2001

Alcalá View 2001 18.02

University of San Diego Publications and Human Resources offices

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Survey Helps Plan Next Year’s Bash

Employees who responded to a recent human resources survey said they enjoy the annual staff employee recognition picnic, and also suggested changes to help them get the most out of the yearly celebration, which next year is tentatively scheduled for June 21.

Picnic planners have tallied the responses, which included requests for more emphasis on employee recognition, more seating and more shade. Staff, faculty and administrators also voted to give Barnaby the heave-ho and hoped to nix the audience chatter during award presentations.

Some people want the picnic to be longer, some people want it shorter. The picnic committee will review the survey results.

The picnic committee will convene sometime after the holidays. Survey responses also will be sent to President Alice Hayes, and the complete results are available for review in the human resources office, Maher Hall, Room 101.

Several of those surveyed commented that Barnaby, this year’s master of ceremonies, was not an appropriate person to lead the festivities. Because of the severity of complaints, Davis says, Barnaby will not be invited back. In addition, some employees felt that people who received recognition were overshadowed by guests who created a din with lively side conversations.

Others took the opportunity to suggest everything from putting the ketchup and mustard in squeeze bottles to planning an evening affair with dinner and dancing. Many offered a pat on the back to organizers for a job well done.

Of the 125 employees who participated in the survey, 24 percent said they liked this year’s selections.

The Park Ranger
Mornings With Otis

He doesn’t do it like Queen Elizabeth, as if fanning himself in the heat. He doesn’t do it like a beauty queen, with the quintessential elbow-elbow, wrist-wrist motion that’s undoubtedly taught in charm school. And he certainly doesn’t do it with a frantic gesture as if he’s caught in quicksand.

But Otis Lambert, who has adopted a quick lift of the hand and nod of the head, is famous on campus for his wave.

Lambert, who staffs the parking kiosk at the east entrance to Alcalá Park, waves to hundreds of people each morning, taking seriously his job of being the first friendly face they see on campus.

People say waving to Lambert is as much a part of their morning routine as getting coffee at Aromas. Pam Caldwell, in administrative academic computing, says she looks forward to waving to Lambert every day.

“He’s always there with a smile and a wave for everyone,” Caldwell says.

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SEA Snippets

The following issues were discussed at the September meeting of the Staff Employees Association.

- Gwendolyn Lytle, the newly hired vice president for human resources, introduced herself to SEA representatives and said she hopes to be responsive to their concerns and those of all staff members.

- Cyndi Thomas-Evans, SEA's representative to the President's Advisory Committee, reported that the group plans to review the employee development plan and also hopes to implement a replacement program for personal computers. While at this point individual departments or divisions keep track of their computer inventories, a new system would create one overall inventory list. The inventory list would allow a more regular program for replacing computers as they become outdated.

- Jo Powers in the provost's office and Yolanda Castro in the president's office, both members of the SEA's social committee, want to gauge support for a future day-trip, possibly in January, to the Los Angeles area to see a taping of "The Price is Right" game show. Employees who would like to take the trip should contact their SEA representatives.

- The group requested that co-president Josie Vella, SEA's representative to the Human Resources Advisory Committee, bring forth their concerns about staff members who ask that their positions be reclassified to a higher level. Staffers said that in some cases, when the requests are turned down and the staff members leave the posts, the positions are then re-posted and advertised at the higher classification.

- The SEA meetings are open to all employees, especially staff. The next SEA meeting is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., Oct. 10, in the University Center, Room 107. To find out who your representative is, log on to www.sandiego.edu/sea/reps.html.

Chance for Free Parking A Hit

The three winners of the parking permit drawing, coordinated by the Staff Employees Association, were Darren Smith in University Relations information management, Guillermina "Mina" Guzman in the Registrar's office and Lupita Coyt in the Human Resources department. The three regular 2001-2002 staff/faculty parking permits were a gift from an anonymous donor and helped raise $760, which will go toward the SEA's fund for activities and scholarships.

- Otis Lambert

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"He's such a bright light on this campus, a wonderful constant."

While Lambert patrols the east entrance, his counterpart, Marvin Martz, oversees the approximately 1,500 vehicles coming through the west entrance — most often used by commuter students, fringe parkers, construction workers and visitors to the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

Lambert shepherds about 2,000 cars through his entrance each morning, handing out parking passes, directing visitors to various buildings and, of course, telling them where to park.

Sometimes he gets visitors who think they are at UCSD or San Diego State. Other people pull up because they are just plain lost. And then, every September, he gets freshman parents timidly poking their heads into the kiosk after dropping off their fledgling college students, looking for assurances that the campus is safe.

"Sometimes they have tears in their eyes, and I know that they're worried," Lambert says. "I tell them the campus is safe, that their son or daughter will enjoy USD and that I will always wave to them when they come back to visit."

Public Safety Director Larry Barnett says he's lucky to have Lambert on staff.

"Otis' primary duty is as a campus ambassador," Barnett says. "He's vital to our image on campus and to our image of professionalism in the public safety department."
Survey
(Continued from page 1)

Survey respondents suggested a range of new ideas, as employees said they would come sporting wigs, animal costumes or Mardi Gras attire. Theme suggestions varied from a toga party, a big-band bash or a masked ball to Beatles tributes or homages to television shows such as “Survivor” or “The Twilight Zone.”

When it came to fun and games, 8 percent said they wanted the same activities. Others requested a dunking tank, game booths and square dancing. A handful called for the return of the baking contest.

While many wanted the same food served in recent years, others craved shishkebobs, Mexican food, ice cream, sno-cones and additional vegetarian choices.

Employees were adamant that they didn’t want to give up the door prizes. To disperse the workload, they suggested the duties be divided by department or vice presidential area.

