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Alcalá

August 2000, Vol. 16, Issue 11

A newsletter for the employees
of the University of San Diego

View

An Alice-In-Wonderful Day At Staff Employee Picnic

Campus employees turned out *en masse* for the 2000 Staff Employee Recognition Picnic, staged on the Copley Library lawn July 14. Alcalá Parkers and their families enjoyed a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and salad.

Special master of ceremonies “Barnaby” kept things moving along with a rigorous and entertaining vice presidential inter-division skills contest. Employees donned balloon hats, sat for caricaturists’ cartoon drawings, rode a slippery slide, danced and won dozens of prizes.

Jim Pehl, director of budget and treasury, was named Administrator of the Year. **Santos Rodriguez**, a pool maintenance specialist with facilities management, was named the Manuel Hernandez Staff Employee of the Year.

Dressed as Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, **Margie King** of the School of Education and **Jo Powers** of the provost’s office won the costume contest.

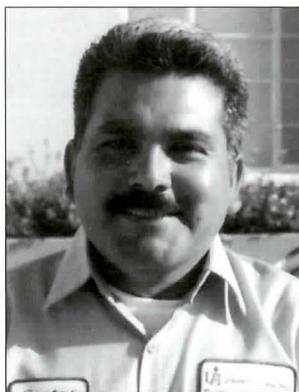
Edwina Villanueva of accounts payable won the \$200 first
(Continued on page seven)



DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE — The 2000 Staff Employee Recognition Picnic was a huge success.

Pool Man Swimming in Praise as Staff Employee of the Year

Without mentioning a name, USD President **Alice B. Hayes** spoke of the wonderful virtues of the university’s 2000 Manuel Hernandez Employee of the Year Award winner at the recent Staff Employee Recognition Picnic.



Santos Rodriguez

Listening was **Santos Rodriguez** of facilities management, who became more and more puzzled because the special employee’s job sounded a little like his.

“I was just so shocked,” says Rodriguez, Alcalá Park’s pool maintenance specialist. “The more she said, the more I realized it was me she was talking about. What a huge surprise and what a wonderful thing it is to hear

someone like her say such good things about what I do.”

The university’s Staff Employee of the Year for 2000, Rodriguez handled the award ceremony just as he handles his job — with a quiet graciousness.

“I was listening to all the things she was saying and I thought, ‘Hey that sounds like a little like my job,’”

says Rodriguez with a laugh. “And then I thought, ‘Well I’m the only one doing that, so it must be me.’ It was just such a surprise.”

For almost nine years, Rodriguez, 37, has been the university’s caretaker of pools. He cleans and maintains the competition-sized pool at the Sports Center, two smaller swimming pools at

on-campus apartment buildings, the fountain in the middle of campus and a Jacuzzi at the president’s house.

In her introductory remarks, President Hayes noted that the Sports Center pool is one of “the cleanest in the nation.” Rodriguez is often the focus of praise from supervisors, colleagues and Alcalá Park employees who visit the pools for swims. Dozens of USD community members — including a vice president and a dean — have written letters of praise to Rodriguez’ supervisors. Rodriguez’ supervisor **Thu Tran**, special services supervisor, helped pen Rodriguez’ letter of nomination. For years, Rodriguez has been stopped by pleased pool-goers time and again.

“That’s what makes everything so worthwhile,” says Rodriguez, an Alcalá Park employee for more than 11 years.

(Continued on page two)

Shuttle Service Starts

Tram service for USD community members started in late June and runs Monday through Friday before and after work. The tram runs from the fountain to the Old Town Trolley station every 15 minutes from 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Call parking services at (619) 260-4518 for more information.

Provost's Appointment

Reuben Mitchell was appointed assistant provost, director of campus diversity development, in late June by **Frank Lazarus**, vice president and provost.

Mitchell has worked as an administrator for more than 10 years at USD, most recently as the director of campus diversity development, a role in which he reported to the director of human resources and the provost. Mitchell was involved in the implementation of the Irvine Grant: Creating Cultural Competence.

In addition to his work with the human resources leadership development program, he has extensive experience with recruitment, retention and organizational development. He is also a national training specialist for the Anti-Defamation League, conducting professional development, education and skill-building opportunities for high-level executives in government, industry and education. Mitchell will be responsible for further development and implementation of the University Plan for Diversity and Inclusion.

