Merger of Two Departments Complete

The housing and residence life staff, now together in the same office, includes: (left to right) Kathi Spittel, Stacey Amodio, Heather Bartlett, Larry Perez, Judy Sandman, Dina Davalle, Rick Hagan, Lisa Moses, Karen Tramontana and Sandi Bunton.

By Jill Wagner

Housing and residence life. Residence life and housing. What's the difference?

Different staffs, different purposes and, although the two departments serve the same students, until recently they were located in different buildings.

Under the direction of Rick Hagan and Judy Sandman for 18 years, the housing office handles the nuts and bolts of living on campus. From keeping residence halls and apartments furnished, to running the housing lottery and assigning roommates each year, to billing parents for room and board, the office is busy year-round.

Larry Perez, assistant director of housing and residence life, and Sandy Bunton, administrative assistant in residence life, supervise and provide support services for the resident directors, resident coordinators and resident assistants, and handle disciplinary problems with students.

The consolidation of the two departments began last March when Hagan took over as director of both housing and residence life following the death of Skip Walsh.

The roles of housing and residence life are so interconnected that the two joined forces in the Mission Crossroads building. Hagan and Perez began conferring with Dean Tom Burke and Tom Cosgrove, associate vice president of student affairs, last fall about the location change, which was completed in February.

Following a remodel of the first floor of Mission Crossroads, the residence life staff moved from the Hahn University Center to the enlarged housing office. Perez, Bunton, and the resident directors now head to the valley at the start of each work day. They are teamed in the new location with Hagan, Sandman, assistant director of housing, Kathi Spittel, conference director, Grace McElhaney, administrative assistant, Karen (Continued on page four)
Benefits Brief

The mail order rate for Health Net prescriptions is $5 for generic and $10 for brand name drugs. A one month co-payment will be applied for a three month prescription. If you have been charged a different rate, please call Vicki at ext. 8764 or Esther at ext. 8762.

The mileage reimbursement rate is 10 cents per mile on all health care reimbursements. This rate is set by the IRS.

Tuition remission: Students who add or delete units during the semester should contact Esther at ext. 8762 for instructions on how to correct their original request.

Investment counseling sessions: On March 10, a Scudder representative will be on campus to provide advice on financing your retirement. Contact ext. 8611 to schedule an appointment. To meet privately with a TIAA-CREF retirement specialist on March 17, contact TIAA-CREF at (800) 842-2007, ext. 1041.

Join the Employee Walking Club every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at noon on the West Point Field track. For more information, contact Perla Bleisch at ext. 2540. Literature on walking and fitness is available in WH218.

Late entrants to Kaiser and Health Net: You must provide a certificate of coverage from your previous health insurance company if you are a late entrant to a USD health insurance plan. (A late entrant is someone who is entering the plan outside the open enrollment period). Please keep in mind that only a change in family status will allow you to modify your insurance coverage during the year. All other changes must be made during the next open enrollment period.

— Vicki Coscia

Quinn Makes You Feel Welcome

By Jill Wagner

Pat Quinn sat at the front counter of the law school records office, explaining to a visitor what she does. Not long into the conversation, a concerned student walked in, looked directly at Quinn and asked, “Are they in?”

The ensuing dialogue left the student with a perfectly satisfactory explanation to her cryptic question. It left the visitor wondering what on earth they were talking about.

Turns out, the student was looking for a document she needed to fill out for the state bar, which Quinn explained wasn’t available yet. That’s how it works in the Warren Hall records office — the equivalent of the undergraduate registrar’s office — with Quinn knowing just what students need.

“It’s a welcome spot for them,” she says. “Some students come by just to say hi. They come here for answers even when we don’t have them.”

A recent renovation of the office, including new carpet and a more open layout, certainly softens the atmosphere, but Quinn is the main reason students are so comfortable asking any question without fear of sounding silly. She’s gregarious, quick to smile and always ready to laugh. And after 20 years in the law school, 15 of those in the records office, Quinn knows her business.

