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2001

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University of San Diego Publications office, "Alcalá View 2001 18.04" (2001). *Alcalá View (University of San Diego. Public Relations Office)*. 182.

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AlcaláView

A newsletter for the employees of the University of San Diego / December 2001 / Vol. 18, No. 4



Yule Be Glad You Gave

When Christmas decorations fill store windows, Christmas carols fill the radio waves and Christmas parties fill the calendar, the heart too fills with Christmas spirit. This holiday season, employees and students have created opportunities for the campus community to share the holiday feeling with others by volunteering at a soup kitchen, participating in a toy drive, contributing food or clothing, purchasing gifts for a needy family or making a monetary contribution.

"People are more than generous at USD, and we're always getting students, staff and alumni asking how they can help," says **Scott Drain**, associate university minister, who is

coordinating some of the events. "There are so many ways people can help out."

University Ministry is sponsoring six needy families—two from the United States and four from Tijuana, Mexico—that have children ranging in age from 1 to 12 years old. The

For information on holiday charity events, call Scott Drain at ext. 4897; SEA representative Yolanda Castro at ext. 4520; Associated Students at ext. 4987; or Olivia Gil-Guevara at ext. 4819.



families, Drain says, need gift certificates to grocery stores as well as non-perishable foods, new toys and clothing, especially

items that can be worn by both boys and girls and passed down to younger siblings.

Drain also needs faculty, administrators and staff to fill in for students while they are on winter break by volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen in downtown San Diego.

"The volunteers do a little bit of everything," Drain says. "They clean, prepare food, serve or just sit and visit with people, which is one of the most important ministries we can provide."

The Staff Employees Association is seeking canned goods and other donations for the food locker at the Marine Corps Air Station,

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A Coca-Cola Collection That's 100 Percent Pepsi-Free

The classic advertisement encouraged people to buy the world a Coke, but **Julie Tahapary's** Coca-Cola compulsion makes her wish it could be the other way around.

Tahapary, an administrative assistant in campus diversity development, has compiled such a huge assortment of Coca-Cola memorabilia that her home is a miniature soda pop museum. The Coke collection—which she started in 1994 after a trip around the world convinced her the product was more than just an American favorite—includes classic bottles, cans of all shapes and sizes and a band of the infamous polar bear mascots.

"I was surprised to see Coca-Cola in every country I went to," Tahapary says. "I went into a township in South America where Coca-Cola was on the welcome sign,

and a sign in an airport in Japan showed a woman drinking a Coke. The product is only 115 years old, but it already has one of the most recognized symbols in the world."

Since it was invented in Atlanta, Ga., in 1886, Coca-Cola has grown to include more than 232 Coca-Cola company brands sold in nearly 200 countries around the world. The product's popularity spread with catchy slogans such as "Have a Coke and a Smile" and television advertising favorites including a 1971 spot featuring an international group of youngsters singing "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke," and the 1979 commercial

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Julie Tahapary has a Coke and a smile.



HEALTH AND DEPENDENT CARE: Health and Dependent Care reimbursement claims for services in 2001 should be submitted to human resources by Dec. 14. Meeting this deadline will assist the department's conversion to the Oracle payroll system. Thank you for your cooperation.

TUITION REMISSION: Full-time students who are applying for acceptance in Fall 2002 and who qualify for financial aid must apply for aid on or before the February and March financial aid deadlines. These deadlines also apply to students who have not yet been accepted to USD. Additional information about financial aid requirements and deadlines will be sent via campus mail in late January.

SPACE-AVAILABLE TUITION REMISSION: With Intercession beginning Jan. 2, 2002, now is the time to fill out space-available applications for spouses or dependents who wish to attend. Space-available application forms are available in the human resources office, Maher Hall, Room 101.

MEDICAL TIP OF THE MONTH: When your HMO primary physician refers you to a specialist, ask for the referral number. It will be helpful if, for some reason, you are billed for the services.

MEDICAL SUBSIDY: USD medical subsidy benefits have changed. Do you have medical coverage for your dependents through USD? Is your family income less than \$30,000 annually? If the answer is yes to both questions, you may be eligible for subsidy benefits. Apply now! Subsidy application forms are available in the human resources office.

— Vicki Coscia

Security Tightened on Campus

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., public safety officials have hired additional staff, increased the presence of public safety officers and added new procedures to make campus more secure.

The Public Safety Department has placed officers at campus entrances and is staffing the entrance kiosks around the clock. Video cameras installed at the kiosks several months ago are monitored 24 hours a day.

"There's no reason to believe that USD is a potential target or at risk," says **Larry Barnett**, director of public safety. "At the same time, it's prudent to put these additional security measures in place."

To prevent a breach of security, Barnett cannot discuss the specific measures that have been adopted, but says he has evaluated the entire campus in terms of possible threats and tailored responses to individual areas.

Visitors entering campus during the day are now verified with the person with whom they are meeting on campus. Those who come to campus after 10 p.m. without a USD parking permit or identification card are logged in, and copies of their driver's licenses are recorded.


