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# Alcalá

March 2001, Vol. 17, Issue 6

A newsletter for the employees  
of the University of San Diego

## View

### Energy Conservation Plan Paying Off for USD

A conservation plan begun some four years ago and an agreement signed with Sempra Energy last October are paying huge dividends to USD during the current energy crisis. The measures taken greatly softened the blow to the university's coffers.

Shortly after legislation deregulating power utilities was passed in 1996, USD began planning for an energy crunch, according to Roger Manion, director of facilities management. In addition to retrofitting lights to be more energy efficient, an ice-storage system was created to generate the chilled water used to run the university's air-conditioning systems.

"We run the system at night, during the off-peak hours, to chill the water," he says. "During the day the water is already cool, so instead of having to operate a large piece of equipment, we only have to run small pumps. Not only does it lessen the load on the state's energy grid, it also has resulted in quite a savings."

A related source of savings is an energy purchase agree-

ment the university signed last October with Sempra Energy, San Diego Gas & Electric's parent company. In exchange for a cap on what the utility charges USD for power, the university agreed to keep its own generator up and running, reducing the amount of power SDG&E sends to USD.

*For tips on saving energy at home  
and in the office, see page 3.*

"The university is using about three megawatts of power at any given time," Manion says. "The gen-

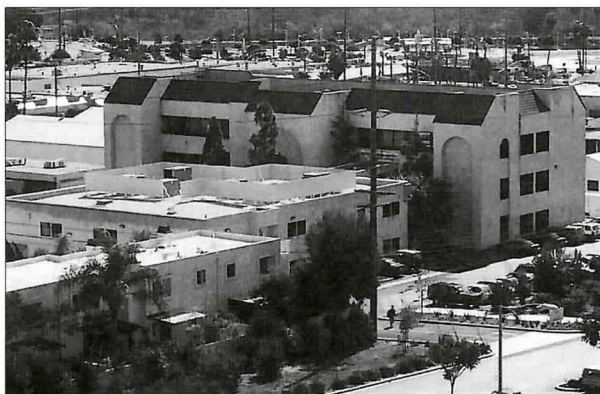
erator creates about a megawatt, power we aren't drawing from the grid that is freed up for other use."

The agreement, which runs through October 2002, charges the university different rates for power consumed in different times of the day to encourage off-peak use, hence the savings realized from the ice-storage system.

"We're charged one rate for electricity in the mornings, another for late afternoon and early evening, and another for night," Manion says.

*(Continued on page four)*

### Alcalá West: A New Home for School of Education



*The School of Education has moved to Alcalá West near the west entrance to campus.*

Members of the School of Education, who this fall moved to the buildings near the west entrance of campus, like their new home, but miss the perks of being on the mesa.

Dean Paula Cordeiro says everyone prefers the location's ample parking.

But even better is that the new facility accommodates the entire staff.

"Last year we had people in Harmon Hall, trailers, Serra Hall and down in the new location," Cordeiro says. "We're happy we're together again. We have our own offices, everything is new and fresh and we have all the electrical outlets we could need for computers."

It's taken time to spread the word about the new location and some say they still encounter colleagues who don't realize they've moved. An initial challenge was getting deliveries from the mail center and other departments.

The new location, previously called University Office Park and now renamed Alcalá West, includes a two- and a three-story building and is home to the School of Education, paralegal program, legal clinic, Upward Bound group and private companies that rent space from the university.

Assistant Facilities Director Scott Gill says the buildings were vacant before the university purchased the complex. During the four-month renovation, which ended in August, plumbing was added, the roof was replaced, new interior walls were erected, electricity was rewired, air-conditioning was installed, stairwells were constructed and the outside was replastered.

Staffers say the buildings have quirks  
*(Continued on page two)*



## Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice Events

Peter Wallensteen, a well-respected scholar in peace research from Sweden's Uppsala University, will present "Can Violent Conflict be Prevented Through Development Assistance?" at 5:30 p.m., March 13, in UC 107. The event is free and open to the public.

The Institute will host an open house from 2 to 4 p.m., March 28, in Harmon Hall 111. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Photography Exhibit

"Through Our Eyes," a collection of photographs taken by teen-agers from Southeast San Diego, through March 23 at Founders Gallery.

