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USD's Top Lab Technician

When Don Gennero first came to USD in 1985, as a lab technician in the biology department, the labs had no hot water or ventilation. But now, under his guidance, labs not only have the basics, but also high-tech equipment such as digital cameras that attach to microscopes and take still photos or video clips.

This summer, Gennero, who spent many years renovating the seven teaching labs and 12 research labs in Serra Hall, was named one of the 2002 Manuel Hernandez Staff Employees of the Year, along with Wendy Tankersley in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Executive Assistant Ranks Highest in Naval R.O.T.C.

Wendy Tankersley is the anchor in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

While Naval officers, instructors and students rotate through the N.R.O.T.C. unit at USD, the one constant is Tankersley, executive assistant to the commanding and executive officers.

Tankersley, who has worked at USD for more than 12 years, helps things run smoothly for 18 Navy and civilian personnel, as well as more than 260 students. She was one of this year's 2002 Manuel Hernandez Staff Employees of the Year, along with Don Gennero of the biology department.

"She has been the glue that keeps the four-person administrative staff together," says Capt. Michael Simpson, the unit's commanding officer, who nominated Tankersley for the award. "When I arrived at USD three years ago, it was Wendy who provided the sage advice and local knowledge that allowed me to hit the deck running."

Tankersley prepares all university, Navy, unit and external correspondence for both Simpson and Cmdr. Phillip Angelini, the unit's executive officer.

She's the liaison between USD's Naval R.O.T.C. unit and the units at San Diego State, UCSD, Cal State San Marcos and Point (Continued on page 3).

He's the person the staff turns to when computers act up, equipment breaks or supplies run short.

Gennero says it's as though the lab technician spot was made just for him. He did a short stint as a junior high school science teacher and worked as a ranger at Mount Rainier before spending five years as a lab technician for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association in Seattle. His work included collecting field specimens on Puget Sound and in Alaska so researchers could analyze pollution levels in sediments, water and fish. This background, he says, made him a jack of all trades.

"I don't think I'd be too far off if I said we'd be lost without Don," says biology department chair Lisa Baird, who nominated Gennero for the award. "He really does make the department run without us having to think about it."

"A technician has such a broad job," Gennero says. "I have to work with the budget, the faculty and the students. I also have to know a lot about the subject so I can work with the equipment and the supplies. And I am the department's safety officer."

Baird says that after power outages — and even on weekends — Gennero often can be found walking up and down the halls just making sure everything is OK.

"In terms of reliability and dedication to the job, you have only to look at his over 800 hours of accumulated sick leave and nearly 200 accumulated vacation hours to see (Continued on page 2)"
A Day to Remember
The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice in September will host several events to remember those lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, including evening panel discussions, brown bag lunch discussions and a noon concert.

On the one-year anniversary of the attacks, the campus is invited to attend a prayer service organized by University Ministry at noon in front of the Institute for Peace and Justice. A memorial designed by David B. Smith, chair of the Art Department, will be unveiled during the service. The memorial will include two circles of benches made of the same type of stone used to build the World Trade Center. The benches will be grouped in pairs to commemorate the two towers, with one additional bench to represent the Pentagon. The names and titles of those who died will be etched into the base of the memorial, including Capt. John Fischer, husband of business administration alumna Jean C. Fischer ’83.

A panel discussion titled “Hate Crimes, Immigration, Education and Race Relations: Post September 11th Realities,” is scheduled for 6-8:15 p.m., Sept. 11, in the IPJ auditorium. The discussion, presented by the IPJ and San Diego’s Human Relations Commission, is free. For reservations, call Connie Hernandez at (619) 236-6420.

For information on other events, call the IPJ at ext. 7873.

SEA Snippets
The following issues were discussed at the August meeting of the Staff Employees Association:

- The SEA is sponsoring a staff employee of the month recognition program and welcomes nominations from staff, administrators and faculty. Nominations can be sent either to Patricia Moulton of the School of Business (Olin Hall, Room 120, or pmoulton@sandiego.edu), or to Penny Navarro of continuing education (Manchester Conference Center, Room 109, or pnavarro@sandiego.edu).

- The SEA is sponsoring a cookbook and is collecting recipes from staff, administrators and faculty members for the following categories: appetizers, beverages, desserts, main courses, salads, sauces and miscellaneous. Upon its completion, the cookbook will be available for purchase. Submissions should include the employee’s name, department and extension, and must be sent by Nov. 1 to Patricia Moulton of the School of Business (Olin Hall, Room 120, or pmoulton@sandiego.edu).

