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# Alcalá

June 1997, Vol. 13, Issue 9

A newsletter for the employees  
of the University of San Diego

## View

### Six Faculty Say Their Final Goodbyes

**T**hey hail from fine arts, the School of Law, chemistry, engineering, history and foreign languages. Together they've served the university for 146 years. This month they retire — **Lorri Spuehler**, **Robert Simmons**, **Don Peterson**, **Robert Mertz**, **Ray Brandes** and **Hélène Laperrousaz** have taught their last classes and graded their final papers.

After teaching an average of 24 years at USD, the newest group of faculty retirees is preparing to write books, return to life as graduate students or simply relax at home. These are the folks who have grown right along with the university and helped develop their departments into thriving academic centers.

A few of them took the time to share some final thoughts before their last trip down Marian Way. For the others, we've culled some interesting tidbits about their USD careers. Best wishes to all 1997 retirees.

**Florence "Lorri" Spuehler**  
Professor of Studio Arts  
Hired: Jan. 2, 1970

Best advice for a freshman faculty member: "You have to be a pioneer. That's what the art department is. We're always building, we know where we want to go, but we don't yet have the facilities or faculty to provide for our students."

Plans for retirement: "There are a couple of books I want to write. There isn't really a decent book written about art appreciation — why the average person should know about art, how it affects them, why people do art, how they do it. I want to show why art is important in the world and in life. There are basic problems that everyone faces, and art reflects those."

**Hélène Laperrousaz**  
Professor of Italian  
Hired: Sept. 1, 1976

Professional philosophy: "The main ingredients in teaching are joy and integrity."

Most important contribution: "The most rewarding factor in a career is to have the possibility of being creative. I have been so lucky to be given the chance to create the Italian section, the minor in Italian and the study abroad program in Florence, Italy."

Plans for retirement: "I am presently in the third year of a Ph.D. program in psychology. My project for my thesis is requiring research in spirituality, art and psychology."

**Ray Brandes**  
Professor of History and  
University Archivist  
Hired: Jan. 1, 1966

Other positions held during USD tenure: director of graduate and special programs, including summer sessions, intersession and educational opportunity programs; dean of the school of graduate and continuing education.

**Don Peterson**  
Professor of Chemistry  
Hired: Sept. 1, 1964

Research conducted through a national grant awarded in 1975: A newspaper report from the time read, "Every six weeks a 50-pound sack of ground-up rubbish from Washington, D.C., arrives at the University of San Diego, where a scientist puts it through 'froth flotation' in search of glass particles." Peterson's studies showed it was possible to isolate glass from other particles in solid waste and use it to make new glass, manufacture bricks or use it as a substitute for asphalt.

(Continued on page four)

### New Hires and Promotions

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

**Lois Acker**, academic computing; **Tricia Duran**, financial aid; **Daniel Kramarsky**, academic computing; **Patricia Moulton**, law school graduate programs; **Michael Treptow**, banquets and catering; and **Laura Walter**, continuing education administration; **Brenda Andreotti**, graduate admissions; **John Cossaboon**, athletics; **Rhonda Ciardetti**, dining services; **Barney Holland**, environmental health and safety; **Jean Hosenkamp**, university relations; **Kirsti Serafine**, sponsored programs; and **Carlos Vargas**, public safety.

Congratulations to the following employees who recently received a promotion:

**Elaine Elliot**, community liaison, community service-learning; **Julia Longstaff**, help desk specialist, administrative data processing; **Amanda Womack**, student activities program advisor, university center administration; **Patricia Bermel**, library assistant, legal research center; **Mario Casillas**, communications technician, telecommunications; **Niran Shenoda**, library assistant, legal research center; and **Ann Pantano**, faculty secretary in English.

### Blessings

Thank you for giving me such a sense of community at the time of my mother's death. Your prayers, cards and hugs were a special grace for me and my family. Blessings on each of you.

— M. Jane Gorman

## Benefits Brief

The benefits office will be temporarily located in Maher Hall, room 222, while we are remodeling the human resources offices during June and July. All HR phone extensions will remain the same.

