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 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 (Continued on page four)
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.

“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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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 LSAT 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.

-Patricia Luczak-Trevino, paralegal program; and Rocio Rivera, controller.

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

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.