New VP Out to Learn Flavor of USD

By Jill Wagner

Curbing tuition increases. Seek funds for new buildings. Upgrade the campus computer and information systems. Maximize returns on university investments. These are goals common to college campuses across the country. What differentiates one campus from another is the people, says Paul E. Bissonnette, USD’s new vice president for finance and administration, who started work April 1.

“Everyone is challenged with the very same kind of issues at universities across the country, whether public or private,” says Bissonnette, who spent 21 years at California State University, Fresno, and the last five at Oakland University, an independent institution in Rochester, Mich. “The biggest difference is people. Every campus has its own chemistry and style and flavor.”

A week into his tenure at Alcalá Park, Bissonnette’s calendar was filled with appointments to meet the department directors, supervisors and staff who work in the finance and administration division. But to understand the true flavor of USD, he also ventures beyond his division to learn how other departments work with each other.

Bissonnette says his primary goal in these early weeks of his new job is to listen.

“The listening part is to understand the motivations and interests of people I’m working with. I try not to shape everyone to my view of the world, but to see where I can add some value.”

Fittingly, Bissonnette is well-versed in creative financing for capital improvements, particularly athletic facilities. He played key roles in developing a world-class arena, stadium and playing fields at CSU Fresno, where the university’s teams are supported by the entire city. USD’s efforts to raise an additional $8.5 million to fund the Jenny Craig Pavilion will undoubtedly benefit from Bissonnette’s experience.

One of his immediate goals is to “get my arms around the issue of technology and information services. We want to modernize so that we can better serve our students,” says Bissonnette.

While providing the latest technology and new buildings will be challenging, the vice president notes that keeping older buildings up to par is equally important. Students enroll in college with the expectation of being trained in up-to-date facilities, whether they’re sitting in computer or science labs, classrooms or lecture halls.

Bissonnette is no stranger to student expectations; he was one himself for a good number of years. The New York native spent his undergraduate years at San Diego State University and commuted from Fresno to graduate school at the University of San Francisco.

The buzz around campus indicates Bissonnette will have no problem living up to his greatest wish.

“I hope people think I’m very approachable,” he says. “I really enjoy talking to people and sharing. I’m pretty open.”

A Toast to J.C.

The USD community is invited to pre- and post-game ceremonies honoring John “J.C.” Cunningham at the Toreros baseball game, 12:30 p.m., May 3. Cunningham is retiring as coach after 35 years with the team. This will be his final home game at Cunningham Stadium. For more information, call the athletics department at ext. 4803.

Bike to Work Day

San Diego is celebrating its annual Bike to Work Day on May 21. USD employees who pedal to campus will be greeted at the Hahn University Center with free bagels, coffee and juice.

To register for the regional Bike to Work Day and enter a drawing for bikes, helmets and cycling gear, grab a registration form at the UC information desk, Aromas, Copley Library or the public safety office and drop it in the mail. Participants can receive a free bike tune-up at one of five Bike USA locations in San Diego and ride free on San Diego Transit the day of the event.

Bike to Work Day is part of California Bike Commute Week (May 18-22) and the American Lung Association’s Clean Air Month.

All the Details

A car detailing service is now available while you work. FAX your request to Cash Detailing, owned and operated by Chris Dougherty, husband of Nellie Dougherty, financial aid advisor, a week prior to the day you would (Continued on page three)
Summer Daze Descends on USD

There’s no better time than now to clean out the back of your closet and resurrect those platform shoes and tie-dyed shirts for the 14th annual Employee Appreciation Picnic. Come dressed as you were for the “Summer Daze: USD Revisits the ’60s” picnic, which honors all employees for their dedicated work throughout the year.

The lawn behind Copley Library will be the site of a costume contest, the annual relay race between divisions and, if we’re lucky, a giant Twister game. Employees are invited to enter fresh baked bread in the “Bread for Dough” bake-off. Cash prizes will be awarded to the tastiest loaves. And if you’re daring, submit a photo of yourself from those days of yore to Calista Davis in human resources. Fellow employees will vote the day of the picnic for the “most changed” and “least changed.”

