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# Alcalá

A newsletter for the employees  
of the University of San Diego

## View

June 1994, Vol. 10, Issue 9



Pamela Flynn, secretary in the biology department, and her daughter, Elise, participated in the April 28 "Take Our Daughters To Work Day." Flynn says her daughter gained appreciation for "everything her mom does in a day." Flynn was one of several employees who either brought their daughters to work or sponsored "daughters" from Hoover High or Holy Family Schools.

## USD Makes Headlines in May

May was a banner month for USD, as the university made headlines on two fronts. USD was one of 10 institutions nationwide selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for participation in a cooperative research and education program; and the School of Business Administration announced the establishment of the John Ahlers Center for International Business in the 1994-95 academic year.

The NASA/University Joint Venture (JOVE) program is designed to build research capabilities at U.S. institutions of higher education which have had little or no involvement in the nation's space program. The focus of USD-NASA research efforts will be on earth science, specifically marine geochemistry and global climate change. Total monetary support from

NASA will be about \$110,000 spread over three years.

The Ahlers Center is being endowed with a \$5 million gift from the estate of John and Carolyn Ahlers, the largest gift in USD's history. The mission of the center is to enhance the region's international business education.

The Ahlers Center will include an international executives in residence program and an international internship program which will place students in businesses worldwide.

For more information on the Ahlers Center, call **Greg Gazda**, professor in the School of Business Administration, at ext. 4864. For more information on the JOVE program, call **Anne Sturz** or **Sarah Gray**, assistant professors of marine and environmental studies, at ext. 4241.

## South Seas Celebration Slated for June 10

Don't miss the 10th annual Employee Appreciation Picnic, "A South Seas Celebration," on June 10.

The picnic will take place around the pool at the Sports Center, and will feature a 20-minute Polynesian dance review, scrumptious food, and the presentation of the Staff Employee of the Year and Administrator of the Year awards. In addition, employees who marked their five-year anniversaries during the year will receive their service certificates.

Don't forget to bring your ticket on picnic day in order to be eligible for the Staff Employees Association door prize drawing. This year's door prizes include tickets to the Old Globe Theatre, dinner for two at the Jolly Roger and Sunday brunch for two at the Westgate Hotel.

## Picnic Schedule

Noon, Picnic begins  
(with music)

Noon-2 p.m., Lunch is served  
(you must have a ticket)

12:30 p.m., Welcome,  
Judith Muñoz

12:35 p.m., Service awards,  
Dr. Hughes

1 p.m., Administrator of the  
Year award, Diane West &  
Kay Norton

1:10 p.m., Employee of the  
Year Award, Dr. Hughes

1:20-1:40 p.m., Heali's  
Polynesian Dancers

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## Picnic Schedule

(Continued from page one)

1:40-3:30 p.m., Music, door prizes and games.

3:30-5 p.m., Lifeguard available for swimming.

All times are approximate. Events follow one another.

For more information, call **Calista Frank** at ext. 2621.

See you at the picnic!

## Benefit Briefs

If you have questions and/or concerns about your health care coverage or a course of treatment, difficulties with a provider or problems with the processing of a claim, you should first contact the appropriate membership services office for assistance. If the membership services representative or the physician's office fails to answer your question or resolve the situation, then call human resources for additional help.

It is very helpful if the health care problem or concern is identified in writing. Employees may use a provider service report form to report any problems they may be having with their plan. Forms are available in human resources.

The completed form is sent to a customer service consultant at the insurance company, as well as the university's insurance broker, Barney & Barney. Most concerns are quickly resolved with this reporting method. Call ext. 8762 for further information.

The Employees Assistance Program (EAP) is available to all benefit-eligible employees, their spouses and dependents. EAP will help employees and/or immediate family members with many types of problems including stress, alcohol or drug abuse, family, medical, legal, financial and marital. Contact with EAP is strictly confidential. The first three counseling sessions are free. Contact EAP directly at

(Continued on page three)

By Jacqueline Genovese

When a car engine fell on his hand 14 years ago, **John Highkin** didn't know the injury he sustained would change his life.

