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Emergency System Gets Upgrade

If an emergency situation flared up on Maher Hall's ground floor, Public Safety Officer Mike Thiem would typically be in constant communication via walkie talkie with his department's dispatcher until he reached the scene.

Once he was in Maher Hall, however, he was on his own — the walkie talkie could conk out.

"That's the kind of stuff that would actually happen," says Thiem. "The walkie talkies we used were very old, had poor reception and were simply unreliable."

Over the last two years, the university has fixed that problem — and others in its public safety sector — with a $200,000 upgrade. The money was spent on Alcalá Park's emergency preparedness plan and included a purchase of 15 state-of-the-art radios for officers.

The radios allow USD officers to monitor San Diego Police and Sheriff's Department activity near the school. USD officers also can stay in contact with a dispatcher no matter where they are on campus. In the past, radios failed in areas of lower altitude (the parking structure or Tecolote Canyon) or in areas with lots of radio traffic.

Each of the 800 megahertz radios cost $3,300. They are so good and multi-functional that should the university's power fail, one of the radios can double as the emergency system's hub. A dispatcher can use a single radio to monitor radio traffic and communicate with all field officers.

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Black History Month Under Way at USD

Black History Month at USD kicks off Feb. 1 with an event in front of the University Center featuring a jazz ensemble and vendors. Introducing the theme "Our History is Not a Destination But a Journey," the kickoff gathering also includes a ceremonial balloon launch and a gospel choir performance.

"It's a great way for the whole campus to come together," says Kecia Brown, graduate assistant for United Front. "It's an educational endeavor but a celebration as well. Of our past and our future."

A Panel of Black Professionals is scheduled for 12 to 2 p.m., Feb. 15, in UC Forum A. The discussion will center on contributions African Americans have made in fields like medicine, law and education.

In mid-February, a keynote speaker and reception event will be staged in Shiley Theatre. Representatives from neighboring universities will join USD community members in the exchange of ideas.

A "Night at the Apollo" is set for 6 to 10 p.m., Feb. 26, in Shiley Theatre. The special night will showcase campus and local talent on a stage dressed up to look like Harlem's historic Apollo Theater.

At noon, Feb. 29, an event staged with help from radio station Magic 92.5 FM will be held in the front of the UC. Musicians will play "old-school" R&B and jazz. An exhibit featuring African artifacts is also scheduled.

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Employees Take Turns in Soup Kitchen

A project designed to give USD students the opportunity to volunteer in the San Diego community is always a little short-handed between semesters, so USD faculty, staff and administrators came to the rescue.

The University Ministry’s twice-weekly trips to the downtown San Diego Soup Kitchen relied last month on USD employees instead of students.

“The time between semesters is usually very slow for us,” says Rev. John Keller, “so we thought we’d see if there were any staff or faculty or administration members who’d be interested in volunteering. The response was overwhelming. It really worked out.”

Employees from many areas of campus participated in University Ministry’s Tuesday and Thursday van trips downtown. The volunteers spent two hours each day preparing more than 800 meals for the less fortunate.

“It’s important to have a better feel for those that are at the disadvantage of being homeless,” says Keith Macdonald, a lab technician in the biology department. “It really makes you appreciate what you have. Giving is never a bad thing. It can’t always be financially, so I thought I’d donate some time.”

Other Alcalá Park employees who volunteered work in Copley Library (Margaret Becker, Jane Bentley, Liza Busser, Melanie Lanier, Terry Mignozza, Juliet Pastor, Jackie Sabanos, Karen Sharp, Margit Smith, Julie Su); the counseling center (Angie Kerr, Amy Mahoney, Payal Patel, Aracely Smith); budget and treasury (Liz Macias, Charles Moeller, Jim Pehl, Deanna Richardson); housing (Sandy Bunton, Lisa Moses and Kathy Spittel); human resources (Debbie Anderson, Sue Pillsbury-Barton and Nina Sciuto); the legal clinic (Patty Cortez, Susan Quinn); the School of Business Administration (Maura McHugh and Samir Chala); foreign languages (pro- fessors Susan Briziarelli and Michele Magnin); and the School of Law (Maureen Kane and Chere Smith).

Also volunteering were: Shanon Bunton (biology faculty secretary), Ken Chep (disabilities services), School of Education professor Ed DeRoche, Saeed Hesami (international resources), Kily Jones (University Center), John Paul (academic computing), Josephine Powers (provost’s office), Rosie Rodriguez, (School of Education) and Diane West (College of Arts and Sciences).

Alcalá Park Online Presence Improving

Your page or mine.

That was the topic of discussion at a Web page building workshop staged for USD faculty and staff near the end of the fall semester. Dozens of Alcalá Park employees took part in the Computer Science Web-group seminar and reception in November.

“It was a great way for people on campus to take an active part in the institution’s online presence,” says mathematics and computer science professor Jane Friedman.

Friedman sent an e-mail inviting employees to the workshop to discuss their departments’ Web needs with members of the Web group. Participants learned how to publish a basic Web page and lay out the Internet future of their departments.

The workshop was sponsored by the Student Faculty Interaction Fund.

Events Online

The newly formed Committee for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CEL&T) can publicize events on the USD faculty development Web page.

This is a prime way for USD employees to get the word out about a committee’s events, says CEL&T coordinator Alana Nicastro of the School of Education.

Information can be submitted to Nicastro at her e-mail address (AlanaNicastro@aol.com) or at her committee’s Web site (www.acusd.edu/facdev/). Information about an event will be posted under an “upcoming events” section.

CEL&T promotes better learning by posting information from around the campus about services, funding and workshops.

