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USD’s 16th Annual Staff Employee Picnic A Day of Wonders

Alcalá Parkers, hold on to your hats. Or better yet, wear them, for it’s picnic time again.

The 16th Annual Staff Employee Recognition Picnic is scheduled for July 14 and is set to an “Alice’s Wonderland” theme. The picnic will feature a special “Mad Hatter” host, the ever-popular vice presidential inter-division competition, games, food and a costume contest.

USD President Alice B. Hayes will help lead the festivities on the Copley Library lawn beginning at noon.

All USD employees are invited to the picnic, where the 2000 Manuel Hernandez Staff Employee of the Year Award, Administrator of the Year Award and five-year service awards will be presented (rumor has it that President Hayes herself will receive a five-year service award!).

Picnic organizer Calista Davis of human resources and a team of volunteers have been planning the event for months. An off-campus picnic host named Barnaby was hired to play (Continued on page four)

Purchasing Power: Olson Sees USD Gets Bang for the Buck

As construction crews busy themselves laying the foundation for what will be the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, Nancy Olson is working to be ready once the building is complete. The university’s purchasing supervisor, it’s Olson’s job to acquire all the capital equipment for the new facility.

“Ninety-five classrooms and offices,” she says, “a couple of reception rooms, conference areas. I spec’d the budget, then made a spreadsheet that shows everything that needs to be in each room: desks, chairs, bookshelves, tables. Every stick of furniture has to meet the university standard. It’s a big job, but the place will look beautiful when we’re all through.”

Incorporating function with aesthetics is an ongoing challenge, and Olson’s experience at the university is indispensable in that area. When creating the faculty offices, for example, Olson worked with interior designers who didn’t always have a clear concept of how the offices are used.

“They were worrying about closets and things like that,” she says. “I told them the two things faculty want most in their offices are bookshelves — floor-to-ceiling, the more the better — and a desk big enough for them to spread their work out on. Most faculty are not all that concerned about where they are going to hang their coat.”

Olson came to USD in 1986. Alcalá Park was a different place then: no Colachis Plaza, no Hahn University Center, no Mission parking structure. DeSales Hall had yet to be renamed for Bishop Leo T. Maher. From her first position, 18 months of working the graveyard shift in public safety, through the two years she spent in parking services, Olson got a view of the campus many never see.

“The gates in the Founders Hall girls’ dorm are locked after a certain hour, and I’ve watched as some of the boys scrambled to climb the chapel wall to get out,” she says with an infectious laugh. “Once I was watching the security monitors as a car came speed-

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New Hires and Promotions
Welcome to the following employees who recently joined the Alcala Park community:

Evangelina Belmonte, faculty secretary 1, political science; Lise Bretton, library assistant 3, Copley library; Diana Colangelo, executive assistant 1, School of Business Administration; Joseph Chegoyen, computer operator 2, admin. data processing; Suzanne Fisher, library assistant 3, legal research center; Steven Flint, athletics administration; Bridget Fogarty, administrative assistant 2, development; Hung Lee, customer service supervisor, bookstore; Luis Lopez, drafting technician 1, facilities management; David Medina, faculty secretary 1, fine arts; Sue Presley, administrative assistant 2, law school administration; Tammy Stansberry, executive assistant 1, bursar; Atha Turner, executive assistant 1, development, alumni, public relations.

Congratulations to the following employees who recently joined the community:

Patricia Cooke, executive assistant to the VP, student affairs administration; James Salton, public safety officer 2, public safety; Jan Tuomainen, executive assistant 2, human resources; Walter Zoppa, production manager-chef, banquets and catering.

Parking Reminder
At a Parking Advisory Committee in early June, it was decided that Alcala Park employees with faculty/staff permits may park in white lined, yellow lined (non-reserved) or Camino/Founders spaces during the summer.

Fringe permit holders may also park in white or yellow lined non-reserved spaces. The special conditions expire at midnight on Aug. 17.

