2001

Alcalá View 2001 17.07

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-1985/174

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.
Something Special in the Air at USD

USD recently signed a contract with American Airlines that may result in significant savings to the university. American will offer a 13 percent reduction off regular fares for all university business travel, including trips by athletic teams, students and faculty.

The agreement is part of a larger effort by the university to be more cost-efficient, says Coreen Petti, director of corporate relations and strategic partnerships.

"There are a lot of people who travel on behalf of the university, and it is much smarter financially to coordinate all that activity through a single vendor to take advantage of a group rate," she says. "It also is easier for the people who do the traveling to be able to call one phone number to make all the arrangements. Anyone who travels on university business should find the agreement makes things much easier."

Since all reservations must be made through a dedicated agency, Universal Travel, USO travelers could realize other benefits.

"They can be more flexible regarding advance purchase requirements, substitutions and overnight stays than if a person booked a trip individually," she says.

The American Airlines agreement is one of several partnerships that benefit the campus community. A soon-to-be finalized agreement with Cloud 9 Shuttle will offer all USD employees and students a discount on transportation services that, unlike the American deal, applies to personal and business travel.

"If a USD employee is going on vacation and wants to arrange a ride to the airport, all that person will need to do is show USD identification to receive a discount," says Petti, adding that her office is constantly looking for new ways to benefit the university, its employees and students.

"Working with local companies to improve educational opportunities is a fact of life for universities these days," she says. "We created a corporate affiliation program, BusinessLink USD, to raise awareness of the top-level academic work that goes on here in the San Diego business community. That's important for our students, our faculty and everyone else who works here."

If you have questions about USD’s corporate partnerships, call 260-4690.

Artist Creates Institutional Memories

Leslie Benenson sits in a low folding chair before an easel near the fountain in the Jenny Craig Pavilion courtyard. In her left hand she clutches a rainbow of pencils. Her right hand works nimbly, selecting from the bundle first this pastel color then that. Her eyes focus alternately on the emerging image of the I. Brent Eagan Memorial Plaza on her drawing board and the real thing in the distance.

Benenson, a renowned British artist and sculptor, says her drawings take no more than four hours to complete.

"I have to work quickly," she says, "the accent of her native London evident in every syllable. "I think if one takes too much time on art they’re not concentrating properly. Light changes so rapidly one has to move fast to capture it."

Introduced to the campus by her old friend, former law Professor Nathaniel Nathanson, Benenson has been capturing images at USD since the early '90s. Her first drawing, of what is now the Legal Research Center, so impressed former President Author E. Hughes that he commissioned her to do more.

Benenson's works of various campus scenes are reproduced onto the note cards that comprise the university's Remembrance package — a collection of cards, stationery envelopes and gift envelopes available to alumni, parents and friends of USD to mark the celebrations, memorials and passages in their lives. Available at no cost, people using the cards are encouraged to make (Continued on page two)
Parking woes are over!
The tight parking situation at USD is over — for a day at least. The university’s annual “Fresh Air Challenge” to encourage commuters to use alternative means of transportation to get to work is scheduled for Thursday, May 3. The department that registers the most participants will receive the coveted Golden Muffler Award. Associated Students will serve coffee, juice and snacks at Colachis Fountain from 7 to 9 a.m. for anyone who walks, bikes, runs, takes public transportation or carpools to work. The first 100 people will receive an Aroma’s gift certificate. Be sure to check out the May Alcalá View for more details, and start making your plans now!

University Ministry Events
Employee Prayer Breakfast
“Forgiveness: A Gift to Oneself,” is the theme of the biannual employee prayer breakfast scheduled for 7:20-8:30 a.m., April 6, in the faculty dining room. Featured speakers are Sister Carroll Juliana and Brother Loghlan Sofield. There is no charge, but reservations must be made by April 2.

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 is provided. For more information, contact Perla Bleisch at ext. 2540.

Fine Arts Events
The Department of Fine Arts has a full calendar of events in April. Admittance to most events is either free or at nominal cost. Some of this month’s highlights include concerts by the USD Symphony Orchestra (April 27 and 29) and “Reckless,” a representation is specifically designed for individuals from 10 to 11:30 a.m., April 17. This presentation is specifically designed for individuals within 15 years of retirement. For reservations, call toll-free (877) 209-3140, ext. 2626.

Mental Health Benefits: Before visiting a provider for mental health services, contact Managed Health Network (MHN), the provider of mental health services to Blue Cross subscribers, for a referral. Please take note of their new phone number: (888) 492-9355. Outpatient benefits of up to 20 visits per year are provided with a $20 co-pay for each visit, and no primary care physician referral is required.

Summer Dependent Care: Only a select group of summer camps are eligible for reimbursement through a dependent care reimbursement account. The sponsor must be a licensed day-care provider such as the YMCA, the Boys Club or the Jewish Community Center. Please check with camp directors to see if their programs qualify under these guidelines. Summer overnight camps cannot be reimbursed under current IRS guidelines.

Health Care Reimbursement Accounts and Orthodontics: Because orthodontic treatment often takes place over several years, the IRS requires that benefits administrators request a treatment plan before these claims may be paid out of a health care reimbursement account. The plan must contain information on what services will be performed in each calendar year and their associated costs.

California COBRA Rights: California recently enacted the California COBRA extension program which allows employees retiring at age 60 or older with five years of service to participate in USD’s group health plan until age 65. Like COBRA, the premium is the monthly group rate plus a two-percent administrative fee.