- A dependent (not a spouse) over the age of 19 must be a full-time student in order to be eligible for health coverage. Student certification is established once a year. Insurance companies will automatically cancel dependent coverage at age 19 unless a student certification is provided. Please call **Esther** at ext. 8762 or **Debbie** at ext. 4456 to obtain certification forms. Remember — a break in coverage may occur if the student's status is not established each year after the age of 19.

If a dependent is a full-time student during spring and fall semesters, the dependent will be considered eligible for health coverage during the summer months.

- Wondering how to get the most out of your HMO medical plan? If there is a problem or issue with the insurance company or medical facility, do the following:

- 1) Call frequently. Check on the progress of any resolution. Keep notes on who, when and why. Keep calling until issue or concern is resolved.

- 2) Don't take "no" for an answer. Ask to talk to the supervisor or head of the medical staff. Again, keep notes.

- 3) Talk their language. Know your medical condition and be able to describe it using medical terminology as much as possible. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

- 4) For a serious medical condition, seek a second opinion. Second opinions are generally not covered by your insurance plan. Be prepared to pay the cost.

— Vicki Coscia

## Award-winning Mom has 45 Kids

By Jill Wagner

This is the kind of mom **Annette Welsh** is: When her 5-year-old son proudly served breakfast in bed in the early morning hours of Mother's Day, she relished every bite and every gulp of the salami sandwich, potato chips and water.

This is the kind of mom **Annette Welsh** is: After a bad day recently, she laid down and shut her eyes to regroup. Her 13-year-old daughter soon joined her, saying nothing but instead softly rubbing her mom's back, providing all the comfort Welsh needed.

Welsh inspires the best in her five kids. Then she comes to work at USD and does the same for the 40 members of the Founders Chapel choir. As associate minister in university ministry, Welsh directs the student singers and musicians who perform at daily liturgies and special Masses throughout the school year.

"She has not only been a devoted and successful choir director, but has also taken the time to be our friend, counselor, mother-figure, comedienne, cheerleader and, above all, a reflection of God's love in our lives," said one of the students who nominated Welsh for the 1997 Parents Association Award of Excellence.

It was at one of the special Masses this spring that Welsh, who thought she was there simply to lead the choir, found herself on the dais accepting the second annual award. Each year during Spring Family Weekend, the Parents Association honors a USD employee who has had a significant impact on the lives of students and/or parents.

"I have my five kids at home, and my 40 kids here," Welsh says. "Somehow God helps me know how to balance time with both groups."

Welsh's devotion to her job and family obviously stems from a deep love for young people, but it's not so much about how she can help them, rather what they teach her. The choir members inspire her to be a friend and teach her how to be a better mom by sharing stories about their own families.



*Annette Welsh (center, holding flowers) is the 1997 recipient of the Parents Association Award of Excellence.*

"They teach me how to be a friend by the way they are to each other," Welsh says.

Each year, as seniors graduate and freshmen join the choir, Welsh watches with awe as the group embraces the newcomers, becoming a cohesive unit of musicians and devoted group of friends.

"The choir is a gift to each kid that comes here," she says. "This year, there were 11 nominations for the most inspirational member. To me that means they see inspiration all around them."

When she joined the university ministry staff in 1986, Welsh was no stranger to the difference an extracurricular music group can make in a student's life. While earning a biology degree from USD in the late 1970s, Welsh sang in a vocal ensemble with 15 other undergraduates. Singing, playing clarinet, piano and guitar were a part of everyday life for the seventh of 11 children who grew up in Michigan. Music was her passion, yet she hadn't considered turning it into a career.

Five years into working as a chemist in the labs of Bumble Bee Seafoods, Welsh received a call asking her to direct the Founders Chapel choir. She worked both jobs until realizing where her priorities lay.

"That was OK, but I love this," Welsh says. "I love making music in many different forms."

