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AlcaláView

A newsletter for the employees of the University of San Diego / November 2003 / Vol. 20, No. 3

On Her Own Dare, Adair Challenges Herself to a Chancy Commute

Cheance Adair could have ridden the trolley when she decided to take alternative transportation to work for USD's annual Fresh Air Challenge, held Oct 1. But, she figured, what's the challenge in that?

So Adair, who for more than a decade has raced outrigger canoes, gave herself the ultimate challenge and paddled to work. Well, most of the way to work.

"I told my staff I was going to come to work in an outrigger, and then, because I said it out loud, I realized I couldn't back down and had to do it," Adair says. "Now that I know I can do it, I'll probably do it again."

Her commute started at 4:30 a.m. By flashlight, Adair and her rowing partner, whom she recruited from the women's outrigger team she coaches, launched a two-person outrigger from the J Street Marina at South San Diego Bay near her home in Chula Vista. They paddled for nearly five hours. Along the 26-mile route to Mission Bay, they took photos of the Coronado Bridge and Point Loma and dodged a cruise ship at Shelter Island.

So that every leg of the commute relied on an alternative form of transportation, Adair's teammate, Margot Darby, left her car

parked at Mission Bay after the team's practice the night before. She carpooled in with Adair and dropped her off before heading to her own job. As if that wasn't enough, Adair took the trolley home.

Needless to say, Adair, who has worked in the mail center for 15 years, won the award for the most unusual mode of transportation used during this year's Fresh Air Challenge. The Fresh Air Commuters Club, which sponsored the challenge, gave out several awards to encourage students, faculty, administrators and staff to walk, bike, run, skate or carpool to work.

Abby Taylor, a first-year graduate student in the School of Law, won the award for most modes of transportation used by walking, taking the bus and riding the shuttle. The math department was recognized as the department with the highest number of participants. Financial aid's **Carol Lawrence**, who regularly rides the coaster from Carlsbad, won the award for farthest traveled.

For **Ron Pachence**, director of graduate and professional programs in the department of theology and religious studies, the alternative has been either carpooling or taking the bus. The effort, which for him began seven years ago, earned him this year's lifetime achievement award.

"I teach respect and care for the environment as one segment of one of my upper division courses, and

I figured if I preach it, I better practice it," Pachence says. "The bus is expensive, but it's convenient and it's no great sacrifice to be chauffeured home while I enjoy reading my *Time* magazine."

Giving Begins at Home!

When staff employees contemplated who should be the recipients of their annual Christmas charity drive, they opted to look in their own back yard. See page 2.



Mi Casa es Su Casa: President Opens Home to Employees

President **Mary E. Lyons** is kicking off her week-long inauguration celebration by opening her home, the Casa de Alcalá, to employees.



President Mary E. Lyons will open her home to employees this month.

Lyons says the open house, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 11, was a natural way to reciprocate the hospitality she's received from employees on campus since taking over as president in July.

"I want employees to know how important they are to the educational mission of the university," Lyons says. "I felt it was only right that they were the first people to join me here for this celebration."

Events scheduled for the week — including a community outreach project, a student dinner, academic lectures, fine arts performances, alumni gatherings and a Mass in Founders Chapel — not only will reflect USD's purpose in the community, but also allow Lyons to meet with all constituents of the university.

(Continued on page 2)



Cheance Adair took this year's Fresh Air Challenge and paddled from Chula Vista to Mission Bay in an outrigger.

Giving Begins at Home

For more than a decade, USD's Staff Employee Association has supported local charities during the holiday season. While community churches, shelters for battered women and military families all have been beneficiaries of the association's generosity, this year members of the USD community will reap the rewards.

The SEA is sponsoring the "2003 Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program," and hopes to raise money to make this holiday season special for the needy families of employees.

"Charity begins at home," says SEA vice president **Julie Tahapary**, who says the SEA realizes that the holidays can be a difficult time for USD employees who may be struggling with limited finances, illnesses or other difficulties. "We wanted to help those

who do so much for the university."

The plan was inspired by a now discontinued University Ministry program in which Sister **Irene Cullen**, who left the university three years ago and now is a missionary in Africa, worked with Banquets and Catering to provide Thanksgiving meals to needy USD families.

