Alcalá View 2000 16.09

University of San Diego Publications and Human Resources offices

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.sandiego.edu/alcalaview-1985

Digital USD Citation
https://digital.sandiego.edu/alcalaview-1985/165

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the USD News at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alcalá View (University of San Diego. Public Relations Office) by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact digital@sandiego.edu.
Parking Addressed; Alternative Transportation A Hit

With the school year over, employees may enjoy a three-month reprieve from the tight campus parking situation, but plans are already in place to ease what could be a traffic crunch this fall.

As student enrollment climbs, staff and faculty numbers increase and heavy construction continues at the west end of campus, USD community members may find it harder to find a parking space when classes resume in the fall. Department of Public Safety officials are working hard to come up with solutions.

At a regular Parking Committee meeting in May, Public Safety representatives talked about valet parking. Put forth by director Larry Barnett, the idea calls for valet parking at certain buildings or locations on campus. A fee would be charged and cars would be parked in the lot at the very west end of campus below what was West Point Field. That lot is half empty every day, say officials.  

(Continued on page three)

USD’s Archivist is Part Archaeologist, Part Treasure Hunter

Officially, Diane Maher is USD’s archivist, cataloger and curator of special collections in USD’s Copley Library. Unofficially, she is Alcalá Park’s treasure hunter.

Part of Maher’s duties at USD include researching Alcalá Park’s past and keeping records of her findings. She’s the first person many people call when help is needed on a project or paper.

“My dream was to be an archivist,” says Maher, who assumed the role when popular history professor Ray Brandes retired a few years ago. “Every time I answer a research question, I learn as well. I take the question, do some digging and learn as I go. It’s kind of like I’m part archaeologist by uncovering things.”

Maher says she had her most dramatic treasure hunting experience last spring. While working to find suitable display items for a 50th anniversary exhibit, Maher was rummaging through things at one of the school’s many off-campus storage facilities. One of the people she was working with suddenly stood up and held up a three-foot by two-foot model. It was the original scale model of USD commissioned by Bishop Charles Francis Buddy. Built in 1946 and stamped with the architect’s address, the model shows USD as Buddy had planned it.

“Everybody said my face just changed,” says Maher. “I knew immediately what it was. I had read about it and heard it was around somewhere. People knew about it, but it was just so thrilling to find it.”

The model shows a campus with a football field in the middle — Buddy had always said he wanted to build a “Notre Dame of the West” — but depicts a layout that is not too different from the campus of today.

Maher is now in “recovery mode” from the yearlong 50th anniversary celebration. She makes old documents available for those who need to research them, is organizing a photo collection and also tends to the university’s rare book collection.

“There’s a lot to do,” says Maher. “Some days I think, ‘Wow,’ and others I’m just so energized. I love the archivist part of the job. I find out a lot of things just by talking with different people.”

(Continued on page two)
Diane Maher
(Continued from page one)
people. I learn about papers or photos that I may not otherwise hear about.”

Many of the photos Maher comes across or is given — departments on campus are constantly sending her boxes of photos after cleaning out a closet or storage area — are not labeled. Maher says figuring out what the photos show can be an arduous but rewarding activity.

She also reads a lot of old papers and letters from the school’s earliest days. In a bizarre twist of circumstances, she had read about the original model the morning she found it.

Maher earned a bachelor’s degree in English Literature from San Diego State in 1981 and returned there for a master’s in 1987 in the same subject. She also earned a library degree from UCLA in 1994.

She and husband Mel make their home in University Heights and have a 10-year-old son, Ian.

“I really enjoy my work,” says Maher. “I get to work with a wide group of people from every department on campus. I love it when others get interested in USD’s history. It can be so rewarding to help someone find the answers they’re looking for.”

— John Titchen

Benefits Briefs: Retirement Plan News, Discounts

Retirement Enrollment Deadline — June 30: Employees who are newly eligible to the university retirement plan must enroll no later than Friday, June 30. Those eligible must select their retirement investment company in June. Remember: USD will increase its retirement contribution to 12 percent beginning July 1.

Retirement Orientation — June 26: Open to all employees, the orientation will provide the employee with an overview of USD’s three retirement companies: VALIC, TIAA-CREF and Scudder. This meeting is of special value to employees who are not yet enrolled in a retirement plan. Please call ext. 6537 to make a reservation.