Decathlon Dan

Physics professor **Daniel Sheehan** won a United States of America Track and Field (USATF) masters decathlon championship in late June. Competing in Lake Geneva, Wis., Sheehan battled rainy weather the first day and blazing hot conditions the next. He scored 6,475 in the 10 events and took first place in the 40-45 age group, which drew 10 select athletes from around the nation.

Sheehan held off two challengers in the final event, the 1500-meter run, and reports the win was "pretty exciting and tiring." He's been run-

(Continued on page seven)

Santos

(Continued from page one)

"People say such nice things — it makes you want to do even better."

Born and raised in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Rodriguez moved to Tijuana with his family when he was 14. He finished *preparatoria*, or high school, there and then began looking for work across the border. He started working odd jobs as a handyman and soon learned of an opening at USD through a friend who worked here.

At USD, Rodriguez worked in a temporary role as a janitor for a couple of years before he was asked to take over the pool cleaning duties. He learned the ropes under supervisor Tran and also studied on his own. A few years ago, he passed a tough certification exam — especially tough for those whose first language is not English — and is now a licensed pool cleaner.

Now a U.S. citizen, Rodriguez lives in Spring Valley, and he and fiancée Patricia Mendez are planning their wedding. He has eight sisters and three brothers, all of whom live in Mexico. When he isn't visiting them, he spends time

volunteering with several Tijuana charities. He often takes clothes and shoes donated by USD students to help impoverished families in the border area.

His job has gone so swimmingly, says Rodriguez, that it's hard to single out one thing that makes it fun to work at USD.

"We're all good friends in this department," says Rodriguez, "and everyone on campus is so nice and friendly. It's just a wonderful place to work. And to spend the early mornings up there at the Sports Center several times a week doing something I love to do — it's just a perfect fit."

— **John Titchen**



Staff Employee of the Year Santos Rodriguez cleans the Sports Center pool.

Retirement Changes; Benefits Briefs and News

Dependent Care Exclusion: Employees may not be aware that overnight camp is not reimbursable under a dependent care reimbursement account per IRS guidelines. This exclusion pertains to all overnight camps, including scout camps and those run by the YMCA.

Retirement Plan Changes: Benefit eligible employees may change their retirement investments up to three times per year. To review your investment options, contact your investment company: TIAA-CREF, VALIC and/or Scudder. Individual retirement meetings will be held this fall on campus. Notices will be sent via campus mail in the coming weeks.

Retirement Orientations: To acquaint employees with USD's three retirement companies, employees are invited to attend a retirement orientation from 1-2:30 p.m., Aug. 9, or from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Aug. 24. This meeting is especially useful to new employees and those who have an interest

in diversifying their portfolios. To make reservations, contact extension 6537.

Jury Duty: The University allows staff and administrative employees up to two weeks pay for jury duty. The employee will receive paid leave for actual time spent on jury duty and in related travel, not to exceed the actual number of hours employee otherwise would have worked.

AD&D Military Exclusion: The University's Accidental Death and Dismembership Insurance does not provide benefits for accidents occurring during military service. This personal accident insurance is designed to help protect you against loss due to accidents only.

Kaiser Summer Travel Guides: The Kaiser travel guide for emergency and medical services is now available in Human Resources. The guide contains important information on obtaining coverage while traveling outside Kaiser's service area.

