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AlcaláView

A newsletter for the employees of the University of San Diego / March 2002 / Vol. 18, No. 6

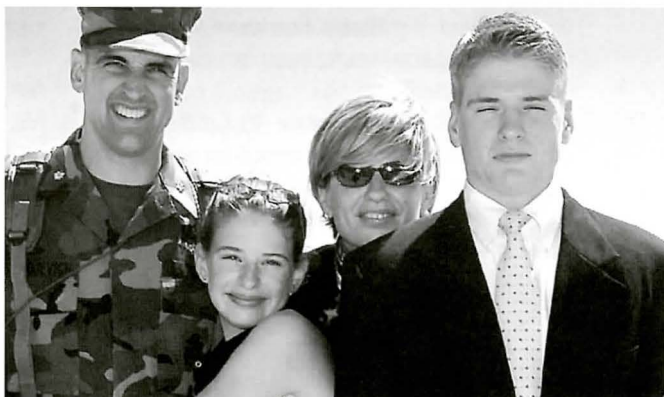


Operation Enduring Friendship

Darci Spasojevich has dedicated years to supporting the wives of Marines, doing everything from helping them renew their military identification cards to figuring out how to pay for the sometimes steep phone bills they amass while talking to their husbands deployed in faraway lands.

But at 6 a.m. on Jan. 20, while holding the hand of the pregnant widow of a helicopter pilot killed in Afghanistan, Spasojevich did all she could—and wished it was more.

"I called her mother for her and sat there with her, just talking," Spasojevich says. "I told her how wonderful her husband was and how he died doing what he loved. He loved the Marine Corps. She knew



Lt. Col. David Spasojevich at the change of command ceremony in July, with Darci, his 13-year-old daughter Haleigh and son Lawrence, 18.

that, and she is so proud of her husband."

The pilot was 24-year-old Staff Sgt. Dwight Morgan. He and Staff Sgt. Walter

"Trae" Cohee III, 26, were killed, and the five other members of their crew were injured, when their CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter went down during their mission for Operation Enduring Freedom. The men were part of HMH-361, the Flying Tigers squadron at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar. Their commanding officer was Spasojevich's husband of nearly 20 years, Lt. Col. David Spasojevich.

As the wife of the squadron's commanding officer, Spasojevich—who has been at USD for two years and works in the office of institutional

design—is the adviser to the coordinator for a program called the Key Volunteer Network, a support group for the spouses and families of the Marines. That is why she found herself at the door that morning with her husband, the chaplain, a doctor and the casualty assistance calls officer.

"As a Marine wife, as an aviator's wife, getting that knock on your door is the worst nightmare," Spasojevich says. "I've been in squadrons where accidents have happened. Sometimes all you know is that an accident has happened, but you don't yet know who's involved. All you can do is pray.

"It's the most horrendous day of your life," she says. "You pray the doorbell doesn't ring. You can't even call your friends because you don't know if someone's about to ring their doorbell."

Spasojevich is devoted to the Key Volunteer Network, made up of spouses within each unit who serve as a communications link between the command and the families in the unit. They step in not only when catastrophe strikes, but also to offer emotional, informational and referral support for the everyday concerns facing military families.

(Continued on page 2)

Loryn Johnson has Cat Scratch Fever

She's chatted with Mick Jagger over the phone, snapped photos with Dave Matthews and also interviewed Duran Duran's

John Taylor. Once, she even came through with Altoids when Steven Tyler, the lead singer of Aerosmith, was desperate for a breath mint just minutes before a concert.

But for **Loryn Johnson**, who graduated from USD with a degree in communications in 1994 and now works as the marketing director for dining services, rubbing elbows with rock stars was nothing compared to meeting Kramer, a cheetah from the San Diego Zoo.

"He was as calm as a house cat," says Johnson, who met the cheetah in 1998 while working as a producer for a local

radio station. The coolest thing was that he actually licked my hand while I was petting him."

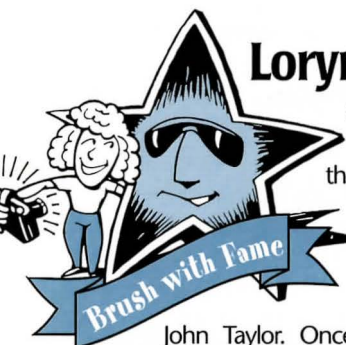
Johnson worked in radio from 1994 to 1999, most recently as a producer and sidekick for disc jockeys Jagger and Kristi, who have an afternoon show on Star 100.7 FM in San Diego.

She helped prepare each day's show, scanned news wires for the juicy gossip in the world of entertainment and prepared callers to banter with the DJs. Chatting up rock stars was another duty.

