2005

Alcalá View 2005 21.07

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Command Performance

Next time you attend a USD theatre arts performance, take a moment to think about the people backstage. They don’t get applause or take bows, but without them, the show wouldn’t go on.

Lori Fiori plays many roles for students, who return the favor here by helping her change costumes.

One of the people who keeps the theatre arts program running like a well-rehearsed production is Lori Fiori, the department’s executive assistant. If she’s not answering calls from students and faculty, working on the budget or tracking student involvement in plays for credit, then she’s probably planning an opening-night reception, drumming up students to volunteer as ushers, preparing work orders for carpenters, arranging royalty contracts or having tickets and publicity posters produced.

“If I don’t know the answer, I know where to get the answer,” she says.

Among the continually rotating ad hoc projects on Fiori’s plate are helping coordinate the search for a tenure-track assistant professor, (Continued on page 2)

Engineering the Impossible

Walk on Water Contest Still Going Strong

The rest of the world can use daylight savings time, a red robin or even the Easter bunny as a gauge. At USD, however, the surest sign spring has arrived is the cheering throng surrounding the Sports Center pool. Those new to the university might be perplexed by all the commotion, especially when they hear it’s about people trying to walk on water — with varying degrees of success.

Despite USD’s Catholic heritage, the university’s annual Walk on Water Competition, which comes up on April 23, is about engineering, not religion. The contest, now in its 14th year, features teams of college and high school engineering students who design and create what they hope will be buoyant shoes made of fiberglass, wood, Styrofoam or other materials. The ultimate test comes when each team’s designated “shoe pilot” attempts to traverse the Sports Center pool. The results are educational, and frequently hilarious.

Either way, the USD engineering department, which sponsors the event, each year succeeds in attracting new fans of the contest — and, they hope, of the discipline.

“It’s successful if people leave here saying, ‘Wow, engineering is fun. It’s not just for dorks,’” says engineering Assistant Professor Leonard Perry, coordinator of this year’s contest.

Walk on Water evolved from a freshman class assignment into a way to get high school students interested in engineering — and USD. With 50 to 60 four-person teams expected to participate and bring along parents and others, the competition is great exposure for the university, and a way to translate theory into practice. When Rose Smith, an industrial systems engineering senior, participated in her freshman year, she says her team’s Styrofoam and duct tape shoes worked really well — until they fell apart.

Almost any material is fair game for the Walk on Water contest, as long as it floats.

“It helped us understand the engineering design process and build teamwork with other students,” says Smith, who now coordinates the event operations. After some hesitation, she gives up a hint about what at least has the potential to be a good entry: fiberglass with flaps for propulsion.

But Perry says there are too many variables for that information to give anyone much of (Continued on page 3)
Athletic Hall of Fame to Induct New Members

Former Vice President of Student Affairs Tom Burke is one of two new members of USD's Chet and Marguerite Pagni Athletic Hall of Fame. Burke, along with volleyball player Petia Yanchulova '99, will be inducted May 5 at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. The two honorees are the 19th and 20th members of the Hall of Fame.

Command Performance
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and working on a brochure to attract potential students to the major. Like others working part-time in the department, Fiori "makes a full-time commitment to the program," says her boss, theatre arts program Director Colleen Kelly.

For every task Fiori completes in her good-natured way, Kelly says, there is another pile of work waiting. But her cheerful assistant is undaunted.

"The show goes on," Fiori says. "That's really what it boils down to."

Kelly especially appreciates Fiori's commitment to the students. Fiori, who has an 18-year-old son of her own, forges true bonds with the students, checking on their progress with graduate school applications or job prospects.

"She comes to see the shows," Kelly says, "which is nice, because beyond just doing the job, she actually supports the work these students are doing."

As she chats with students or Kelly, Fiori continually remembers new loose ends she needs to discuss with them. "This job is total multitasking," she says. And while she has no theater background, Fiori does have the big personality to keep up with all the theater students.

"It's a high-energy program because we have high-energy personalities. And so what Lori does to be helpful is give them sugar," Kelly says, laughing and pointing to a basket of Easter candy on Fiori's desk.

That's just one of the things that draws students to Fiori's desk, in the basement of Camino Hall.

"She's the friendliest person I know," says Taylor Bunn, a senior theatre arts major. "She's like having a mom on campus."

