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Strengthening the Sports Programs
USD Undergoes NCAA Certification

USD's athletics program is in the spotlight as it undergoes the National Collegiate Athletic Association's certification process, which occurs approximately every 10 years and is designed to ensure the program complies with NCAA operating principles.

Kevin Cole, School of Law associate dean and professor, is the chair of the steering committee for the self-study portion of the NCAA certification process, the results of which were released last month. The self-study gets the ball rolling on the certification process in advance of an NCAA campus visit scheduled for May 16-18. The final compliance determination will come after that.

Cole says the process is much like the periodic accreditation reviews conducted for the academic divisions on campus. The steering committee includes representatives of the athletics department, students, faculty and employees. Subcommittees delved into the three areas outlined by the NCAA — governance and rules, academic integrity, and equity and student welfare.

"It encourages us to critically examine the athletics program," Cole says, "and to have a broad-based process so that people from all over campus can express their views about how well the athletics program promotes the mission of the institution."

The self-study committee found that the sports programs not only are in compliance with the NCAA, but are "well-run and support the mission of the institution," Cole says, adding that while news on graduation rates among athletes nationwide tends to be negative, the committee found that USD's statistics are impressive.

"They show that USD is running a different program than the ones you read about in the national press that are having all kinds of difficulties graduating their athletes," Cole says, noting that one area of focus for the future is on providing more opportunities for women to participate in intercollegiate sports.

The goal of the self-study is to get a broad range of views on the athletics programs, so the process hasn't stopped with the committee. All USD employees and other members of the community now have a chance to read the self-evaluation and provide feedback. The recently completed draft self-study reports are available online at www.sandiego.edu/athletics/ncaa, along with instructions for providing feedback.

The self-study is important because of the diversity of the committee that crafted it, says Ky Snyder, executive director of athletics.

"It's not a study by the athletics department. It's a study by the (USD) community," Snyder says. "It's a broad-based, outside view of how we conduct our business. The more people who know how we conduct our business — (Continued on page 2)
NCAA Certification
(Continued from page 1)
and that we're conducting it in a fashion that fits USD — that's better for everybody."

The self-study includes the subcommittees' answers to set questions from the NCAA, which ensures there is a standardized process for year-to-year comparison. USD's last certification came in 1997, when no compliance issues were identified.

"(The self-study) is partly about taking a good look at the program to make sure that we're in compliance with the NCAA's operating principles," Cole says. "It's also partly about having a broad-based process that might generate proposals to improve the programs, even if we're in compliance." That can be of particular use to schools like USD, he says, that haven't been having problems with their athletics programs.

While the preliminary report doesn't identify any areas of noncompliance, there are voluntary plans for improvement such as the push to involve more women and proposals to increase the academic support available to athletes. Those voluntary plans can help decrease the chance of a future rules violation, Cole says.

This year's study is making it clear "that USD's athletic program does it the right way," Snyder says. "We're in line with the university's mission, values and philosophy. People in the community know that, but it's nice to go through a study that confirms it." 

Sally Kuchich
(Continued from page 1)
You know how it always seems if you have the window seat, you have to displace someone to get to it? Well this time, "here was this huge person sitting in the aisle seat," Kuchich remembers. Not only did she have to make him get up so she could take her seat, "half the people getting on were going, 'Are you Bob Lanier?' 'Are you Bob Lanier?'"

Kuchich certainly knew the name. She'd lived in Detroit back in the '70s, when Lanier was a big star for the Pistons. "I think when he played, I remember him being tall and skinny. Skinny isn't a word you'd use to describe him now," she says, hastily adding: "He's not fat, he's just not skinny."

Lanier's recent appearance on the television reality show "The Apprentice," where he auctioned a pair of his size 22 shoes for charity, jogged Kuchich's memory about her previous encounter with the star.

She remembers telling Lanier how she always wonders why the tail of the plane doesn't hit the ground on takeoff. "It just seems to me that it should," she says. "He said, 'Oh, thanks. I never thought of that, and I'm sure now I will every time I take off.'"