(Continued on page 3)



Loryn Johnson '94





BLUE CROSS MAIL-ORDER PRESCRIPTIONS: Effective Jan. 1, mail-order prescription benefits changed from a 60-day supply for a one-month co-pay to a 90-day supply for a two-month co-pay. In order to receive the added benefit of ordering by mail, make sure your physician prescribes at least a 90-day supply of routine medications.

TIAA-CREF RETIREMENT PLANNING: One-on-one on-campus TIAA-CREF sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 27. Reservation times fill quickly. Call (877) 209-3140, ext. 2626, for an appointment. TIAA-CREF will return to campus April 17 and May 8 for additional meetings.

SCUDDER COUNSELING SESSIONS: One-on-one sessions for Scudder investors are planned for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 13. For reservations, please call the human resources department at ext. 6537.

HEALTH CARE REIMBURSEMENT REMINDER: Due to IRS regulations, canceled checks and credit card receipts cannot be accepted as proof of services for a health care reimbursement account. Please submit an itemized statement or explanation of benefits (provided by your health insurance provider). Necessary information includes date of service, name of provider, name of patient and the out-of-pocket expense incurred.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES: The Healthy Families Program, a low-cost health insurance program, is available to children in low-income families who currently have no insurance and don't qualify for Medi-Cal. For more information, contact Healthy Families at (800) 880-5305 or Kaiser Permanente Cares for Kids Health Plan at (800) 255-5053.

— Vicki Coscia

Alcalá View Wants To Hear From You

Is your department daring to do things differently? Are you putting a new twist on an old program? Do you need to inform the campus about innovations in your office? The *Alcalá View* is launching a new section called "Breakfast with a Boss" and, whether you're a boss, a department chair, a program director or the head of an office, we want to hear about the latest scoop in your area. Send an e-mail to Krystn Shrieve at kshrieve@sandiego.edu or call her at ext. 4934 to share your story.



Enduring Friendship

(Continued from page 1)

The volunteers organize family get-togethers such as cook-outs and picnics. They also get together to make videos and other care packages for the troops. Spasojevich's hope is that all of the 90 wives in the squadron will go through the training necessary to become a volunteer.

The volunteer program did not exist in 1984 when, just weeks after Spasojevich moved onto a Marine Corps base in North Carolina, the military police pounded on her door to alert her that a hurricane was on its way and that she was to evacuate to a nearby school gymnasium.

"My husband had gone to California for additional training," Spasojevich recalls. "I had a 1-year-old son, I didn't know where the gym was, all my neighbors had already evacuated and I didn't know a soul. I remember literally

running out into the street asking for help."

Since then, Spasojevich has made it her mission that no other spouse would ever feel the isolation, fear and panic she felt that day.

"There are so many government and community support systems to help these families with anything you can imagine," Spasojevich says. "There are places they can call to get furniture and clothing for their new baby. There are groups that will drive moms to their doctor appointments, and babysit their children while they're there. I help them make those connections. I do whatever I can to empower them."

AV

For more information about the Key Volunteer Network, log on to www.mccsmiramar.com and click on the link for family team building. Donations to the HMH-361, Mag 16 Flying Tigers Memorial Fund can be sent to P.O. Box 452060, San Diego, Calif. 92145.

SEA Snippets

The following issues were discussed at the February meeting of the Staff Employees Association:

Julia Starkey, an executive assistant in the math department and one of three staff member liaisons to the benefits advisory committee formed recently by the human resources department, says the initial meeting in January went well and that at future meetings the committee is expected to discuss issues such as sick days, improved medical insurance including eye care, transit reimbursement, vacation requirements and a tuition exchange program. Other staff members on the committee are **Ted Geddes**, in facilities management, and **Pauline Thonnard** in athletics.

Cyndi Thomas-Evans, the SEA's representative to the President's Advisory Committee, reported that a new telephone system has been chosen, and is expected to be installed in June or July. She also reported that a replacement program for personal computers, which would help ensure that computers are regularly replaced when they are outdated, has been established.

The SEA meetings are open to all employees, especially staff. The next SEA meeting is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., March 13, in the Hahn University Center, Room 107. To find out who your representative is, log on to www.sandiego.edu/sea/rep.html.