Commuter Celebration
Greg Zackowski of UC Operations called the May 19th Fresh Air Challenge Day a success. All employees who participated are invited to pick up Aroma’s coffee-house gift certificates at the UC tick-

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ing up Marian Way — there was no fountain then — doing at least 90. The car hit a ditch and went flying into the area where the parking structure is today. I called for help right away ... there were four or five people in the car, and everyone of them made it. It was a miracle.”

Olson joined the purchasing department in 1990.

“Basically, my job is to purchase all the capital equipment for the university at the best value for the dollar,” she says. “I deal with a lot of vendors and sales people, but one of the toughest things is making the faculty and staff aware that we are here for them. We don’t just push the paper; we really can help solve problems. We can help people get what they need, and we can almost always save them more money than if they bought the items on their own.”

A recent development may help departments — and the university — save even more. With each department now able to put expenditures on a university-issued American Express card, the process for acquiring supplies is streamlined. In addition to saving time, the costs associated with processing a purchase order — Olson estimates between $75 and $105 — are eliminated.

“It costs us the same amount to process a P.O. whether it is for 20 dollars or two thousand,” she says. “Eliminating P.O.s. for routine supplies saves that money, plus if we spend x-number of dollars on the cards, we not only have the savings from the streamlined system, we get percentage of what we spent back from American Express. That money goes to the general fund. It’s really a win-win thing for USD.”

Benefit Briefs

Retirement Contribution Increased: As of July 1, USD’s retirement allocation has increased from 10 percent to 12 percent. With this increase, employees are encouraged to review investment options. The University will provide one-on-one counseling sessions with TIAA-CREF, VALIC and Scudder in the fall. Notices of these meetings will be sent by campus mail.

Retirement Orientations: Retirement orientations for interested employees are set for 10:30 a.m. to noon, July 11; 1 to 2:30 p.m., July 20; 1 to 2:30 p.m., July 24; 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Aug. 9 and 10:30 a.m. to noon, Aug. 24. Call extension 6537 to sign up.

Tuition Remission for Part-Time Students: In order to be processed in a timely manner, tuition remission applications for part-time students for Fall 2000 must be completed and returned to Human Resources, M101, 10 working days before the first day of fall semester. Paperwork for full-time students should already be in the Human Resources Department.

Student Certification Reminder: Dependents between the ages of 18 and 25 who are covered by USD’s health insurance plans must provide proof of full-time student status. Forms are mailed to the employee’s home and must be returned to the insurance company with a copy to USD Human Resources. Without this certification, the dependent’s medical and/or dental insurance coverage could be canceled.

Dependent Care Reimbursement: When applying for Dependent Care Reimbursement, please provide a statement or receipt that includes the provider’s name, address, taxpayer ID or Social Security number, name of child or children being cared for, amount paid, and the actual dates of dependent care. Remember that cancelled checks and credit card receipts are not acceptable as proof of expenses.

—Debbie Anderson
Editor’s note: The focus of our monthly look at Alcalá Park is Serra Hall.

Serra Hall is named for a man of considerable achievement and was dedicated by a man of considerable achievement. The names of both, however, have been at the center of controversy.

The arts and sciences building was named for Father Junipero Serra, the Spanish priest who led the establishment of missions along El Camino Real, north from San Diego.

The structure was dedicated in 1959 as an arts and sciences building for the College for Men by then-vice president Richard Nixon. One of the more famous photographs of Alcalá Park’s history shows the vice president sharing a laugh with USD founders Bishop Charles Francis Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill.

A fund-raising campaign was staged in the late 1950s for Serra’s construction. A target mark of $3.5 million was set, but more than $4.5 million was raised. University historians say much of the credit for the extra funds was due to the work of Murray Goodrich, chairman of the Greater San Diego Committee (which raised more than $1.25 million on its own).

More than 15 years before he resigned the presidency of the United States in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, Nixon delivered the first commencement address at the College for Men just after Serra Hall opened in 1959.

