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Shuttle Service Studied

Officials with USD’s Department of Public Safety are looking into the feasibility of a shuttle service between campus and a nearby coaster/trolley station.

The proposed service would shuttle Alcalá Park community members to and from campus and the station at Morena Boulevard and Friars Road in the mornings and evenings.

Public Safety assistant director Dave Epstein is handling a survey of community members to determine if there is enough interest to warrant the costs of a shuttle service.

“We’re still looking into it,” says Epstein, who encourages those interested to call him and leave messages. “We’re just looking at the possibility to see if there are enough interested riders to make it work.”

Epstein says those interested in the shuttle service can call him at ext. 4534. He has heard from about 40 prospective riders so far, and will soon begin looking at costs. A new passenger-type van or small bus is required, he says.

UC-San Diego has a similar shuttle service to trolley and bus stations.

Spring is in the Air

Plants like this rose are thriving around Alcalá Park after heavy rain showers last month.

Flowery Praise for Longtime Facilities Management Gardener

Silberio Bobadilla is a quiet and easy-going guy. He seems to stay calm no matter what happens.

Unless, of course, the San Diego Padres lose in the bottom of the ninth.

“He’s definitely crazy about baseball,” says friend and co-worker Santos Rodriguez. “He’s very passionate about the game and knows a lot. If he’s not here working or at home with his family, he’s in the first row at the stadium watching the Padres.”

A facilities management gardener at Alcalá Park for 11 years, Bobadilla is a die-hard San Diego Padres fan and attends many games at Qualcomm Stadium. He’s also been known to listen to games while he works.

“I really like baseball,” says Bobadilla with a mischievous grin. “Everything about it — watching, playing, or even just talking about it. I can talk for hours about the game.”

Bобadilla says his three passions — his work at USD, baseball and spending time with his family — make him feel complete. The affable 34-year-old makes his home in nearby Linda Vista with wife Cesaria and their four children: Rosario, 12, Alonzo, 10, Raquel, 8, and Brian, 3.

“I really like my work here at USD,” says Bobadilla, who was honored last year as a finalist for the 1999 Staff Employee of the Year Award. “I take great pride in looking after my area of the campus.”

Bобadilla is responsible for the grounds in and around the Sports Center and the Alcalá Vista apartments. He trims trees, cuts the grass, maintains flower beds and keeps an eye (Continued on page four)
Employee News from Around the Campus

Academic computing officials are developing a university-wide survey on computing needs and priorities, conducting a town hall meeting Feb. 22 to help shape that survey. They will post their findings, and reports in the interim, at www.acusd.edu/~acacomm.

Seminars for Employees

Doughs of Alcalá Park employees have signed up for a number of workshops this month presented by the Office of Sponsored Programs as the 2000 Spring Seminar Series.

Employees from various departments are to work with USD professionals and experts on budgeting, hiring practices and procedures, equipment purchases, USD's internal routing process, identifying potential benefactors, how to work with foundations and budget preparation.

The workshops are planned for March 8 and 15.

Kroc Institute Update

USD community members were invited to forums last month featuring candidates for the director's chair of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

On campus were Michael Hager, co-founder of the International Development Law Institute in Rome, Joseph Ben-Dak, past director of the United Nations Technology and Business Group, and Joyce Neu, senior associate director of the Carter Center's Conflict Resolution Program.

University Professorships

President Alice B. Hayes recently announced 14 faculty members were selected for 2000-2001 University Professorships.

Project based professorships were awarded to those who made outstanding proposals, while recognition professorships were awarded to professors for outstanding career contributions. Steber professorships recognize outstanding teaching service.

University Professors from Arts and Sciences: Bethami Dobkin (recognition), John Donnelly (recognition), Anne Hendershott (project), Vali Nasr (project), Gregory Pregill (project), Lynne Small (recognition). From the School of Business: Andrew Allen (project), Gregory Gazda (recognition), Scott Kunkel (Steber). From the School of Education: Steven Gelb (project), Bobbi Hansen (project). From the School of Law: Darryl Bratton (recognition), Paul Wohlmuth (project). From the School of Nursing: Jane Georges (project).

Retirement Plan Changes; Merit Increases Considered

Changes to USD's retirement plan take effect July 1 for administrators and July 3 for staff.

