It Was Dirty Work, But They Were Glad to Do It
Two USD Staffers Planted Gardens and Much More

With shovels, hoes and bags full of seedlings, a USD gardener and his wife traveled across the world to sow faith and hope, and to feed a hungry nation. Ernie Salazar, a USD groundskeeper for eight years, and his wife, Sandi Salazar, an administrative assistant in undergraduate admissions for four years, dedicated 10 days in March to planting vegetable gardens in Swaziland, an African country the size of New Jersey where the land is lush and the soil is rich, but poverty abounds.

It was a busman’s holiday for Ernie, who says that while he usually tends ornamental plants at Alcalá Park, he found it fitting to use the skills he’s honed here to plant vegetables in a city called Luve, where there’s no electricity or running water, families live in mud huts, children are nearly naked, nobody wears shoes and everybody drinks from community wells.

The Salazars made the journey with their church, Faith Chapel of Spring Valley, Calif., through the organization Dream For Africa. The group is dedicated to planting 1 million gardens this year in Swaziland, where 40 percent of the population is infected with AIDS, many children are orphaned and the average life expectancy is only 37 years.

“We planted four crops — tomatoes, spinach, beets and cabbage — (Continued on page 3)

Looking Ahead with Planned Giving

When we were young, we learned the tale of the organized, hard-working ant and the live-for-fun grasshopper, which taught us to plan ahead. It turns out that the moral of the story — planning for the future is good for us — also applies to USD. Just ask John Phillips, the new director of USD’s Office of Planned Giving.

Phillips’ main job is to educate potential donors about gifts they can make through an estate plan, life insurance or income-producing gifts such as charitable gift annuities.

“It’s about telling people how they can help the university and help themselves at the same time,” Phillips says.

While there have been large, high-profile estate gifts in recent years, such as that of the late Joan B. Kroc, planned gifts aren’t just about funding a building or school. (Continued on page 2)
Planned Giving
(Continued from page 1)

More often, they are offered by people of average means who want to donate cash, real estate or other gifts to make the best use of tax laws. Planned gifts help fund scholarships, sports facilities and even student participation in cultural experiences. Some people choose to restrict their gift to an area that interests them, while others leave it up to USD to determine the funds’ best use.

Since Phillips took the helm last December, he has begun making some changes. “We’re trying to take this program to the next level or two,” he says.

Alisa Burke, Marketing Coordinator

One of the most visible changes is a new comprehensive marketing program for the office, a facet of which is a Professional Partners council that will enlist lawyers, CPAs, financial planners and real estate professionals as ambassadors to tout USD’s planned giving program to others in their fields. The planned giving Web site also has been revamped, and now includes a gift calculator, which can help donors decide if a gift of life insurance or maybe a charitable remainder trust is more their speed.

In addition, a direct mail marketing piece about the university’s gift annuity program is in the works, as is a gift-planning newsletter. It’s all about “continually putting the message in front of people,” Phillips says.

Sometimes that message is received without anyone at the university knowing until someone has died. “When people put you in their will or living trust, you don’t always know it,” Phillips says. So just as Phillips is reaping the benefits of his predecessors, he says, “The next person sitting in my chair may be the beneficiary of the stuff we’re putting out there today.”

New Name for School of Education

The School of Education announced in May that its new name is the School of Leadership and Education Sciences, to better reflect the school and its mission.

“Over the past six or seven years, we’ve grown tremendously in our offerings,” says Paula Cordeiro, the school’s dean. “We have a variety of leadership and other programs beyond those that focus on traditional education. This just puts a name to what we’ve already been doing.”

The name change, Cordeiro says, is something she’s been thinking about since she took the helm as dean seven years ago.

Linda Long, Executive Assistant

"Very often, when employees have a chance to be in contact with potential donors or alumni, those employees become development officers,” Phillips says. “Their actions, kindness, compassion and helpfulness have the potential for generating gifts for the organization.”

The Alcalá View wants to hear from directors, managers or department heads with news to share. To participate, send an e-mail to Krystn Shrieve at kshrieve@sandiego.edu or call her at ext. 4934
Swaziland
(Continued from page 1) which were chosen for their nutritional value," Ernie says. "The people are agriculturally minded, in a way, because almost all the families had corn growing on their land. But there's a lot of malnourishment because that's mostly all they eat."

Working closely with the country's department of agriculture, and with food economists, the Salazars and their team planted an estimated 90 gardens a day in the yards of local families. It was dirty, back-wrenching work. The Salazars toiled for hours at a time — one day in the glaring sun, another day in mud that oozed around their ankles — crouching, digging, watering and planting, often alongside the mothers, fathers and children who later would reap the reward.