In addition to planting that seed of fear, Kuchich chatted with Lanier about the normal things you talk to your seatmate about. She learned he was working for the NBA. He was interested when he learned she was in benefits (though at the time — pre-USD — she wasn't working). Lanier, whose later career was beset with repeated knee surgeries, was once again contemplating such a procedure and wanted to know about the disability system. Kuchich told him he should call his human resources department, "which is the last place people think to call," she adds.

That should make the rest of us feel better about going into a cold sweat over benefits questions. Even a 6-foot-11 former basketball pro needs help navigating the system. Attesting to the complicated nature of her job — or at least that perception — Kuchich says: "We benefits people are 'on' 24-7 — even when flying around with celebrities."

They also ate lunch together, and watched a lousy movie (Kuchich says it put both of them to sleep). They chatted more, talking about the Pistons then and now. "He was one of the nicest people I have ever traveled with," she says.

At that airport meeting with her husband, who'd recognized the star immediately, she introduced the two, shook hands with her seatmate, and that was the end of the adventure. "I don't think there was anything that different than if it had been Mr. Nobody next to me — except of course for the look on my husband's face."
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 where that fan next to the copy machine came from? The Summer Camps & Conferences Office, which hosted 130 groups in Summer 2004, is hoping that their missing items were inadvertently gathered up by other groups that hosted events over the summer. Employees who come across any items labeled as belonging to the summer conferences office are asked to call ext. 4623 to have them picked up.

Show Your Love with Doughnuts!
The Manchester Family Child Development Center will hold its third annual Krispy Kreme Doughnut Day on Monday, Feb. 14. Send an e-mail to mfcdc@sandiego.edu to pre-order dozens of fresh, hot, original glazed Krispy Kreme doughnuts. You can pick up your order at the Child Development Center after 7:30 a.m. on Valentine’s Day, or we’ll deliver your doughnuts to any building on the USD campus between 9-9:30 a.m. Pay ahead or pay when you get your doughnuts. The cost is $8 per dozen, payable in cash or checks made out to USO. Proceeds will benefit the Manchester Family Child Development Center.

IPJ Lecture Series
Faculty and staff are invited to attend a lecture by The Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, Ph.D., at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at 7 p.m., Feb. 10. Dr. Axworthy, former Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and current President of the University of Winnipeg, will be speaking on “The Responsibility to Protect: Prescription for a Global Public Domain” as part of the Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series. The lecture is free but RSVPs are required before Friday, Feb. 4, to Diana Kutlow, program officer for the Distinguished Lecture Series, at ext. 4236 or e-mail DLS@sandiego.edu.

School of Education Events
The School of Education is offering a professional development conference for counseling and human service professionals and students on Feb. 4-5 at the Hahn University Center. The event is co-sponsored by the School of Education counseling program and the Chi Sigma Iota Honorary Society. For more information, contact Susan Zgliczynski, counseling program director, at (619) 260-4287 or zglnski@sandiego.edu. … At 5 p.m., Feb. 4, the School of Education will host an alumni reception for counseling program graduates from 1977-2004 in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room. Free, RSVP required. For information or to RSVP, call (619) 260-4539.

USD Grandparents Weekend
The university will host its first grandparents weekend, Feb. 25-26. Students will invite their grandparents on campus to attend classes, a welcome reception, a grandparents breakfast, a men’s basketball game and a theater performance. Cost is $35 per family member. For information, e-mail parents@sandiego.edu.