Salute to the Webmaestro

Karen Pope, an administrative assistant in housing and residence life, says **Anthony Zamora**, the department's Web site administrator, has

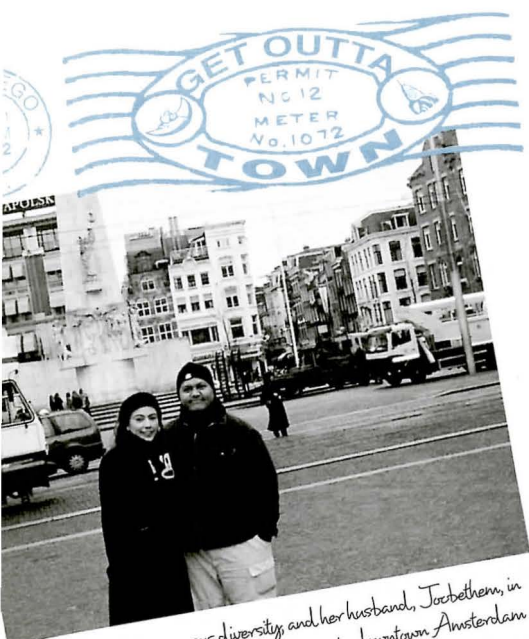
done a tremendous job with the department's site, and has been diligent about updating it frequently with new photos, current information and other useful features. To view the site, log on to <http://housing.sandiego.edu/>.

"I've had several people comment to me, and even a few phone calls from people specifically to say they're impressed with the Web site and everything it offers," Pope says. "It's easy for people to use and it looks great. Anthony is always putting forth extra effort to learn new things so that it's constantly improving."



Anthony Zamora

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.



Julie Tahapary, in campus diversity, and her husband, Jacobethem, in Upward Bound, pose in Dam Square, in downtown Amsterdam during a January trip to the Netherlands.

Johnson

(Continued from page 1)

While radio was exciting, Johnson says it also was a fickle line of work.

"You never knew if you were going to walk in one day and find that the station changed its format, or that there was a new boss or that you were out of a job," Johnson says. "A lot of times people were forced to move across the country and one day I realized that I loved San Diego too much to leave, so I started looking for something else."

Johnson, who dabbled in marketing and public relations while doing marketing for Jagger and Kristi, switched gears in 1999 and did a short stint working for a firm that did public relations on environmental issues before taking a job heading USD's marketing efforts in dining services.

"I got out of radio at the right time," Johnson says. "Sometimes I miss the concerts and the other freebies, but I know that music will always be part of my life, no matter what my job is."

The Alcalá View wants to hear about your brushes with fame. Send an e-mail to Krystn Shrieve at kshrieve@sandiego.edu or call her at ext. 4934 to share your story.

Academic Computing Sends Out Address Alert

A year after changing the university Web site's address, known as a domain name, to sandiego.edu, academic computing staffers say some employees still have not changed the necessary settings on their e-mail systems to reflect the change.

When the domain name was changed in Spring 2000, so that it was more easily related to the university and easier to remember, e-mail services also were combined into one system. Therefore, the e-mail addresses of employees—whether ending with is.acusd.edu or acusd.edu—were switched over to end in sandiego.edu.

Now employees are reminded to let those with whom they communicate know about the change.

"I think this was a good change," says Jack Pope, director of academic computing. "But people still need to let others know that their e-mail addresses have changed. We don't want anyone falling through the cracks."

Some ways employees can alert others about their new addresses are by updating their addresses on any mailing lists to which they belong, sending an e-mail to people in their address books or adding a note in the signature section, which automatically attaches to the end of one's outgoing e-mails.

Computer settings for employees whose e-mail addresses ended in is.acusd.edu already were changed by the information

technology staff. Employees whose addresses ended with acusd.edu, however must change their own settings. This will allow the "from" and "reply to" sections in their e-mails to display the new address.

Complete instructions on how both PC and Macintosh users can update their Outlook Express, Netscape or Eudora settings are listed on the university's Web site. Log on to www.sandiego.edu/ins/convert_email/ and then click on the link to the academic conversion instruction page.

To change the settings in Eudora—the e-mail system used by most employees—first open the program.

Click on the tools menu, click on options and click on getting started. Highlight *acusd* in the return address field and type *sandiego* over it.

Next, highlight *pop.acusd.edu*, *mail.acusd.edu* or *mail* in the mail server (incoming) field and type *sandiego.edu* to replace the existing text. Then, highlight the text in the SMTP server (outgoing) field and replace it with the word *mail*.

Next, click on the sending mail category. Highlight *acusd* in the domain to add to unqualified addresses field. Type in *sandiego* to replace *acusd*. Finally, click OK. For additional assistance, call the help desk at ext. 2400.

"For a short period of time, both the *sandiego* and *acusd* addresses will exist concurrently," Pope says. "But the sooner everyone starts using *sandiego*, the better off we'll be."



