The Staff We’re Made Of

By Jill Wagner

When Kay Norton joined the College for Men registrar’s office in 1968, in no time she knew the names and faces of all her fellow staff employees. Now, 31 years later, with staff numbering in the hundreds, Norton admits she regularly sees unfamiliar faces.

As we celebrate the golden anniversary, we’d like to especially acknowledge the staff employees who keep departments running smoothly and maintain the beautiful campus. Records showing the number of employees in the university’s early years are likely buried in storage. (In fact, when Norton first arrived, a human resources department had not yet been established for the College for Men or College for Women.) But the sleek payroll computing system used today produces statistics in a matter of minutes.

Of the 1,187 benefits-based employees, 505 are staff members, 326 administrators and 356 faculty.

Our hats go off to the people who make USD the warm and friendly place it is. Following is a brief look at some of the personalities who make us smile daily and who have found themselves in the news in recent years.

Through the Staff Employees Association, founded in 1976, staff members have defended their right to equal benefits and established a thriving social committee.

Norton and Peggy Agerton, executive assistant in the provost’s office, were original members of the SEA who in the 1970s fought tenaciously for retirement benefits. Then, several years later, the SEA began advocating for full tuition remission benefits for staff employees.

On the playful side, the SEA has organized bus trips to Laughlin, Nev., held Halloween costume contests and taken huge groups of employees to Padres games.

Kathi Spittel, then-president of the SEA, won the praise and gratitude of colleagues in 1991 for spearheading the effort to win full tuition remission for staff employees, their kids and spouses. Until then, the university paid for a maximum of three classes per year for staff members.

Jan Tuomainen and her Jazzercise class debuted on the cover page of the Alcalá View in January 1992. The executive assistant to the director of public relations still offers the lunchtime exercise classes to employees.

General Services’ Thu Tran shared his award-winning bonsai plants with the USD (Continued on page two)
Psst... 

Bits and Pieces from the Readers

Your chance to show off USD to all of San Diego is just around the corner. Round up those friends and family looking for something to do on a Saturday afternoon and bring them to the community open house, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., July 31. Live music by local bands will be played on West Point Field, local food and merchandise vendors will be on campus, children can enjoy storytelling by professional storytellers and sports clinics will be open to all ages.

To further celebrate the 50th anniversary, the renowned Chicano comedy-theater troupe Culture Clash will perform in Shiley Theatre, 7:30 p.m., July 30 and 31. Also performing will be the 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors and the Gilbert Castellanos Trio.

News About Campus

The Golden Division

The student affairs division added another trophy to its case when it won the Golden Muffler Award for having the highest percentage of employees take alternative transportation to work during the first annual Fresh Air Challenge. Staged on May 21, the competition invited employees to walk, bike, bus, train, trolley or carpool to campus.

Pictured below are a few of the student affairs commuters with their vice president, Tom Burke. From left to right: Noah Stanley, Kily Jones, Tom Burke and Greg Zackowski.

Avoid Lines, Reserve Online

Employees can reserve a faculty/staff or fringe permits for 1999-2000 without leaving their office by accessing a special Web site at http://permits.acusd.edu. By filling out a simple form, one annual permit (semester permits cannot be bought on the Web) will be reserved and paid for through payroll deduction.

Later in the summer, the permit can be picked up at the parking office without standing in line. The monthly payroll deductions will not begin until the employee has received and signed for the permit. A USD ID is required when picking up the permit.

Survey Results Available

A compilation of results from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) survey conducted in January is available to all employees. More than 61 percent of the staff and administrators responded to the survey distributed by a campus committee to aid in the accreditation process.

Staff Employees Association representatives have copies of the report, as do the five members of the WASC committee, Verdisse Bradford, Calista Davis, M.T. Karlinger, Margie Carroll and Larry Gardepie.

The report can also be reviewed at Copley Library, human resources, facilities management front desk or the UC information desk.

Soccer Pros in Our Midst

Major League Soccer's All-Star Weekend comes to San Diego this month, and one of the events will be right here in Torero Stadium. The Rock 'N' Soccer Celebrity Game is set for 7 p.m., July 14. Notable San Diegans will take on MLS stars. Tickets are $2 and available only at the gate on game day. Proceeds will benefit the Children's Hospital and Health Center of San Diego.