## University Ministry Events

**Sunday Masses**, 7 and 9 p.m., Founders Chapel.

**Daily Masses**, 8 a.m., The Immaculata; 12:10 and 5 p.m., Founders Chapel

## Bible Study

Bible study sessions are held from 11:30 a.m. to noon Wednesdays (Spanish) and noon to 1 p.m. Thursdays (English) in Warren Hall, Room 2B. Pizza and soda are provided. For more information, contact Perla Bleisch at ext. 2540.

## Employee Retreat

The annual employee overnight retreat is scheduled for March 31-April 1 at the Temecula Retreat Center. Fee is \$10. For details, contact Sister Cullen at ext. 2265.

## Employee Prayer Breakfast

"Forgiveness: A Gift to Oneself," is the theme of the biannual employee prayer breakfast scheduled for 7:30-8:30 a.m., April 6, in the faculty dining room. Featured speakers are Siser Carroll Juliana and Brother Loughlan Sofield. There is no charge, but reservations must be made by April 2.

## United Way Campaign Continues

USD faculty and staff are encouraged can help needy San Diego

*(Continued on page three)*

## School of Education

*(Continued from page one)*

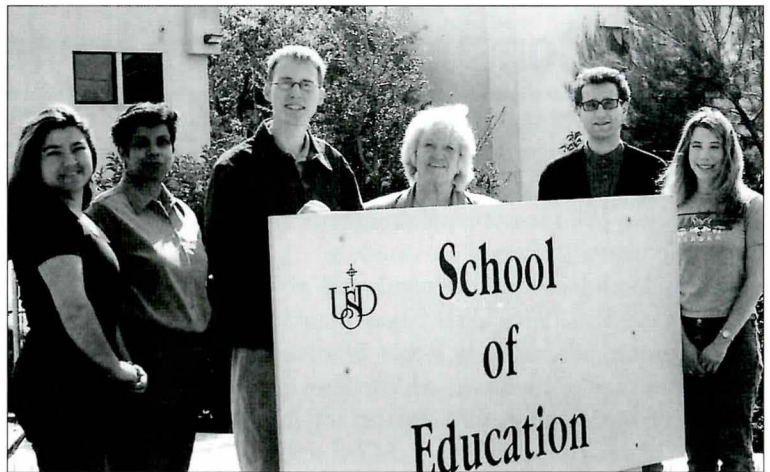
— there are no water fountains and the stairs are outside.

Nevertheless, it's an improvement from previous digs. Cordeiro says working in Harmon Hall, an original campus building, was difficult.

"It was dingy and old," Cordeiro recalls, "The men's toilet on the second floor leaked and sometimes the faculty in the four offices below it would come in on Mondays to a strange odor and soggy materials."

Although they don't miss those problems, faculty and staff long for the convenience of being on the main campus.

The tram is the school's lifeline to the main campus. It's a lifesaver for those who don't want to hoof it up the hill.



School of Education faculty and staff outside their new digs. Left to right: Rosie Rodriguez, executive assistant; Maria Menezes, administrative assistant; Assistant Dean Kelly Dunks; Georgia Belaire, executive assistant; Christian Schuhmann, executive assistant; student worker Nicole Rand.

## Benefits Briefs

### TIAA-CREF Retirement Planning:

Plan to meet with a representative from TIAA-CREF in March to discuss your retirement investments. Individual sessions are available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21. Reservation times fill quickly. Call 1-877-209-3140, ext. 2626. TIAA-CREF will also be on campus April 18 and 19 and May 9 and 10.

**TIAA-CREF Financial Education Seminars:** A series of financial education seminars is planned this spring by TIAA-CREF. "Reaching Your Financial Goals" will be held at La Jolla's Salk Institute, 6-7:30 p.m., March 22. "Investing with Stocks" will take place at USD's UC 107, 6-7:30 p.m., April 18. To make reservations, call TIAA-CREF at 877-209-3140, ext. 2615

**Scudder Counseling Sessions:** One-on-one sessions for Scudder investors are planned for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 13 and 14. For reservations, call human resources at ext. 6537.