Hearing Aid Discounts: Offered through Blue Cross, Beltone has a discount program which provides a free hearing test and up to 20 percent off hearing aids for employees and their immediate family members. Hearing aids must be purchased at participating Beltone Hearing Care Centers. By showing your Blue Cross card, all members of your immediate family may take advantage of these savings including parents and grandparents! The subscriber must accompany the family member on the initial visit and must show his or her Blue Cross card.

EAP Availability: USD’s employee assistance program, administered by HHRC, is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. HHRC may be reached by calling toll free (800) 342-8111.

Cancer Rates Down: The U.S. Surgeon General has attributed a national lower rate of new cancer cases in the U.S. to a decrease in the number of new smokers and increases in early detection. The diagnosis of new cancer cases is down by 0.8 percent per year during the past eight years. With this in mind, now is the time to schedule recommended cancer screenings. Many of these services are covered under your health insurance plan. Consult with your carrier for details.

— Debbie Anderson
Parking Shortage
(Continued from page one)

Assistant director Dave Epstein says the plan would discourage drivers from leaving cars in fire zones. He says the valet parking idea is just that, an idea.

The committee also discussed a carpooling plan whereby participants would get permit discounts. Epstein says about 120 white-painted student spaces will be lost because of construction of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice on the former West Point Field.

Fresh Air Challenge

Public Safety representatives called a Fresh Air Challenge day a success. Staged

Credit Cards
LeRoy Weber of the purchasing office sent around a memo to employees in early May. He says that the practice of using one’s personal credit card to make university purchases is not beneficial for either the university or the employee. Weber says reimbursement could take up to two weeks, the university is unable to take advantage of contracts with vendors and internal control issues may be affected.

An American Express pilot program is a success and training sessions will be held this month. Call Weber at ext. 4782 or email him at weber@is.acusd.edu for more information.

Passages
Deaths
Aurora Africa Galang, grandmother of Claire Galang, alumni relations administrative assistant, on April 16. Margaret Stangl, mother of Peggy Agerton, provost’s office executive assistant, on May 11.

Note of Thanks
Marti Hans of the School of Law’s budget and administration office, writes:

“I wanted to express my sincere thank yous to everyone in my USD family who sent their heartfelt sympathy and compassion when my brother Bob Shefferd died in April. He will always be remembered through the wonderful cards, prayer and gifts to the Remembrance Scholarship Fund here at USD.”

50th Anniversary Banners For Sale
A limited number of 50th anniversary lampost banners are for sale through the Publications Office at $50 each. To purchase a banner, specify either a banner with a blue background (20 available) or a green background (30 available), pay for it at the Hughes Center cashier’s office, bring the receipt to Maher Hall 274, and pick up a banner. For more information, contact Lynn Karpinski at ext. 8755.
Picnic, Parking, Pay and President’s Committee the Focus for SEA

With more than a month to go before the Staff Employee Picnic, details are still being ironed out. Plans for a talent or skit show were scrapped and the special day (set for July 14) will revolve as usual around a competition pitting the five vice presidential divisions on campus.

Set to the theme of “Alice’s Wonderland,” the picnic will be held on the lawn behind the library.

Picnic organizers say it will be staged this year without alcohol, and SEA reps spent some time discussing the pros and cons of that development. Alcohol will not be served this year because of concerns about underage drinkers and because off-campus employees working as servers would have to card everyone. There was some talk of making non-alcoholic beer available.

A “Mad Hatter” hat contest will be staged and employees are encouraged to come in costume as a character from Alice in Wonderland.

Picnic organizers also are trying to find ways to staff the event without using USD employees.

New Representative

The SEA is figuring out how to stage an election at the June meeting to pick a representative for the President’s Advisory Council. The SEA rep will sit in on PAC meetings along with the school’s president, vice presidents, deans, directors and other selected school officials.

Parking Present

An anonymous donor last year gave the SEA $360 for a parking permit drawing. The SEA held a raffle for three $120 parking permits.

That same donor has mysteriously struck again and the SEA is working to organize an August raffle so the permits can be awarded by the start of the school year in September.

Salary Update

At the May meeting, former human resources director Judith Muñoz talked briefly about a survey the university is conducting to study salaries.

The study is to examine how close USD is in terms of compensation for all positions on campus. Muñoz said that preliminary findings indicate the university is “within 5 to 10 percent” of current market value for groundskeeping and maintenance positions.

Muñoz also said that employees will be encouraged to complete evaluations of their supervisors in the fall. She also indicated some jobs may be reclassified. Faculty secretary positions, for example, are to become administrative or executive assistant 1 and 2 positions.