Copley Lawn Will Turn into Fairgrounds

By Jill Wagner

Sheriff Taylor, Aunt Bea, Opie and Barney Fife couldn’t have wished for a more festive county fair than the one that will roll into town June 20. The 1997 Employee Appreciation Picnic, dubbed “Mayberry USD,” will celebrate all the folks whose dedicated work makes the university shine throughout the year.

The lawn behind Copley Library will be transformed into a fairground complete with barbeque stands, music, Aunt Bea’s Bake-off Contest, a craft display booth and relay games. Guests are invited to dress like a favorite Mayberry character and bring chairs, blankets and sunscreen to enjoy the picnic.

The annual party, set for noon to 3 p.m., is open to all employees and USD retirees. A lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, barbequed chicken and veggie burgers will be served by The Picnic People and followed by the presentation of the five-year service certificates and announcement of the Manuel Hernandez Staff Employee of the Year Award winner. Door prizes and the Administrator of the Year Award will be presented by the Staff Employees Association.

This year, 46 staff and administrative employees will be honored with five-year certificates at the bash. They are:


Service awards for 10-, 15-, 20-, 25- and 30-year employees will be presented at the fall service awards celebration.

Following the award ceremony, teams will vie for glory in the third annual President’s T.E.A. (Team Effort Award) Cup competition between vice presidential areas. Picnic organizers say competitors should be ready for anything from navigating an obstacle course to running a three-legged race to shooting free throws.

Meanwhile, judges from each division will taste the home-baked goodies of their fellow employees and award first, second and third prize to the best tasting chocolate chip cookies and fruit pies.

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USD is Still Home for Sister Virginia

By Jill Wagner

USD's extensive alumni files, updated and stored today in a sophisticated computer system, were first compiled by a nun with a great memory and the white pages. When Sister Virginia McMonagle, R.S.C.J., came to Alcalá Park 19 years ago, she set out to find the whereabouts of graduates, of which little was known at the time.

Sister McMonagle culled from her memory the names of students she recognized from her work at an El Cajon school of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, and opened the phone book in search of their current addresses. She was principal at the school beginning in 1957, so by the mid-1970s when she arrived on the USD campus, scores of students had spent their elementary, junior and high school years under Sister McMonagle's watchful eye.

Her job as assistant to the vice president of university relations quickly evolved into much more than updating alumni files. Sister McMonagle was in on the ground floor of the still-popular outreach programs Invisible University and University of the Third Age. She remembers fondly the task of arranging seven guest speakers per month for the seven Invisible University groups that met in homes throughout the San Diego community.

Events planning and working with volunteer organizations soon turned into Sister McMonagle's full-time job. She worked with groups such as the USD Auxiliary, Friends of the Library, the Sacred Heart alumnae and the board of trustees. The time has come though for Sister, as she is affectionately known on campus, to leave her work to someone else.

"I wanted to leave this job while I could still do it," Sister McMonagle says.

She will wrap up 19 years of work in June and travel to Haiti for most of the summer. In the last three years, Sister McMonagle has called the Caribbean island nation home for six months of the year. It's been 11 years since she started working in a Haitian orphanage and infant hospital.

Sister McMonagle builds lasting bonds with the hundreds of children she ministers to in Haiti, as she did at the boarding schools where she spent the early part of her career as a teacher and principal. Many of them are pictured smiling gleefully in giant frames on her office wall.

She looks at the pictures, noting quietly that many of those children have died. They could not survive the harsh realities of growing up in a third-world country.

At the infant hospital, "we lose hundreds and save thousands," Sister McMonagle says. At the orphanage, where there are currently 400 children, residents have a home for life if they need it. Siblings, sometimes numbering six or seven, are never separated. "It's one of the happiest places I've been," she says.

Sister will return in late August to take on a new role at USD. She will work part-time with John McNamara, vice president of university relations, and keep her apartment in the Alcalá Vistas.

An invitation-only reception to honor Sister McMonagle's work with USD's volunteer and alumni organizations is scheduled for May 7 in Colachis Plaza. While the off-campus folks she has served for nearly 20 years will bid her goodbye, the campus will look forward to her return at the end of summer.

