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Oracle 101: A Primer For USD’s New Software System

USD is in the initial stages of a campus-wide implementation of a new computer software system purchased from the Oracle Corporation. Following are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions regarding this process.

Q: Why do we need new software?

USD's existing information infrastructure was created years ago in a computer language and on equipment that has long been obsolete. Not only is the infrastructure limited in its capabilities, it is very expensive and time-consuming to maintain. Tom Holliday, director of administrative computing, says because of its limitations, the current system makes it virtually impossible for the various areas of campus to share information.

"For example," he says, "information about a given student needed by admissions, financial aid, the registrar and university ministry currently has to be entered individually by each office, resulting in many wasted hours keying in the same data. Since information about that student exists in many different places, it is often inconsistent and verifying it results in much confusion and more wasted time. It's much more efficient for the university if each department is working on a common platform using standardized information."

Q: Why did USD select Oracle software?

The university created an administrative systems advisory committee that identified USD’s specific technology needs and issued a request for proposals from software industry companies to provide it. The field was narrowed to three such companies, and representatives were invited to campus to make presentations to administrators. Oracle’s software is being used by hundred of universities across the United States and best matched USD's needs.

Q: How long will the implementation take?

Implementation of the new software began last August in the human resources office and is being initiated in stages through other departments. The first phase will take about ten months to complete; the implementation will take four to five years to complete.

Q: Why does it take so long?

The process of implementing the new system is very complex. It took a full year to map the business processes —

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Fran Dolan: Keeper of the Casa

Later this month, President Alice B. Hayes is going to have a few friends over to celebrate the holidays. About 600 of them.

At the center of the Dec. 14 "Christmas Around the World" event for USD employees is Fran Dolan, the president’s administrative assistant, who oversees all activities at Casa de Alcala. As she does with all the events at the president’s official home, Dolan will supervise every last detail to make sure the party comes off without a hitch. With the help of “all the president’s women,” Hayes’ assistants in her Hughes Center office, Dolan coordinates the efforts of many people.

“We work with catering to make sure there is enough food, and with the print shop to get out the invitations” she says. “We set up a special RSVP line . . . there are a hundred little details to take care of. It is a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun. One of the great things about my job is getting to work with so many wonderful people all over campus.”

The casa, as Dolan affectionately refers to it, is a work in progress. If there is not faculty luncheon to plan or overnight guests of the president to accommodate, there is always something at the 6,000-square-foot, six-bedroom, six-bath home that needs attention.

“Anyone who owns a home can just imagine what needs to be done in a house this size,” she says. “It seems like I’m always discussing a project with the gardeners or the maintenance staff. It really never ends.”

Dolan is especially well-suited to supervising activities at the casa. In addition to an extensive background coordinating special events for charities including the Junior League and Children’s Hospital, Dolan, the mother of five children, has a sense of what is takes to run a large household.

“The casa has a budget, just like any household does,” she says. “We go out

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The 2001 United Way campaign is a significant event, and those interested should contact human resources. These benefits are not part of open enrollment and employees are encouraged to review these benefit options. The election to change LTD and voluntary accident coverage must be completed on or before Dec. 29, 2000 for an effective date of Jan. 1, 2001.

Space Available Tuition Remission: With intersession beginning Jan. 3, now is the time to fill out space available applications for spouses or dependents who wish to attend. These forms are available in human resources.

— Debbie Anderson

Calling all Musicians

Do you have a song in your heart? President Hayes is inviting all USD faculty, staff and administrators with musical and/or vocal abilities to perform at “Christmas Around the World,” the president’s annual Christmas party, from 2-4 p.m., Dec. 14, at Casa de Alcalá. Call John Frazer at ext. 4182 to learn more.
This month, we look at the Celtic cross seen throughout the campus.

The Celtic cross — the crucifix with the circle behind the horizontal line — evolved in Britain from two Christian symbols, the Chi-Rho of the Emperor Constantine of Rome, and the linear cross, the simple rendition of the Roman execution cross.

The circle is derived from the Chi-Rho symbol that combines the first two letters of Christ in Greek, flanked by an alpha and an omega, signifying Christ is the beginning and the end. This symbol was promoted by the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century, and spread throughout the Roman Empire. It was commonly used in Britain, and over time evolved into a distinctively Celtic form. The circle among the Celts could variously represent the sun or, as the endless circle, eternity.

USD Holiday Events

President's Party
The entire campus community is invited to “Christmas Around the World,” the president's annual holiday party, from 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 14, at Casa de Alcalá. The festivities will include international cuisine and music performed by USD employees. Anyone who would like share his or her musical and/or vocal abilities at the party is encouraged to contact John Frazer at ext. 4124.

