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Forming Relationships in University Relations

Monsignor Daniel Dillabough was named Vice President for Mission and University Relations in December. After 60 days, Dillabough, formerly USD's Vice President for Mission and Ministry, shared his thoughts about the division and his approach to its reorganization, as well as the division's preparation for upcoming challenges.

The University Relations leadership team consists of (front row, left to right) Esther La Porta and Coreen Petti, and (back row, left to right) John Trifiletti, Monsignor Daniel Dillabough and Pamela Gray Payton.

Q: How did you spend your initial days at your new post?
A: The first thing I did was meet with the president, deans and the schools' individual directors of development to listen and get a sense of this division’s strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Next I wanted to set up some operating norms and do some reorganizing.

Q: What were the major changes made in the reorganization?
A: It was important to set up a leadership team, because I see this as a team effort.

The Man Behind the Scenes Takes Center Stage

He’s not meant to be seen. Like the Wizard of Oz, if you spotted him, he’d say, “Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!” But without him behind the curtain, USD’s theatre programs wouldn’t be the same.

James Feinberg is the production manager at Shiley Theatre and the Studio Theatre, but that’s just what it says on his business card. In reality, with hammer, nails and lumber, he turns sketches into sets. He puts lighting plans into action. He finds sound effects and edits music. He supervises the undergraduate students who work in the theatre arts program, and spends hours both in the theaters and the classroom, teaching students the technical side of the art. Oh, and he’s the guy who schedules the hundreds of classes, rehearsals, recitals, productions and community events that take place in both theaters.

“I am a jack of all trades,” says Feinberg, who has worked for the undergraduate theatre arts program and the graduate master of fine arts in dramatic arts program for 2 1/2 seasons. “It’s not uncommon to work 12- to 14-hour days, sometimes 12, 13 or 14 days in a row. But the day I don’t look forward to putting in a 14-hour day is the day I find a new career.”

Feinberg’s wizardry and hard work give each production the little extras that mean so much. For last fall’s theatre arts production of “Einstein’s Dreams,” Feinberg and theatre arts Director Colleen Kelly, who directed the play, spent hours looking for just the right sound effects — honks, bangs and crashes — for a factory scene. It was Feinberg who, using a sound from a Pink Floyd album, created the ideal ticking clock effect. And it was Feinberg who came to the rescue and implemented a sound plan when a student who eagerly had taken on the task realized he was overloaded.

“James has to wear many hats, and I’m amazed that he wears them so well,” Kelly says. “Over and above his skills, I’m especially appreciative that he’s a creative artist.”

Just days after the master of fine arts program opened its production of “The Cherry Orchard” in the Studio Theatre, Feinberg already was well into assisting in the planning of another undergraduate production, “Arcadia,” which runs March 10-14 in Shiley Theatre.

Written by Tom Stoppard, the play is set in a single room overlooking a garden at an English estate.

There are times when Feinberg and the students have only two days to go from (Continued on page 2)
Dillabough
(Continued from page 1)

My hope was to build the team from within, because they would know the culture and hit the ground running with me. I found that there was a lot of talent and dedication within this division, so I named Esther La Porta as associate vice president; Pam Gray Payton as assistant vice president for public relations; Coreen Petti as assistant vice president for marketing and strategic partnerships; and John Trifiletti as assistant vice president for development. Esther and John already had been in positions of leadership, Coreen’s background was strong in marketing — it’s been her passion — and Pam’s background was in public relations, so it was a natural fit for all of them. Now, in each area, we are working on setting up some norms, clear plans for what we will do in 30- and 60-day segments and ways to evaluate ourselves and be accountable.

Q: What are the major challenges this division will face in the near future?
A: We’re planning for what will be the public phase of a very significant capital campaign. I recognize that we’re kind of backing into the campaign, and we’ve got a lot of work to do quickly. We are only beginning to forecast together. I’ve asked a consultant to determine where we have holes and where we need to plug in resources. The next 30 days will tell us a lot.