Appreciative law students, who cast votes annually for their favorite professors and staffers, named Quinn staff employee of the year two consecutive years. During a fall ceremony held in the Warren Hall foyer, Quinn got to visit with alumni who returned to campus specifically to see her.

Because the records office is where law students register for classes, get copies of transcripts, pick up all sorts of documents and find out number assignments for the anonymous testing system used at the law school, Quinn sees hundreds of students a week. Her natural love of people helps her remember names with little effort. She thoroughly impressed one brother in a set of twins, who recently came seeking a transcript. Quinn knew without asking which brother he was.

“Before you are anything, you are an individual, and that’s how this office treats students,” Quinn says.

In turn, students and co-workers show the same respect to Quinn. It’s a feeling she didn’t always have growing up in New Jersey as the daughter of a white mother and black father. Only recently did Quinn learn her parents had to travel to another state to get married. In 1947, mixed race marriages were outlawed in New Jersey.

When her parents moved to California in 1976, it took only two years to convince their daughter to do the same. Quinn says she instantly enjoyed the openness and sense of tolerance prevalent in the Golden State.

Quinn discovered USD through a temporary agency, which placed her as a faculty secretary in 1979. When asked to stay permanently, she knew without a doubt it was the right place.

“Law students tend to be very socially conscious and more cognizant of individual rights,” she says. “They understand all the things that make society work. I enjoy being around that.”

Law students voted Pat Quinn staff employee of the year two years in a row.
Campus News Roundup

MFCDC Earns Living Legacy

The Women's International Center (WIC), a nonprofit education and service foundation, named the Manchester Family Child Development Center one of 14 Living Legacy Award recipients. Presented March 6 in a ceremony on the Alcala Park campus, the award honors individuals and programs that educate, elevate, enrich and protect children. This year marks the 15th annual presentation of the WIC awards.

SEA Names Secretary

The post left vacant in January by the departure of Becky Gilbert was filled last month when Cheré Smith volunteered to be the Staff Employees Association secretary. Smith, a faculty secretary in the School of Law, has been involved in the SEA for about six months. Gilbert had to give up her elected position on the SEA board when she moved into a new job on campus as an administrator in human resources.

You Could Be a Winner

Three prizes are yet to be claimed from the drawing held for respondents to the WASC survey. Check your tickets for these numbers: 2178218, 2178534 and 2178308. The prizes include a Baskin-Robbins and Sportmart gift certificate, and a USD sweatshirt. Winners should call Calista Davis at ext. 2621.

The survey committee reports a remarkably high 61 percent response rate from faculty, staff and administrators. In recognition of the respondents’ efforts, the committee plans to distribute survey results and analysis to the campus community. The survey of employees was required by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges as part of the university’s reaccreditation process.

Fresh Air Luncheon

Alternative commuters are invited to join the Fresh Air Commuters Club for lunch at 11:45 a.m., March 12, in the faculty/staff dining room. The gathering will also include discussion of a few hot commuter topics at USD.

The club’s coordinators will provide information about a transit pass reimbursement account and discuss the request to public safety for a passenger shuttle to the Old Town Transit Station in the evening hours. For more information, call Greg Zackowski at ext. 4796 or Jill Wagner at ext. 2551. To be included on the Fresh Air Commuters Club mailing list, send a request with your e-mail address to jwagner@acusd.edu.

Ride the Rails

Friends of the USD Libraries invite you to “Riding the Rails” with filmmaker Michael Uys, 4 p.m., March 11, in UC Forum A/B. The documentary tells the heartbreaking story of 4 million Americans who took to the tracks during the Great Depression in search of food, work and a place to sleep. Uys will share his experiences of making the film, screen the movie and then answer questions during an open forum. Tickets are $10 and $8 for faculty/staff annual fund donors. Reservations must be made by March 4 to Laura Nottoli at ext. 6866.

