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# Alcalá

A newsletter for the employees  
of the University of San Diego

## View

April 1995, Vol. 11, Issue 7

### Employees Coast to Work, Avoiding Traffic

By Jill Wagner

When Dorothy Thomas commuted between Long Island and New York City, she never had the sunsets and ocean vistas that are now part of her daily routine. Thomas' morning and afternoon rides on the new Coaster commuter train whisk her between Encinitas and Old Town along rails hugging San Diego's picturesque coastline.

Thomas is one of several USD employees committed to turning in their car keys for a train pass and a hassle-free commute to work.

"It is longer (than driving) but it's relaxing," Thomas says. "It's just a very nice quiet time at either end of the day."

The commuter rail began service Feb. 27, the same day Thomas and three colleagues from administrative data processing climbed aboard and fell in love with the spiffy new double-decker train cars. The Coaster makes six trips each morning and afternoon between Oceanside and San Diego, with six stops at points in between.

USD employees and students using the train can arrive in Old Town about every 30 minutes between 6:20 a.m. and 8:35 a.m. On the way home, North County residents can catch trains leaving about every 30 minutes between 4:20 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

A San Diego Transit bus headed toward

#### Coaster schedule

##### Morning trains (a.m.)

Oceanside		5:34	6:15	6:43	7:18	7:48		7:41
Carlsbad Village		5:38	6:19	6:47	7:22	7:52		7:34
Carlsbad Poinsettia		5:44	6:25	6:53	7:28	7:58		7:27
Encinitas		5:49	6:30	6:58	7:33	8:03		7:22
Solana Beach		5:54	6:35	7:03	7:38	8:08		7:18
Sorrento Valley		6:03	6:43	7:11	7:46	8:16		7:10
Old Town		6:22	7:03	7:31	8:06	8:36		6:48
San Diego		6:32	7:13	7:41	8:16	8:46		6:41

← southbound

northbound ↑

##### Afternoon trains (p.m.)

Oceanside		5:13	5:43	6:13	6:43	7:33		5:21
Carlsbad Village		5:05	5:35	6:05	6:35	7:25		5:25
Carlsbad Poinsettia		4:59	5:29	5:59	6:29	7:19		5:31
Encinitas		4:54	5:24	5:54	6:24	7:14		5:37
Solana Beach		4:49	5:19	5:49	6:19	7:09		5:44
Sorrento Valley		4:41	5:11	5:41	6:11	7:01		5:54
Old Town		4:22	4:52	5:22	5:52	6:42		6:14
San Diego		4:15	4:45	5:15	5:45	6:35		6:21

northbound ↑

← southbound

Schedule subject to change. Call 800-COASTER for information.

USD stops three blocks from the Old Town train station but this is where the commute gets sticky, employees say. The bus leaves three minutes after the train arrives and it is almost impossible to make the three-block sprint in that time.

A group of 35 employees and students attending a recent Coaster meeting showed keen interest in regularly riding the train but said it has to be worthwhile.

"While I'm willing to ride 15 to 20 minutes extra, 45 minutes more than driving is unreasonable," one employee said.

The Coaster commute would be feasible, the group said, if a shuttle is run between Old Town and the campus. Don Johnson, director of public safety, vowed to seek approval for purchase of a bus dedicated to

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#### Come One, Come All

It's time again for that springtime tradition, the Linda Vista Fair. The USD community is invited to join our neighbors from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 29, for the 10th anniversary "Decade of Unity" celebration. A parade will kick off the festivities that include food and entertainment throughout the afternoon. The Fern Street Circus will perform at 1:30 and 4 p.m.

The fairgrounds will be spread over the 6900 block of Linda Vista Road. Volunteers interested in working at the USD information booth should contact **Maria Martinez-Cosio** at ext. 4659.

#### Update on Employee Leave

The California Labor Code was recently amended to increase to 40 hours per year the amount of time employers must allow employees to participate in the school activities of their children. No more than eight hours can be taken in a month and the employee must give reasonable notice of the absence.

The leave is not on university time and supervisors may require the employee to use vacation time. If the employee does not have vacation time, the absence should be charged as time off without pay.

Time off for school activities should not be counted against the employee when assessing attendance records.