Employees interested in helping with this part of the picnic planning should call Davis at ext. 2621 or Josie Vella at ext. 4784.

In the Spotlight
Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Times

People from all areas of campus came together to help others, near and far, in the wake of the Sept. 11 attack on America. Following are just some of the many ways people are coping with the tragedy.

Moises Barón, director of the counseling center and member of the crisis response team — which convened following the terrorist attacks on the East Coast — helped organize the university’s overall response along with representatives from various areas of campus. Barón and his staff provided information about what to expect during the first days after the incident and how to manage stress, made counselors available around the clock, provided an on-call psychologist, wrote an article for the University student newspaper and provided general crisis training to members of university ministry, the response team and resident advisers.

Monsignor Dan Dillabough, vice president of University Ministry, and Mike McIntyre, director of University Ministry, planned several prayer services, a candlelight vigil and other ministry services culminating with the Mass of the Holy Spirit, held in conjunction with the national day of mourning and day of prayer.

Lawrence Hinman, professor of philosophy and director of the Values Institute, organized an open forum to discuss the ethical challenges of responding to terrorist violence.

If you or someone you know deserves to be put “In the Spotlight,” send an e-mail to Krystn Shrieve at kshrieve@sandiego.edu or call her at ext. 4934.

Trick-or-Treaters on Their Way

Don those costumes, carve your pumpkins, splurge on a couple bags of candy and make way for the campus’ tiniest princesses, ghosts, witches and super heroes.

Children from the Manchester Family Child Development Center will be trick-or-treating around mid-morning on Oct. 31, and will visit offices in the Hahn University Center, Mahler Hall and the Hughes Administration Center.

The celebration is expected to end around 11 a.m. at the Colachis Fountain, where parents of the children can visit.

It’s A Date!

Show Your True Torero Spirit!

Employees are invited to break out their USD sweatshirts, hats and banners and join in Homecoming by attending this year’s Torero Tailgate Party, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, on the soccer field. Advance tickets are $20; day-of-event tickets are $25 at the door. Children ages 6 to 18 are $8; children under 6 are free. The price includes lunch and entertainment at the festivities, which this year will have an Oktoberfest flair and feature the “Torero Tyke Fun Zone” for kids, with an obstacle course, games and face painting. For information, call the Alumni Relations Office at ext. 4819.

After the party, head over to Torero Stadium and cheer on the football team at the 1:30 p.m. Homecoming game against the Fairfield University Stags. USD employees each are eligible for four free tickets, which can be picked up (with your USD ID card) beginning one week before the game at the University Center box office or the Jenny Craig Pavilion ticket window.
Dear H.R.,
If I want to switch doctors, how do I do that within either the Kaiser or Blue Cross plan?

— Desiring to Divorce My Doctor

Dear Divorcee,
I was kicking back, plucking on my guitar and humming Paul Simon's 1975 ditty when I realized that although it's slightly less conventional than his rendition, there are practically 50 ways to ditch your doctor.

First, call off the Medi-Vac, Jack. It's just a benefit plan, Stan. Take the stethoscope as a toy, Roy. Just listen to me. It's not a big fuss, Gus. No need to discuss much. Just drop off the co-payment fee, Lee, and get yourself free.

Well, since I'm sure that won't be a chart topper, I better stick to my day job. So, back to your question. Patients in the Kaiser plan see different doctors during each visit depending on who is available. If they find a doctor they prefer, they can easily see that doctor exclusively by making appointments with that specific care provider. Or, if they would like to see a different doctor, they can contact various Kaiser locations for a referral. Call (800) 464-4000 or review the Kaiser directory located in the human resources department, Maher Hall, Room 101.

Blue Cross members can switch doctors by calling (800) 288-6921 and simply requesting someone new. If the request is made by the 15th day of the month, the new doctor will be available for an appointment after the first day of the following 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.

Milestones

DEATHS

Hyman Dosick, father of Rabbi Wayne Dosick, lecturer in the department of theology and religious studies, on Aug. 23.

Helen Heiser, mother of Judy Sandman, assistant director of housing and residence life, on Aug. 24 in Encinitas.

Lloyd Droske, father of Zoe Droske, instructor in the Hahn School of Nursing.

A Note of Thanks

On behalf of myself and my entire family, I would like to thank the USD community for the kind words, thoughts, deeds and prayers after the passing of my beloved husband and friend, Vic. God bless you all.

— Nancy Olson, procurement supervisor in the purchasing department

Faculty and Curriculum Development Programs

In honor of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History Month, activist and actor Mitchell Anderson — who has been featured in the television shows "Doogie Howser," "Party of Five" and "Popular" — will speak about homophobia and its impact on the community. The discussion is set for 7:30-9 p.m., Oct. 10, in University Center Forum.

A curriculum development workshop about gender issues across the curriculum is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 19, in Maher Hall's Salomon Lecture Hall.

USD Team Had a lot of Heart

A USD team of 14 walkers participated in September's 10th Annual San Diego American Heart Walk in Balboa Park and met its goal by raising more than $1,000 for the American Heart Association.

John Ferber, the Real Estate Institute's associate director, participated on behalf of the Palomar Medical Center, where he does cardiac rehabilitation. He raised more than $10,000.

The efforts of all USD participants helped the American Heart Association bring in more than $600,000 for its research programs.

CLASSIFIEDS

DAYSAILER FOR SALE: Vagabond 17-foot. Retractable centerboard, with V- and one-quarter berths that sleep four, sink, head space and battery housing, large cockpit and compass, running lights, outboard engine, sails, removable wood tiller and trailer. Best offer. Call BLP at (858) 453-1949.

WANTED: Igloo doghouse to buy. Sorry, not interested in wooden doghouses. Call Judy Stokes at ext. 4593.