Fiori began her USD career in the marine science department more than seven years ago, and joined the theatre arts department when it was in its infancy. Kelly says the knowledge of the university that Fiori brought to the program — not to mention the organizational abilities that have seen the department through multiple office moves — has been invaluable.

"If Lori did not know her way around this university, I'd still be sitting upstairs trying to figure out how to get a key," Kelly says.

On the big-picture level, Kelly appreciates that Fiori is a good representative of the program and the university, devoting as much time as needed to every call from the public or anyone else. When it comes to helping out the department for the ultimate good of the students, Fiori is committed.

"The students are all so entertaining and so passionate about what they do," Fiori says. "This is just the best department to work in."

— Kelly Phillips

In a career spanning nearly 30 years, Burke led Torero athletics from a NCAA Division II program into the national spotlight of Division I athletics. He was president of the West Coast Conference executive cabinet from 1983 to 1994, and his legacy to USD's sports programs includes the development of the Sports Banquet — USD's single largest fund-raising event for athletics — and construction of the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Petia Yanchulova '99 led the Toreros to the 1997 and 1998 West Coast Conference volleyball championships. She was twice selected as WCC Player of the Year, and has twice competed in beach volleyball in the Olympics.

The induction — which includes reception, dinner and ceremonies — is scheduled for 6 p.m., May 5, in the Jenny Craig Pavilion. Tickets are $75 each. For information or reservations, call ext. 5917 or e-mail l coppa@sandiego.edu.

Petia Yanchulova

It's A Date!

Alumni Office Revamps Honors Program

On April 30, faculty and staff will join alumni, students and friends to honor seven of USD's most outstanding graduates and, at the same time, usher in a new era in the university's recognition of its exceptional alumni.

The USD Alumni Honors will bring together all of USD's university-wide recognition awards — the Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Service Award, the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Humanitarian Award and the five Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Awards — in one extraordinary event. The black-tie gala will be held inside the Jenny Craig Pavilion, and the $150 ticket price includes a pre-show reception, entertainment, the awards ceremony and dinner.

For information on the USD Alumni Honors, call (619) 260-4819 or log on to www.sandiego.edu/alumni/alumnirelations.
Five Year Service Awards
This year's Five Year Service Award Ceremony will take place at 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 11, in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice theatre. This event will recognize employees who have completed five years of service and were hired between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000. If someone in your department will be recognized at the event, we invite you to join us for the ceremony and reception. Recipients will receive invitations in April. For information, contact Cristina Ruffo in Human Resources at ext. 2722 or cruffo@sandiego.edu

Theatre Arts Performance
Students in the theatre arts program will perform “The Grapes of Wrath,” Frank Galati’s adaptation of John Steinbeck’s classic novel, at 8 p.m. April 13-16, and 2 p.m., April 17. Performances are in Shiley Theatre, Camino Hall. General admission is $8; admission for students, seniors, USD faculty, staff and alumni is $6. Tickets are available at the University Center box office, (619) 260-2727, or at Shiley Theatre one hour before curtain. For information contact the Theatre Arts program at (619) 260-7934 or theatrearts@sandiego.edu, or log on to www.sandiego.edu/theatre.

Commemoration
The USD Jewish Student Union will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Nazi death camp that has come to symbolize the horror of the Holocaust, at 7 p.m., April 19 at the Institute for Peace & Justice. The speaker will be David Faber, a Holocaust survivor and author of the book Because of Romek: A Holocaust Survivor’s Memoir. A reception will follow in the IPJ Rotunda. The event is free and open to the public.

Faculty/Staff Workshops
The Faculty and Curriculum Development Program invites faculty, staff, administrators and students to two events in April. “First Encounters: Creating Purposeful Strategies to Engage New Students” will address what prospective and new students learn about USD, and its values and culture, before they arrive on campus. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m.-1 p.m., April 21, in the University Center Forum. The “Teaching and Learning, With and Without Borders” workshop will discuss the numerous opportunities at USD for teaching and learning on topics related to Mexico, the border and the Latino/a community. It is schedule for 8:30-10:30 a.m., April 22, in the Degeri Alumni Center, room 112/113. For information or to register, contact Cecilia Anderson at ext. 4525 or ceciliaa@sandiego.edu, or Evelyn Kirkley at ext. 4131 or ekirkley@sandiego.edu.

