Summer Juggler

Did you hear about the day when 400 Quakers, 300 cheerleaders, 60 accordion players and 650 ironworkers walked onto a Catholic college campus? It may sound like the beginning of a joke, but at USD it’s no laughing matter.

It’s a sign that summer has arrived. For the past 16 years, USD has welcomed hundreds of groups to Alcalá Park for summer conferences, retreats or other gatherings. This year, 75 groups converged on campus during the 11-week season.

Kathi Spittel and her crew at San Diego’s Embarcadero.

“It’s as if the campus is transformed into a hotel,” says Kathi Spittel, director of summer conferences. “When visitors come, they eat their meals here and sleep here. And we get a lot of support from the campus. I can’t think of a department that’s not involved.”

This year, summer conferences brought in close to $2 million.

(Continued on page 2)

Take This Job and Love It

Greg Zackowski loves to work. At age 10, he begged his parents for special permission to take a paper route, one year earlier than typically allowed. By his 18th birthday, his appetite for employment landed him jobs in a taxidermy studio and at a flower shop. His work ethic carried through to this year, when he was named the 2002 Administrator of the Year.

As a high school senior, Zackowski was being scouted for a position as a shoe store manager, but a well-meaning boss convinced him that college was a better option. Enrolled at USD, where he earned a degree in marketing, the young go-getter wasn’t happy without gainful employment. He took a summer job in student affairs and never left.

“I was schlepping towels at the (Bahia Hotel) boat ride when I heard about an R.A. job from Skip Walsh” says Zackowski of the former student life director, who passed away in 1998. “I became the R.A. for the second floor of San Raphael, and that work carried me through to now. It’s gone by like the blink of an eye.”

Zackowski, a 1984 graduate, says his career has been aided by a series of right-place, right-time moves. He earned a master’s degree in business administration from USD in 1986, and student affairs approached him to oversee students living in Pacific Beach apartments while construction progressed on the Alcalá Vistas. He worked side-by-side with students, unwrapping mattresses and refrigerators, and forged a bond with them that grows stronger each year.

Greg Zackowski

“Every time I thought about leaving, student affairs would think of something for me to do,” says Zackowski, who received his award at this summer’s employee picnic. “I’ve been lucky to have bosses and mentors who were good at fitting my skills with their needs.”

In his current post, director of the Hahn University Center, Zackowski oversees budget, customer service, facility schedules, special event management and employee selection and training.

“I’ve learned to hire people who make up for my weaknesses,” he says. “Everyone who works for me is better than me at what they do. I’m a generalist — they’re all specialists.”

But Zackowski is pretty special to those who work for him, says Kily Jones, his executive assistant.

“She’s very easygoing, down to earth and caring,” says Jones, one of four people who nominated Zackowski for the award. “He treats his employees like friends and really cares for us, that’s what makes us happy to work for him.”
Construction projects around campus are right on schedule. Here are how things are expected to look in October:

**Harmon Hall:** To make way for the three-story, 28,000-square-foot Degheri Alumni Center, the Transborder Institute and Campus Diversity departments were relocated to the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. The demolition of the building will begin in October.

**Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology:** This month, the plumbing, as well as the mechanical and electrical equipment, will be installed in the third floor of the four-story building.

**West Marian Way Parking Structure:** Initial foundation pours are scheduled for the first week of October.

— Roger Manion
Director of Facilities Management

---

**SEA Snippets**

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

- **Ted Geddes,** of facilities management, is the staff representative to the benefits advisory committee. In a report to members, he encouraged employees to keep health costs low by using mail order for long-term prescriptions that must be filled regularly, or by using generic drugs, which typically are less expensive.

- The **SEA** finalized criteria for a new Staff Employee of the Month recognition program, and welcomes nominations from anyone of individual staff members or groups of staff. Nominations must be for job-related reasons. Send nominations either to **Patricia Moulton** of the School of Business, Olin Hall, Room 120, or at pmoulton@sandiego.edu, or to **Penny Navarro** of continuing education in the Manchester Conference Center, Room 109, or at pnavarro@sandiego.edu.

- The **SEA** is accepting nominations for board positions. To find out more about the criteria, or to nominate yourself or another staff member, contact **Perla Bleisch** at ext. 2540 or e-mail her at bleisch@sandiego.edu. The nomination deadline is Oct. 8.