The former bluegrass performer was forced to take time off while his hand healed, and he took that time to re-evaluate the direction of his life.

"I realized then that I didn't want to be 40 years old and playing music in a bar," says Highkin, who is a part-time English lecturer at USD. "So I decided to go to college, something I had been fighting all of my life."

After earning a bachelor's degree in English literature at UCLA, Highkin

went on to Cambridge, where he earned a master's degree and continued his study of the famous German playwright, Bertolt Brecht. It was at Cambridge, and later in Berlin at the theater Brecht

founded, that Highkin discovered a passion for telling stories using means other than words. "I became interested in physicality and finding a theatrical form that was less language-based," he explains.

With stints first as a directing intern and then as an assistant director at the Old Globe Theatre and the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Highkin's career path seemed to be headed in the direction of regional theater. But then the circus came to town.

"I saw Cirque du Soleil in 1987," he remembers. "So many circuses have a cheap second- or third-hand Las Vegas aesthetic, but Cirque du Soleil wasn't like that. It brought the concept of family back into the circus."

That discovery inspired Highkin to create a circus that would bring neighbors together. "In today's fragmented society, there's a need for active neighborhood events that get people out in the streets dancing and celebrating," he says. "The appeal of a circus is universal. No language

is needed to appreciate it."

In 1990, Highkin took his idea to the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. There he found an enthusiastic supporter in Cindy Zimmerman, who advised him throughout the grant-seeking process. Highkin received a \$15,000 grant from the council and, in 1991, the Fern Street Circus was born.

The first circus took place in Highkin's neighborhood park, Grape Street park. A

short time later, another memorable event took place

there. "Cindy and I ended up getting married in the park," Highkin says with a sheepish grin. "Pretty amazing isn't it? I got married because of this!"

Fern Street

Circus has become an annual event, and includes performers as diverse as an 11-year-old contortionist and members of the

acrobatic Canestrelli circus family.

In addition, Zimmerman offers parade-making classes at neighborhood community centers, and the circus has been hired to perform at several events, including a party in Rancho Santa Fe and the AutoZone corporate convention at the San Diego Convention Center.

"We're the only circus company listed in the Yellow Pages," Highkin explains. "Events like AutoZone help fund the neighborhood work we do. To me, that's a nice way of getting indirect corporate support for a meaningful community project."

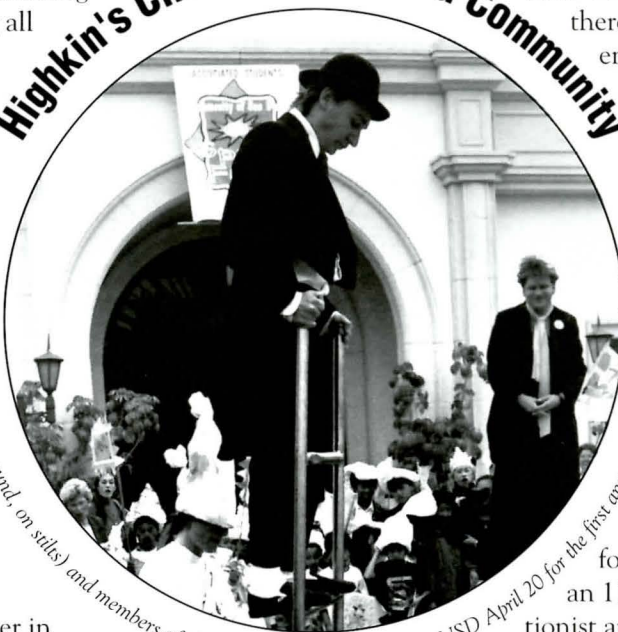
Highkin and members of Fern Street Circus performed at USD on April 20 in conjunction with the Linda Vista Multicultural Fair. Their "DooDah Parade" included Highkin on stilts, clowns in full costume and children from the Linda Vista community as well as USD's Manchester Family Child Development Center.

