as a department of Copley Library and our location. In 1983-84 we had eight employees filling six positions. Today, we have 10 people in 9.5 positions. Until about 10 years ago, academic computing was housed in the Media Center, and we had some responsibility for computing operations.

5. What is the one thing you would like the campus community to know about your department and its functions?

You would probably get 10 different answers from our 10 employees. The bottom line is call us to find out how we can help you.

USD Job Opportunities

You can read about USD job opportunities in the following locations: career services, Copley Library, human resources, Law School administration, Legal Research Center, physical plant, Sports Center, University Center and the bulletin boards located near rooms F114, O329, CH337.

In addition, job information is listed on USD's 24-hour Job Line at ext. 4626, (off-campus 260-4626). For more information call **Patrick Noma** at ext. 8761.

New Hires, Promotions

Welcome to the following employees who recently joined the USD community:

Marta Godinez, clerical assistant, controller; **Georgia Gordon**, faculty secretary, Law School administration; **Jeffrey Graham**, data processing assistant, academic computing; **Christine Hilinski**, receptionist, admissions; **Sharon Lainas**, clerical assistant, controller; **Susan (Martinez) Manard**, administrative secretary, public relations; **Patricia O'Neill**, executive assistant, development; **Pamela Reynolds**, receptionist, admissions; **Juan Carlos Rivera**, unit leader, main dining room; **Sister Alicia Sarre**, sacristan, campus ministry; **Laura Skates**, administrative secretary, Law School administration; **Eric Wildman**, clerical assistant, controller; **Jacob Younger**, electrician, building maintenance.

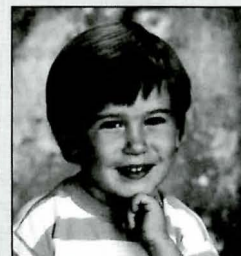
Passages

Births

A boy, Myles Michael, to **Lynne Morris**, clerical assistant, physical plant, and her husband, Michael, on June 22.

Winner

Eric Zacharias, 4-year-old son of **Fred Zacharias**, professor, School of Law, and his wife, Sharon, won the



junior hog-calling contest at the Del Mar Fair on July 4. Young Eric competed on two weekends against 30 youngsters up

to age 16. Eric received a free T-shirt and a trophy engraved with the words "Del Mar Fair Hog Calling Champion 1993."

SEA Strands

Greetings! I hope everyone had a good time at the picnic. Congratulations to the winners of the drawing and door prizes. Special thanks to all who were involved in the planning stages...

There will be another hot dog sale on Aug. 25 from 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. in front of the University Center. Come enjoy the feast and help us raise money for the SEA treasury....

Want to meet some of your fellow staff employees in an informal setting? Join the lunch bunch for conversation and jocularly at their next "brown bag" meeting from noon to 1 p.m., Aug. 10, in the Guadalupe Hall ground-floor conference room. Contact **Grace McElhaney** at ext. 2507 for more information....

We are considering forming a group of staff employees to help supervise next year's graduation ceremonies. This employee group would augment and perhaps eventually replace the hired security guards who currently staff commencement. For more information, call **Diane West** at ext. 4545....

Many of our fellow employees juggle family, work and school responsibilities at the same time. The SEA would like to see those people recognized. If you know of someone who is deserving of recognition for a major accomplishment, contact **Stephanie Gabriel** at ext. 4819....

Just a reminder: ALL staff employees are welcome to attend the SEA committee meetings. Following is an updated list of meeting locations and times:

Benefits: **Becky Gilbert**, third Monday of the month, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., library conference room.

Communications: **John Frazer**, second Tuesday of the month, noon-1 p.m., Serra faculty lounge.

Grievances: **Pablo del Real**, first Wednesday of the month, 1-2 p.m., LRC 212

Social: **Lynette Vaughn**, second Friday of the month, noon-1 p.m., UC 231.

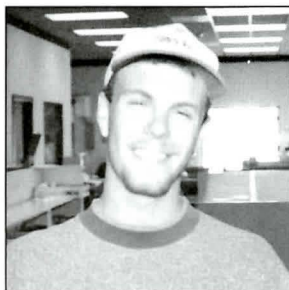
— John Frazer

Did You Know?

The Office of Campus Ministry celebrates weekday masses in Founders Chapel at 7 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Summer Daze

As the pace of life slows a little in the summer months, many people find more time to enjoy movies and books. Here's a look at what some of your fellow employees are watching and reading this summer:



◀ **Mark Bertolero**, mail center

"I read *The Firm* and also saw the movie; I liked the book better. I really liked 'Sleepless in Seattle.' Actually, I almost cried in the beginning of the movie."

Molly Landi, parking services ▶

"This summer I've been reading a Time/Life series on criminals. I'm not interested in the crimes the people committed. I'm interested in people's motivations for committing crimes. I wonder what causes them to do it."



◀ **Ryan Marsh**, human resources

"I loved 'Jurassic Park.' The special effects were awesome."



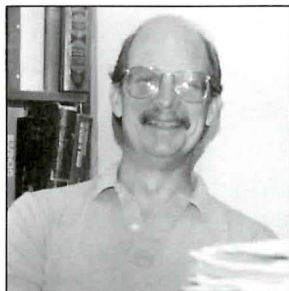
Rosemary Dyerson, parking services ▶

"I took my granddaughter to see 'Dennis the Menace,' and I saw 'Made in America,' both at a drive-in, if you can believe that. I haven't been to a drive-in in 15 years!"



◀ **Gary Macy**, religious studies

"I'm currently reading two early 13th-century lectures on theology by Robert of Courson and Roland of Cremona. Roland was the first Dominican sent by Dominic to lecture in Paris. On the novel side, I'm reading an excellent book, *Reign of Gold*, by Victor Villaseñor."



Peggy Agerton, provost's office ▶

"I loved 'Sleepless in Seattle,' and I recently read *Women Who Run With Wolves*."



University of San Diego

Publications Office
Maher Hall
Room 274