— **Debbie Anderson**

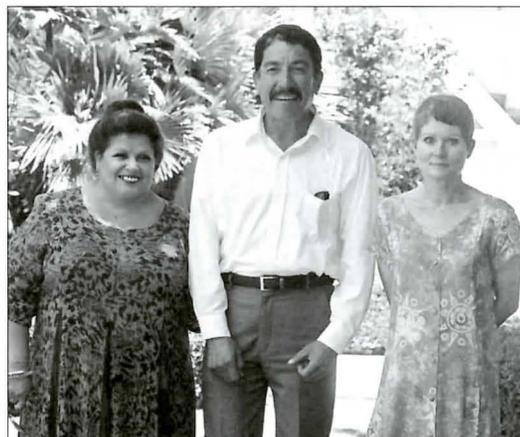
Alice's Scrap Book — Service Awards

PICNIC GIFT SPONSORS

Rockies Yogurt	Sports Arena
Sorrentino's	Hollywood Video
TOGO's	Tio Leo's
Naama Chicken Restaurant	Ruby's Diner
Mucho Gusto	Café Pacifica
DaNino's Restaurant	Hornblower Yachts
IHOP	Planet Hollywood
Coco's Restaurant	Rice King
Curries & Bugles	USD Faculty/Staff Dining
Sardina's Restaurant	San Diego Hilton
Giovanni's Restaurant	Harbor House Restaurant
Original Pancake House	SD Wild Animal Park
Blockbuster Video	SD Museum of Art
NYPD Pizza	Greggy's Creations
Perry's Cafe	SD Fitness & Racquet
Baskin-Robbins	Entertainment Book
Casa Machado	USD Sports Camp
Einstein Bros. Bagels	Children's Museum
Home Town Buffet	SD Hall of Champions
Voltero's Pizza	USD Box Office
Coco's Café	Brigantine Restaurant
Fairouz Restaurant	SD Auto Museum
Giuseppe's Restaurant	USD Bookstore
Paradise Yogurt & Stuff	Marie Callendar's
Rosaria's Pizza	Museum of Cont. Art
Sweet & Sugar Free Yogurt	Thomas Whaley Museum
Submarina	Family Fun Center
Carrows	U.S. Grant Hotel
Siesel's Old Fashioned Meats	Napa Auto Parts
Balboa Pizza Place	United Artists
Juice Station	Maritime Museum
Crocodile Café	AMC Theatres
Casa Guadalajara	Soup Plantation
Cookies By Design	Office Depot
Forever Fondue	La Jolla Hilton
PF Chang's	S.D. Zoo
Seau's	Giant Dipper
Carmen's	SD Aerospace Museum
Kearny's	Ruben H. Fleet Center
Pasta Bravo	La Casa Del Zorro
PickUp Stix	See's Candies
Acapulco Restaurant	Kearny Mesa Bowl
USD Campus Card	Old Globe Theatre
Aroma's	La Jolla Playhouse
Dominoes Pizza	



10-YEAR RECIPIENTS (front to back; left to right): Carrol Holmes, financial aid; Kathleen Low, bookstore; Cindy King, School of Law; Wendy Tankersley, NROTC; Yolanda Castro, President's Office; Elaine Atencio, University Relations; Laura Nottoli, event management; Alex Lialson, building maintenance; Cathy Joseph, Mission and Ministry; Susan Payment, University Center; Jack Cannon, Kroc Institute; William Camero, dining services; Teresita Castillo, housekeeping services; Barbara Ritchie, academic computing; Sandy Bunton, housing; Connie DaSilva, dining services; Gumaro Lopez, School of Law; Ernesto Gomez, grounds and maintenance; Raul Viramontes, grounds and maintenance; Luis Anjo, custodial services; Manual Sandoval, grounds and maintenance.



30-YEAR RECIPIENTS (left to right): June Aleman, telecommunications; Fred Rocha, grounds and maintenance; Renate Valois, Chemistry.

