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Alcalá View 2001 17.10

University of San Diego Publications and Human Resources offices

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Life on the Mesa: Sometimes It’s a Circus

Walking onto the Copley Library lawn on June 29 was like taking a magic step back into childhood, as USD employees and their families, with cotton candy and hot dogs in hand, gathered under the Big Top to roar with laughter at the absurd antics of their co-workers.

The 17th Annual Staff Employee Recognition Picnic was definitely a three-ring circus—Alcala Park style. Goofy clowns twisted balloons into hats for the youngsters and the young at heart, while caricaturists deftly used their pens to turn employees into cartoon characters. And, as we all know, no circus is complete without Barnaby, the ringmaster, who was on hand in all his rainbow-suspendered glory.

“This is the time of year we all wait for, because we get to come out here and be kids,” said Melody Tran, a clerk in the general services department, her balloon hat bobbing while she talked. “My job is to answer the phones all day. I talk to everyone on campus, but this is my chance to match names with faces, and I love it.”

Barnaby, the master of ceremonies, concocted the silliest scenarios for the friendly competitions, using red-striped shirts, blue gym shorts, gunny sacks, buckets strapped around the waist, bingo cards, Frisbees, wet towels, Hula Hoops—and an old-fashioned fire extinguisher.

Paciano Tovar, who has worked in dining services for seven years, said initially he was too shy to participate in the games—but he ended up winning the Frisbee tossing contest. Deborah Jarmon-Johnson, an administrative assistant in the Law School, said her Hula Hoop-ing skills came in handy.

(Continued on page two)

Alcalá View: a Nip, a Tuck, a Whole New Look

The Alcalá View doesn’t whiten teeth 50 percent better than before. It doesn’t have enhanced scrubbing bubbles or even sport a new pine-fresh scent. But it is new and improved. We’ve given the Alcalá View a facelift and added new sections to go along with campus news, events information, benefits briefs and classified ads. Your great responses to the recently added Brush with Fame section encouraged us to make the Alcalá View even more interactive and, we hope, useful and interesting.

The new sections highlight what keeps your fellow employees busy at work, and what they do after hours. We’ll offer helpful hints about human resources issues, put you in the shoes of your colleagues, feature interesting events, declare the latest tidings in a department or division and applaud your accomplishments.

Listed below are some of the new ideas we’re working on:

The Park Ranger offers a behind-the-scenes peek at your colleagues, whether they drive the tram, landscape the grounds, deliver mail or keep campus computers virus free.

Off the Clock features the wild adventures, wacky collections, curious hobbies, entertaining pastimes and vital volunteer efforts of USD employees when they’re away from work.

Breakfast with The Boss gives board members, committee chairs, program directors and department heads a chance to tell you about new projects or recent accomplishments.

In the Spotlight honors employees who have won an award, pulled off a huge project or just did a darn good job.

Get Outta Town lets us all peek at your creative, funny or infamous vacation snapshots. Share those Kodak moments by sending in a photo of you standing at the Grand Canyon, camping at Big Sur, running with the bulls in Pamplona or riding a camel in Morocco. Don’t be camera shy, because the only rule is that you, the USD employee, must be in the photo.

So send in your story ideas, vacation photos and spotlight nominations—or just let us know what you think about the new and improved Alcalá View, which, by the way, is still 100 percent fat free. Call Krystn Shrieve at ext. 4934 or e-mail kshrieve@sandiego.edu.
Life is a circus...

Three-Ring Circus
(Continued from page one)

"I used to do it as a kid," she said. "I'd start it at my neck, move it down to my waist and then my knees and my ankle. But there today it was as if I'd never stopped — it all came back to me."

Employees brought their families to join the fun. Mothers Qatar children's sack races with their sons, and fathers canoned down the colorful inflatable slide with their daughters.

Greg Norman, husband of Carol Norman in dining services, sat on the grass at the foot of the slide with his 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Kathrin.

"I've worked for a lot of companies that don't do this, but they should because it's so good for employees' morale, and everyone deserves recognition," Norman said. "It's like being at the circus — except that you know everyone."

The reception began when Jamie Middleton, from the College of Arts and Sciences, received the 2001 Samuel Hernandez Staff Employee of the Year Award.

"Jamie almost defines reliability," Dean Patrick Drinan wrote in his nominating letter. "And her poise and professionalism make it a delight for us to see her each weekday morning.

Dining Services Director Rudy Spano, who has been at the university for 19 years, was named Administrator of the Year. He said that while he always hoped he was doing a good job, he cherishes the validation.

"It's still sinking in," Spano said. "I so appreciate all the kind words."

Spano and Middleton will be profiled in upcoming issues of AtOPside.