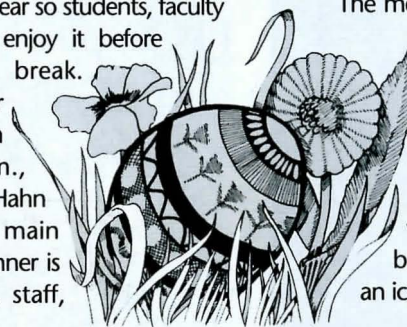
Jack Pope

Easter Feast

Although Easter isn't until March 31, the chefs in dining services will prepare the Easter feast a little early this year so students, faculty and employees can enjoy it before leaving for spring break. The Easter dinner will be served from 4:45 to 7:30 p.m., March 20, in the Hahn University Center's main dining room. The dinner is open to all faculty, staff,

students and the public. Dinners are \$7.75 for an all-you-care-to-eat buffet.

The menu includes: roast prime rib *au jus*, salmon *en crôte* with a béarnaise sauce, vegan pasta primavera, fresh asparagus, garlic-roasted red potatoes, cream of wild mushroom soup, baby greens salad with a lemon vinaigrette dressing, rolls and breadsticks, strawberry tarts and an ice cream sundae bar.



Peaceful Message in a Violent World

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, assistant professor of theology and religious studies, will discuss Buddhism and its teachings from 2 to 3:30 p.m., March 19, in the auditorium in the Manchester Executive Conference Center. Tsomo,



Karma Lekshe Tsomo

who in addition to teaching at USD also is an American Buddhist nun practicing in the Tibetan tradition, will discuss these teachings in the context of the current local,

**It's
A
Date!**



regional, national and international climate. She also will explore how the teachings of Buddhism can be used to provide solutions for conflicts and problems on individual, family, community and international levels. Tsomo also is the president of Sakyadhita International Association of Buddhist Women, and has helped to found eight education programs for women in the Indian Himalayas.

New Vice President Arrives

Robert A. Pastoor, the newly hired vice president for student affairs, will arrive at Alcalá Park in March. Pastoor brings 25 years of experience in student affairs to the position. He has 15 years of experience at the vice presidential level, having served as the vice president for student life at Carroll College in Helena, Mont., for seven years. Prior to that, he spent eight years as vice president for student affairs at Mount Saint Mary's College in Maryland. Pastoor also served four years as dean of student life and six years in other student life positions while in Maryland.

Faculty and Staff Prayer Breakfast

A USD faculty and staff prayer breakfast will be held from 7:20 to 8:25 a.m., March 14, in the faculty/staff dining room. A buffet breakfast will begin at 7:20 a.m., followed by a discussion at 7:45 a.m. on Biblical hope

by Archbishop John R. Quinn. To make reservations, call ext. 4735 by March 14.

Jenny Craig Pavilion Fitness Center Hours

The Jenny Craig Pavilion will be open during the following hours for the spring semester. For additional information, call the fitness center desk at ext. 4353.

- Monday-Thursday: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Friday: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday: noon to 5 p.m.

Give the Gift of Life

USD will hold a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 6 and 7, in the Hahn University Center, Forum A. To make an appointment, call **Toñis Manriquez** or **Kily Jones** at ext. 4796. Walk-in donors also are welcome.

Milestones

DEATHS

Father **Patrick Cahill**, the director of athletics at USD from 1979 to 1988, passed away on Feb. 5. Father Cahill guided the transition of USD athletics from Division II to Division I in 1979, and the university's entrance into the West Coast Conference. He was responsible for adding men's and women's cross country, men's soccer and softball as intercollegiate sports, as well as solidifying the football program. He was inducted into the USD Athletics Hall of Fame on Nov. 3, 1995.



Fr. Patrick Cahill

John McLeod, father of **Bill McLeod**, systems mechanic in facilities management, passed away in Orange, N.J., on Jan. 28.

Robert Stephens, father of **Sherri Stephens**, head coach of women's tennis, passed away on Jan. 26.

Helen M. Rado, mother of **Bob Rado**, manager of dining services, passed away on Jan. 13.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: A 1972 Corvette LT1 convertible. Original engine, never wrecked. Leather seats, hardtop, new soft top, exhaust system. Very rare. One of only 24 in bryar blue. Beautiful trophy winner. \$32,500. Call Michael at (760) 789-4026 or ext. 4890.

FOR SALE: Large drafting table, approximately 48 inches by 30 inches. Includes task chair, utilities compartments, a light fixture, extra reversible top and a cabled rule bar. \$50. Call Elaine at ext. 4886.

FOR SALE: Family boat with Johnson 70-horsepower outboard, tandem axle trailer, and many extras. \$1,995 or best offer. Call **John Frazer** at (619) 263-7975 or ext. 4182.



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