— Debbie Anderson
Meeting A Wild and Crazy Guy

While stationed in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, Trish Hodny, law school admissions and financial aid counselor, then a corporal in the Marine Corps, had a brush with fame when she met funny man Steve Martin in a mess hall.

Hodny, a former Marine microwave communications operator who has been at USD for five years, talked with Martin during the comedian's goodwill tour of the troops in November 1990.

"He moved from table to table talking with us about everyday things while we ate lunch," says Hodny, who admits she was so star-struck she doesn't recall much of their conversation. "The nicest thing was that he didn't just come to do a show, he mingled with us. It was something to write home about."

Martin, a stand-up comedian well known for his antics on "Saturday Night Live," also starred in hit movies including "The Jerk," "All of Me," "L.A. Story," "Parenthood" and "Father of the Bride."

Hodny says the comedian's visit, coming just a few months before the shooting began in the Gulf War, was well-timed. She says the soldiers had endured months of waking in the middle of the night to the screaming sirens that warned them of incoming missiles.

"We needed the boost because we were so tired by that point," says Hodny, a Marine from 1985 to 1991. "When the sirens sounded we would have to get up, grab a gas mask, our chemical protective suit and an injection containing atropine and valium which we would stick ourselves with if a missile ever landed nearby. Luckily, I never had to use mine."

Just as she will never forget that experience, neither will she forget meeting Martin.

"He's just as funny in person," says Hodny. "I'm glad I met him. I know he wouldn't recognize me if we met on the street, but I have more of a connection to him than the average person."

A new World Wide Web address for USD, called a domain name, should make it easier for online users to find the university. The familiar acusd.edu address, originally registered in 1988, has been replaced by sandiego.edu in e-mail addresses as well as the university's Web site. While both addresses will be operational during the conversion process, expected to take two years, all university employees are asked to begin using sandiego.edu immediately.

In a memo announcing the change, President Alice B. Hayes said it will help increase the university's name recognition.

"Our Internet address has become increasingly important as more and more initial contacts with the university are made through the Web," she wrote. "We sought a name that would easily relate to the university’s name and would be easy to remember."

David Todd, vice provost and chief information officer, says since the new address was registered in October, it has generated 68,000 hits to the university's web site — before the change was even announced.

"We were looking for a domain name that would be easier to remember," Todd says. "Sandiego.edu was the first thing that occurred to us, but we were sure it had already been taken. I can’t believe it was available. As the 68,000 hits suggest, I think this new address will help make a lot of people aware of USD who might have never heard of us before."

Todd adds the conversion should be largely invisible to users on campus.

"Faculty home pages, for example, don’t have to be changed to remain accessible on our servers," he said. "There'll be a lot of work behind the scenes, but for most people on campus, we're now sandiego.edu, and that's all they need to know."
Picnic, parking hot topics at March SEA meeting

The Staff Employees Association is gearing up for what could be the greatest show on earth. One of the themes organizers are considering for this year's annual staff employee picnic — scheduled for June 29 — is the three-ring circus.

At their March meeting, SEA members called for volunteers to join the picnic committee and the administrator-of-the-year committee. The recipient will be announced at the festivities.

"The picnic is a chance for employees to get together and have good company, good food and good fun," says Calista Davis of human resources, who spoke at the SEA meeting. "There's something for everyone."

Treasurer Doug Gilbert, SEA's parking committee representative, reported that the public safety department has been operating on a budget deficit. To get back in the black, parking officials are reviewing the possibility of increasing the fee for reserved parking passes by $100 annually and the price of other parking permits by $25 annually.

Fines, now $25 for each infraction, also could be increased. Penalties could be raised to $50 for the first offense, $100 for the second and $150 for the third. People who fail to pay their fines could have their parking passes revoked. These options, however, still need to be funneled through the faculty senate and other channels before final approval.

Meanwhile, parking officials also are looking for ways to alleviate the strain on parking and campus traffic flow. They have increased the number of carpool spots in the parking structure to 40 and funded a fourth campus shuttle. They also may erect a visitors kiosk at the parking structure to alleviate congestion at the east entrance to campus.

Plans for the parking structure, slated to be built in the lot near the west entrance to campus, are still being debated by the city of San Diego.

Some members suggested that reserved parking permits could be shared between part-timers or rented out when the permit's primary user is on vacation.

Participants also reported on a recent panel discussion on benefits, which was co-sponsored by the SEA and the American Association of University Professors.

The panel was formed to educate members of the campus community about the available benefits, the future for the dental and medical plans and how faculty and staff input is received.

SEA adviser Nina Sciuto says one of employees' biggest concerns is that the university doesn't pay for dependent medical and dental coverage. She says the human resource department often feels caught in the middle because it has to focus on concerns from both the administration and the employees, but that ultimately changes must be made with the consent of President Alice B. Hayes. Sciuto says concerns discussed in the forum will be forwarded to the president.

Larry Gardepie, an SEA adviser, says the panel was a good first step. "It was an education as to why the university makes the decisions it does about our benefits," says Gardepie, who is involved in the campus-wide installation of the Oracle computer system. "I thought it was positive, but I wasn't expecting solutions."

Mark your calendars: The SEA is looking for volunteers to man its booth at the Linda Vista Multicultural Fair and Parade from noon to 4:30 p.m., April 28. For information call SEA Secretary Anna Cain at (619) 260-4659.

The SEA reserved 300 seats for an employee trip to see the Padres square off against the Dodgers at 7:05 p.m., June 30. Tickets are $8 and fans will be given Fourth of July baseball caps. A flier, with an order form and additional information, will circulate in coming weeks.