In July, USD's retirement contribution will increase from 10 to 12 percent. Employees will no longer be required to contribute in order to receive the university's allocation.

For employees in the waiting period, eligibility for the USD contribution begins in July. Employees hired after July 1 will be eligible on the first full pay period after the date of hire.

An announcement in mid-March will outline the process that will convert retirement payroll records. The announcement will also include a list of meetings and instructions for employees not yet enrolled.

Regular Merit Increases

Supervisors this spring are submitting lists of employees for regular merit increases.

Merit increases will take effect on the first day of the first full pay period in March 2000. Staff employees will see the increase reflected in their pay on April 3.

Employees hired in December 1999 and the first two months of this year are not eligible for a merit increase until March 2001.

Supervisors are also considering employees for exceptional performance awards. Fifty such awards are made available for employees who are not yet at their maximum pay grade who have provided exceptional service to the university the past year.

Each exceptional award will equal 5 percent of the recipient's 1999 annual base salary.
**Friends of the Libraries Events; Blood Drive**

Scheduled for the middle of this month is the first of three events this year staged by the Friends of the USD Libraries.

As part of its “Salon Series,” the Friends will welcome poet, writer and children’s author Judith Viorst, 3 p.m., March 12, in the Manchester Executive Conference Center Auditorium. Viorst will read, answer questions in a discussion session and sign books at a reception.

Author Jon Woodson will give a reading and lecture on the Harlem Renaissance at 4 p.m., April 7. Woodson also will sign books at the Manchester Executive Conference Center Auditorium event.

Admission to both events is free. Call ext. 6866 for information.

National Public Radio’s Ira Glass, host of “This American Life,” is scheduled to give an evening performance on Oct. 26 in Copley Symphony Hall. Details are still being completed.

**USD Blood Drive**

An information table in front of the UC March 2, 3, 6 and 7 will allow Alcalá Park employees to make appointments for donating blood at USD’s semiannual Blood Drive.

Walk-in donors are welcome, too, at the blood drive, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 8, in UC Forum A. Call Kily Jones at ext. 4796 for information or questions.
Passages

Retired

Ofelia Higgins, faculty secretary 1 with Fine Arts, after two years.

Deaths

Richard Starr, father of Judy Rauner, director of Community Service-Learning, on Oct. 31.

Irene Anheir, mother of Mary Quick, acting director, Special Projects, on Dec. 29.

Rebecca McNamara, mother of John McNamara, vice president for University Relations, on Jan. 14.

Justo Marines, Sr., father of Danny Marines, Mail Center operations manager, on Jan. 17.

Paul Riedy, father of Mark Riedy, School of Business professor, on Jan. 22.

Emilia Tavares, mother of Jose Tavares, dining services custodian, and grandmother of Mary Tavares, housing receptionist/dining services, on Jan. 23.

Letters:

John McNamara, vice president for University Relations, writes: “The entire McNamara family would like to thank each one of you who so thoughtfully remembered us on the occasion of my mother’s death. Your prayers, Masses and other expressions of concern are very much appreciated by each one of us.”

Mary Quick, acting director, Special Projects, writes: “On behalf of my family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire campus community for its kindness, prayers and expressions of sympathy during a difficult time, the death of my mother. The support of so many exceptional people is a wonderful gift.”

Gardener

(Continued from page one)

on things. It’s his attention to detail, says Rodriguez, that makes him so popular with supervisors and colleagues.

In a letter nominating Bobadilla, supervisor Fred Rocha says Silverio “performs every task to the best of his abilities” and earned a nomination not just “for his work this past year, but every year that he has worked at the university.”

“Silberio has always had an eye for detail,” says Rocha. “He has shown the ability to lead small groups of employees in special tasks. He is well liked by his peers.”

Bobadilla’s first post at USD was the northeast section of campus that includes the softball and baseball fields. Talk about an easy transition.

“I didn’t have a lot of time to watch the [USD] baseball team, but sometimes I’d watch an inning or two,” says Bobadilla.

The gardener-turned-family man still plays for a community men’s hardball team every week. He plays third base and says he’s still a pretty good hitter.

“I don’t have a lot of time to play these days, but I try,” Bobadilla says. “If I don’t play after work, I head home and help my children with their homework.”

— John Titchen

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