This year, University Ministry will assist in the SEA's efforts. Applications and nomination forms — in both English and Spanish — will be available on Nov. 1 in the University Ministry Office, Hahn University Center, Room 238. Completed applications must be returned to University Ministry by 4 p.m., Nov. 26. To ensure an impartial and confidential selection process, University Ministry will receive the applications directly, make the final decisions and notify the families.

The SEA will donate money from its own reserves toward the cause, but also asks faculty, administrators and staff to

come forward with monetary contributions. Donations will be collected at the SEA's annual holiday party, 11 a.m., Dec. 10, in the Hahn University Center forum. Donations also may be sent to Tahapary in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, Room 124.

The money, Tahapary says, will be used to purchase gift cards so families can do their own Christmas shopping. If the program is a success, she says, the SEA may consider making it an annual event.

"This is a way for the SEA to lend a hand to employees who need our help," Tahapary says, "and to show our appreciation to them for all their hard work and all they do to make USD a beautiful place."

— Denis Grasska

Open House

(Continued from page 1)

Other happenings include a forum on peace, a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter installation and an inaugural ball at the historic U.S. Grant Hotel. The festivities will culminate on Nov. 16, when Lyons officially is installed as USD's third president. The 2 p.m. ceremony will be held at the Jenny Craig Pavilion with a reception immediately following. For a complete listing of inauguration events, log on to www.sandiego.edu/inauguration.

Employees are welcome at all events, especially the installation ceremony and open house.


The Casa, built on the west end of campus in 1972, was refurbished in recent months, and now features several pieces from USD's decorative art collection from around the campus. A Flemish wool tapestry from the 1700s, depicting Jesus



This door once hung in Harmon Hall.

Christ with the Virgin Mary, hangs in the living room above her sofa. A vargueno, a Spanish Renaissance writing desk, that is part of the original collection for the College of Women, graces Lyons' dining room.

A model ship that sat in the office of USD's first president, Author E. Hughes, now rests on a side table, and a decorative door that once hung on a wall in Harmon Hall, one of the original buildings on campus, hangs in a hallway leading to the president's private quarters.

"I wanted the house to echo, in many ways, the feeling of the rest of the campus," Lyons says. "I live in the Casa, but it isn't just my house, it belongs to everyone." 

— Cecilia Chan

It's a Date!



New Chapter in USD's History

USD solidified its place among the ranks of the nation's top universities in August, when the university was granted a charter for a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious honor society in the United States. USD is one of only 18 Catholic institutions among the 270 chapters.



The official installation ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m., Nov. 14, in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice Theatre, during the week-long inauguration activities marking the leadership of President **Mary E. Lyons**.

Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary. Since then, the society has evolved to become the nation's leading advocate for the liberal arts and sciences at the undergraduate level.



Admissions Goes Live on Oracle

Indra Bishop, director of customer relationship management applications, applauds employees in admissions for successfully implementing the Oracle software, an all-encompassing computer system. The system eventually will link most campus departments and, for admissions, will streamline student recruitment and help USD meet its goals of quality and diversity.



The admissions staff members, many of whom are pictured here, worked tirelessly for many months to bring their department on board Oracle.

"The team has put in an incredible effort to make this happen," Bishop says. The law school and undergraduate admissions will start entering admissions applications in the Oracle Student System in early November. Graduate admissions, student

records, finance and financial aid will follow. The implementation of Oracle will tie in with the Spring 2004 admissions cycle.

Admissions joins the ranks of several other departments that have gone live on the Oracle system, including finance, human resources and payroll, and BSR/Advance in University Relations, according to **David Todd**, vice provost and chief information officer. Todd says no other departments are expected to go live before July 2004.

"Prior to this implementation, most student Web queries were printed from the Web site and reentered into the system, resulting in extra data entry and more chances of errors in reentry," Bishop says. "With CRM, the entries automatically go into the Oracle database, saving time and improving data quality.

"The system also allows the admissions offices to respond to their prospects in a more timely and efficient manner," she says. "Going live with this first part is really the beginning of a much larger implementation, where student records, student finance and financial aid will be added."

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.

THE CONSTRUCTION CORNER

Construction crews fell behind on one project, but are nearing the end of another. Here's what to expect in November:

• **Degheri Alumni Center:** On the exterior, crews are finishing the color coat, starting the tile roofing, removing the scaffolding and installing sidewalks around the perimeter. On the interior, crews are completing the painting, installing carpet, laying tiles in the restrooms and finishing the interior patio.