Members of the circus also performed at the Senior Class Spring Finale, and have

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## Highkin's Circus Helps Build Community

John Highkin (background, on stilts)



and members of the Fern Street Circus came to USD April 20 for the first annual "DooDah Parade."



# Department of the Month

## General Services



The staff of general services includes, row one (left to right) Sang Hoang, Yen Nhan, Ariete Balelo, Maria Fernandes, Ramona Ramirez, Mayola Acuna, Angelina DeAvila, Veronica Fernandes, Sara Martin, Socorro Ellis and Gong Tran. Second row (left to right) Bethel Elmore, Lou Magana, Trinidad Viegas, Emma Sanders, Adela Rangel, Maria Estrada, Puerza Goncalves, Teresa Dionisio, Luis Anjo, Thu Tran, Carmo Luis, Teresa Briseno and Margarita Bermudez. Third row (left to right) John Gilmer, Francisco Martinez, Dora Camacho, Maria Elena Cruz, Mark Draper, Melody Church, Elba Sims, Maria Elena Briseno and Leo Briseno. Fourth row (left to right) Jose Rojas, Manuel Vaz, Carter Edwards, Thang Tran, Noel Vasquez, Felix Leyva, Ted Geddes and Will Polimadei. Back row (left to right) Alejandro Pimentel, Mario Casillas, Cipriano Marquez and Santos Rodriguez. Not pictured: Tom Wallake, Alice Santos, Pedro Servin, Dionisio Viegas, Jay James, Joy Aleman, Maria Rivera, Isabel Oliviera, Teresita Castillo, Marcelino Aguirre and James Carter.

### 1. Where is your department located?

We're located behind Camino Hall, on the north perimeter road, next to public safety and the environmental studies lab.

### 2. What are the functions of your department?

Our mission is to provide a clean and comfortable environment that is conducive to USD's educational goals. We strive to accomplish this through three divisions: custodial services, which is responsible for maintaining and servicing the instructional areas; housekeeping services, which is responsible for maintaining and servicing the residence halls; and special services, which handles non-routine services such as moving and delivery services, non-university center special event set-ups, relief support to custodial or housekeeping operations and maintenance of the three university swimming pools. We also coordinate and implement pest control and recycling services.

### 3. What is the biggest challenge your department faces?

In light of the recession and current budget constraints, trying to run a six-to seven-day per week operation within what is

essentially a five-day per week operating budget is probably our No. 1 challenge each year. Equally difficult is trying to schedule work between the daily myriad of events and activities sponsored by the university.

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

Over the years we have sought to keep up with the changing needs of the university through reorganization, additional staff and improved methods. With the focus on world ecology, we also have taken steps to promote conservation among our staff and will continue to promote this to the USD community.

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

We are here for you. Although there may be limitations to what we can provide, call us with your concerns or questions and we will work with you to resolve them, if possible.

## Benefit Briefs

(Continued from page two)

275-2320 in San Diego, or 480-8223 in North County.

Many employees are now taking advantage of Prudential's mail-order prescription service. Participants may order a 90-day supply of maintenance prescriptions through the mail. The co-payment for 90 days of medication is either \$5 (PruCare) or \$10 (PruNetwork), which is quite a savings. Mail order forms are available in human resources.

Remember to take your health identification card and medical emergency contact numbers with you when traveling.

— Vicki Coscia

## Correction

**Richard Dunford** was incorrectly listed as **Richard Danford** in the list of five-year employees that appeared in the May issue of the *Alcalá View*. We apologize for the error.

## Classifieds

**Wanted:** House-sitting or rental for six weeks from mid-September to end of October for visiting professor from New Zealand. Contact **Miriam Rothman** at ext. 4856.