For more information, call **Judith Muñoz** at ext. 4594 or **Larry Gardepie** at ext. 8766.



## Benefit Briefs

Tuition remission benefits are available for summer classes. Notification was sent on March 15 through campus mail. Late applicants will be placed on the waiting list. Benefits for late applicants will be awarded if and when funds are available.

Effective April 1, Prudential's medical plan will change from PruCare HMO and PruNetwork to PruCare Plus Triple Option Plan. New identification cards will be mailed to participants by April 1. New claim forms (PruNetwork) are available in human resources. New mail order maintenance prescription forms also will be available.

The triple option plan is a new concept to university employees. Keep in mind, doctors usually contract with more than one type of insurance plan. As an example, some doctors are listed in both Prudential's HMO and PPO directories. It is up to you to check with the doctors office and to clarify which benefit you will receive for each appointment. Always call your primary care physician if you want HMO benefits (tier 1).

Prudential's Triple Option Plan membership service number is 457-4337, or call the national service hotline at (800) 526-2963 if you are traveling outside the San Diego area.

Employees may already be looking at enrolling their child(ren) in a summer camp program. Summer camp, sponsored by a licensed day care provider, qualifies as a dependent care reimbursement expense. USD's Creative Kids does not qualify for reimbursement because USD is not a licensed day care provider. Be sure to check eligibility before submitting your dependent care reimbursement claims.

— Vicki Coscia

## Professors Bring Historic Old Town to Life

By Jill Wagner

With the click of a mouse USD history professor **Steve Schoenherr** guides a tour through the streets of 1830 Old Town San Diego. He stops at the famed Estudillo House, and with another click, enters the building and turns the tour over to one of the first residents of San Diego.

Well, OK, not *the* resident but a modern-day narrator playing the role for the computer-generated tour.

The CD-quality sound is just one high-tech feature in the multimedia extravaganza being written by Schoenherr and fellow history professor **Iris Engstrand**. The duo started documenting Old Town history on CD-ROM last June for use at the state park's visitors center and in homes of curious computer users eager to know more about the origin of the country's sixth largest city.

The project, Engstrand explains, is really an evolution of a multimedia show she and Schoenherr produced 17 years ago. When Schoenherr arrived at USD in 1977, he brought with him a wealth of knowledge about combining slide pictures and spoken words into audio-visual displays. Engstrand introduced him to an Old Town guide book she had published and they immediately decided to produce a show for students.

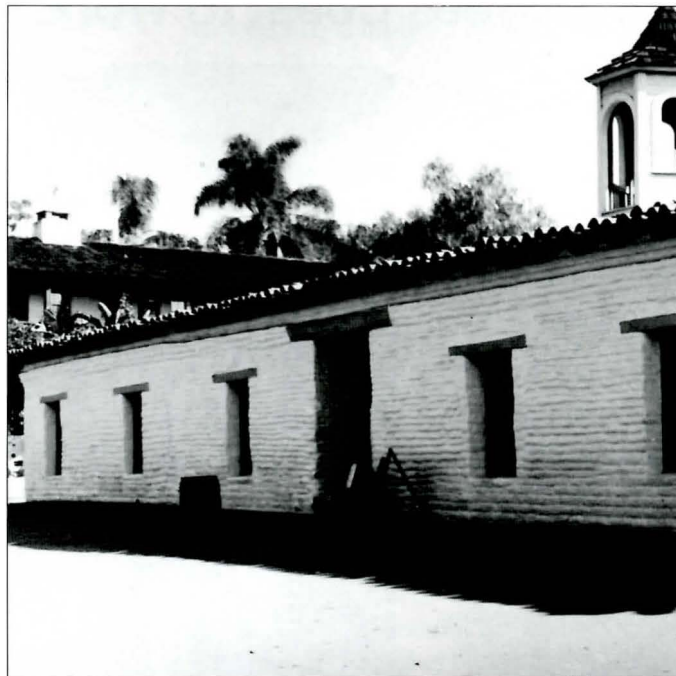
After gathering historical photos and their own slides, Schoenherr and Engstrand created a program that used seven slide projectors. "That was multimedia in 1978," Schoenherr says.

Today, multimedia is music, three-dimensional color pictures, and even movies, all on one compact disc. The Old Town project will include all three elements plus graphs charting San Diego's 1850 census and archival documents written by Old Town's original residents.