Faculty/Staff Retreat
A Faculty/Staff Twilight Retreat is scheduled for 5-7:30 p.m., April 28, in the Founders Hall faculty lounge. The presenter, Sister Anne Wente, RSCJ, will speak about “Encountering the Divine Within Ourselves.” A light supper will be served. For information, call the Office for Mission at ext. 2263.

SEA Snippets
The following issues were discussed at the March meeting of the Staff Employees Association:
- Janie Carolin of Human Resources previewed the March 15 Hot Topic session on staff annual salary increases. She explained how pay grades are adjusted to reflect regional salary ranges, and the process for determining the dollar amount increase staff employees receive. The increases for each salary grade are posted on the Human Resources Web page, under Announcements.
- Tickets are available at the UC box office for three Padres games. Staff can buy tickets for the April 29, June 3 or Sept. 16 games at a discounted rate of $16. Students will be able to purchase tickets for $18 beginning three weeks before each game.
- John Frazer is organizing a half-day sportfishing trip for April 16. As many as 50 employees will be able to attend at a cost of $30, plus $20 if they need a fishing license and pole.
- Co-President Penny Navarro presented members with an updated list of SEA committees and membership, plus SEA representation on university-wide committees.
- The Staff Employee Association meets monthly to discuss issues of concern to employees, and meetings are open to all employees. For information, log on to www.sandiego.edu/sea.

Walk on Water
(Continued from page 1)

“People who think about all three of these simultaneously in their design come up with the best design,” says Perry, who adds that favoring stability over propulsion, for instance, can result in a shoe so stable that a mere mortal can’t move it on the water. He recalls a 12-year-old girl who, with help from her dad, entered a seemingly successful shoe made from metal.

“The problem was that she was not strong enough to carry the shoes more than two races,” Perry says. “She was exhausted.”

The winners are rewarded, of course, but to encourage outside-the-box thinking, the most creative entry also receives an award.

“Applying what you learn in books to the real world — that’s really what designing these shoes is all about,” says Perry, adding that the would-be engineers also learn another important lesson: “What they come up with on the drawing board doesn’t always work in the real world.”

— Kelly Phillips

The Walk on Water competition is scheduled for 10 a.m., April 23, at the Sports Center pool. For information, contact Leonard Perry at laperry@sandiego.edu.
Model Employee

Jeff Hardick, an electrician in building maintenance, recently received the Division of Finance and Administration’s first Code of Conduct Award. “He’s just the model employee,” says Conley Robinson, manager of planning, design and construction, and one of several administrators who nominated Hardick for the award. When the nominating period began, Robinson says Hardick was “the first person that I thought of, because of his dedication to the university and his friendliness.”

Hardick was recognized, along with five other nominees, by Finance and Administration Vice President Paul Bissonnette at a Jan. 24 ceremony in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. The Code of Conduct sets out guiding principles in the categories of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness and social awareness.

MILESTONES

Emily Baxt, career counselor, and her husband, Josh, welcomed their daughter, Eva Aileen, on Feb. 17.

Clarence Vilhauer, father of Diana Githens, administrative assistant in the School of Law, passed away on March 14. To contact Diana, use her campus address: Guadalupe Hall, Room 102.

Ralph Bailey, father of Bobbi Hudson, parking assistant for the Office of Parking Services, passed away on March 4. To contact Bobbi, use her campus address: Parking Services, Hughes Center.

Geraldine L. Quinn, mother of Linda Patricia (Pat) Quinn, administrative assistant in the Law School Records Office, died on Feb. 27. To contact Pat, use her campus address: Law School Records Office, Warren Hall, Room 202.

Teresita Santos, mother of Dymphna Santos Song, a teacher at the Child Development Center, died on Feb. 24. To contact Dymphna, use her campus address: Child Development Center.

Josephine McIntyre, mother of Michael McIntyre, director of University Ministry, passed away recently. To contact Mike, use his campus address: University Ministry, UC 238.

FOR SALE: StreetPilot c330 Touchscreen Navigation System. New, never used, all documentation included. Car navigation made easy with portable GPS: plug and play; pre-loaded detailed maps; touch screen; voice prompts; vivid graphics. $750.00 (valued at $1000). Call Mario Casillas at (619) 260-6856.

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 15th day of the month to Krystn Shrieve at kshrieve@sandiego.edu.