Set for noon to 3 p.m., the picnic is open to all employees and USD retirees. A lunch of barbecued hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers and chicken will be served by The Picnic People.

Following lunch, five-year service certificates and the Manuel Hernandez Staff Employee of the Year Award will be presented. Door prizes and the Administrator of the Year Award will be handed out by the Staff Employees Association.

This year, 44 staff and administrative employees will be honored with five-year certificates. They are:

Bill Anderson, Sheri Barzal, Georgia Belaire, Teresita Camina, Darren Cecil, Richard Clark, Elizabeth Cole, Gloria Cortez, Catherine Crutchfield, Diane Dobson, Cheryl Getz, Laura Ginella, Maria Goncalves, Georgia Gordon, Marilyn Green, Vivian Holland, Julie Hoyle, Sharon Lainas, Kutrina Lawrence, Ruth Levor, Elizabeth Limberg, Antonieta Manriquez, James McManus, Cathleen Mumper, Mary Nafarrete, Patrick Noma, Larry Perez, Katherine Peterson, Rufus Rencher, Pam Reynolds, Juan Carlos Rivera, Noel Rodriguez, Sister Alicia Sarre, Dennis Schmidt, Niran Shenoda, Michael Shivers, Linda Sola, Leilei Thein, Paciano Tovar, Katherine Vargas, Josie Vella, Eric Wildman and Julie Wright.

Tickets are mandatory for attendance at the picnic and to be eligible for the door prizes. Watch the campus mail for information about when tickets will be available at the Hahn University Center box office.

Sky’s the Limit

The Staff Employees Association’s social committee scored 250 premium tickets for the annual fireworks extravaganza following the June 12 Padres baseball game against the San Francisco Giants. It’s your turn to reserve a few of those seats by sending in the order form as soon as it hits your campus mailbox.

A flier advertising the game and KGB Sky Show is scheduled to be sent early this month. The $7 tickets for the 7:05 p.m. game will go fast. For information, contact Laura Nottoli at ext. 6866.

Presidential Guest

President Alice B. Hayes is confirmed as the guest speaker for the May 13 SEA meeting. All employees are welcome at the 2 p.m. gathering in UC107. Hayes will speak about the goals and future direction of the university. Time permitting, she will take questions from the audience.
Commuter's Corner
A Moving Community

For many would-be commuters, riding the bus in San Diego is a scary prospect. Larry Gardepie knows the feeling. Two years ago when he turned in a leased car and decided not to purchase another vehicle, he wrestled with anxiety over taking the bus.

"At first I was nervous about the clientele," says Gardepie, business process analyst in the finance and administration office.

Turns out, his three-and-a-half-mile ride from USD to Kearny Mesa is filled with familiar passengers ready to make friendly conversation. Immediately his mind is off work and he arrives home perfectly relaxed. He remembers days of driving to and from work that weren't so calm, or safe.

"Do you ever arrive home and ask yourself, 'How did I get here'? Now, I don't have to worry about that," he says.

Riding the bus requires careful planning, but Gardepie notes that the San Diego transit system is greatly improved by the new trolley line through Mission Valley and transit centers — where buses, trolleys and trains converge — in Old Town and Fashion Valley Center. Sometimes that added effort to plan helps him be more thrifty. He'll think twice about how badly he needs something from a mall or other store if the commute there and back is going to take an extraordinary amount of time.

The most obvious savings are in car payments, gasoline, maintenance and insurance, which Gardepie estimates at $400 a month. And paying for his daily trips home recently got easier when San Diego Transit began selling books of Tripper tickets. No more stockpiling of quarters.

Available at the Hahn University Center box office, a packet of 13 tickets, each valued at $1.75, is $16.90. That's a 25 percent discount for the Tripper tickets. A packet of 13 tickets, each worth $2, is $19.50. The tickets are good until the year 2000. One Tripper pass is valid for two hours, which means a transfer or return trip home within that time doesn't require additional fare. The UC box office also sells monthly transit passes.

