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Campus Pedestrian Mall Construction Begins in March

Students will be on Spring Break during the week of March 21-25, but construction crews will be hard at work as they begin the expansion of the pedestrian mall in the heart of campus.

As part of the continuing efforts to fulfill the vision contained in USD's long-term plan for development, the new pedestrian mall will extend east from Colachis Plaza to the street corner at the eastern edge of Maher Hall. The space will consist of landscaped walkways on either side, an open lawn area adjacent to Colachis Plaza, and a central courtyard ringed by trees and seating areas, with a small fountain in the center. The front entrances to Maher Hall, Serra Hall and Warren Hall will be replaced to improve access for disabled persons, and re-landscaped to enhance their appearance.

Other aspects of the project include installation of a traffic turnaround point — with a concrete pattern designed to match the main entrance — in front of Warren Hall, and relocation of the current flagpole, with additional flagpoles to be added for the State of California flag and a USD flag.

“This project is part of the university's original master plan, which calls for a mall through the entire center of the campus,” says Roger Manion, assistant vice president for facilities management. “At this point, however, there are no plans to extend the mall any farther than this.”

The target date for completion of the project — which will cost approximately $1.2 million and is funded entirely through donations from Kathryn Colachis, a former USD trustee, and alumnus Bert Degheri '61 — is Aug. 15. A campus-wide dedication is planned for Oct. 7.

Workers will take advantage of Spring Break to begin the project while students are off campus. On March 21, vehicle traffic will (Continued on page 4)
**Planning for the Future**
(Continued from page 1)

Student Life, Marketing, Information Technology, and Action Planning — arose from issues identified in the earlier focus groups and refined last fall in individual meetings with each of the academic deans and vice presidents. The workshop groups met to consider questions about their specific topic, then each group reported their results in a town hall format. “The idea was to conduct a no-holds-barred brainstorming session on the topics, and to conclude with each group prioritizing their top points for an action plan,” Johnson says. “We have put summaries of each session on the Web, where the campus community can see them and offer feedback, and then we’ll hold a series of open meetings at which anyone from campus can comment on the ideas and volunteer their assistance.”

After the open meetings, action plans will be drafted. The plans will be reviewed by Lyons and the vice presidents this May to select those that they want to present to the Board of Trustees at its retreat in October.

“Not every action plan discussed in the open meetings will be sent to the board for approval, because there may be other factors, such as having the necessary resources in place, that may affect their feasibility,” says Johnson, who adds that academic deans and vice presidents may decide to adjust some aspects of the strategic plans for their individual areas to fit with the overall action plans. “The plans that are approved will be reviewed annually by the board, and may be revised as circumstances change.”

At the end of the workshop, Johnson and Gardepie asked participants to evaluate their work.

“The feedback we got on this workshop was that it was very inclusive and very energizing,” Gardepie says. “We’ve generated some excitement, now our challenge is to keep it going.”

**Workshop results are available on the Web at** [www.sandiego.edu/administration/president/strategicdirections](http://www.sandiego.edu/administration/president/strategicdirections).

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**Fiddler in the Park**

Jackie Hammack tried for some time to make a go of it as a professional musician, but found that the dream of a full-time music career is difficult to realize. Today, however, while she works full-time managing employee files in USD’s human resources department, she’s busier than ever with performances on her violin.

In fact, USD figures prominently in Hammack’s musical career. She’s played several solo performances for President Mary E. Lyons at small dinner parties, and she enjoyed the “great acoustics” in the Institute for Peace & Justice when she played at a strolling minstrel at a reception following Lyons’ inauguration. She also has played at events for various departments on campus. Hammack is most animated, however, when she talks about her newest foray into music at USD. She recently joined the USD Symphony after an invitation from the conductor, music professor Angela Yeung.

“I feel so privileged that she would ask and that I would get to do this,” says Hammack, who’s played violin since she was a young girl. “This is going to make me grow as a musician.”

Off campus, for more than five years Hammack has been a member of The Clovers, a Celtic trio that first performed for a party celebrating a nun’s retirement from USD. At that first gig, which came before she joined the USD staff, Hammack wondered whether she was getting more than she bargained for: Instead of the “few nuns” she was told to expect, the fledgling trio took the stage in front of nearly 1,000 people. In the end, it turned out to be a gentle immersion, as the guests milled around and talked. “They probably couldn’t even hear us,” she says.

These days, The Clovers play everything from Celtic music to old rock and roll at events ranging from weddings to funerals. Hammack also dabbles in other performance outlets — her church choir, Balboa Park’s House of Scotland Ceilidh Band, and various solo gigs. At all her performances, she plays the same violin her aunt gave her when she was a youngster.

“It’s got a great tone,” she enthuses, “but it looks pretty beat up because I’ve put it through the mill all these years. My aunt is gone now, so it’s very special.”

Her violin doesn’t have just sentimental value. The 1920s-vintage instrument was one of only three made by Albert Werro, who came from a long line of violin makers in Switzerland. The rare item is listed in a book on Werro’s work, with the notation that it is in the United States.