The Jenny Craig Pavilion now prohibits coolers, backpacks, briefcases and large bags in the arena. Purses and diaper bags are subject to search, and patrons are encouraged to arrive early and allow for possible delays when entering the venue.

Discussions have been held with students living in residence halls about how to stay safe, and officers have increased their presence in those areas.

In the wake of recent anthrax scares, Barnett researched the issue with the Centers for Disease Control, the United States Postal Service and his contacts in law enforcement to create procedures for handling mail. The guidelines, sent to all faculty and staff via e-mail, warn people to be wary of mail that feels heavy, contains what might feel like a powdery substance, arrives without return addresses or with excessive postage, contains poorly handwritten or typed addresses with common words misspelled, or has restrictive markings such as "confidential" or "personal."

Employees who receive suspicious mail should not ignore the threat. Call public safety at ext. 2222 and make sure others do not go near the mail.

"All situations are treated as if they are real anthrax threats until they are properly evaluated," Barnett says, adding that the stiffer security measures will continue as long as necessary.

"When we increase security, it's done at the cost of some personal freedoms," Barnett says. "It's a trade-off, but there's a balance. The measures we've put in place make the campus safer and have the added benefit of deterring other problems such as theft or vandalism. Overall disruption is minimal and the response has been positive." 

Get Outta Town!



A Trip to Heaven and Hell

Deterring an E-Mail Debacle

The human resources department wishes to thank **Hsiao-Ping Feng Neal**, of academic computing, for helping prevent a campus-wide e-mail "snafu." She worked from home on a Saturday to assist members of the human resources department who say, "Thank you, Hsiao-Ping, for going above and beyond the call of USD duty."

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.



Shooting Hoops for Charity

Fans from all over campus watched students face off against faculty and staff in a friendly, fund-raising basketball game that netted more than \$750 for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.



The game, organized by **Mary Johnson**, director of summer sports camps, was played Oct. 4 in the Jenny Craig Pavilion and won by the students, 67-64.

The faculty/staff team was composed of more than 20 participants from campus departments, including facilities management, athletics, the School of Business Administration and University Ministry.

Coca-Cola Collection

(Continued from page 1)

starring Pittsburgh Steelers defensive tackle "Mean" Joe Greene.

Tahapary loves the soda not just for the sugary taste, but for the sweet feeling the company has created over the years.

"Coca-Cola brings together family and friends," she says. "It gives people a feeling of nostalgia."

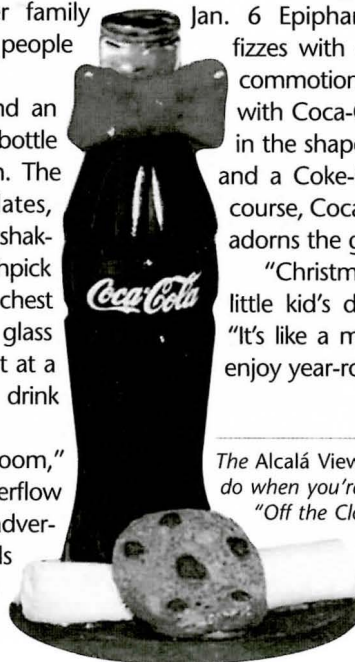
Utensils, cheese spreaders and an ice cream scoop with Coca-Cola-bottle handles cram Tahapary's kitchen. The theme carries through to plates, drinking glasses, salt and pepper shakers, napkin holders and a toothpick dispenser that looks like an ice chest filled with the soda. A 6-foot glass bottle, which her mother bought at a gas station, doubles as a huge drink cooler during parties.

Tahapary even has a "Coke Room," where cabinets and shelves overflow with bottles, cans, paintings, advertisements, promotional materials and statuettes. When friends

call, a telephone shaped like the well-known red disk symbol plays the company's jingle while a neon logo flashes.

The collection, which Tahapary one day plans to catalog and appraise, explodes at Christmas. From the day after Thanksgiving until the day after the Jan. 6 Epiphany, Tahapary's home fizzes with even more Coca-Cola commotion. Her tree is decorated with Coca-Cola ornaments, lights in the shapes of bottles and bears and a Coke-bottle tree topper. Of course, Coca-Cola wrapping paper adorns the gifts.

"Christmas at my house is like a little kid's dream," Tahapary says. "It's like a museum I wish I could enjoy year-round."



The Alcalá View wants to hear what you do when you're off the clock. Share your "Off the Clock" stories by sending an e-mail to Krystn Shrieve at kshrieve@sandiego.edu or calling her at ext. 4934.

Holiday Giving

(Continued from page 1)

Miramar, and new or gently used clothing for House of Rachel, a transitional residence for homeless women in San Diego County. Donations should be brought to the SEA Christmas party, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 6, in the Hahn University Center, Forum B.