The grand finale to the day came when Judy Williamson from the publications department won the office grand prize of a round-trip air ticket on American Airlines to Paris. Williamson, a former student at the University Center for the Study of the Circus, was accompanied by the wife of the slide guy, Greg Norman, and their twin, who couldn't have been more thrilled.

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Picnic Gift Sponsors

Acapulco Restaurant
Amber's Restaurant Bar & Bakery
AMC Theaters
Amigo Spot
Anthony's Fish Grottos
Aromas/Dining Services
Bakers Square Restaurant & Pies
Barona Casino
Baskin-Robbins
Birch Aquarium at Scripps
Black Angus Restaurant
Bob's on The Bay
Cabrillo Dinner Theatre
Café Coyote
Café Pacífica
California Tan
Campus Card Services
Candle Factory
Carmen's Linda Vista Mexican Food
Carrows Family Restaurant
Casa Guadalajara
Casa Machado
Castillo Cantina & Restaurant
Frank Cates, Retired
USD Golf Coach
The Children's Museum of San Diego
Chiro-Health & Fitness
Clairemont Car Wash
Coco's Family Restaurant
Cold Stone Creamery
Convoy Car Wash
Cookies By Design
Coronado Playhouse
Coitxan Mexican Restaurant
Country Comfort Restaurant
Crocodile Café
Dalinos Restaurant
Dill Star Productions
D'Lish Express
Domino's Pizza
Einstein Bros Bagels
El Fandango Restaurant
El Torito Mexican Restaurant
Family Fun Centers
Fins A Mexican Eatery
Fisherman's Landing
The Fish Market Restaurants
Fred's Mexican Cafe
Giovanni's Italian Restaurant
Giuseppe's Italian Cafe
Golden Baked Hams
Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant
Gulf Coast Grill
Hacienda Hotel
Hair Club
Harbor House Seafood Restaurant
Henry's Marketplace
La Jolla Hilton
Mission Valley Hilton
HIT Productions
Dinner Theater
Home Town Buffet
Hungry Stick
International House of Pancakes
Islands Restaurant
Jack and Giulio's Italian Restaurant
The Juice Station
KC's Tandoor
Keary's Bowl
Keary's Restaurant
Landmark Theatres
Marie Callender's
Maritime Museum of San Diego
Mezzogiorno Italian Cuisine
Mission Federal Credit Union
Moonlight Amphitheater
Mountain Mike's Pizza
Movies 2 Sell
Mucho Gusto
Museum of Contemporary Art
San Diego
Museum of Man
Napa Auto Parts
Nationalwide Papers
North Coast Repertory Theatre
NYPD Pizza
O'Hungry's
Office Depot Inc.
Old Globe Theatre
Old Town Mexican Café
Old Town Theatre
Old Town Trolley Tours
Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
The Original Pancake House
Oscar's Restaurants
Outback Steakhouse
Paradise Yogurt & Stuff
Pasta Bravo
Perry's Cafe
PF Chang's China Bistro
Pick Up Stix
Planet Hollywood
Por Favor Restaurant & Cantina
Rainwater's on Kettner
San Diego Aerospace Museum
San Diego Fitness & Racquet Center
San Diego Gulls
San Diego Hall of Champions Sports Museum
San Diego Hilton
San Diego Museum of Art
San Diego Opera
San Diego Padres
Sardina's Italian Restaurant
Schafer Chiropractic
Seau's
Sesz's Candy
Sieg's Old Fashioned Meats
Skateworld
Soak City USA
Sorrentino's Pizza
Soupplantation
Stuff Pizza
Sunset Bowl
Supercuts
Sweet & Sugar Free
24 Hour Fitness
TGI Friday's
The Field
TIAA CREF
Tio Leo's Mexican Restaurant
The Tin Fish
TOGO's
Tony Roma's
Triple Expresso
Tyler's Taste of Texas
US Bank
USD Bookstore
USD Banquets & Catering
USD Crew Team
USD Faculty Staff Dining Services
USD Football Team
USD Hahn University Center
USD Sports Camps
USD Women's Tennis Team
USE Credit Union
Vallee-American General
Via Italia Pizzeria
Viejas Casino & Turf Club
Vienna Sausage Co.
Volteros Pizza
Welk Resort Theatre
Zizzo's Ristorante Italiano
BLUE CROSS EYE EXAMS: For a $10 co-pay, Blue Cross offers a routine vision exam under the HMO benefit option. The employee should first contact his HMO physician for a referral. If the primary-care physician does not feel an eye exam is necessary, contact Blue Cross customer service (800) 288-6921 for assistance. Under the HMO, if a correction is necessary, the provider will write a prescription for glasses or contact lenses. (The vision exam does not include the measurement for contact lenses.) With the prescription, the employee can go anywhere for glasses or contacts. Cole Vision also offers discounted eye exams, glasses and contact lenses for Blue Cross subscribers.