Q: What can you say at this point about the strategies you will use during the capital campaign?
A: It’s too early to talk about specific strategies, but our main goal is to move this university from regional excellence to national prominence. We are still discussing how we market ourselves, which programs to push and which programs strengthen our overall reputation throughout the city and beyond. We also will be working with trustees, working on getting parents involved and raising the participation of our alumni, which is so key to our national rankings.

Q: Now that some of these initial steps have been taken and change is under way, how do you feel about the future?
A: There’s a lot of excitement about being in the new Degheri Alumni Center and putting our plans into place. I’m hoping that I’ve created a strong team that builds on the past, because there are a lot of people upon whose shoulders we stand, and will continue in the future to work toward our goal of bringing this university to national prominence. Having that opportunity is exciting.

Behind the Curtain
(Continued from page 1)

nothing but a sketch to a full set, and other times when students, still learning the trade, accidentally let the curtain fall to a puddle on the floor rather than raise it when he Feinberg gives the command to “fly it out.” Feinberg takes it all in stride.

James Feinberg is an expert in the technical aspects of theater.

“I just know, going into technical rehearsals, that I’m practically going to be living here, so I say goodbye to my wife and plan to see her in a week,” jokes Feinberg, who says he gets a lot of support from his students, his colleagues and staffers in the general services department. “It’s a lot of work, and we’ve all bonded over many sleepless nights, but in the end we see that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

The Park Ranger always is roaming Alcalá Park to take behind-the-scenes peaks at the on-the-job responsibilities of USD’s employees. If you would like the Park Ranger to visit you, e-mail Krystn Shrieve at kshrieve@sandiego.edu or call her at ext. 4934.

Poison Oak is No Joke

Officials at the Health Center recently have been seeing patients come in with itchy rashes after coming into contact with the poison oak that covers the hillsides and canyons surrounding the campus. Here are some tips for students and employees to keep in mind:

• Learn what poison oak looks like and don’t touch it! It grows as a shrub or vine, and has three leaflets per leaf. These can be shiny green or red, depending on the season.

• If you walk in areas of brush surrounding the campus, wear long pants and sleeves.

• If you think you may have touched the plant, immediately wash with soap and water. The oil that causes the rash will soak into your skin within 20 to 30 minutes.

• If the oil has been on your skin more than 30 minutes, but you haven’t yet developed a rash, wash with a special soap called Tecnu, which can be found in larger drug stores.

• Wash contaminated clothing in hot water with a generous amount of laundry detergent, because the oil may be on the clothing or shoes and still can be transferred to the skin.

• Lastly, if you develop the rash, take a warm bath with baking soda, and then apply clear calamine lotion. Benadryl capsules also can be taken to decrease the itching. Try not to scratch the rash as it can become infected with bacteria.

To see the poison oak plant, or for more information about treatment, log on to www.life-assist.com/plantguide.html.
SEA Snippets

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

- The SEA has a block of 25 seats for three upcoming Padres games, on April 16 vs. the Arizona Diamondbacks; April 30 vs. the New York Mets; and May 14 vs. the Chicago Cubs. See your SEA representative to purchase tickets.
- The SEA passed out comment cards during the benefits fair in November and received feedback from staff members who appreciate the SEA's involvement in or would like to see questions answered regarding benefits, parking, salaries, professional development or benefits after retirement. "We're working on some of these things all the time," says SEA President Penny Navarro, "but the survey gave us ideas of other topics we can pursue."
- Nina Sciuto, the SEA's administrative liaison to human resources, reported that the new university policies and procedural manual, which says staff employees may not use earned vacation time in less than four-hour increments, is being updated to reflect what actually is in effect, the university's previous policy that staff employees can use vacation time in one-hour increments.
- Cynthia Sanchez of the bursar's office was chosen as the SEA's employee of the month. Sanchez, who recently was promoted within the department, was nominated by her co-workers, who said she went out of her way to make sure the person who replaced her could make a seamless transition.
- The SEA made a $100 donation to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society on behalf of Ann Louise Onton, a research lab assistant to Pat Schaffer in the chemistry department. Onton will be running in the Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, June 6, in San Diego.
- SEA meetings are open to all employees, especially staff. The next SEA meeting is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., March 10, in the auditorium at the Manchester Conference Center. President Mary E. Lyons is expected to be in attendance.