The Associated Students, in conjunction with other student organizations, is sponsoring a program to benefit several charities: The Bridge and The Gate House, two temporary residential shelters in downtown San Diego for young people; the UCSD Mother, Child and Adolescent HIV Program; and Becky's House, which offers counseling, job assistance and other services to victims of domestic violence.

The student program, called the "giving tree," begins with a kickoff event at noon, Dec. 4, outside the University Center. Participants are encouraged to donate

clothing, toys, blankets, shoes, non-perishable food and toiletries. Donations can be dropped off at the Palomar Lounge in the Vistas, the resident advisers' offices in Maher Hall or Camino-Founders, the foyer in the University Center, or the Associated Students office, U.C., Room 161.

"There are so many people in need this time of year, and to see our campus come together is a beautiful thing," says **Sara Kwolek**, Associated Students' graduate assistant. "I hope everyone gets involved."

As part of this year's Alumni Mass, the Student Alumni Association will sponsor a toy drive. Employees are invited to bring a new, unwrapped children's toy to the alumni relations office in Guadalupe Hall, or place it beneath the Christmas tree in the foyer of Founders Hall prior to the Dec. 8 Mass.

"The SAA club offers so many social and networking opportunities, and we wanted to make sure the USD

commitment to community service is passed on as well," says **Olivia Gil-Guevara**, assistant director of alumni relations. "It's good for the students to reach beyond USD into the community." AV



It's a Date!



Christmas at the Casa

Campus employees and their families are invited to join President **Alice B. Hayes** for her annual Christmas celebration, 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 13, at the Casa de Alcalá. This year's theme is "Peace on Earth." Music by the Founders Chapel choir and USD Symphony will put guests in the holiday spirit, and light refreshments will be served. To R.S.V.P. call ext. 7861 or e-mail **Yolanda Castro** at castro@sandiego.edu by Dec. 7. In the event of rain, the celebration will be moved to the Hahn University Center, Forum.



Dear H.R.,

I'm a new employee and have heard about tuition remission. I'd like to pursue a graduate degree at USD, can you tell me more about this benefit?

— *Wishin' for Tuition Remission*

Dear Wishin',

Tuition remission is one of the university's greatest perks. When I was a boy, my master plan in life called for me to major in aerospace engineering and minor in culinary arts because my dream job was to grill steaks at an international space station. If the university ever offered graduate degrees in either of those fields I'd be all over tuition remission.

Alas, back to Earth and tuition remission. The benefit is available to eligible employees

who have gone through the regular application process and have been accepted into a program. They must have completed one year of employment in a full-time regular position. Benefits may begin in the fall or spring semester closest to an employee's one-year anniversary. To begin classes during the fall semester, an employee's anniversary must land between June 1 and Nov. 30. The anniversary must fall between Dec. 1 and May 31 to begin classes in the spring semester. Employees may use tuition remission for up to a maximum of 18 credits per academic year or 22 credits per academic year for School of Law students. By the way, you may want to check with the person who prepares your taxes to find out how this benefit might affect your taxes. Now I'm off to barbecue some spareribs in my Maj. Anthony Nelson space helmet while "I Dream of Jeannie."

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@san Diego.edu.

made payable to USD/SEA, must be sent to **Yolanda Castro** in the Hughes Center, Room 222. Seating is limited to 25, and participants are encouraged to wear USD apparel. For information, call ext. 4520.

- **Aprile Lane**, in academic computing, won \$95 in the SEA's 50/50 raffle drawing held at the November benefits fair. Another drawing, with multiple cash prizes, will be held at the SEA Christmas party. Half the money raised will be divided among the winners, the other half will go to the SEA. Tickets are \$1 each and can be purchased through SEA representatives.
- SEA meetings are open to all employees. The Christmas party will be held in lieu of the regular December meeting. To find your SEA representative, log on to www.sandiego.edu/sea/rep.html.

Alumni Mass

The Alumni Mass is scheduled for 5 p.m., Dec. 8, in Founders Chapel. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass will be 12:10 p.m., Dec. 12, in Founders Chapel. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

Graduation Mass

The campus community is invited to celebrate the mid-year graduation Mass at 3 p.m., Dec. 19, in Founders Chapel.

Milestones

DEATHS

Josephine Vitrano, grandmother of **Josie Vella**, executive assistant in the Center for Christian Spirituality, on Nov. 2.

SEA Snippets

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

- The SEA Christmas party will be 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 6, in the Hahn University Center, Forum B. Employees are encouraged to bring a donation for the food locker at the Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar and

new or gently used clothing for House of Rachel, a transitional residence for homeless women in San Diego County. Employees who cannot attend the festivities can contact their SEA representatives and make arrangements to have their donations included.

- Tickets for an SEA-sponsored trip to "The Price is Right" game show will be on sale through Dec. 4. Tickets are \$20. Checks,

Alcalá View
Vol. 18, No. 4

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Alcalá View is published monthly (except January) by the publications office. The newsletter is distributed to all USD employees. [1101/1400]



University of San Diego

Office of Publications
Maher Hall 274



Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