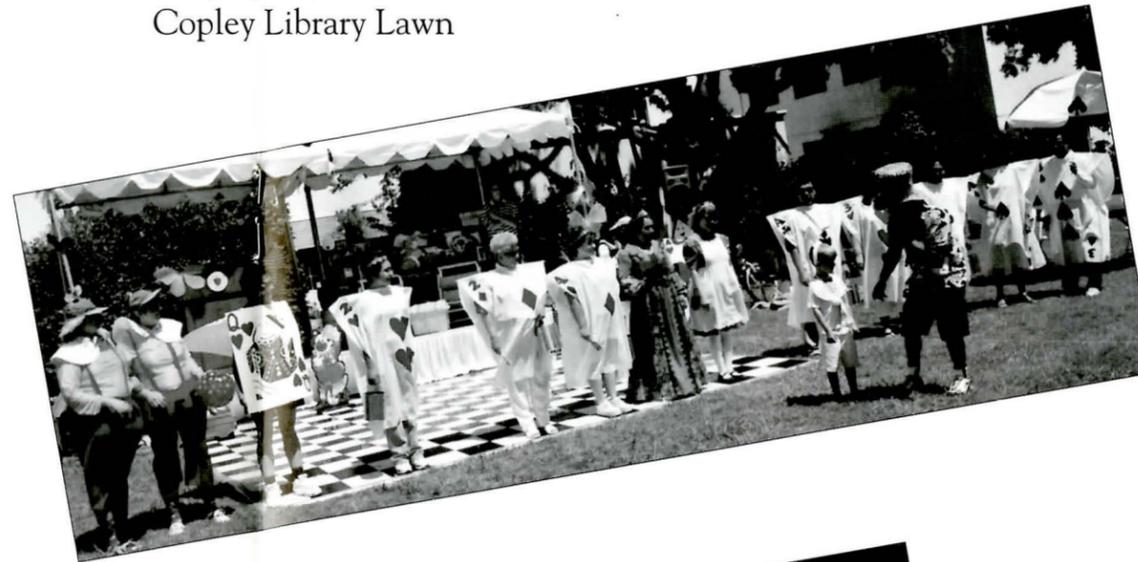


FIVE-YEAR RECIPIENTS (front to back; left to right): Silvia Patterson, accounts payable; Rocio Rivera, bursar; Carrie Ann Valdez, bursar; Jessica Canseco, public safety; Bobbie Hudson, parking services; Faye Fleming, accounts payable; Julia Longstaff, academic data processing; Orlanda Ataide, building maintenance; Diane Maher, Copley Library; Stephanie Reighley, Center for Public Interest Law; Henry Howard, building maintenance; Alex Pena, bursar.

Alice's Scrap Book

The 2000 Staff Employee Recognition Picnic

July 14, 2000
Copley Library Lawn



And The Winners Are:

Jim Pehl
Administrator of the Year

Santos Rodriguez
Staff Employee of the Year

Margie King and Jo Powers
Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum
First place, costume contest

**Wendy Tankersley, Jeff Klein,
Stacy Cunningham, Ryan Traetow,
Jaime Rivera, Christina Schell,
Raymond Wells, Nicole Rooney**
The Provost's Office
Vice Presidential Inter-Division Skills
Contest Winner



Picnic Pictures

Top row (from left to right): Margie King and Jo Powers win the costume contest as Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum; Carl Boals looks for his name on the prize lists; The audience helped pick the winners of the costume contest; 'Hello there,' says the University Relations team from the top of the slippery slide.

Middle row (from left to right): The hamburgers and barbecue chicken went quickly; "Simon says ..."; Administrator of the Year Jim Pehl is recognized by the SEA and outgoing SEA president Dave Edgar and new prez John Frazer.

Bottom row (from left to right): Master of ceremonies Barnaby; Marty Rider models the latest in official University Relations headgear; The women scramble for their respective teams in the skills contest.

Alice's Scrap Book — Service Awards

FIVE-YEAR

RECIPIENTS (front to back; left to right): Marino Rico, housekeeping; Lynn Karpinski, publications; Ray Rodriguez, academic data processing; Pauline Thonnard, athletics; Alice Hayes, president; Catalina Leyva, housekeeping; Martin Chavez, grounds and maintenance; Maria Lopez, dining services; Mike McIntyre, University Ministry; Floyd Warn, dining services; Samuel Robles, grounds and maintenance; Bernardo Martinez, grounds and maintenance; Jim Crowley, building maintenance; Mike Hernandez, grounds and maintenance.



15-YEAR RECIPIENTS

(front to back; left to right): Carmen Barcena, School of Business; Sandi Harrod, School of Business; Perla Bleisch, School of Law; Ana Almeida, dining services; Guadalupe Huidor, facilities management; Silva Loza, School of Law; Sr. Irene Cullen, University Ministry; Susan Miller, School of Law; Gretchen Veihl, paralegal program; Kathy Spittel, summer conferences; Judy Williamson, publications; Celeste Weinsheim, special sessions; Kathleen Longmire, health center; Jim Heck, building maintenance; Chuck Smith, grounds and maintenance; Isaias Nunez-Lopez, dining services.



25-YEAR RECIPIENTS (left to right): Peggy Agerton, provost's office; Debbie Gough, provost's office; Verna Dennehy, School of Law.



20-YEAR RECIPIENTS (front to back; left to right): Dorene DeTuri, School of Business Administration, Kathy Marpe, athletics; Ruth Silva, dining services; Rick Hagan, housing; Enrique Plascencia, grounds and maintenance.

