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# Alcalá

A newsletter for the employees  
of the University of San Diego

# View

August 1995, Vol. 11, Issue 11

## Education is His Specialty

By Jill Wagner

Students must always come first when reforming education.

It may seem an obvious statement, but in his years of advocating for special education, **Ted Geddes** has met precious few administrators who put kids first and foremost. Often it is the parents who serve as voices for the children and compel policymakers to reassess their priorities.

In his role on California's new Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for special education, Geddes has a unique opportunity to represent students and recruit more parents to be active in their children's education. Geddes, who has worked locally on behalf of students with disabilities for the past five years, was elected in April to the state committee by fellow advocates. He represents San Diego and Imperial counties on the CAC.

Geddes joined the USD community 12 years ago in housekeeping and now works as a lead person in custodial services. It was soon after his son, William, was born in 1988 with Down's Syndrome that friends encouraged Geddes to begin fighting for the rights of special education students.

The Lakeside resident now finds himself a member of multiple volunteer committees. "Most people involved in this kind of work seem to wear two or three different hats," Geddes says.

His roles include chairman of the school site council for Lakeside Farms Elementary



*President Alice B. Hayes attends an ecumenical vesper service to celebrate the beginning of her administration at USD. Hayes took over July 1 for retiring president Author E. Hughes. The service was the first of many celebrations to be held throughout the fall semester in honor of the new president.*

School, representative on the Lakeside Union School District advisory committee, member of the board of directors of the Down's Syndrome Association and member of the East County CAC. "And a parent," he adds with a gleam in his eye.

As a group of parents experienced in special education advocacy, the state CAC has several tasks, Geddes learned during the first meeting, held in June. The new committee will help train community advisory groups that want to involve more parents and keep them involved. The state CAC will keep

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### Charge Accounts Updated

Beginning July 17, the bookstore instituted a new department charge account system. Each department should have applied for a new card with a magnetic strip that can be used at any cash register in the bookstore.

Cardholders still will be required to sign a receipt at the end of each transaction and a monthly charge statement will be sent to the department. If you have questions about the new system or need a new card, contact **Ana Schafer** at the bookstore, ext. 4551.

Failure to obtain a new card may cause delays when making purchases.

### 1995-96 Holiday Schedule

#### Labor Day:

Monday, Sept. 4

#### Thanksgiving:

Thursday and Friday,  
Nov. 23-24

#### Christmas:

Monday and Tuesday,  
Dec. 25-26

#### New Year's:

Monday and Tuesday,  
Jan. 1-2

#### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday:

Monday, Jan. 15

#### Good Friday:

Friday, April 5

#### Memorial Day:

Monday, May 27

#### Independence Day:

Thursday, July 4

## Benefit Briefs

Part-time employees must file for tuition remission benefits each semester. Tuition remission applications for fall must be approved by human resources 10 days before the first day of class. Student accounts will impose a \$60 late fee for applications received after school begins. Tuition remission applications are available in human resources.

Employees may make one rate change to their USD retirement plan any time between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1995. Call **Vicki** at ext. 8764 to change the contribution rate. Contact TIAA/ CREF, Valic or Scudder directly if you wish to change your investment options within the company.

**Valuable California Casualty Tip:** A college student living in a campus dormitory may be protected by his or her parents' homeowner's, condominium or renter's insurance policy. Any personal property the student takes from home to the college dormitory is typically covered by a parent's policy if the student is a "dependent." A "dependent" is someone who is financially dependent on the parents and is still a resident (if even occasionally) in the parent's household. Be sure to check with your insurance company for details.

Scudder Fund shareholders received an "investment slip" in the last quarterly statement. This form was mailed to Scudder participants by mistake. Please disregard this notice.

Have a safe and happy summer!

— Vicki Coscia

## Working 9 to 5 — And Then Some

By Jill Wagner

There is a saying: "When you want something done, give it to a busy person." The graduate and continuing education dean's office has found **Celeste Weinsheim** is just such a person.

As an executive assistant, Weinsheim coordinates the huge volume of work completed each semester by the dean, associate dean and three staff people. The team handles everything from graduate student records to organizing graduate commencement ceremonies to running summer school and intersession for the entire university.

It is for her dedication to her job that Weinsheim was named 1995 Employee of the Year at the Employee Appreciation Picnic in June.

"For almost 10 years, Celeste has been the mainstay of our office," Dean **Eren Branch** wrote in nominating Weinsheim for the award. "With uncommon intelligence, imagination and dedication, Celeste has always understood the connection between accuracy in the smallest office details and the overall good of the institution."