Anniversary Info on the Web

Wondering what’s going on this month for USD’s 50th anniversary celebration? Heard rumors about a summer community festival to be held on campus? Need some background information on Bishop Charles Francis Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill for an event you are planning or lecture you are giving?

The 50th anniversary Web site (http://alumni.acusd.edu/50th) is loaded with answers to your questions and historical tidbits. It can also be accessed through the university’s homepage at http://www.acusd.edu. Comments and suggestions are welcome via e-mail to jwagner@acusd.edu or jtitchen@acusd.edu.

Tradition with Vision

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

1949-1999

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Passages (Continued from page one)

Deaths


Robert Dowell McKellogg, father of Karen Sue Hoyt, School of Nursing clinical placement coordinator, on Jan. 28.

Glen Johnston, father of Marsha Rathfon, executive assistant in continuing education, on Feb. 6.

Guadalupe Aleman, mother of June Aleman, data processing assistant in information systems, and Joy Aleman, custodian in facilities management, on Feb. 6.

Elsa Subber, mother of Laura Berend, professor in the School of Law, on Feb. 6.

New Hires and Promotions

Welcome to the following employees who recently joined the USD community: Tracy Asbury, law school financial aid; Micah Baldwin, law school development; Kecia Brown, financial aid; Tim Bruehl, financial aid; Elena Cardenas, custodial services; Ofeilia Higgins, fine arts; Andrea Kasinski, biology; Matthew McClory, law school admissions; and Deanna Richardson, budget and treasury.

Congratulations to the following employees who were recently promoted or reclassified:

Nellie Dougherty, financial aid counselor; Trish Hodny, law school admissions counselor; Kim Lewis, acting directing attorney for the Patient Advocacy Program; Victor Lopez, unit leader in main dining; and Rosie Rodriguez, faculty secretary 2 in the School of Education.
Psst... Bits and Pieces from the Readers

A Psst... reader recently perusing a master calendar of 50th anniversary events gazed curiously at the June listings. What the heck is the recommissioning of the USD Seiko watch? Where has the watch been all these years? Who commissioned it in the first place? Do I get to wear one?

Well reader, the one thing we can tell you... the Office of Alumni Relations is in charge of the recommissioning project. Oh, and it's actually slated for "late spring." ... Hurray for Virginia Stover, professor of math and computer science, who won a shiny, new beach cruiser bicycle. All she had to do was exercise 20 to 30 minutes, three times a week for eight weeks to be eligible for the Tour de Fitness statewide raffle sponsored by Health Net.

Merger

(Continued from page one)

Tramontana, administrative assistant, and a host of work-study students.

“This will help us provide more efficient service to the students,” says Hagan. “As clear as it seemed to us, students never quite understood which office to go to for which services.”

More than 800 of the 2,000 Alcalá Park residents live in the valley.

The change is welcomed by all involved, but will take some time to sort out while the two staffs learn each other’s jobs.

“We’ve all known each other for years, so it won’t be hard to work together,” Perez says. “Personally, I’ll have a chance to learn the formalities of housing and gain a greater appreciation for what they do.”

McElhaney and Bunton, whose desks are visible from the office’s front counter, will cross-train so both can help the students with housing or residence life questions. Work-study students from both departments will do the same and take shifts at the counter.

“We should now be able to avoid telling students to come back later,” says Hagan. “With cross-training, there will always be someone here to handle any situation.”

Safety is the Sole Purpose

(From left to right): Bob Tran, Carma Swearingen and Juan Felix show off their industrial strength shoes. The trio of dining services workers are three of 33 full-time employees participating in a safety shoe program implemented in October. The department bought shoes with specially-designed non-slip, non-skid soles for participants. Rudy Spano, director of dining services, teamed with Bob Brown, manager of risk management in human resources, to develop the program that has significantly reduced the number of slip and fall accidents in kitchens and food service areas.