— John Titchen
Editor's note: The focus of our monthly look at Alcalá Park is West Point Field.
For almost 40 years, Sister Virginia McMonagle has gone for daily strolls on USD's West Point Field, long rumored to be one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in Southern California.

Five years ago, she learned she owned it. Sister McMonagle says the school enlisted her as the owner on a document in the late 1950s to meet legal requirements. About five years ago, the school's accounting office brought it to her attention and she signed over the property.

"For a moment I thought about not signing," says Sister McMonagle with a laugh. "I thought, 'Maybe I'll keep it and put up a hotel there and make some money.'"

The property likely was put in her name because Sister McMonagle had been hired to head a grammar school proposed by Bishop Charles Francis Buddy. The school was to have occupied the space that is now West Point Field. The plans fell through and, over the years the field was destined to be many things.

Sister McMonagle and Sister Patricia Shaffer, who arrived at Alcalá Park at roughly the same time, say the site was to have housed at different times the grammar school, a law school, a nursing school, a science building and even a sports complex.

Soon, though, the property will be home to the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

Everyday, dozens of USD employees and students use the field for everything from lacrosse and soccer practice to running to picnicking. With a commanding view of San Diego Harbor, Point Loma and Mission Bay, the property has been a favorite location for television and motion picture shoots.

Several times, helicopters have used the field as an impromptu helipad. Visitors watch fireworks from the edge of the field and birdwatchers are drawn to the field on quiet days.

For many years after construction began at Alcalá Park in 1949, the field was undeveloped. Sisters McMonagle and Shaffer say they remember the natural sage scrub habitat when they first saw the property in the late 1950s. The nuns were actually forbidden to venture out to the point, not only because they were still cloistered, but also due to rattlesnakes. It was also thought

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University Ministry
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Faculty/Staff Luncheon,
noon, Feb. 25, in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room.
Bible Study, 12:10 to 12:50 p.m., every Thursday, in Warren Hall 3C. For more information, contact Father John Keller at ext. 2296.
Bible Study in Spanish, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., every Wednesday, in Law School 2B. For more information, call Father Alejandro Crosthwaite at ext. 6818.
Founders Chapel Choir Practice, 6 or 7:30 p.m., every Wednesday, in Founders Chapel. All singers and instrumentalists welcome!
Sunday Evening Masses at Founders Chapel, 7 and 9 p.m. (Fall/spring semester only.)
Daily Masses at Founders Chapel, 12:10 p.m., Monday through Friday; 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday (Fall/spring semester only.)
Passages
Retired
Joyce Jaskolski, faculty secretary 1 with the political science department, on Jan. 7 after two years.
Mary Ann Kennedy, administrative assistant B with the Campus Health Center, on Jan. 21 after 22 years.
Deaths
Alex Aguirre, brother of Helen Quintero, dining services custodian, on Nov. 9.
Sheila Herz, sister of Hugh Friedman, School of Law professor, on Nov. 18.
Marianao Naranjo, husband of Maria Naranjo, dining services food service worker, on Nov. 26.
Helen V. Engfelt, mother of Dr. Frank Engfelt, School of Law professor, on Nov. 29.
William F. Plouffe, father of Phil Plouffe, School of Nursing and Health Science data processing assistant, on Nov. 30.
Wiley Stroube, father of Libby Schiff, director of capital programs, on Nov. 30.

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Passages
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Raymond Fogarty, father of Brian Fogarty, director of athletic development, on Dec. 8.
Arnulfo Manriquez, father of Antonietta Manriquez, University Center assistant director of operations, on Dec. 21.
Robert Bishop, father of Katie Bishop-Smith, School of Education associate professor, on Dec. 24.
Dr. Norman Scherr, husband of Dr. Mary Scherr, School of Education director of leadership studies, on Dec. 26.
Robert J. McGuire, father of Sister Sharon McGuire, School of Nursing clinical instructor, on Jan. 2.

Editor's Note
It's not too late to send in a survey response, so if you haven't, what are you waiting for? Your comments and suggestions will help shape an improved Alcala View. Surveys were included in the December issue and copies are available in the Publications Office in Maher 274. Thanks to all those who replied! Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

5 O'Clock Humor
An Alcala Park employee reports he entered his community newspaper's pun contest. He sent in 10 different puns in the hope that at least one of the puns would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

Emergency System
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The radio upgrade is part of the university's master emergency plan. A room in the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science building (it's one of the most structurally sound on campus) is outfitted as a disaster center headquarters. In the event of an earthquake or other calamity, all operations will be run from there.
Thiem says the new radios are the first step toward ensuring the safety of USD employees and students. In seconds, USD officers can summon backup from their own office, SDPD or the Sheriff's Department.
"The old radios often wouldn't work when you drove off campus," he says. "You might find yourself in a situation where you were transporting a student to the hospital and couldn't communicate with the dispatcher. Sometimes, you had to pull over and find a phone."
Eventually, the radios will tie together public safety officers, tram drivers, resident advisors and other on-campus supervisors. Thiem says this can only help improve his department's response time.
"The students shouldn't have to worry about any problems," he says. "Our goal is to take care of a problem as it happens, or better yet, before it happens."
— John Titchen

A Look at the Park
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the point had been used as an Army installation in World War II.
In the 1960s, roses and geraniums were planted to keep the dust down, and only after the university's merger in 1972 was a field and track developed.

Black History Month
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"Cafe Asylum" at 8:30 p.m., Feb. 29, will highlight noted black authors.
Four movies will be screened in conjunction with the Associated Students Film Forum. They are: "Soul Food" (Feb. 2, Forum B), "Waiting to Exhale" (Feb. 9, UC 103), "Love Jones" (Feb. 16, UC 103), "The Wood" (Feb. 24, Forum B).
All movies start at 8 p.m.