Hammack and her special violin have come full circle. Although she enjoys playing many styles and frequently turns her violin into a fiddle, playing more raucous music, her aunt would be gratified that Hammack is revisiting her classical roots with the symphony.

“My aunt was very much into classical music,” Hammack says. “She’s probably up there just smiling.”

Jackie Hammack will play with the USD Symphony at the April 29 Spring Concert, and she and the other members of the House of Scotland Ceilidh Band will perform April 2 at Balboa Park in honor of Tartan Day.

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The Alcalá View wants to know what you do when you’re “Off the Clock.” Share your story by sending an e-mail to Mike Haskins at mhaskins@sandiego.edu, or call him at ext. 4913.
University Ministry Events
University Ministry announces that there will be no Sunday Masses at Founders Chapel on March 20 (Palm Sunday) and March 27 (Easter Sunday). On each of those Sundays, services will be held in The Immaculata at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Also, there will be a March 14 Penance Service at 7 p.m. in The Immaculata.

Prayer Breakfast
A faculty/staff Prayer Breakfast will take place from 7:20 to 8:25 a.m., March 17, in the Faculty/Staff dining room. Monsignor Mark Campbell will explore the spirituality of St. Patrick and what it offers our contemporary world. All are invited. For reservations, call the Office for Mission at ext. 2263.

IPJ Lecture Series
Faculty and staff are invited to attend a lecture featuring Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, 7 p.m., March 31, at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. Robinson will speak on “Human Rights and Ethical Globalization,” as part of the Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series. The lecture is free, but reservations are required. RSVP to Diana Kutlow, program officer for the Distinguished Lecture Series, at ext. 4236 or e-mail DLS@sandiego.edu.

Save the Date for Administrative Professional’s Day
The annual USD staff appreciation party to celebrate Administrative Professionals’ Day will be on Wednesday, April 27, 12:15-1:30 p.m. at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. This year’s event, “Hollywood on the Hill,” celebrates the glamour and excitement of old Hollywood. Invitations will be sent via intracampus mail, and supervisors are encouraged to take their staff to lunch. For information, e-mail the Banquets and Catering department at atinahall@sandiego.edu.

Luncheon Colloquium
In our hectic lives, sometimes sitting down to catch our breath takes a scheduled appointment! How can we nurture calm presence in ourselves and our students? The Faculty and Curriculum Development Program invites faculty and staff to a luncheon colloquium, “Mindfulness in the Classroom and Beyond,” 12:30-1:45 p.m., March 31, in the Hahn University Center, Room 107. The colloquium will focus on practical ways to foster mindful awareness in the classroom and in life. Approaches related and unrelated to organized religion will be discussed. To register, contact Evelyn Kirkley at ext. 4131 or ekirkley@sandiego.edu, or Cecilia Anderson, ext. 4525 or ceciliaa@sandiego.edu.

SEA Snippets
The following issues were discussed at the February meeting of the Staff Employees Association:
- The SEA is planning a Hot Topics presentation for March. SEA officials are hoping to have a Human Resources representative inform staff about this year’s salary increases.
- Co-President Sheri Barzal, of the Bursar’s Office, reported that 37 USD employees have signed up for the Weight Watchers program. The Wellness Committee also is working on programs to help employees stay healthy, which could also help keep insurance costs down.
- Larry Gardepe of Institutional Research and Planning said the recent Strategic Directions Workshop generated many good ideas. In the future, open meetings will be called on specific topics such as Catholic social teaching or the School of Peace Studies. The idea is to get people from the campus community involved in exchanging ideas and information about the future of the university.
- A new employee handbook is being drafted. The book, a condensed version of the Policy and Procedure Manual, would be available to all employees. Karen Oropeza of the IPJ noted an employee handbook hasn’t been produced since 1999. For specifics, the book would refer employees to the online Policy and Procedure Manual.
- There was discussion about changes to the Policy and Procedure Manual. Co-President Penny Navarro already reviews changes before they are put into effect; other SEA representatives who wish to do so may also review changes.
- The new compensation rate for employees using their cars is 40.5 cents a mile.
Campus Mall Construction
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be permanently closed from the east corner of Maher Hall to Colachis Plaza, on both sides of the street. In the first phase of construction, the front entrance to Maher Hall will be closed, as will the sidewalks on the Maher Hall side of the street. Crews will finish construction and landscaping that side of the street by June 1, then that area will be opened and the other side of the street, including the entrance to Serra Hall, will be closed until the project is completed.

"Although work will begin at 7 a.m. each day, we're conscious of the fact that we're working in the middle of campus, near residence halls and offices," Manion says. "We respect that the work of the campus continues, we ask for the campus community's understanding and cooperation, and we hope to achieve this improvement with a minimum of disruption."

Although the project will cause the loss of about 16 parking spaces along Marian Way, Manion does not expect overall parking to be affected, noting that even on the busiest days, ample parking is available in the West Parking Structure. Future deliveries will be accomplished through the turnaround or through back entrances. Manion adds, and emergency vehicle access to the front of the buildings will be available. Tram routes will be re-worked to accommodate the changes.

"It's a complicated job," Manion says, "but we believe the campus community will be very happy with the results."