Alternative Gifts Fair
The USD Alternative Gifts Fair is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Dec. 7, in front of the Hahn University Center. The unique items for sale at this annual event are either made by persons in developing nations or by those involved with San Diego nonprofit organizations. For information, contact the office of the office of community service-learning at 260-4798.

Breakfast with Santa
A “Breakfast with Santa” to benefit the Manchester Child Development Center will be held from 9-11 a.m., Dec. 9, in Hahn University Center Forum A/B. Santa and his elves along with Mrs. Claus will be the guests of honor at this fun filled event featuring songs, face-painting and balloon in addition to a delicious breakfast. Tickets are $10 for adults and $7 for children. Call ext. 4640 for information.

The Mass of Guadalupe
The Mass of Guadalupe will be observed Dec. 10. Co-sponsored by Mecha, University Ministry, the SEA, UC operations and student affairs, the Mass is a celebration of the Virgin Guadalupe, whose image was an inspiration in Mexico’s fight for freedom. The event includes a Mexican dinner served in the main dining room from 4-5:30 p.m. — 100 free tickets will be available to employees and their family members at the UC ticket office beginning Nov. 27 on a first-come, first-served basis. Following dinner, Aztec dancers will perform at 6 p.m. at the Colachis Plaza. After the 7 p.m. Mass at the UC, a reception is planned in the foyer. For information, call Kily Jones at ext. 4796.

Upward Bound Seeks Volunteers
USD’s Upward Bound is seeking volunteers to help with ThinkQuest, a project teaching high school students to build web pages. To learn more, call ext. 7580.

New Hires/Promotions
A big USD welcome to the newest Toreros:
Andrea Clover, Jenny Craig Pavilion; Elaine Fink, School of Education; Louis Galuppo, School of Business; Terry Kalfayan, controller; Amber McDiffett, Camino/Founders housing; Cara McMahon, university ministry; Marc Meeker, Jenny Craig Pavilion; Adrianna Molina, counseling center; Joel Morgan, athletics; Joyce Neu, Kroc Institute; Carl Reed, Jenny Craig Pavilion; Barbara Romero, financial aid; Signe Salminen, development; Rodrigo Sarpi, academic computing; Mary Sexton, legal research center; David Todd, chief information officer; Erinn Tozer, counseling center.

Congratulations to the following people on their promotions:
John Adkins, LRC; Deborah Anderson, human resources; Rennie Block, continuing education; Doug Burke, data processing; Jessica Canseco, public safety; Olivia Gil-Guevara, alumni relations; Liza Peterson, Kroc Institute; Christina Ruffo, human resources.

Passages
Lori Clark, mother of Richard Clark, lead cook in Banquets and Catering, on Oct. 23.
Anna G. Krouse, mother of Father Dennis Krouse, theology and religious studies, on Nov. 20.
Monsignor Dillabough Addresses SEA Meeting

In response to letters written to the Staff Employment Association regarding the recent staff salary survey and the Church's position on a living wage, Monsignor Dan Dillabough requested time to personally address the SEA reps at November's meeting.

The monsignor said the Ethics Across the Campus Report, issued in the fall of 1999, in effect serve as "marching orders" for the university. "The Ethics Across the Campus report helped us clearly define what it means to be a Catholic university," he said. "The Church has a large body of social teaching concerning issues like the right to work, a living wage and protection for the family. The (staff salary) survey is the result of a commitment by USD to 'walk the talk' of our mission."

In other SEA meeting news:

* Cyndi Thomas reported Thom Barnett of human resources has requested time before the next SEA meeting to address questions regarding the university's grievance procedures.

* A change to the SEA bylaws to add a parliamentarian was approved and will be forwarded to President Alice Hayes. The parliamentarian will ensure that meetings are conducted in strict accordance with parliamentary procedure.

* The SEA will offer tickets to "A Christmas Carol" on Wed., Dec. 6, at the San Diego Repertory Theater. Tickets are $12 for adults and $10.50 for children, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

* The representatives voted to donate money to several charities, including an orphanage in San Ysidro, the family of the little girl struck and killed by a car on Linda Vista Road to help defray funeral expenses, the Virgin of Guadalupe Mass, and interfaith shelter.

* Before the scheduled election of SEA, a motion was put forth to elect co-presidents rather than one person to hold the job. After much discussion and debate, the motion was approved. The representatives elected John Frazer and Josie Vella co-presidents, Cindi Thomas will serve as vice president, Anna Cain as secretary and Doug Gilbert as treasurer.

The new SEA officers include (l-r) Cindi Thomas, vice president; Doug Gilbert, treasurer; Josie Vella, co-president; John Frazer, co-president; Anna Cain, secretary.