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Faculty Newsnotes

Faculty News

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Office of the Provost

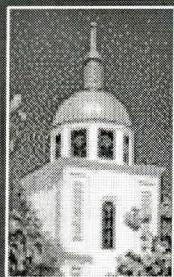
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March 2006



USD Faculty Newsnotes

Issue #387
March 27, 2006
Edited by Stacy Miller

Provost Office

Academic Strategic Priorities Fund Awards

The Academic Strategic Priorities Fund Committee reviewed seven proposals received by February 1 (the third of four 2005-06 submission deadlines). Members of the Committee are: Cynthia Connelly, Simon Croom, Jim Gump, Jo Ellen Patterson, and Chris Wonnell. The Committee reported that they evaluated the overall merit of the proposals, how they contributed to our strategic goals, and how they facilitated our mission as a teaching and research institution.

The committee recommended, and the Provost supported, funding the following seven projects totaling \$37,279:

1. \$10,000 to support the proposal by Professor Allen Snyder for VIS Moot's March and June 2006 events;
2. \$2,000 to support the proposal by Dr. Judith Liu and Elaine Elliott for a mentoring stipend for Community Service-Learning;
3. \$7,022 to support the proposal by Dr. Angela Yeung for the Chamber Music Festival;
4. \$2,027 to support the proposal by Dr. Patricia Plovanch for the Celebration of Vatican 2;
5. \$7,800 to support the proposal by Dr. Daniel Sheehan for two International Symposia;
6. \$940 to support the proposal by Dr. Florence Gillman for a Biblical History and Arts Project;
7. \$7,490 to support the proposal by Dr. Jennifer Gorsky, Dr. Lynn McGrath, and Dr. Perla Myers for continuing development of Math Camp.

The final submission deadline for 2005-06 is April 1. You are encouraged to request funding for new initiatives you are considering or undertaking that will enhance USD's academic excellence and reputation.

A description of the fund is available at <http://www.sandiego.edu/administration/academicaffairs/facultydev/funding.php>.

The proposal submission form is available at <http://www.sandiego.edu/administration/academicaffairs/policies/>.

Budget Summary: Expenditures

The official summary of the budgeted expenditures at the University of San Diego for the current fiscal year, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006, can be found at <https://www.sandiego.edu/irp/statbook/budgets/>.

Intersession Enrollment

Listed below are this year's budgeted and actual Intersession units with the last two years' figures provided for comparison.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
2006	2,700	2,612
2005	2,650	2,807
2004	2,650	2,884



Faculty and Curriculum Development Program

The mission of the Faculty and Curriculum Development Program (FCDP) is to enhance pedagogical and curricular transformation, primarily, although not exclusively, in the areas of diversity and inclusion, in accord with the Mission Statement of the University of San Diego. FCDP programs are open to all full- and part-time faculty, students, staff, and administrators. Please contact Evelyn Kirkley, ext. 4131, ekirkley@sandiego.edu with questions and/or comments. To register, contact Michelle Morris, ext. 4525, michellemorris@sandiego.edu.

Luncheon Colloquium: Biodiversity and the "D" Requirement

Lisa Baird, Biology; Alana Cordy-Collins, Anthropology; Daniel Sheehan, Physics; Mark Woods, Philosophy
Thursday, April 6, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
UC 107

Should the "D" Requirement include diversity of animal and plant species in addition to human cultural diversity? If so, what would that look like? How are ecological and environmental issues integrated in the "D" requirement? What are the similarities and differences among human, animal, and plant diversities? Faculty, students, administrators, and staff, especially those in the natural sciences, are invited to discuss these questions. Please RSVP by April 3.

Luncheon Colloquium: Grade Inflation

Joseph Colombo, Theology and Religious Studies; Michael Strait, Director of Assessment
Thursday, April 20, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
UC 107

Is grade inflation a myth or reality? How does USD's grade distribution compare with other institutions? How have grading patterns changed over the last 20-30 years? Does grade distribution vary according to discipline? How do grades relate to course evaluations, academic freedom, and external assessment of teaching? This workshop explores the meaning of grades to students, faculty, and the University's mission. Please RSVP by April 17.

Women's Dinner: Gender Studies and Women's Center Banquet

Sandra Sgoutas-Emch and Thomas Reifer, Coordinators of the Gender Studies Program; LJ Hartig, Advisor, Women's Center
Thursday, May 4, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
UC 107

In this eleventh annual event, faculty, administrators, staff, and students celebrate graduating Gender Studies minors and Women's Center leaders. Gender Studies minors will present their capstone research, and awards will be presented, including the Linda A.M. Perry Award for Outstanding Achievement in Gender Studies and the American Association of University Women award for outstanding woman's contribution to the USD campus. Come applaud the accomplishments of our (soon-to-be) alumni/ae! Co-sponsored with the Women's Center and Gender Studies Program. Please RSVP by May 1.