---

**Summer Juggler**

(Continued from page 1)

"It generates a lot of revenue and it's great exposure for the university," Spittel says. "Everyone who comes here is a potential customer or donor. Our campus is so beautiful, we have so much to offer, and summer conferences bring this place to life."

For Spittel, there's no such thing as a summer break. The week of July 25, she juggled the needs of 16 groups on campus at once. Spittel spent her Fourth of July making sure that 500 visitors from Christian Missions Overseas got checked in without any glitches.

And what does she do for the rest of the year? Right now, Spittel is finishing up the billing, and spends much of the academic year attending other conference services workshops through the association of college and university housing officers. Last year, her workshop on "Who's Taking Care of You While You're..."

---

**Take this Job and Love it**

(Continued from page 1)

**Tom Cosgrove,** associate vice president of student affairs and dean of students, saw leadership potential in Zackowski as a student, an observation he says is reinforced every day.

"He believes in the mission of the university and works on a daily basis to make our goals real," Cosgrove says. "He comes to work with the idea that he should make someone's day better."

The best part of his job, Zackowski says, is working with students, adding that his greatest reward comes from hearing that a former student graduated and got a good job.

"We are one of the biggest employers of students on campus, and I couldn't do it without them," Zackowski says. "I trust them and they rise to the occasion. I want students to remember their time here was fun, and that I believed in them."

Zackowski's job became a bit of a hodge podge over the years, and he sometimes inherited duties that nobody else wanted. In 1996, he was asked to serve as the commencement marshal when Walsh was unavailable. He's been doing it ever since, and says it's one of the best jobs of the year.

"I make sure that 1,100 excited students all get across the stage in alphabetical order," he says. "It's kind of cool, because I'm the last person they talk to before they graduate. I'm so lucky to be part of that moment in their lives."
Taking Care of Them?" was voted most outstanding by participants.

This summer's groups varied in size from two Malashock dancers who came for 21 days to the 650 members of the National Ironworkers Association, who stayed for three weeks. And then there was Spittel's favorite group, the accordion orchestra, which performed under the direction of 92-year-old Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini.

Spittel runs the program with 15 live-in students who manage four housing areas. Senior Lora McBay has worked with Spittel for two summers, and this year was one of three area coordinators.

"It's so rewarding to see so many groups come to campus," McBay says, "and it's interesting to see ballerinas interacting with ironworkers."

The Park Ranger roams Alcalá Park to take a behind-the-scenes peek at the job responsibilities of USO employees. If you would like the Park Ranger to visit with you, e-mail Krystn Shrieve at kshrieve@sandiego.edu or call her at ext. 4934.

---

Symphony in the Sky
Against a sky filled with fireworks, the USD Symphony will perform Oct. 19 with the Third Marine Aircraft Wing Band to close the Miramar Twilight Air Show at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The show begins at 5:30 p.m., the concert is at 7 p.m.

Chief Warrant Officer Ronald H. Fucals will direct the Marine band, while USD music Professor Angela Yeung will direct USD's 50-member symphony.

Selections to be performed include arias from "Carmen," featuring USD faculty Janelle Rollinson as mezzo-soprano soloist, "Rhapsody in Blue," featuring USD alumnus Adam Johnson as piano soloist, and "California Concerto," with USD faculty Eric Foster as guitar soloist.

Admission to the air show is free, and reserved seating is available. For information, log on to www.miramarairshow.com or call (858) 577-1016.

---

BENEFITS FAIR:
Nov. 1 is the annual USD Employee Benefits Fair, scheduled for 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Hahn University Center forum. All employees are invited to participate in free health screenings and enter drawings for a variety of prizes. Employees also can take advantage of this chance to talk with insurance and retirement company specialists.

OPEN ENROLLMENT: The 2003 dates for benefits open enrollment are Nov. 4-15. Check campus mail in the coming weeks for information. Health care or dependent care (day care) reimbursement account elections for 2003 must be made during open enrollment. During the open enrollment period, human resources will hold informational meetings with health insurance carriers, and employees are welcome to attend.

For information on the dates, call human resources at ext. 6611.

---

Pomp and Unusual Circumstance
Getting her tassel wasn't a hassle. She did it one class at a time.