Not Shown

The following employees were unavailable when photos were taken:

Five years: Lin Adams, athletics; Steven Brown, athletics; Maureen Byrnes, history; Susan Crouch, academic data processing; Hsiao-Ping Feng, academic computing; Cynthia Hagan, academic data processing; Suzi Higgins, athletics; Brad Holland, athletics; Susan Hoyt, School of Nursing; Ruth Stanton, institutional design; Michael Inglese, Financial Aid; Leonora Lambert-Hunter, public safety; Patricia Trevino, paralegal program; Linda Patton, sponsored programs; Aracely Smith, counseling center; Mary Jane Tiernan, graduate admissions.

10 years: Yolanda Abitan, academic data processing; Michael Boyce, bookstore; Janis Fain, Psychology; Diane Gronholt, advancement services; Theresa Hrenchir, School of Law; Richard Jauregui, transportation; Clinton Jones, building and maintenance; Lee Laurence, patient advocacy; Andrea Letzring, Copley Library; Kimberly Lewis, patient advocacy; Margaret McDonald, Legal Research Center; Traci Merrill, University Ministry; Janey Middleton, arts and sciences; Kathe Myrick, development; Troy Shivers, advancement services; Sally Weegar, NROTC.

15 years: Rennie Block, continuing education; Don Gennero, biology; Deborah Hoffman, facilities management; Danny Marines, mail center; Charlie Smith, grounds and maintenance; Greg Zackowski, University Center.

20 years: Mercedes Bennett, bursar; John Paul III, academic computing; Thanh Tran, transportation; John Trifiletti, alumni relations; Gary Whitney, School of Business Administration.

25 years: Joy Aleman, custodial services; Sang Hoang, custodial services; Malachi Rafferty, continuing education.

Picnic Planner Gives Praise And Thanks

It was a golden afternoon at Alice's Wonderland. It was a wonderful day and the best of picnics, but it could not have happened without so many who did so much. Before I thank the many employees who made the day happen, I must thank Coca-Cola, who graciously donated all of the soda again.

A very special thanks to **Marcia Butler** and the bookstore for the donation of the butterflies, which added so much to the decorations. Thank you to facilities manage-

ment: **Samuel Robles, Carlos Olivares, Ernie Salazar and Fred Rocha**, who all made sure the grounds were (as usual) picture perfect.

Also, thanks to Fred for trusting us with two of the carts. Thank you to **Jerry Corning, Tom Neer, Jim Heck, Tom Rogers and Don Wroncy**, who helped us with prop preparation and supplies. And, finally, thanks to **Jeff Hardick**, who made sure we were plugged in. A special thanks to **Lou Magaña and Lynne Morris**, who fielded all the calls and requests and made things happen. Thank you to **Thu Tran** for getting the signs up and to **Carter Edwards, Joe Magdaleno and David Goncalves**, who made sure the president had her podium.

Thank you to **Greg Zackowski and Carol Norman** who made sure we got our soda and that it was cold all afternoon. Thank you to **John Martin and John Frazer**, who coordinated the volleyball set up.

A big thank you to **Laura Nottoli and Kay Norton**, who, for another year, coordinated the picture taking of the year 2000 Service Award honorees and designed the picture board. What a great job! Thank you to all of the SEA reps who helped so much: **Joan Wolf, Chere Smith and Kily Jones**. Thank you, Kily, for also supervising the sale and distribution of tickets.

Many thanks to public safety and parking, particularly **Chris Coleman** for blocking off needed parking spaces and watching over equipment.

Thank you to the picnic committee: **Rudy Spano, Scott Gill, John Martin, Greg Zackowski, Kily Jones, Olivia Gil-Guevera, Joan Wolf and Kay Norton**.

Of course it couldn't happen without the help of so many in the days immediately before the picnic: big thank yous to **Karina**



President Alice B. Hayes presents Henry Howard with his 5-year service award.

Rico, Becky Gilbert, Alicia Gallegos-Butters, Carlos Rodriguez, Nina Scuito, Judy Sanchez, Debbie Anderson, Sue Pillsbury-Barton, Robert Matzner, Bobby Dyson, Vicki Coscia, Cindy Grandee, Bob Brown, Julia Longstaff and Jan Tuomainen. We even had retiree **Pat Watson** assisting with the setup.