- SEA meetings are open to all employees, especially staff. The next SEA meeting is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., Sept. 11, in the Hahn University Center, Room 107.

- For more information about the SEA, to find out who your representative is, or for a description of committees, log on to www.sandiego.edu/sea/reps.html.

USD’s Top Lab Technician
(Continued from page 1)

that Don is always here for the department,” Baird says. “Don brings to all aspects of his job a ready smile and an easy sense of humor. He loves his work and is truly a model employee of the university.”

Gennero, who began working at USD 17 years ago, says things were so slow back then that the head of the department encouraged him to take his vacation early, even though he hadn’t yet accrued any time off. This summer, however, several faculty members and students interns are busy with various research projects.

“So much has changed,” Gennero says. “The labs are all up to snuff and we’ve got top-of-the-line equipment, but now we’re bursting at the seams.”

Gennero says it’s a good thing the science departments will be moving into the new Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology next year — even though for him it’s slightly bittersweet.

“We’ll be leaving an area that I’ve put a lot of work into,” Gennero says. “But we’re all looking forward to the big day.”

THE CONSTRUCTION CORNER
Aerial photographers and map makers can barely keep up with the changes at Alcalá Park, as new buildings pop up and old buildings are torn down on a seemingly weekly basis.

Construction on the Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology is on schedule to be completed by April 2003, says Facilities Management Director Roger Manion. The first floor, he says, is essentially complete. The walls are up, everything is painted and the flooring and lab equipment has been installed.

“We’re about halfway through with the second floor and are working our way up to the third and fourth floors,” Manion says. “In the month of September, we’ll mostly be focusing on building interiors.”

Work began in July on a new six-level, parking structure near the west entrance. Manion says mass grading is expected to be completed by Sept. 7. By Sept. 16, the pad should be completed and the footings dug so the foundation can be poured. The structure is slated to be completed in April or May 2003.

The demolition of Harmon Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus, is expected to begin at the end of September to make way for the three-story, 28,000-square-foot Degheri Alumni Center.

“When (the demolition) is done, we can start the grading and the rebuilding thereafter,” Manion says.

Once construction begins, it is expected to take 12 to 14 months to complete the building.
A Dragon Boat Diva

It's faster than the blink of an eye. It can't even be measured on most clocks. It's .06 seconds and it's the time by which Cheance Adair's boat won a race that qualified her women's team to represent the United States in the 2003 World Dragon Boat Championships in China.

Seated in the third row of the 45-foot boat, which literally is shaped like a dragon with a head in front and tail in back, Adair and her team of 20 women went stroke for stroke to beat a team from Portland, Ore., during a national qualifying race Aug. 9, hosted by the International Dragon Boat Federation.

"We couldn't believe it because we went in as the underdogs on a wing and a prayer," says Adair, systems manager in the mail center, where she's worked for 14 years.

While a teammate pounded on a drum at the front of the boat, coaxing out a deep and low boom similar to the dragon's heartbeat, Adair's team methodically paddled for 500 meters on Lake Merrit in Oakland, Calif.

"Each boat surged forward at the same time," Adair says. "It was so close that we didn't know who won until the judges checked the video. It was such a scene when we found out we won."

Her love for dragon boat racing was kindled only recently, after a decade of racing a similar boat called an outrigger. Adair goes back and forth between the two sports, and often can be seen practicing at Mission Bay several days a week with either the San Diego Outrigger Canoe Club or the San Diego International Dragon Boat Association.

Dragon boat racing is what Adair calls "lung-busting business," in which competitors churn out an average of 80 strokes per minute. Outrigger races are only slightly less exhausting, at a pace of about 68 strokes per minute.

While dragon boat races are short, outrigger races are longer, sometimes requiring a shift change.

The sport has taken Adair to Canada, Australia and Hawaii. But now, her entire focus is on China. "I think our chances are very good that we'll come back the world champions," Adair says. "We plan to bring that honor home."

Tankersley (Continued from page 1)

Loma Nazarene. She coordinates travel arrangements for senior personnel, helps plan the commissioning ceremonies at USD and San Diego State, and is a point person to the Navy Junior R.O.T.C. units at local high schools. Tankersley also is instrumental in planning the annual James Bond Stockdale Leadership and Ethics Symposium, including coordinating the invitations, catering, reception and guest speaker.