Come One, Come All

The USD community is invited to attend a town hall meeting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 8, in UC Forum A, in preparation for the Ethics Across the Campus survey. The two-hour meeting will be led by John Wilcox, chair of the Center for Professional Ethics at Manhattan College in New York.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call ext. 2263.
USD Pledges Nearly $55,000 to United Way

Hundreds of health and human services organizations throughout San Diego County are reaping the benefits of the generosity shown by USD employees. The 1997 United Way/CHAD campaign concluded this spring with total contributions from the university community reaching $54,972.

In this year’s campaign, employee participation increased to 31.9 percent from 30.4 percent in 1996 and the dollar amount increased by 10 percent. The university began the March fund-raising drive with the goal of 35 percent participation from its pool of 1,100 employees.

The academic and administrative departments on campus were divided into 19 teams and challenged to outdo each other in individual participation rates. With all the pledges tallied, the team led by Brother Thomas Thing, including the president’s and provost’s offices, the Transborder Institute, NROTC, university ministry and the Office of Community Service-Learning, came in with a 62.5 percent participation rate. Student affairs, guided by team leader Barbara Peterson, came in a close second with 60 percent participation.

Nine teams increased participation rates over last year, and the two teams including dining services, Copley Library and media services doubled the number of pledges over 1996.

The members of Thing’s team are invited to a congratulatory luncheon with President Alice B. Hayes, at noon, May 5, in UC 107.

Campaign co-chairs Greg Zackowski, director of UC operations, and Yolanda Castro, administrative assistant in the president’s office, wish to thank all of the participants.

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Law School Graduation Mass, 2:30 p.m., May 23, in Founders Chapel.
Baccalaureate Mass, 4 p.m., May 24, in Torero Stadium.
Daily Masses in Founders Chapel, 7 a.m., Monday through Saturday; 12:10 p.m., Monday through Friday; 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and 7 and 9 p.m., Sunday.

Sincere Thanks
Thanks to the USD community (administration, faculty, staff and students) for your prayers and expressions of support throughout my recent difficulties, and especially for your response to the death of my daughter, Erin. Your cards and letters have been a great source of comfort and encouragement. I hope and pray that I will soon be back with you to thank each of you in person. Till then, peace!

— Dan Moriarty

Passages

Deaths
Sui Tsai Zee, father of Betty Zee, graduate records coordinator, on March 12.
Ralph Santiago Abascal, brother of Mary Abascal-Hildebrand, associate professor in the School of Education, on March 17.
Ann Walsh, grandmother of Larry Perez, resident director of Maher Hall and assistant director of residence life, in March.
Alfred Whitaker, father-in-law of Rick Hagan, director of housing, on April 2.
Ann Gregory, mother of Father Barry Vinyard, associate chaplain in university ministry, on April 3.

Peace to All
Thank you for all of the cards and support during the passing of my grandmother. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated your concern for me and my family. The support I received will never be forgotten.

— Larry Perez
Parking Recommendations Due in May

The university parking committee recently divided into subcommittees to tackle key issues in the ongoing assessment of permit fees. Four subcommittees of faculty, staff, administrators and students are tasked with hashing out alternative fee structures and returning in early May with a plan to send to the administration.

Currently, the 1997-98 budget calls for mesa parking permits to increase from $75 to $240. Fringe permits will increase from $25 to $50.

When one faculty member questioned whether the school's top decision-makers will be open to alternatives, Director of Public Safety Rana Sampson said she's had no indication otherwise.

"I think there is enough range of opinion among the vice presidents that they will be open to recommendations," Sampson said at an April 4 meeting.

Picnic
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All employees are eligible to enter Aunt Bea's Bake-off by bringing cookies or pies to the picnic area by 11 a.m., June 20. The following rules apply:
• One item per employee may be entered in each category: chocolate chip cookies and fruit pies (cherry or apple pies only, please).
• Store-bought cookies or pies will be disqualified.
• Include recipe with the entry (winning recipes will be published in the Alcalá View).
• Entries must include at least one dozen cookies and/or one full-size pie.
• Bakers will remain anonymous until after the judging is complete.

For more information regarding the contest, contact Kily Jones at ext. 4796.

Also on the "fairgrounds," a tented booth will be open for display of any handmade crafts. Please notify Calista Davis at ext. 2621 by June 4 if you plan to show your handiwork.

And remember, tickets are mandatory for attendance and to be eligible for door prizes. Watch the campus mail for information about when tickets will be available at the Hahn University Center box office. Spouses, children and guests are welcome with a paid ticket. Adults are $8 and children (ages 4-12) are $5. Kids 3 and under are free.