Weinsheim's expertise in handling detailed and varied tasks is evident in her personal life as well. When not at USD, the Tierrasanta resident may be coordinating billing for the community newspaper she owns, attending a San Diego Parks and Recreation board meeting as a member of the advisory committee or hashing out plans for a new community swimming pool with the Tierrasanta committee she chairs.

Weinsheim has been an active member of the Tierrasanta community since moving into one of the first homes built there in 1970. She, her husband Gene and their two children left Grand Rapids, Mich., for warmer climes in 1969 and soon after settled in the new neighborhood east of Kearny Mesa. "We were there before there was a grocery store!" she recalls.

One of Weinsheim's first tasks as a community volunteer was coaching her daughter's softball team. In 1978 she and three other women founded the *Tierra Times*, replacing a photocopied newsletter with a



1995 Employee of the Year Celeste Weinsheim (center) joins her colleagues Lillian Lachicotte and John Damrose, who keep the graduate and continuing education dean's office running smoothly.

biweekly newspaper complete with paid advertisements. Nearly two decades later, the four women still write, edit and design the 20-page paper themselves. They mail the *Times* to 10,000 homes.

Weinsheim's relationship with USD extends just as far back. Soon after arriving in San Diego, her husband landed a job as the university's controller, which he held until his death in 1979.

Weinsheim has fond memories of hearing about the merger of the College for Men and College for Women and of times spent in the home of former president **Author E. Hughes**. "I remember the early days when we would go to Dr. Hughes' house for dinner and there would be 15 of us," Weinsheim says. "It was such a small campus compared to what it is now."

Her continued association with friends from the university helped Weinsheim get a job in student accounts when in 1985 she decided to return to work full-time. Four months after being hired, she moved to the graduate dean's office.

Clearly a person with great loyalty to her job and community, it is no surprise that Weinsheim is an avid Padres fan. She and her family have attended spring training games in Arizona every year since moving west.

"I just love baseball," she says gleefully. "I rush home to see the Padres on TV when they're not in town. I have my 5-year-old grandson primed; he'll sit and watch nine innings of baseball with me."

# Department of the Month

## Student Accounts



The staff of student accounts includes (front row from left to right): Darlene Smith, Marika Mounq and Sharon Lainas; (back row from left to right): Jill Stutzman, Marge Costanzo, Alex Peña and Carmen DeCordova.

### 1. Where is your department located?

We are currently located in Maher Hall, room 103; however, we will be moving to the Author E. and Marjorie A. Hughes Administration Center in the spring of 1996.

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

The student accounts office collects tuition, fees, room and board, and all other charges the students incur. We collect for the law school, graduate, undergraduate, paralegal and other miscellaneous student programs on campus.

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

The biggest challenge we face is the reduction of financial aid, the changing economy and the unemployment rate. These directly affect the ability of parents and students to pay for education.

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

There has been a significant increase in enrollment and the cost of education over the past 10 years. We are in the process of completing an online computer system that will enable us to interface with all the departments that affect the students' accounts. This will allow us to have instant,

accurate account information that we can use to serve the students more efficiently.

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

We appreciate the assistance and support we receive from the other departments on campus. This combined effort enables us to achieve our goals.

## Education

(Continued from page one)

track of education bills in the Legislature and advise parents as to how the proposed laws could affect their special education student. Perhaps most fundamental to the goals of special education, the CAC will help state officials create a funding mechanism to better mainstream disabled students into regular classrooms, Geddes says.

"For example, a law says now that when a child is fully included in a regular classroom, the school subsequently loses funding from special education for that child," he says. "But the child may still need extra help that could be provided through additional funding."

William, who turned 7 last month, attended a regular kindergarten class at Lakeside Farms the past school year and is currently in a first-grade summer school

(See "Education" on page four)

## New Hires

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

**Steven Brown**, athletics administration; **Martin Chavez**, gardener; and **Linda Patton**, sponsored programs.

Congratulations to the following employee who was recently promoted:

**Shannon S. Goss**, alumni relations coordinator in development.

## Passages

### Retired

**Carl Gilbert**, history professor, after 25 years, in August.

**Jack Morrison**, professor in the School of Education, after 27 years, in August.

**Herbert Peterfreund**, distinguished professor in the School of Law, after 17 years, in August.

### Deaths

Father **Francis "Jim" Rigney**, former professor emeritus of history, on June 12.

Victor H. Munnecke, father of **Janet Madden**, associate director of the academic support program, on June 15.

Father **Vincent C. Waiches**, former faculty member in psychology, on June 18.

Father **Michael French**, a recent visiting professor in psychology, on June 21.

Virginia Nolan, mother of **Virginia Nolan**, professor in the School of Law, on June 23.