"The N.R.O.T.C. unit takes leadership seriously, and Wendy is a true leader," Angelini says. "Leadership happens at all levels in organizations. Wendy is our corporate knowledge for this organization and is truly the backbone of the N.R.O.T.C. unit at USD."

Although it's not in her job description, Tankersley occasionally stands in as a mother figure.

"For many students it's the first time away from home," Tankersley says. "They confide in me and we talk about all kinds of things, whether it's about boyfriend or girlfriend problems or whether or not they should buy a new car."

Tankersley knows how to prepare for various Navy inspections, is the keeper of all key files and the creator of binders outlining how to do various jobs in the unit — invaluable information, since most assignments rotate every three years.

The rotation is one of the best and worst parts of Tankersley's job. On one hand, she constantly gets to meet new people, but on the other hand she always seems to be saying goodbye.

"For a long time, having people leave the unit was the hardest thing for me to get over," says Tankersley, who is working with her fifth commanding officer. "But students and officers still keep in touch, and many stop by to see me when they're in town. That makes it all worth while."

Tipping the Scales with Success

Joan Wolf, executive assistant in budget and treasury, is a member of a weight loss support group on campus and would like to congratulate her belt-tightening buddies for shedding a combined 81.75 pounds.

With a firm New Year's resolution to lose weight, the 12 members, most of whom wish to remain anonymous, started in January and weigh in at the student health center every six months.

"I was amazed at how much weight we had lost as a group," Wolf says. "What's great is that we did it together, and that's something to be proud of."

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.
Oops! In the July/August edition of the Alcalá View, a few names were left off the list of employees nominated for the 2002 Manuel Hernandez Staff Employee of the Year award. Others nominated are: Carrie Dussia of the Legal Research Center, Patricia Moulton of the School of Business and Danny Rillera of the Chemistry Department.

The Alcalá View Wants to Hear from You

Breakfast With a Boss: Is your department daring to do things differently? Are you putting a new twist on an old program? 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1995 Ford Taurus with leather interior, power seats and windows. It has 79,000 miles and runs well. $3,000 or best offer. Call Celeste at ext. 4800 or e-mail celeste@sandiego.edu.

Alcalá Bazaar
The annual street fair and the culmination of Orientation Week will be held all day, Sept. 3, along Marian Way. The event gives students the opportunity to join campus clubs and intramural sports teams, and features music, entertainment and vendors.

Mass of the Holy Spirit
The Mass of the Holy Spirit, the annual service seeking God's blessing on the academic year, will be held at noon, Sept. 13, in The Immaculata. People of all faiths are encouraged to attend. For information, call University Ministry at ext. 4735.

State of the University
The Eighth Annual State of the University Address and breakfast will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m., Sept. 18, in the Hahn University Center. President Alice B. Hayes and San Diego corporate leaders will look at the impact USD has had on the community, the region and the world. The event is free, but reservations are required. For information, call ext. 4690.

Child Development Center
The Manchester Family Child Development Center is accepting applications for 2002-03 enrollment. Families affiliated with USD receive priority for enrollment and discounted tuition. The center is located on campus and accepts children from 2 1/2 to 5 years old. For information or to schedule a tour, call the center's director, Jacqueline Kennedy, at ext. 4620, or e-mail her at kennedyj@sandiego.edu.

USD Symphony Performs
The USD Symphony will perform with the Marine Corps Band at the MCAS Miramar Twilight Air Show, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 19. Admission and parking are free. For information, log on to www.miramarairshow.com.

MILESTONES

Timothy McKerman, assistant director in publications, and his wife, Sophia, adopted a baby boy, Joseph Alan, born Aug. 18. He weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces.

Luis Lopez, a drafting technician in facilities management, and his wife Yessel, celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Paola Yessel on Aug. 1. She weighed 3 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 17 inches long.

Dorothy E. Ammer, mother of Jerome Ammer, a professor in the School of Education, passed away Aug. 7.

Teresa Santos, mother of Anna Hamilton, administrative assistant in the School of Business, passed away Aug. 4.

Fred Brown, father of Sister Dale Brown, associate director of financial aid, passed away on July 31.

Marie Finnegan, mother of Rosemary Getty, administrative assistant in the School of Law, passed away on July 28.

Timothy A. Burke, the brother of Karen C. Burke, Warren Distinguished Professor of Law, passed away on July 9.