Engstrand found an artist in New Mexico who wrote original Southwestern guitar music for the CD, noting that festive dancing was an integral part of historic Old Town life for Mexicans and Americans.

"Every American who writes of being in Old Town says, 'We went to a fandango tonight at the Bandini House and Juan Bandini danced on and on,'" Engstrand says.

Visitors to the center, which is now under construction, will be able to share the experience of the dancers at individual computer terminals or watch 10-minute histories that will run continuously on a giant movie screen.



*Photos like this of La Casa de Estudillo are used in Steve Schoenherr and Iris Engstrand's CD-ROM chronicling the history of Old Town San Diego. The home was restored in 1969 and is now open to visitors to the state park.*

"Everybody's getting on the multimedia bandwagon, but what's being left behind is the history," Schoenherr says.

As historians, Schoenherr and Engstrand are determined to produce an accurate and appealing CD-ROM, and so are writing the text as well as the computer program for their project.

"I've always believed that historians ought to do these things rather than turn them over to a technician," Schoenherr says. "A lot of documentaries are made by people who only know the technology. I've tried to learn enough of the technology so I understand what's going on, but I want to keep the focus on the content."

The professors have enlisted help from a team of staff and students versed in various aspects of computer design and are working

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# Department of the Month

## Graduate Career Programs



The staff of Graduate Career Programs includes (back row from left to right): Gretchen Veihl, Sue Sullivan, Lynda Cote, Joanne Draper, Pat Trevino and Tara King; (front row from left to right): Trish Niles, Windy McElligott, Denise North and Beth Limberg; (not pictured): Carey Granda.

### 1. Where is your department located?

Our offices are located on the top floor of Serra Hall in room 316.

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

The department consists of two distinct sections: the Lawyer's Assistant Program and Test Preparation Courses. The Lawyer's Assistant Program is a short, intensive graduate level certificate program that provides students with academic and practical background needed to work as paralegals. The program serves students who are making a career change, looking for a professional career or considering law school. There are day and evening courses and an evening course offered in San Marcos. Test Preparation offers short, personalized review classes which prepare students for the LSAT, GRE or GMAT. We also offer an SAT preparation course on the USD campus and at several high schools in San Diego.

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

Our biggest challenge is exploring employment opportunities for paralegals when the job market in San Diego is so competitive. Standardized tests are constantly changing and it takes time to update materials and make adjustments to lesson plans.

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

The number of graduates in the paralegal program has increased from 312 graduates in 1984 to nearly 400 in 1994. Our curriculum is always under revision to reflect the changes in the job market and legal trends. We have added an Environmental Law class, expanded Legal Research and Writing and created a Business Litigation program for our evening students. We started out with just an LSAT preparation course and have added the GMAT, GRE and SAT courses.

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

We serve an extremely diverse population. High school students come to us to prepare for the SAT. USD undergraduates take the Lawyer's Assistant Program as part of their elective units. We deal with students of all ages and backgrounds who are interested in graduate educations, whether their intention is taking the LSAT or making a career change to the paralegal field. Many of our day students come from outside California. We always strive to present USD in the best possible light so that students will consider continuing their education within the university.

## Leadership Training

The Chicano Federation is looking for USD faculty or staff interested in attending its Leadership Training Institute's 16-week course. The training includes public speaking, teamwork and community organizing to prepare participants for leadership roles in volunteer organizations.

For more information, call the Chicano Federation at 236-1228.

## Seminars and Colloquia

Faculty is invited to attend a Centers for Excellence seminar hosted by the Office of Sponsored Programs, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 20, in Maher 270.

**Julie D'Angelo**, Center for Public Interest Law, **Anne Hendershott**, sociology, and **Judy Rauner**, community service-learning, will speak on linking faculty projects with other disciplines, schools or agencies.

For more information, contact **Jackie White** or **Kathy Hughes** at ext. 6825.

Faculty and staff are invited to the following colloquia sponsored by the Irvine Faculty Development Program:

**International Students: The Unseen Diversity**, noon to 2 p.m., April 3, in UC Forum B. **Yvette Fontaine**, international student advisor, will present a luncheon colloquium.