Viola (Rusty) Artis, mother of **Skip Walsh**, director of resident life and assistant dean of students, in June.

Bertha M. Herman, mother of **Marjorie A. Hughes**, on July 8.

## Thank You:

I would like to thank everyone at USD for the beautiful cards and notes I received after the death of my mother. I was very touched by the generous outpouring of thoughtfulness and caring expressed by the campus community.

— Marcia Rathfon

## Classifieds:

**For Sale:** 3-bedroom, 1-bath Clairemont home. Large, fenced canyon lot, enclosed patio. New paint, carpets, roof, and dual-glazed windows. \$160,000. Terms. Call **Betty** at 275-6569 or ext. 4525.

**For Rent:** 3-bedroom, 1-bath, 1-car garage on large, fenced canyon lot. \$850. Available Aug. 10. Call **Betty** at 275-6569 or ext. 4525.

Ride free in the summer breeze. **For sale**, '79 MGB. New top, new paint, British racing green. \$5,000 or best. Call **Susan** at ext. 4659.

## SEA Strands

### Upcoming events:

**Fun Day on Mission Bay**, Aug. 5. Festivities begin about 10 a.m. Meet at the Mission Bay Visitors Information Center. For more information, contact **Alicia Buenrostro** at ext. 2861 or **Kay Norton** at ext. 2033.

Don't forget that grocery store scrip is available to the campus community at the Hahn University Center ticket office. Scrip is purchased dollar-for-dollar and can be used at Vons, Ralphs or Lucky.

By using the scrip, you are helping to increase the funds available to send children of USD employees to the Manchester Family Child Development Center.

— Nancy Roos

## Alcalá View

Vol. 11, Issue 11

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# Bookstore Remodeled for Convenience

Not long after the expanded campus bookstore opened four years ago, managers discovered the adjacent convenience market was not at all convenient. The mini-market could not be accessed from inside the bookstore and the entrance was hidden from sight in the Loma Hall lobby.

The repositioning of a few walls this summer will take care of those problems, explains **Marcia Butler**, bookstore director. A new entrance to the market has been carved out of the wall that held a bank of lockers, and the wall behind the bookstore's customer service counter has been knocked down. Now, customers standing at the counter can look into the market.

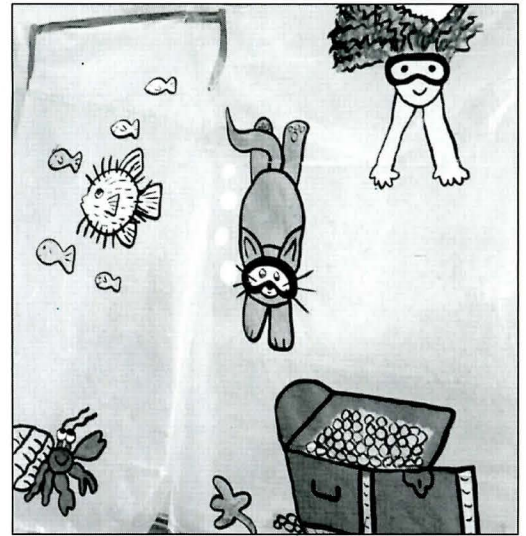
The market's cashier will sit inside the new entrance, close enough to the existing customer service counter to also help patrons with faxes, photo processing or balloon orders.

"We think we can save on labor and increase sales," Butler says.

In the original setup, the market clerk could not leave the store to stock or help in the bookstore during slow periods, she explains. The increased visibility and convenience of paying for bookstore and market merchandise on one bill should help sales, she adds.

The convenience store will continue to open at 7:45 a.m., but so will the portion of the bookstore selling greeting cards and clothing because of the new arrangement, Butler says. Metal gates will close off the textbook section until its usual 9 a.m. opening time.

Also, a textbook refund window will replace the original entrance to the market in the Loma Hall lobby, eliminating the crowds that gather each semester inside the bookstore.



A plastic tarp hiding construction in the bookstore took on the look of an aquarium, thanks to the creative DeeDee Porter. To find out what has transformed behind the tarp, visit the remodeled convenience store.

Contractors are scheduled to finish the remodeling Aug. 4, leaving the bookstore staff a little more than a week to stock the new store for the beginning of the law school's fall semester.

## Education

(Continued from page three)

class. Geddes' answer to a question about his favorite part of the committee work also sums up his feelings about his son's work in school.

"Seeing the progress of some of these kids is just amazing," he says.

Case in point: Recently William was browsing through one of his dad's nature books on the desert, Geddes explains. The family had been camping in a valley near Campo a few weeks before and when William came to a picture of a similar looking valley he pointed excitedly and said, "There's William! There's William!"



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