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University of San Diego Publications and Human Resources offices
New System to Make ID Card More Valuable

By Jill Wagner

If all goes according to plan, by January 2000 the USD ID card will be more than just a plastic card with a pretty face. Students in residence halls with keycard access will use the same card for opening their door as they do for buying lunch in the deli. An employee using the new campus card can stop by the bookstore to pick up a birthday gift or a roll of film then grab a soda from the vending machine before returning to the office.

Current ID card holders will visit a central office to have all the necessary information encoded onto their card by a new system of machines.

“What we set out to do eight to nine months ago was create a one-stop center for students, faculty, staff and administrators who use all these services,” says Paul Bissonnette, vice president for finance and administration.

The centralization of all the card services into one office will require reorganization in several departments, however, no positions will be eliminated. The CCO manager, to be named in a few weeks, will be someone currently working within the finance and administration division. The CCO staff will be filled out by employees who currently handle card operations in departments such as dining and parking services.

Final go-ahead for the campus card came from the president and vice presidents in March when they OK’d a plan to relocate the telephone operators and turn the telecommunications business offices in Hughes Center 210 into the CCO. The operators will move one floor down to the public safety offices alongside the dispatchers to create a communications center.

Copying services, library privileges, cash plus accounts and meal plans will be services accessible through one card. Campus officials hope the flexibility of a new card system will eliminate the need to carry a lot of cash or always have the checkbook handy.

The student telephone billing operations will be folded into the campus card office.

Office remodeling will start immediately, with the hope of having the moves finalized by fall.

The reorganization plan helped the Campus Card Project Team keep costs low — the biggest expense will be the hardware to encode and read the new cards — and win approval for the changeover. Headed by Business Analyst Larry Gardepe, the project started to take shape last year when a new meal plan system was being researched because the existing system is not Y2K compliant. The team proposed switching to a new system all at once if hardware had to be purchased for the meal plan anyway. Team members included Susan Bugbee, registrar’s office; Dave Epstein, public safety; Pam Gray, public relations; Rick Hagan, housing and residence life; Kathleen Johnson, accounting; John McCloskey, bursar’s office; Karen Reed, special projects; Barbara Ritchie, academic computing; Judy

“...What we set out to do eight to nine months ago was create a one-stop center for students, faculty, staff and administrators who use all these services.”
Electrician by Day, Rancher by ... Morning

By John Titchen

Jeff Hardick is just one of those guys that looks like he belongs outside.

At a shade over 6-foot-5, the USD electrician has thick, broad hands and shoulders and makes a room seem small. Which works out well because Hardick instead spends most of his time outside.

“I’d rather be outside than anywhere else, that’s for sure,” concedes Hardick with a hearty chuckle during a recent lunchbreak in front of Maher Hall.

The 50-year-old Hardick is in his sixth year as an electrician at Alcalá Park after spending much of his life working for himself. He and fellow electricians Terri Miller and Jim Crawley install transformers and handle all the wiring work on campus.

Hardick says he enjoys his work at USD because he has a chance to meet people in different departments and because he doesn’t spend all his time inside.

“We go all over campus,” says Hardick. “I love the atmosphere, the people I’m working with, everything. It’s just a fun place to come to work.”

And as much fun as Hardick has at work, he also likes going home. Four years ago, he fulfilled a lifelong dream when he bought a ranch in Descanso, an hour’s commute east on Interstate 8. Last year, he had a herd of 500 cattle and rose every morning at 4 to feed and water them before heading to work at USD.

“I had always wanted a ranch,” says Hardick, a San Diego native and Grossmont High School graduate. “I grew up in El Cajon and Lakeside and I have always been around horses. And I figured a ranch would be a great place to have a family. I spend as much time with my kids as I can.”

The fair-haired electrician and his wife of 17 years, Denise, have two girls. Taylor, 8, often helps her dad with the ranch work in the early morning. In a true sign of the couple’s love for the natural world, 2-year-old Haley is named after the comet.

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Happy Birthday to Us

Sometimes celebrations of a landmark year, like the one USD is commemorating in 1999, should be formal and properly nostalgic. And other times, plain old party hats, noisemakers and confetti set just the right mood.

This year's Employee Appreciation Picnic, the first 50th anniversary event open to all employees, is going to be one big birthday bash. Set for June 25, the details are being secretly plotted by a merry band of picnic planners, which includes some of the more notorious pranksters on campus.

Of course, there will be the usual free food and drink, rousing relay competition between vice presidential divisions and bestowing of the employee and administrator of the year awards. But don't be surprised if you're asked to don a blindfold and play pin the tail on the donkey. Or challenged to best your co-workers in a cut-throat cake eating contest.

Check upcoming issues of the Alcalá View for the annual picnic-related trivia contest. Meanwhile, plan vacations for any other week in the summer because this is one party you won't want to skip.

A Festival for All

Summer 'tis the season for street fairs and community festivals all across the county,

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Get Your Tickets Here

The Staff Employees Association is the group to look to when planning your spring and summer outings.

For All You Legomaniacs

Discount tickets to Southern California's newest theme park, Legoland, are on sale through the SEA beginning in early April. Adult admission, regularly $32, is $27 and a child's ticket, regularly $25, is on sale for $21.

Yolanda Castro, chair of the SEA social committee, visited Legoland in a special pre-opening day event and surprised herself by how much fun she had.

“The park is designed for kids ages 2 to 12, but I tell you what, I had a ball,” she says.

Tickets will be available year-round by contacting Castro at ext. 4520.

And For All You Baseball Fanatics

The SEA's annual trip to Qualcomm Stadium for a Padres game and the KGB Sky Show is scheduled for June 18. The National League Champion Padres take on the Pittsburgh Pirates that night in a 7:05 game, which is followed by San Diego's biggest fireworks extravaganza of the year.

Watch the campus mail later this month for a flier with more details. The SEA bought 300 seats in the view level, but get your tickets quick, they sell out fast.

Nominate the Boss

It's time to start thinking of all those reasons you respect and admire your supervisor and if they are many, go for it and nominate him or her for Administrator of the Year. Nomination forms will be sent to staff employees through campus mail. Return the forms to the SEA by April 28.

Employee Award News

At the March meeting, SEA representatives were informed that the nomination process for Staff Employee of the Year has changed.

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Plan for the Future

Employees are invited to a free estate planning seminar. Learn whether you need a will, living trust or advanced estate plan. Lunch will be provided at the session on Thursday, April 22, from noon to 1 p.m. The program will be repeated on Friday, April 23. Reservations are required. Please call the Office of Planned Giving at ext. 4523.

Classifieds

Looking for a place to stay. A male visiting scholar from the law school is looking for a place to stay April 10-30. He prefers walking distance or easy bus access to USD. Contact Laura Ginella at ext. 4587.

Cat seeking owner. Affectionate, young, long-haired beauty queen black and white cat seeks sensitive, loving new owner. Call Mary Jane Tiernan at ext. 4524.

Psst...

Bits and Pieces from the Readers

Shattered kiosk windows? Here’s the skinny. The West Entrance kiosk sliding doors were shattered in early March when vandals struck. The culprits were acting with no apparent motive other than pure vandalism, as far as public safety officials have discovered.

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