After 33 years, Kay Norton, administrative assistant in the registrar's office, received her bachelor of arts degree during May's commencement ceremony.

Norton, who majored in sociology and double-minored in anthropology and history, took her first course, "Cities in Crisis," in 1969. She took her final history course in Western civilizations last semester.

"It seemed surreal to me that I actually made it," says the 62-year-old Norton, a USD employee for 34 years. "It was a long haul, but I love school and I will miss the classes — but not the exams."

---

Get Your Candy Handy
It's time to don those costumes, carve your jack o' lanterns, splurge on a couple bags of candy and make way for the campus' tiniest princesses, ghosts, story book characters, witches and superheroes.

Children from the Manchester Family Child Development Center will visit the Hahn University Center, Maher Hall and the Hughes Administration Center on Halloween.

To help out, or to have the children visit your office, call center director Jacqueline Corey Kennedy at ext. 4620 or send her an e-mail kennedyj@sandiego.edu.

Remember that while children love candy, they also go crazy for colorful stickers, pencils, erasers and other small toys.
The Alcalá View Wants to Hear from You

Ask H.R.: H.R. is the boss of benefits, the pioneer of payroll, the honcho of hiring and the veteran of vacations. If you have questions about anything from the rules for long-term disability to qualifying for tuition remission, or any other human resources issue that has you stumped, ask H.R. Send your questions to askhr@sandiego.edu.

Free Parking
For the second year in a row, Guillermina "Mina" Guzman of the registrar's office was one of three winners of the parking permit drawing, coordinated by the Staff Employees Association. Other winners were Gustavo Rivera of building maintenance and Ron Valenzuela of the bursar's office. The three 2002-03 faculty/staff parking permits were a gift from an anonymous donor.

Education Conference
The Manchester Family Child Development Center, with the School of Education, will host the "Beyond Reggio: The Next Step" conference, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Oct. 18-19, at the Child Development Center. Julianne Wurm, M.A., Ed.M, will speak about the Reggio approach to education that first was adopted in Italy. For information, call Jacqueline Corey Kennedy at ext. 4620 or e-mail her at kennedyj@sandiego.edu. Reservations are required.

Luncheon Colloquium
The campus community is invited to hear representatives from various campus programs discuss how they envision and implement the university's mission statement at a luncheon colloquium, 12:15-2 p.m., Oct. 15, in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, conference room D.

SEA-Sponsored Cookbook
The SEA is collecting recipes from staff, administrators and faculty for a USD cookbook. Recipes are welcome in the following categories: appetizers, beverages, desserts, main courses, salads, sauces and miscellaneous. Upon 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 at the School of Business, Olin Hall, Room 120, or pmoulton@sandiego.edu.

Homecoming is Coming
Homecoming Weekend is Nov. 8-10. Festivities include a tailgate party, a Toreros football game against Southern Oregon University, class reunions and a Mass with presentation of the Mother Rosalie Hill Award to Russell Caine '85 in recognition of his commitment of service to USD. All faculty and their families may attend events for free. Discounts are available to administrators and staff. To RSVP, call ext. 4819.

Tram Schedule
West campus: 7 a.m.-midnight. Alcalá Vistas: 7 a.m.-midnight, with Palomar and Laguna stops from 7-7:30 a.m.; 2:50-5:45 p.m.; 7:50 p.m.-midnight. Tecolote Village: 7 a.m.-midnight. Old Town: 6:20-8:40 a.m.; 3:30-6:30 p.m. Mission Beach: 7:15 a.m.-10:45 p.m. The Old Town tram stops at the off-site Napa Street parking lot to and from campus in the morning and afternoon. In the interim, service is provided to the Napa lot on an hourly basis.

Milestones
Kristin (Engstrand) Moran '94, assistant professor of communication studies, and her husband, Dan Moran '01, welcomed a baby girl, Madison Blaise, on Aug. 18. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

Marie Minnick, assistant dean of students, and husband Mike celebrated the birth of a baby boy, Luke Andrew, on Sept. 11. He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.

Raymond Strangl, father of Peggy Aggerton, executive assistant for the vice president and provost, passed away on Aug. 21 after a short illness.

Note of Thanks
On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank the USD community for your prayers, thoughts and cards following the loss of my dad.

― Sister Dale Brown
Associate Director of Financial Aid Services