# Parking Proposals are Handed Over to Administration

By Jill Wagner

Five months of exploration into alternative parking permit fees ended May 9 when the university-wide parking committee voted on 32 separate recommendations to send to the administration. The vice presidents and financial officers of the university will now make the final decision on which recommendations are feasible.

Spurred by the proposed increase to \$240 per year for main campus parking permits, a group of staff employees, administrators and students spent their lunch hours hammering out alternatives. The ad hoc committee was guided by a desire to make the fees affordable to all employees, regardless of income.

In March, the ad hoc committee passed on several proposals to the university-wide parking committee (PC) that suggested setting fees based on a sliding scale or charging a flat rate with a subsidy for those in need. The PC, composed of a representative body of faculty, staff and students, spent two months examining the proposals and developing new recommendations.

The following is a sample of the PC recommendations forwarded to the administration:

- As a general policy, visitors should pay to utilize parking on our campus.
- As a way to encourage some alternative transportation, the university should offer an alternative transport permit allowing free parking on campus a certain number of times during the year for those who otherwise bike, walk, ride the trolley or bus to campus.
- The debt on the new parking garage should not be paid *solely* out of parking fees paid by employees and students.

Fees are being increased to cover the added cost of building and maintaining the 1,100-space parking structure on the east end of campus. The 1997-98 budget calls for \$1.1 million to be raised by the sale of permits. Several of the PC's recommendations suggest fees can be lowered from the proposed \$240 if only a portion of the cost of building the garage is passed on to drivers.

As for the fee proposals, a system that charges according to geographic location of the parking lot was favored over the sliding scale. For example, permits to park in lots close to main campus buildings would cost more than stickers for spaces along perimeter roads or on the far ends of campus.

## Enjoy the Theater; Win Some Cash

Summer has arrived and social events on campus and off are filling calendars for the weeks ahead. The Staff Employees Association is doing its part to bring co-workers together and provide affordable entertainment outside of work.

As expected, the Padres game against the Colorado Rockies quickly sold out. Yolanda Castro, administrative assistant in the president's office, is keeping a waiting list, however, in case someone has to give up already reserved tickets.

Seats are still available for the Christian Community Theatre's production of "42nd Street" at 7:30 p.m., June 27. Join your USD colleagues at the East County Performing

Arts Center in El Cajon and enjoy the song and dance fable of Broadway — it's a story that won the 1981 Tony Award for best musical. Tickets are \$16. Call Yolanda at ext. 4520 to reserve your seat or send her a check made out to USD/SEA. The deadline to buy tickets is Friday, June 6.

Speaking of buying tickets, do you have an extra dollar in your pocket? Find the nearest SEA representative and hand it

over. It could mean hundreds of dollars in return. The annual 50/50 drawing is under way and cash prizes will be awarded at this year's employee picnic on June 20. Tickets are two for \$1, employees can purchase as many as they like. Good luck!

**SEA**  
USD STAFF EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

## Passages Deaths

Mary A. Blanton, mother of **Vanessa Barbarin**, general merchandise manager in the bookstore, on April 3.

Kathy Ryback, mother of **Carolyn Greer**, head athletic trainer, on April 4.

Tina Ruiz, sister of **Cleo Gonzales**, account clerk in the School of Law, on April 11.

William Wilson, father of **Marty Wilson**, assistant men's basketball coach, on April 16.

Amelia Valdez, mother of **Jose Ruben Valdez**, micro technician in academic computing, on May 1.

## Reminder from the President

Information regarding the death of an immediate family member of a USD employee should be directed to the president's office. Managers or co-workers are encouraged to call President **Alice B. Hayes** on behalf of employees who have lost a family member. Otherwise the president may not receive the information.

President Hayes is committed to informing the entire community in the event of such a loss, giving us the opportunity to express our sympathy to colleagues. The president's office can be reached at ext. 4520 or via e-mail at [castro@acusd.edu](mailto:castro@acusd.edu).

## Classifieds

**For Sale.** Kenmore washer and gas dryer. Extra large capacity, excellent condition. \$415. Two brownish, black leather chairs. Captain style, wood legs, excellent condition. \$35 each. For the items above, call **Georgia Gordon** at ext. 4255 or 224-3817.