The Moving Master

Just over a month before the University Relations division moved into the DeGheeri Alumni Center, the division got a new vice president and Kathe Myrick, who was helping coordinate the move, got a new position in another division. So Jack Kelly '87, senior director of alumni and constituent development, who directed the move, was left looking for someone to help with the monumental task.

It’s A Date!

Women Doing their Part for Peace

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice is holding an international women's day film series at 7 p.m., March 8, in the IPJ theatre. "Peace by Peace, Women on the Frontlines" is a documentary celebrating women peacemakers. The film will be followed by a panel discussion, a report on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and a reception. Reservations are requested. For information, call ext. 7509 or e-mail ipj@sandiego.edu.

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.
Cell Phone Drive
Drop off old cell phones at the Women’s Center in the Hahn University Center, Room 116. They will be recycled and used to assist victims in emergency domestic violence situations. The center is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For information, call ext. 2396.

Kyoto Laureate Symposium
USD’s celebration of the work of recipients of the Kyoto Prize, an international award honoring outstanding contributions in scientific, cultural and spiritual development, will be held March 3-5 at the Institute for Peace & Justice. The 2003 laureates are: chemist George McClelland Whitesides of Harvard University, who pioneered a technique of organic molecular self-assembly in nanotechnology; physicist Eugene Newman Parker of the University of Chicago, who established a new perspective on astrophysics that triggered drastic changes in the perception of space; and Tamao Yoshida, who is credited with helping make Bunraku puppetry, a classical Japanese performance art, the world’s most highly refined form of puppet theater.

Events include a gala, an opening reception, laureate and scholar presentations, and a closing ceremony. For information, call ext. 4585, or log on to www.kyotoprize.org or www.sandiego.edu/kyotosymposium.

Janet A. Rodgers Nursing Lecture
Sally P. Weinrich, a research professor in the School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, will discuss “Research: Making a Difference” at the 16th annual Janet A. Rodgers Nursing Lecture, 4 p.m., March 11, in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre. Reservations are required. For information, call Laura Wheeler at ext. 4730, or e-mail her at lwheeler@sandiego.edu.

Women’s Leadership Conference
The Women’s Center is hosting the Second Annual Women’s Leadership Conference, 4-7 p.m., March 5, and 8 a.m.-4 p.m., March 6, in the Hahn University Center. Speakers include President Mary E. Lyons; Congresswoman Susan Davis (D-CA), and Nancy Sasaki, executive director of the San Diego chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. For ticket information, call the UC box office at ext. 4901.

Social Issues Conference
The 15th annual Social Issues Conference will be held during the week of March 21-26. This year’s theme is “Freedom in America — War, Peace and Justice.” The featured speakers include Nadine Strossen, the first woman and youngest person ever to be president of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Sherman Alexie, a poet, novelist and screenplay writer focused on Native American life. In addition, the ethnic studies department is hosting David Abalos, who will discuss confronting issues of race and ethnicity in a changing America from the perspective of the politics of transformation. For information, call ext. 4798, or log on to www.sandiego.edu/csl.

Office Space?
Are the walls in your office covered from floor to ceiling with the baseball cards you’ve been collecting since childhood? Do passers-by do a double take when they see the gigantic model airplanes perched over your bookcase? USD Magazine is planning a photo essay on the most interesting and unique office decor around campus. To nominate your office or that of a colleague, please e-mail Tim McKernan at timothym@sandiego.edu.

Milestones
Vernon Myrick, father-in-law of Kathe Myrick, director of resource management, passed away Feb. 16.

Erminia Gennero, mother of Don Gennero, lab manager in the biology department, passed away Feb. 12.

Rosa Brownell, mother of Joan Anderson, professor of economics in the School of Business Administration, passed away Feb. 10.

Margaret Jane Georges, mother of Jane Georges, associate professor in the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, passed away Feb. 3.

Julie Roche, a freshman who lived in Camino Hall, passed away Jan. 27.