The ceremonies began with a formal procession through the campus and concluded with the conferring of degrees. More than 2,000 people gathered in the open-air Greek Theatre (where Guadalupe Hall is now) to listen to Nixon’s speech.

Accompanied by wife Pat, the vice president accepted an honorary doctorate of law from the College for Men — the first ever granted by the school. That event is commemorated by a large plaque in the building’s lobby.

The Catholic church’s plans for canonizing Father Serra have met with opposition from several Latin American countries, where his legacy is not as popular.

The William H. Hannon Foundation donated a statue of the famous priest, and it was erected in front of the building several years ago.

When it was put up, a San Diego-based Father Serra historical organization sent along word of a rumor that says rubbing the statue’s left big toe is good luck. The rumor is associated with the story of the miraculous healing of Father Serra’s infected foot during his walking trek through Baja California to San Diego in the 1760s.

From the Editor

Employee contributions, story ideas or suggestions for Alcalá View are always welcome. Have a funny story about something on campus? Or think the AV should cover something? Let us know. Our only guideline is that your suggestion or contribution appeal to the entire Alcalá Park workforce. Please contact John Titchen (ext. 4934 or jtitchen@acusd.edu) or Judy Williamson (ext. 4684 or wmson@acusd.edu) in the Publications Office.
Presidential succession at top of SEA agenda

The most pressing issue at the June SEA meeting was the manner in which the organization will deal with the impending retirement of President David Edgar. Since the SEA bylaws make no provision for succession should the president not be able to fulfill his or her term, SEA members considered whether to hold a special election for someone to complete Edgar's term or to name Vice President John Frazer acting president until the next scheduled election in November. A decision will be made at next month’s meeting.

In other business: Possible solutions to the parking crunch expected this fall continue to be explored. The idea recently put forth to have valet parking has met with several logistical snags, including insurance and liability issues.

More research is being conducted before a recommendation is made.

SEA will sponsor a 50/50 raffle at the picnic July 14. All faculty, administrators and staff are eligible to win, and tickets are available from any SEA rep. Also at the picnic, there will be a drawing for three free parking spaces for the 2000-01 school year. Funds for the spaces, $360, come from an anonymous donor.

The SEA voted to donate $350 to the Manchester Child Development Center. The money comes from a variety of fund-raising activities, including sales of candy bars and chances for the parking pass drawing.

The SEA sold 230 tickets for the San Diego Padres’ June 16 game against the Cincinnati Reds that featured the 25th anniversary of the KGB Sky Show. The Padres provided some extra fireworks of their own that night when Bret Boone’s three-run home run keyed a five-run first inning. The Padres won the game, 8-5.

Picnic

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the Mad Hatter and serve as master of ceremonies. And he’s not coming empty-handed — he has prizes galore to give away!

Among the highlights of the event is a costume contest for which all Alcala Park employees are asked to come dressed as a character from the famous Lewis Carroll story. The winner will get $100, $50 will be awarded to the runner-up and $25 to the third place finisher. All entrants will receive a coupon good for a year that can be redeemed for a free lunch in the Faculty Staff Dining Room. But, organizers warn, simply doffing a hat won’t do. Only those employees in full costumes will be considered entrants. Get creative say picnic organizers.

Teams for the five vice presidential divisions are being finalized and cheerleaders will support the teams in several events. So, come and cheer your team on to glory in the annual President’s T.E.A. Cup competition!

A delicious picnic lunch will be topped only by a “create-your-own” dessert ice cream bar. Picnic-goers may also slide down the rabbit hole on a giant Astroglide. Caricaturists will have fun with employees, and clowns will make crazy balloon hats.

USD employees also may play volleyball, enter the SEA’s 50/50 drawing or try for dozens of door prizes!

16th Annual Staff Employee Recognition Picnic

When: Noon, Friday, July 14
Where: Copley Library Lawn
What: Alice’s Wonderland costume contest, caricaturists, lunch, ice cream bar, clowns, balloon hats, Astroglide, door prizes, SEA 50/50 drawing, the annual President’s T.E.A. Cup inter-division competition!