• **West Marian Way Parking Structure:** Because of issues regarding the soil surrounding the retaining walls, the opening of the parking structure has been postponed. Portions of the structure are expected to open this semester. However, the structure isn't expected to open completely until Spring 2004.

— **Roger Manion**
Assistant Vice President of
Facilities Management



SEA Snippets

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

- Members decided to set up a table at the 2003 Benefits Fair on Nov. 5 to talk to employees about the SEA and to encourage their attendance at the association's monthly meetings. The SEA also will use the opportunity to pass out survey sheets asking participants how the association can better serve staff employees.
- **Larry Gardepie**, a research and planning analyst and an administrative liaison to the SEA, reported that the board of trustees is creating a plan for the strategic direction of the university. He said that

eight to 10 members of the SEA would be needed to form one of many focus groups that will offer input as part of the process. For information, log on to www.sandiego.edu/ires and click on the link for strategic directions.

- **Sylvia Loza**, an administrative assistant in the School of Law, announced that she recently earned a certificate from the San Diego Mediation Center for Bilingual Community Volunteers, the first bilingual group training completed through the San Diego Mediation Center. She offered assistance to all employees, especially those whose first language is Spanish. She encouraged anyone who has a dispute

regarding business, real estate or landlord/tenant issues to seek mediation before litigation.

- At the request of SEA secretary **Perla Bleisch**, the SEA voted to contribute \$200 to a group called Latino Identity Working Together at USD for its annual Virgin of Guadalupe celebration in December.
- SEA representative **John Frazer**, of instructional technology services, invites all employees who are members of bands or musical groups to perform at an SEA-sponsored concert from 5 to 10 p.m., Nov. 24, in Shiley Theatre. To participate, contact Frazer at ext. 4182, or e-mail him at jfrazer@sandiego.edu.

Benefits Fair

The human resources department will hold open enrollment from Nov. 3 to 7. The benefits fair, during which employees can learn about many of their benefits, will be held Nov. 5 in the Hahn University Center Forum. For information, call ext. 6611.

Missing Items

Have you wondered how that extra folding table ended up in your department's storage room, when that easel showed up behind the office coat tree or just where that fan next to the copy machine came from? The Office of Summer Conferences, which this summer hosted nearly 80 groups on campus, is missing several items and is hoping maybe they were inadvertently gathered up by other groups that were hosting events over the summer. Employees who come across any items labeled as belonging to the summer conferences office, can call ext. 4623 to have them picked up.

Women's Center Activities

From Nov. 1 to 21, the Women's Center, in the Hahn University Center, Room 116, will be collecting warm socks for a women's organization. The Luna Fest, a showing of films by or about women, will be held 7 p.m., Nov. 6, in the Hahn University Center Forum. For information about these or other events sponsored by the Women's Center, call ext. 2396.

Campus Recreation

Employees are welcome to use many of the facilities provided by the campus recreation department, including the gym and pool. For general information about facilities, call ext. 4533. For a listing of the hours of operation, which vary each week, call ext. 4601 or log on to <http://campus-recreation.sandiego.edu>.



Let's Talk Turkey

Students, faculty, staff and administrators are invited to gobble up turkey and all the trimmings when USD's dining services hosts its 2003 Thanksgiving feast. The all-you-can-eat meal will be served between 4:30 and 8 p.m., Nov. 20, in the main dining room in the Hahn University Center. Family and friends are welcome. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Children ages 3 and under are free. For a complete menu, log on to <http://dining.sandiego.edu>.

The Alcalá View Wants You

Do you want to be part of the *Alcalá View*? Don't be shy, just send in your story ideas by the 10th day of the month to Krystn Shrieve at krshrieve@sandiego.edu.



MILESTONES

Fred DeGrolier, brother of **Sandi Harrod**, executive assistant in the School of Business Administration, passed away Oct. 9.

Ray Allen, father of **Andy Allen**, professor in the School of Business Administration, and father in law of **Denise Dimon**, director of the Ahlers Center for International Business in the School of Business Administration, passed away Oct. 8.

Michael James Ryan, father of **Mary Meshot**, a graphic artist in USD's print shop, passed away Sept. 26.

Ben LaRue Parker, brother of **Irving W. Parker**, professor emeritus of English at USD, passed away Aug. 14. Mr. Parker also was the father of Cathy (Parker) Wagener '67 and father-in-law of Richard Wagener '67.

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