"It was so wonderful to have these families working right beside us," says Sandi, who explained the trip wouldn't have been possible without donations, many of which came from USD employees. "After we completed the work, we'd gather everyone together to pray for the families and the success of the garden."

The recipients, many of whom didn't have even the most basic gardening tools, were so excited that they didn't mind plunging their hands into buckets and sprinkling each tiny plant with the water that trickled from their cupped hands. There were countless grateful families, but one woman who stood out was an elderly, very ill grandmother who was caring for 11 of her orphaned grandchildren.

"She was so overwhelmed her face looked almost pained," Sandi says, wiping tears from her eyes. "She was so needy and I was glad we could do our little bit to help. I only wish we could have done more."

For more information about Dream for Africa, log on to www.dreamforafrica.com.

Ernie and Sandi Salazar prepare to enter Swaziland with their daughter, Miriam (left).

A local resident waters his newly planted garden.

It's A Date!

Jammin' at the Jamboree
Get ready for a hand-clappin', foot-stompin' good time at the upcoming country jamboree. This year's employee picnic, scheduled for noon on June 24 on the Copley Library lawn, will feature tasty fare including barbecued ribs, grilled chicken, macaroni salad, fruit and ranch-hand beans. The fun and games will start with old favorites such as the water balloon toss and the ever-popular chicken toss, and continue with both a bake-off and a chili contest. So whip out your tried-and-true recipes for delectable desserts and red-hot chili, and join the excitement. Participants must remember to pick up their tickets at the Hahn University Center box office, and must pre-register to participate in the food contests. Invitations and sign-up sheets will be sent to employees through campus mail.

Construction Corner
The pedestrian mall project is on target. Here's what will happen in June:
Concrete walkways on the north side of Marian Way will be poured, and the entrance to Maher Hall will be completed and opened. The entrance to Serra Hall will be closed and prepared for work around June 7. The work on the Serra Hall side of the mall will be a duplication of what was completed in front of Maher. The project is expected to be completed by Aug. 15.

— Roger Manion
Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management
Dining Services Summer Hours
Aromas: 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Bakery and Market: 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Deli: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Faculty/Staff: Closed for the summer
La Paloma: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Main Dining: breakfast, 7-9:30 a.m.; continental breakfast, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; lunch, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; dinner, 4:45-8 p.m. daily.
Torero Grille: Closed for the summer

Open House
The School of Leadership and Education Sciences is holding a Single-Subject Student-Teacher end-of-semester open house from 3-6 p.m., June 8, in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, Conference Room A. Credential candidates prepared videos and portfolios and will share samples of their work from their student-teaching experiences.

Open Budget Meeting
Open budget meetings will be held 12:30-2 p.m. on Oct. 18 and 4-5:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 in Salomon Lecture Hall in Maher Hall. All members of the USD community are invited and encouraged to attend.

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

- Kim Celano of the SEA's parking committee reported that the committee tweaked its guidelines and regulations in June for submittal to President Mary E. Lyons. Employees with proposed changes to the committee guidelines should e-mail kcelano@sandiego.edu.
- John Frazer of the social committee reported that the sportfishing trip was a success, though the association took a "small loss" on it. Tickets for Padres games were selling well. Tickets are available at the Hahn University Center box office for the June 3 and Sept. 16 games.
- In the future, meetings of the SEA and other selected groups may be held in the R.E. Hazard Co. Board Room in the Manchester Conference Center. The room was freed up after the board of trustees began meeting at the Institute for Peace & Justice.
- A 10-week yoga class is being held in the Student Academic Study Hall at the Sports Center. Classes will be held from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through July. Anyone interested in joining can call Penny Navarro at ext. 4585.
- SEA meetings are open to all employees, especially staff. The next SEA meeting is at 2 p.m., June 8, in the Hahn University Center, Room 103.

Ask H.R.
H.R. is the boss of benefits, the pioneer of payroll, the honcho of hiring and the veteran of vacations. If you have questions about anything from the rules for long-term disability, qualifying for tuition remission or any other issue that may have you stumped, ask H.R. Send your questions to askhr@sandiego.edu.

Milestones
Donald A. Barnes, father of Donna Barnes, associate professor in the School of Business Administration, passed away on April 29.

Philip Zenn, father of Karma Lekshe Tsomo, assistant professor in theology and religious studies, passed away April 24.

Classifieds
For Sale: One stationary bicycle. Black, medium size. $55. One treadmill from Sears, like new. $149. One desk and chair, excellent condition. $100 for both. Call Silvia at ext. 4651.

10th Anniversary of the U.S.
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Deogher Alumni Center 320