**Health Care Reimbursement Reminder:** According to IRS regulations, canceled

Faculty member Steven Gelb has clocked the more than half-mile hike from Alcalá West to Serra Hall at 15 minutes. Once, when he missed the tram, he had to walk and showed up for a guest presentation dripping with sweat.

Some faculty let classes out early, or start them late to accommodate travel time.

checks and credit card receipts cannot be accepted as proof of services for a health-care reimbursement account. Please submit an itemized statement including date-of-service, name of provider, name of patient and the out-of-pocket expense incurred from your health insurance provider.

**Health Insurance Option for Low-Income Families:** The Healthy Families Program is available to children in low-income families who currently have no insurance and don't qualify for Medi-Cal. For further information contact Healthy Families at 1-800-880-5305 or Kaiser Permanente Cares for Kids Health Plan at 1-800-255-5053.

All late entrants to Kaiser, Blue Cross and Simnsa must provide a certificate of coverage from their previous health insurance company. A late entrant is someone who is entering the plan outside the open enrollment period. Only a change in family status will allow you to modify your insurance coverage during the year. All other changes must be made during the next open enrollment period.

— Debbie Anderson



# Watt Can I Do to Conserve?

*There are many ways you can conserve electricity, both at home and at work. Here are some tips:*

## At the Office:

- Turn off the lights in your office when you leave for extended periods.
- Minimize the use of space heaters, and turn off radios when you leave the office.
- Make sure your computer is set to an energy-saving mode that goes into effect if the computer is not being used.
- Be alert to any peripherals attached to your computer (printers, scanners, etc.), and turn them off if they aren't being used.

## At Home:

**Everescent Fluorescents:** Compared to regular light bulbs, compact fluorescent bulbs cost one-fourth to operate, last ten times longer and use 75 percent less energy. Replacing an incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent will help the environment, saving the energy equivalent of 46 gallons of oil. That's one-half ton of carbon dioxide emissions over the lifetime of the bulb.

**Save Watt-ever You Can:** Use watt-saving bulbs. They give off the same amount of light as regular bulbs, but use 10 percent less energy.

**Motion Sensors Make Cents:** Tired of asking everyone to turn off the lights when they leave a room? If so, try replacing light switches with motion or occupancy sensors. These make the lights go on or off when someone enters or leaves a room. The garage is the perfect place for one. They're also good for exterior or security lighting.

**Water Heater:** Make sure your water heater is set between 120 and 130 degrees Fahrenheit. If you have a dishwasher, you may have to set it as high as 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Refer to your owner's manual for proper dishwasher operating temperatures.

**Fireplace:** Gas fireplace logs can keep you cozy each night, but your gas costs can really jump if you use them every night. And, most of the heat goes up your chimney instead of into the room.

**Refrigerator:** A 19-year-old, 22-cubic-foot side-by-side refrigerator/freezer costs

about \$283 to \$565 per year to operate. But a brand new high-efficiency refrigerator costs only \$178 to \$356 — a savings of \$104 to \$209 each year on your energy bill.

**Heating:** Your heating system is probably your biggest energy user, accounting for up to 16 percent of your monthly bill. A gas central furnace is always cheaper to run than an electric central furnace.

- The best temperature for your heater's thermostat is 68 degrees Fahrenheit or below. Before bedtime, turn it down to 55 degrees Fahrenheit or lower (or even off) for more savings.

- Try closing the vents in rooms you don't use. Don't close off too many rooms, or your furnace won't operate as efficiently. Remember to leave the vent open nearest the thermostat to ensure a proper temperature reading.

**Don't Let Heat Escape:** Weather-strip and caulk your doors and windows. And when you're not using your fireplace, close the damper. Weather-stripping and caulking can save as much as 6 percent of your heating costs.

**Close Blinds And Drapes At Night:** It'll help keep the cold out. Be sure to open them in the morning so the warmth of the sun can help warm your home.

**Keep It Clean:** A furnace with a dirty filter has to work harder to heat air for your home. Check filters at least twice during the heating season, and either vacuum or replace them. Also, check to see that heating vents are unobstructed so your system isn't overworked.