**For sale.** AM/FM stereo CD player, dual cassette, detachable speakers, \$269.32 retail. Pull-out car stereo, AM/FM cassette. Retail \$149.95. Must sell, you make offer. Call **Ryan** at ext. 8763.

**For sale.** 1979 MGB classic. British racing green. Rebuilt engine, \$4,500; leather sidesaddle for motorcycle, \$65; four large speakers, black, \$25 each. Call **Susan** at 697-6703.

**For sale.** Hoist home gym. Like new. Paid \$1,200, will sell for \$600. Call **Jackie** at 679-9690.



## SEA Strands

A 50/50 prize drawing will take place at the Employee Appreciation Picnic on June 10. The prize fund is half of all money collected and will be divided with 50 percent going for first prize and 25 percent each for second and third prize. (Last year the prize fund was \$250). Join the fun and buy your tickets at two for \$1 from any SEA representative. For information, call **Laura Nottoli** at ext. 4629. Good luck!

SEA night at the Padres game was a huge success. Approximately 130 employees, their families and friends attended.

We'll be taking an evening trip to the Barona Casino on Wednesday, July 20. Watch intercampus mail for a flier with more details.

WalkAmerica T-shirts are still available for \$7. Contact **Sandi West** at ext. 4627.

SEA is looking for representatives to fill board positions. **Diane West**, ext. 4545 or **Kay Norton**, ext. 2033 can answer questions you may have about the board. If you're interested in joining us you are most welcome to attend a meeting to see what we're all about. Please consider participating in this worthwhile organization. You will become better informed and will be helping your co-workers.

— Lillian Flynn

## Alcalá View

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## New Hires, Promotions

In the past several months, many new faces have joined the USD community. Welcome to the following new employees: **Reina Aparicio-Calero**, public interest law center; **Robert Arsenault**, building maintenance; **Lisa Bach**, financial aid; **Kathleen Bachman**, controller's office; **Loreen Carlson**, counseling center; **Sean Cavanaugh**, physical plant; **Dixie Diaz**, development; **David Edgar**, printing/duplicating; **Margaret Farrell**, institutional research; **Susan Gaydos**, financial aid; **Charles Gill**, physical plant; **Annalisa Gordon**, academic computing; **Michael Haskins**, public relations; **Mary Kowit**, media center; **Kathleen Knell**, Institute for Christian Ministries; **Windy McElligott**, paralegal program; **William McLeod**, building maintenance; **Catherine Nafey**, athlet-

ics administration; **Robert Nafey Jr.**, building maintenance; **Celia Nisenbaum**, banquets/catering; **Noelle Norton**, political science; **Peter Nunez**, graduate tax program; **Sally Ruffman**, Copley Library; **Eric Sanchez**, building maintenance; **Brendan Starkey**, fine arts; **Carmelita Swearingen**, main dining room; **Jack Tarantino**, mail center; **Ann Marie Torres**, undergraduate admissions; **Robin Walker**, printing/duplicating, and **Joan Wolf**, tennis camp.

In addition, congratulations to the following employees who recently received promotions or reclassifications: **Mario Casillas**, custodial services; **Natalie Grandi**, dining services; **Lilia Gutierrez**, dining services; **Jeffrey Hardick**, building maintenance; **Felix Leyva**, general services; **Maria Luis**, housekeeping services; **Daniel Ogus**, main dining, and **Noel Vazquez**, custodial services.

## Circus

(Continued from page two)

worked with USD students as part of the Linda Vista Kids project.

The Fourth Annual Fern Street Circus will be Aug. 13 at Grape Street Park.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$1 for children. There is no admission charge for individuals who participate in the circus parade. For more information, call Highkin at ext. 2537 or 235-9756.

*Pomp and Circumstance.*  
April 26 was commencement day at the Manchester Family Child Development Center. The 28 graduates included (from left to right) Chelsea Ingram, Adelaine Abrams, Jacquie Cory (teacher) and Kelli Hagan.



Office of Publications  
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