A big thank you to **David Gonzales** who worked so hard on what was his very first picnic. The BIGGEST THANK YOU of all must go to **Cristina Ruffo**! The day's events would not have happened without her. I received several comments on how calm I seemed this year in contrast to years past. Cristina is the reason. She was part of the planning and implementation from the beginning. In the most frustrating of circumstances she remained calm. Truly the success of the day's events can be attributed to all that she did. Thank you so much Cristina for an incredible day!

Finally, a huge thanks to all of YOU who are the reason for this event! Each of you does so much to make the wonderland of USD succeed and come alive. YOU ARE THE GREATEST!

— Calista Davis

Picnic

(Continued from page one)

place prize in the SEA's 50/50 raffle. **Lisa Wipff** of financial aid won the \$100 second place prize and **Marilyn Green** of continuing education also won \$100 for third.

The provost's office won the inter-division skills contest, finance and administration was second, university relations third and student affairs fourth.

Decathlon

(Continued from page two)

ning the decathlon for 25 years — since his high school days — but he says this was his first real championship.

Presidential "PR"

Pam Gray, director of community and government relations, was invited to a five-year anniversary celebration at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista in late June. She chatted briefly with President Clinton and gave him a USD sweatshirt.

Call of Congratulations

Employees in the campus card office called the *Alcalá View* last month to request a congratulations announcement for colleague **Rosemary Dyresen**, a campus card office administrative assistant, who got married July 8.

Woodworker Wins

Juan Minjares, a gardener 2 with Facilities Management/Grounds Maintenance, was honored at the Del Mar Fair for his woodworking skills. A full-time Alcalá Park gardener since 1996, Minjares won first prize in the cabinet-making division.

Passages

Deaths

Sui Lng Wu, sister of **Chin Wu**, baker for dining services, on June 18.

John Low, husband of **Kathy Low**, administrative assistant in the bookstore, on July 3.

The university was saddened by the death of **Catalina Segovia-Case**, who worked as a Spanish instructor for 15 years at Alcalá Park. Funeral services were held July 20 at Mission San Diego.

Note of Gratitude

Please accept my gratitude for the great outpouring of kindnesses to me on the passing of my mother recently. Your notes and cards reminded me yet again why USD is such a blessing. May the caring spirit of this community touch each of you as it has me. God bless you all, and thank you.

— Pam Bourne

SEA Selects New President, Vice President and Mission Statement

At a mid-July meeting, SEA representatives appointed **John Frazer** of media services to the president's position for the remainder of the current term.

Frazer, who had been serving as vice president, fills in for **Dave Edgar**, who retired in July. Frazer will serve as president until elections are held in November. Vice president for the past two years, Frazer says he will try out the new job and decide if he wants to run for the top post in November.

Josie Vella of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies was named vice president. **Doug Gilbert** of the Copley Library was named the SEA's representative to the parking committee. Vella and Gilbert also will serve out the remaining term until elections are held in November.

Edgar was honored by the SEA reps with a cake at the July meeting. He was presented with a plaque for four years of service. Jokes were made that Edgar's wife already has a "to-do" list at home for the young retiree.

"It's been a pleasure and I'll be sure and visit as often as I can," said Edgar, who was praised for his patience and leadership skills.

Mission Statement Approved

All 18 representatives in attendance also voted to approve a mission state-

ment developed by a specially appointed committee. Edgar, **Jo Powers**, **Cynthia Thomas**, **Josie Vella** and **Chere Smith** served on the committee. The following is the approved statement:

The mission of the University of San Diego Staff Employees Association (SEA) is to support staff in creating a nurturing workplace where employees are respected, reflecting the University's mission.

The SEA is committed to: keeping lines of communication open between staff and administration; considering and making recommendations on matters of concern; conducting recreational and social activities; fund raising; and providing assistance to staff.

Parking Pass Drawing

SEA reps are busy selling tickets for a parking pass drawing. Three faculty/staff passes will be awarded. Winners may opt for a cash prize of \$120 instead. Tickets are \$1 and the drawing will be held 12:30 p.m., Aug. 31, in Aromas.

New Members

The SEA has two new representatives: **Kathe Myrick** of Guadalupe Hall (downstairs) and **Julia Starkey** of facilities management.

Next Meeting

All staff employees are always welcome at SEA meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., Aug. 9, in Loma 302.

— **John Titchen**



C'MON, LET'S SEE WHATCHA GOT: New SEA president John Frazer against some tough volleyball court competition at the Staff Employee Recognition Picnic.

Alcalá View

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