**For Sale.** '89 Dodge conversion van. 48,000 miles, auto transmission, AC, cruise control. Four captain's chairs, rear sofa, three bay windows. AM/FM/cassette, TV. \$10,000. Call **Czen Balagtas** at ext. 2522 or 538-2317.

**For Sale.** One pair of little girl's Capezio tap shoes. Size 10 1/2, in great condition. \$10. Call **Jan** at ext. 4681.

## Classifieds

(Continued from page three)

**For Rent.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Mt. Alifan Place, two pools, laundry, gated, 863 square feet, newly remodeled with Berber carpet. \$650/ month. No smokers or pets please. Call **Jo Powers** at ext. 6919.

**For Sale.** Home near Mesa College, six minutes to USD. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, newly remodeled. Great family home, special incentives for USD faculty and staff. Asking \$179,000. Contact **Bob Infantino** at ext. 4285.

## Psst...

*Bits and Pieces from the Readers*

Wow. So many trucks. So much dirt. Where do they all come from? Where is it all going? More than one reader couldn't help but wonder at all the commotion around the east entrance the last week in April. Here's the scoop (pun fully intended): One of seven dump trucks was filled every five minutes for seven days with dirt cleared from the future site of USD's first parking garage. The trucks made a loop down to the golf course on Friars Road, dumped the soil and returned to be filled again. Our dirt is being used to help recontour the course, which was destroyed during trolley line construction. ...

## Alcalá View

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# Divisions to Compete on Obstacle Course

Who needs that big fair to the north when Alcalá Park will play host to its own county fair, from noon to 3 p.m., on June 20? And just think, at "Mayberry, USD" there is no entrance fee for university employees, a barbeque lunch and drinks are free, and we get time off from work to go.

The annual employee recognition picnic will also feature Aunt Bee's Bake-off contest, a handmade craft display and the third annual President's T.E.A. (Team Effort Award) Cup competition between divisions.

Eight people from each division will be called on to maneuver an obstacle course that will involve skills such as running, digging, crawling, hopping, jumping, hitting a ball and balancing. Teams will run the course two at a time until all five divisions have competed. Each team will be timed and the two fastest will meet in a championship heat.

Join your co-workers on the lawn behind Copley Library for an afternoon of good old-fashioned fun. Everyone is invited to dress in county fair garb (straw hats, bandanas and overalls fit the part) and bring lawn chairs or blankets to make it a true picnic.

Don't forget to bring your ticket, available from the Hahn University Center box office through June 6, for lunch and to be eligible for the Staff Employees Association door prize drawing. The schedule of events follows:

- Noon, Picnic begins.
- Noon to 2 p.m., Lunch is served by the Picnic People.
- 12:30 p.m., Welcome by **Judith Muñoz**.
- 12:35 p.m., Service awards presented by President **Alice B. Hayes**.
- 12:55 p.m., Administrator of the Year award presented by the SEA.
- 1 p.m., Manuel Hernandez Employee of the Year award presented by **President Hayes**.
- 1:15 to 1:45 p.m., President's T.E.A. Cup competition.
- 3 p.m., Picnic ends.

For information about entering the bake-off, call **Kily Jones** at ext. 4796. Direct all other questions and requests to display crafts to **Calista Davis** at ext. 2621.

## Retirees

(Continued from page one)

**Robert Simmons**

Professor in the School of Law

Hired: Sept. 1, 1972

Where his name regularly appears: In the *San Diego Union-Tribune* as a frequent author of opinion pieces. Simmons also was regularly quoted in the early 1990s as the attorney for the Sierra Club when the environmental group took the city to court over water conservation and sewage treatment policies.

**Robert Mertz**

Professor of Engineering and

Department Chair

Hired: Aug. 31, 1988

Area of expertise: Electrical engineering. As one of the founding professors of the department, Mertz taught courses in micro-processor programming and interfacing, electrical power conversion, electronics, and system modelling in his nine years at USD.



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