Information Technology Services

Winds Change in Information Technology

As your new Vice Provost and CIO, I am excited to be at the University of San Diego at a turning point in information technology that will help set us apart from our peer institutions! The advertisement for the CIO position called for "USD to become one of the '25 most wired' campuses in the United States"; this was a sign that I would be working for a President and Provost interested in having world-class technology.

As the son of a Stanford University professor/administrator, and having worked most of my career in academia, I understand that Information Technology Services (ITS) is a complex service and support organization essential to the success of the academic community. You should also know that I am working to make Information Technology Services a more customer-service oriented organization. I encourage you to visit the ITS Web site (<http://www.sandiego.edu/its/>) to see our new vision and mission statements.



On a University-wide scale, beyond the central IT organization, my view of the future is founded on my experiences at my previous institution and on advancements made at other leading universities. I look forward to your participation in our efforts to lead a profound transformation at USD that will bring modern technology to you and our students.

In the future we will have a state-of-the-art network and a broad array of superior services including: richly developed course management systems, mail, Web, electronic calendars and meeting applications, instant and unified messaging, massive video storage for instructional purposes, mobile/wireless computing, high-performance optical networks connecting USD to the world, super-computing, etc. Our administrative systems will be stable and will provide a means to execute University business effectively and efficiently. Our classrooms will be considered a model for how technology can enhance teaching and learning. Connectivity through optical networks will facilitate new collaborative research and teaching opportunities for faculty on a global scale. The infrastructure and network will function in the background like a utility that is ubiquitous, consistently on, and reliable at all times. The ITS "back office" technical programmers and networking engineers will vanish into the background – their anonymity will be a sign of great success and a reflection that USD possesses a world-class IT infrastructure!

In addition to this new vision, the following *draft* IT strategic goals for the University are fundamental components of a forthcoming IT strategic plan. These broadly stated goals include what we want to accomplish in a 3- to 5-year time frame, and will stay fairly stable from year to year.

Goal #1: Maintain a Reliable, Robust, and Secure Information Technology Environment

Goal #2: Promote Information Technology Services and Support that Meet the Needs of Faculty, Students, and Staff

Goal #3: Enhance Learning and Research

Goal #4: Provide Support for University Administration and Management

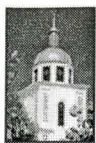
Goal #5: Manage and Plan for Information Technology

Coupled with the vision and goals will be a need to expand the IT staff and augment funding. I am not naive regarding the significant costs for such a transformation – building a state-of-the-art infrastructure, implementing reliable and proven administrative systems, as well as enhancing academic and instructional technology are expensive endeavors, indeed.

As you may have discerned, I believe information technology is an indispensable element of education and research in the 21st century, and this principle can be fully supported only by the thorough integration of information technology into all aspects of the college experience. I am eager to begin this transformation, and, with the Provost's support, I plan to establish an Information Resources Council (IRC) containing significant faculty representation. The IRC will be instrumental in developing the IT strategic plan and building a dialog with the central IT organization; I hope it will also serve as an advisory group to help ITS stay connected to the fundamental needs of faculty and students.

I hope this article has given you a sense of how I see our information technology environment changing and I look forward to having the University community help in our efforts to make this happen! Finally, I would like to reiterate how thrilled I am to be at the center of a technology renaissance at the University of San Diego!

Christopher W. Wessells
Vice Provost and Chief Information Officer



International Services

International Student Enrollment

Fall 2004 – Spring 2006

	<u>Fall 2004</u>	<u>Spring 2005</u>	<u>Fall 2005</u>	<u>Spring 2006</u>
Graduate Students	110	115	134	60
Undergraduate Students	123	122	123	107
English Language Academy	6	5	16	18
Total*	251	254	303	244

*Please note that totals include F-1 doctoral students, J-1 exchange visitors, F-1 practical training students, and students with visas other than F-1 and J-1.

More detailed information about the Spring 2006 international student/scholar statistical report can be found at <http://www.sandiego.edu/internationalservices/demographics.php>.

Trans-Border Institute

April 2006 Event Schedule

For additional information and updates regarding TBI's April event schedule, please log on to <http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/events/> or contact Emily Mellott at Emily-06@sandiego.edu, ext. 4090.

Triple Border Fence Symposium

Friday, May 5

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

KIPJ Theatre and Rotunda

Steve Mumme, Professor of Political Science, Colorado State University

Varia

Sharon McGuire, Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, has had her article, "Agency, Initiative and Obstacles to Health Among Indigenous Immigrant Women from Oaxaca, Mexico," accepted for publication in *Home Health Care Management and Practice*, 18(5).

Vincent Salyers, Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, is the Regional First Prize Winner of Elsevier's Faculty Award for Nursing Excellence. Elsevier is a global publisher of leading health, science, and technical information.

Sr. Betsy Walsh, English, gave a lecture in February on the spirituality and history of Russian Icons in relation to the exhibit on loan from the Timken in Founders Gallery.

Sr. Walsh also presented a paper on "Chaucer's Churls: A Mexican Analogue" at the Medieval Association of the Pacific annual conference in Salt Lake City on March 3.