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

- The SEA added $1,053 to the $347 in donations received for its Adopt-a-Family drive, which benefited five USD families identified as deserving of extra help over the holidays. Each family received nearly $300 in gift cards, plus $20 Campus Cash cards.
- SEA co-president Penny Navarro presented a planning calendar to help guide the committee’s activities. She noted Human Resources presentations are scheduled for several SEA meetings, including one on salary increases in March and another on benefits in October.
- Navarro suggested members think about whether there is interest in opening the SEA to more employees by bringing in administrators in addition to the hourly staff members who now make up the association.
- Navarro also asked members to try to “bring in new faces” to the SEA, both by designating alternate representatives for those times when they can’t attend a meeting, and by inviting other employees to attend meetings themselves or volunteer for committees.
- The SEA may purchase blocks of seats for Padres games this season, as it did last year. Individual employees would buy tickets from their SEA representative.
- Also on the recreation front, John Frazer of the SEA’s Social Committee sought to gauge interest in getting employees together for a sportfishing trip this spring.

Breakfast With a Boss
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’s “Breakfast with a Boss” section is the perfect place! 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 Mike Haskins at mhaskins@sandiego.edu or call him at ext. 4684 to share your story.
Krystn Shrieve, assistant director of publications, and her husband, Rob Monroe, welcomed their daughter, Mia Claire Monroe, into the world on Jan. 6. She joins big sister Caroline Grace.

Jennifer Frakes, associate director of annual giving, and her husband, Anthony, became proud parents of Emily Elizabeth, who was born on Dec. 28. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

Limly Prado, executive assistant in the law school’s office of development, alumni and public relations, and her husband, Mark, were blessed with a son, Vincent James, on Dec. 9. He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

Kyna Lunglhofer, director of finance for special programs in the School of Business Administration, and her husband, Jeff, welcomed their son, John Frederick, into the world on Nov. 28. He was 8 pounds, 9 ounces.

Erinn Tozer, senior staff psychologist in the counseling center, and her partner, Sue Whiteside, are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Kyle Tozer Whiteside, on Nov. 8, 2004. Kyle weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces.

Harris Libby, father of Pat Libby, Coordinator of the Nonprofit Leadership and Management Program at the School of Education, passed away on Jan. 5. The family requests that any donations be made to the USD Nonprofit Leadership and Management Program Scholarship Fund, c/o the School of Education. If you wish to contact Pat Libby, you may use the campus address: Pat Libby, School of Education.

The father of Steven Staninger, associate university librarian in Copley Library, passed away in January after a battle with cancer. If you wish to send a card to Steve and Christiane, they can be reached at: 12560 Senda Panacea, San Diego, CA 92129.

Mike Simovich, father of Patricia Kowalski (psychology department) and Marie Simovich (biology department), passed away Jan. 5. In memory of Mr. Simovich, donations may be made to the Diabetes Association or to your personal favorite charity. If you wish to contact the family, you may use their campus addresses: Patricia Kowalski, Associate Professor, Biology Department; or Marie Simovich, Professor, Psychology Department.

John McNamara, former vice president of University Relations, passed away Dec. 28. He joined USD in 1987 and, working under former presidents Author Hughes and Alice B. Hayes, he oversaw many of USD’s major fund-raising endeavors including the university’s 1986 capital campaign, Education for a New Age.

To contribute to the John McNamara Memorial Fund, contact Monsignor Daniel Dillabough, vice president of Mission and University Relations, at ext. 4770 or stop by the Hughes Administration Center, Room 214.

FOR SALE: 2002 Mustang. 46,500 miles, pewter, 5-speed manual, V6, power everything, CD player. Daughter graduated, married and moved to England. Car is in great shape. For information, contact John Frazer via e-mail at harmonicajohns@cox.net, or by phone at (619) 263-6826 or ext. 4182.

FOR SALE: Walnut bedroom set featuring Spanish carving — including headboard, dresser and two end tables (no mattress.) Good condition. $75. For information, call (619) 263-5819 during the day or evening.

Softball Players Wanted: Join a Coed 3-Pitch Softball team. Games Sunday afternoons at Serra Mesa Recreation Center. Season starts March. For information, contact Chika Sasaki at (619) 260-4684 or on-campus ext. 4176, or e-mail at chika@sandiego.edu.