**Beware Of Portable Space Heaters:** If you use more than one, you can use more energy and spend more money than if you had used your gas furnace to heat your entire home. There is a time and a place for space heaters (when you're trying to heat one room, for example). It's not a good idea to use them throughout your home.

**Photocells:** Photocells automatically turn on your lights when it gets dark.

When it's bright enough, the photocell turns the lights off. They're great for outdoor or security lighting because you don't have to remember to turn them off in the morning. The sunlight will do it for you.

*Source: San Diego Gas & Electric*

County residents obtain some basic necessities during this year's United Way/CHAD campaign, "From Open Hearts to Pots of Gold," which runs through St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Donations will be accepted at the career services office, HC 110.

## Seeing Sea World

USD employees can purchase a Sea World Fun Card for the price of a single admission. The Fun Card, available through March 31, entitles the bearer to free admission for the rest of 2001 (except May 27, July 4, Sept. 2 and Dec. 23-31). For more information, contact the ticket office in the UC.

## A Note of Thanks

I would like to express my gratitude for the great outpouring of kindness through the prayers, cards and flowers that were offered on the passing of my father, Gerald E. McNamara. My wife and I were deeply touched and are very thankful to the entire USD community.

— John McNamara

Vice President, University Relations

## Passages

Antonio Estrada, father of **Maria Estrada**, administrative assistant in the Registrar's Office, on Feb. 1.

## Brush with Fame?

The editors of the *Alcalá View* want to hear about your brush with fame — personal encounters with famous (or infamous) people. A few guidelines: make it brief but give us all the details and if you have a picture, please let us know.

Send an email to *timothym@acusd.edu* and tell us all about it. We'll publish the most interesting stories in upcoming issues.





# Grievance Policy Tops SEA Agenda

Members of the Staff Employees Association familiarized themselves with the university's grievance policy during a visit at February's meeting from **Thomas Barnett**, acting director of human resources.

Barnett emphasized the care with which the policy's words were chosen, warning that a cursory glance could lead to misunderstanding it.

He says, for example, only certain cases can get a presidential appeal, that a person filing a complaint can be represented by — not along with — another person and that concerns should be addressed quickly.

"If something happened last summer and you're finally irritated enough now to bring it up, my first question is going to be why you waited," Barnett says. "If there is frustration, don't let it build because after time it could get blown out of proportion, you'll be stressed to the max or it will be so stale it'll be difficult to address."

Barnett also informed members that the probation period is six months, that before any employee is denied a merit raise he reviews the case personally and that employees won't be reprimanded for airing grievances. For more information about the policy, or to suggest revisions in its wording, contact Barnett or **Jan Tuomainen** at ext. 6611.

In other news, the group elected **Jo Powers**, in the provost office, as its par-

liamentarian. **Cyndi Thomas-Evans**, SEA's representative to the President's Advisory Council, reported that a committee will be formed to unify the campus' Web sites. On behalf of **Margie Carroll**, representative to the human resource director search, co-president **Josie Vella** reported that SEA will be asked to provide feedback on the short list of candidates vying to fill the

human resources director position. The group also will research the logistics of hosting a casino night fund-raiser.

**Mark your calendars:** SEA, along with the American Association of University Professors, is sponsoring a panel discussion about USD's health care, 4 to 5:15 p.m., March 13 in University Center Forum A.

## Energy

*(Continued from page one)*

USD agreed to operate the generator despite the high cost of the natural gas it takes to power it.

"We're incurring costs to operate the generator, but we agreed to do it to be a good citizen," Manion says, adding UCSD and SDSU are taking similar steps. "Even with that cost, we're still benefiting from the agreement. With it, I estimate our utility bills are about the same as they were last year (about \$125,000 per month). Without the agreement, I think it would be twice that amount."

Manion says he doubts the rolling blackouts that have occurred in other parts of the state will hit San Diego, but says the university has an emergency management program in place just in case.

"The first thing we would do is check the elevators to make sure no one was trapped, then move to power up specific places on campus that are particularly vulnerable, like the chemical storage in the science labs and the academic and administrative computing departments," he says.

## Your Input is Valuable!

All staff members are encouraged to attend the monthly SEA meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 to 3 p.m., Wed., March 14, Hahn University Center 107. Be there!

## Alcalá View

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