Parking Committee Wrestles with More Questions

The kiosks are staffed, the Mission Parking Complex is open and permit fees are collected. The work is far from over, though, for the university-wide parking committee.

Some of the issues facing the 20-member committee of faculty, administrators and staff include:

- If more employees want to buy reserved permits next semester (240 permits were sold this spring), where will those additional reserved spaces be located? Originally, 100 reserved spaces were supposed to be sold in the garage. No drivers were interested in that location, so all 240 spaces are currently on the mesa. The debate is whether to use more regular faculty/staff yellow-lined spaces for additional reserved spots on the mesa.
- A budget shortfall. The parking operation, including maintenance and upkeep of lots and kiosks, is supposed to be self-sustaining. This year, parking fees and fines fell short of projections. Much of that shortfall is because permit fees were raised only for the second semester. President Alice B. Hayes anticipated the shortfall when she chose not to raise permit fees until the garage opened, and made up the difference with funds from her own budget.
- Simplification of the rules. With so many permits and differing regulations for each, parking officials can't make signs for the lots that explain all the rules. A subcommittee of the parking committee is attempting to simplify some of the regulations and will make recommendations at the next meeting.

The parking committee meets again at 8 a.m., May 15, in UC103.
Passages (Continued from page three)

grams in continuing education, and her husband, Steve, on March 23.

Deaths

Father Joseph McDonnell, retired professor, on March 9.

Sister Lucille Kraemer, R.S.C.J., retired faculty member from the College for Women, on March 11.

Stanley M. "Skip" Walsh, assistant dean of students and director of residence life, on March 23.

Loren Hinman, father of Larry Hinman, professor of philosophy, on March 26.

Palma Scheumack, retired director of university services and budget administrator, in March.

Martha Lee Geddes, mother of Ted Geddes, custodial lead person in facilities management, in March.

Bernard Manion, father of Roger Manion, director of facilities management, on April 4.

Psst. . . .

Bits and Pieces from the Readers

Need some good fortune? Hoping for that lucky break? Visit Father Serra. Yep, rumor has it that rubbing the toe of the Father Junipero Serra statue, recently installed in front of Serra Hall, will bring bounty and luck. It all has something to do with the miraculous healing of Father Serra's infected foot during his walking trek through Baja California to San Diego in the 1760s.

Alcala View

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Flower Power Trivia Contest

The '90s have certainly made it hard to forget the fashions of the '60s. But how much do we remember about the incredible volume of history written in the tumultuous times of civil rights battles, space flight and war protests?

Test yourself with this trivia contest designed to gear up the campus for some "Summer Daze: USD Revisits the '60s" at the June 12 Employee Appreciation Picnic. Tear off this page, or make a copy, and fill in the blanks. Send answers to Calista Davis in human resources by June 1.

Only USD employees are eligible to enter. One entry per employee. Employees of the human resources and public relations departments and the picnic committee are not eligible to play. Entries received after the deadline will be declared ineligible. The entry with the most correct answers wins. In the case of a tie, a random drawing will determine the winner.

The winner will receive a far out, hip happenin' prize at the picnic.

Name ______________________________ 
Department ____________________ Ext. ______

1. The Peace Corps formed in this early year of the decade.


3. Audience members went berserk when the _____________ appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show in February __________ (year).

4. This Simon and Garfunkel classic won Record of the Year in 1968.

5. Martin Luther King Jr. made his "I Have a Dream" speech in this city.


7. The School of ________________ was founded at USD in 1969.

8. The civil rights bill banning discrimination in voting, jobs and public accommodations was passed in __________________ (month and year).

9. Name the month, day and year John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

10. The School of ________________. The hills were alive with the ________________, also the title of the 1965 Academy Awards Best Picture.

11. This popular football team of the 1990s won the Super Bowl in 1967.

12. This wall was constructed in 1961.

13. Marilyn Monroe was found dead in August _____________ (year).

14. The San Diego Padres became a major league franchise in this year.

15. The Nobel Prize in literature went to this American male author in 1962.

16. ____________________ was the first American in space.