RETIREMENT ORIENTATIONS: New and continuing employees are encouraged to attend a retirement orientation from 10-11:30 a.m. on July 18 or from 1-2:30 p.m. on Aug. 9. Learn more about retirement investment options available through VALIC, TIAA-CREF and Scudder.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE: Employees can purchase additional accidental death and dismemberment insurance (also known as personal accident insurance) at any time. CIGNA offers an additional $50,000 worth of employee coverage for $1 per month. If you add a spouse for the same level of coverage, the premium is only $1 more per month. Contact human resources for an enrollment form.

TUITION REMISSION FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS: Tuition remission applications for part-time students for fall 2001 must be completed and returned to human resources in Maher Hall, room 101, 10 working days before the first day of fall semester. Paperwork for full-time students already should be in the human resources department.

DEPENDENT CARE REIMBURSEMENT: When applying for dependent care reimbursement, provide a statement or receipt that includes the provider’s name, address, taxpayer identification number or Social Security number, name of child being cared for, amount paid and the actual dates of dependent care. Canceled checks and credit card receipts are not acceptable as proof of expenses.

—Debbie Anderson

Milestones
DEATHS
George Franz, father of Gretchen Veihl, program assistant in the test preparation program in the graduate career department, on June 4.

Frances Hrenchir, mother of Theresa Hrenchir, director of special projects for the School of Law, on June 21.

Alfonso Juarez, brother of Perla Bleisch, administrative assistant in the School of Law.

Frank W. Pirruccello, father of Ann Pirruccello, associate professor in the philosophy department, on May 17.
Dear H.R.,
I'm now paying a $20 co-pay for non-generic prescriptions. Did Blue Cross increase its co-pay recently? I don't remember receiving any notice of this.
—Puzzled by Prescription Prices

Dear Puzzled,
I noticed the same thing when I was at the pharmacy the other day to pick up antibiotics for a nagging summer cold. I was debating whether to throw a bottle of Vitamin C or zinc lozenges into the order when the total rang up. Then I remembered that the co-pay for prescriptions had changed. The Blue Cross co-pay for brand-name drugs was increased from $10 to $20 in January 2001. The co-pay for generic drugs was raised from $5 to $10.
The information was given out at informational meetings held during open enrollment and at the annual benefits fair held in November. It also was listed in the 2001 edition of the BenUflex handbook.

Each year the university, like most other businesses, must determine how to compensate for increased health insurance costs. In some cases, companies increase the monthly individual or family premiums. At other times, they modify the cost of individual components within the insurance plan, such as co-pays. Last October, USD made the decision to modify the co-payment of prescription medications. This decision reduced the proposed increase in monthly premiums from 14.8 percent to 10 percent. The savings covers the cost of between five and six generic prescriptions each month.

H.R. is here to answer your human resources questions, and will respond to as many queries as possible in each issue. He cannot, however, analyze individual cases. Send your questions to askhr@sandiego.edu.

Jenny Craig Pavilion Hours
The fitness center will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, until the fall semester begins in September. For information, call the fitness center desk at ext. 4353.

Tram Service Hours
The on-campus tram will run from 6:30 a.m. to 10:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, this summer. The tram will make runs to the Old Town trolley station from 6:20–8:40 a.m. and again from 3:30–6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Summer Parking
All persons parking on USD property must have a permit, including students attending evening classes. Through Aug. 31, fringe permit holders may park in white-lined spaces on the main campus, in the parking structure, or in the Copley/Camino Founders lot.

Fond Farewells
From Tom Burke
Thanks to the entire USD community for your kind thoughts, generosity, good wishes and sharing in the celebration of my retirement. I was truly overwhelmed, as was my family, with the outpouring of affection and warmth that was shown to us.
I'd also like to extend my deepest appreciation to all of you with whom I've worked during the last 28 years. Thank you for all the support and for your contributions to the success of USD. God bless you.
—Tom Burke, former vice president and dean of students

From Mildred Brown
To all my friends at USD,
During my faithful years at USD, thanks for being—and for being there for me. The farewell reception was lovely and I received some beautiful gifts and numerous cards. Loads of thanks. Somehow, I will remain in touch. I've enjoyed working with staff, faculty and students. Again, many thanks and may God continue to bless you.
—Mildred Brown, career services

FOR SALE: A 1990 Honda Accord LX five-speed with air conditioning, heating, radio and cassette player. Has 144,000 miles, everything works and in great condition. For sale for $4,300 by original owner, who will provide all dealership paperwork and other service records. For information, call Russ at (619) 296-1420.

WANTED: The Staff Employees Association is looking for someone to donate a laptop for word processing and information storage to pass on each year as officers and other leadership positions change. For information, call John Frazer at ext. 4182 or Josie Vella at ext. 4784.