**What Then Must We Do?**, noon to 2 p.m., April 19, in UC 107. **Judith Liu**, sociology, and **L. Reuben Mitchell**, human resources, will present a luncheon colloquium.

## Campus Ministry Events

**Lenten Reconciliation Service**, April 3, 5 p.m., in Founders Chapel.

**Seder Meal**, April 10, 6 to 8:30 p.m., in UC Forum AB. Call ext. 4735 for reservations.

**1995 Stations of the Cross**, Good Friday, April 14, 8:30 to 11 a.m., meet at the San Diego County Health building, 1700 Pacific Highway.

**Easter Sunday Mass**, April 16, 9 p.m., in Founders Chapel.



## A "High Noon" Barbeque

The Employee Appreciation Picnic will be held noon to 3 p.m., June 9, at the Sports Center pool. Meet at "High Noon" for a western barbeque and line dancing lessons. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 drawing plus a "Blazing Paddles" race across the pool in inflatable canoes. Watch for more information.

## SEA Strands

Staff employees have been sent a form for nominating their favorite administrator for the "Administrator of the Year" award. The award will be presented at the employee picnic. Please submit your nomination by the deadline shown on the form. For more information, or if you did not receive a form, call **Barbara Walsh** at ext. 4490.

"Walking for Someone You Love" is the theme of the 1995 March of Dimes Walk-America. Join the SEA team on April 29 and spend a beautiful day walking around Mission Bay. For registration information, call **Sandi West** at ext. 4627.

Grocery store scrip is available at the University Center ticket office. Vons, Ralphs and Lucky donates a portion to the scholarship fund to send employees' children to the Manchester Family Child Development Center.

—Nancy Roos

## Alcalá View

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## Passages

### Retired

Richard Casey, professor of marine and environmental studies, after nine years, in January.

### Deaths

**Manuel Hernandez**, a 37-year employee in building maintenance, on Feb. 18.

**Joseph A. Sinclitico**, former dean of the School of Law, on Feb. 26.

**Stanley Dalton**, USD public safety officer, on Feb. 17.

**Thomas F. Burke Sr.**, father of **Thomas F. Burke**, vice president of student affairs, on March 1.

**Larry D. Griffith**, son of **Mary Griffith**, purchasing, on March 2.

**George Bryjak**, father of **George Bryjak**, sociology, in February.

**William Subber**, father of **Laura Berend**, School of Law, on Feb. 12.

## CD-ROM

(Continued from page two)

furiously to complete the project by September for the scheduled opening of the Old Town visitors center.

Production team-members include academic computing's software technician **Thor Brickman**, history graduate students **George Rothrock** and **Damon Rouse**, undergraduate **Valerie Schoenherr** and video consultant **Kristin Engstrand**. The project is funded by grants from the Irvine Foundation, Thornton Foundation, The Fred Hansen Foundation for World Peace and Joseph W. Sefton Foundation.

The CD-ROM will be usable on Macintosh and IBM computers and the ambitious team hopes to put part of the exhibit on the Internet eventually.

## Coaster Ride

(Continued from page one)

making year-round Coaster runs.

Johnson said he is unwilling to send the trams owned by the university down to Old Town because of safety risks with the open-sided vehicles. Instead, he will submit a proposal to the President's Advisory Council asking for a 29-passenger bus and full-time driver funded by parking fees. The council meets April 4.

If the bus purchase is approved, Johnson said he would rent vans to start the shuttle service while waiting for arrival of the larger bus.

For more information about the Coaster, call (800) 262-7837.

## New Hires, Promotions

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

**Cynthia Carrillo**, Legal Research Center; **Barbara Hudson**, public safety; **Benjamin Murrell**, development; **Diolinda Parsick**, academic computing; **Cynthia Quintanilla**, political science; **Penny Shepard**, athletics administration; **Carrie-Ann Valdez**, controller; **Linda Weinstein**, controller; **Lynn Whitehurst**, School of Nursing; **Cynthia Riley**, administrative data processing; **Mary Herman**, undergraduate admissions; **Patricia Luczak-Trevino**, paralegal program; and **Rocio Rivera**, controller.

Congratulations to the following employees who recently received promotions or reclassifications:

**Robert J. Arsenault**, electrician in building maintenance; and **Michael Shivers**, data processing clerk in development.



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