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Faculty Newsnotes

Faculty News

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Faculty Newsnotes 2008 No. 403

Office of the Provost

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University of San Diego

Faculty Newsnotes

Issue Number 403 // March 10, 2008

Research Corporation Department Development Award

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry received a \$500,000 Department Development award from the Research Corporation that will be matched by funds from USD for a \$1 million-plus investment in USD science. The faculty in the department have committed to leveraging this award with additional research funds from external funding agencies. The award will support additional faculty and staff for the department. Most importantly, it will provide a large amount of support for undergraduate students. Specifically, there will be funding to support academic-year undergraduate research and travel funds for students to present their results at conferences. The department expects that this increase in resources will facilitate progress and attract national recognition for USD as a premier institution known for excellence in undergraduate science teaching and research. The award is one of only six national awards made by Research Corporation in the last 10 years and required extensive evaluation and site visits, along with a five-year development plan.

Professor De Haan Receives Major NSF Grant

David De Haan, Ph.D., associate professor of Chemistry, has received a major research grant from the National Science Foundation, funded through the Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) Faculty Research Projects program and NSF's Directorate of Geosciences. The award will provide \$310,000 over three years for a project entitled Secondary organic aerosol formation by cloud processing of α -dicarbonyl and amine compounds and will support significant involvement by USD undergraduate researchers.

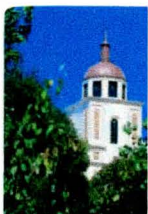
The interaction between pollution, haze, and clouds is still a big uncertainty in predicting Earth's future climate. Dicarbonyl compounds such as glyoxal are common in the atmosphere and have recently been implicated in forming large amounts of haze, but how they do this is not known. De Haan's undergraduate research group, which began exploring the chemistry of these compounds in early 2005, recently identified reactions between dicarbonyls and amines – both present in clouds – that are triggered by droplet evaporation. He and his students will measure reaction rates and characterize the deeply-colored products of these reactions in order to quantify their atmospheric significance. Since the major source of glyoxal in the air of Southern California is from certain components of unburned, evaporated gasoline, this project may suggest a way to reduce haze in the region through gasoline reformulation.

BusinessWeek Ranks USD's Undergraduate Business Program Among Top 50

USD's undergraduate business program is currently ranked 47th on the list of the top 50 programs by *BusinessWeek* magazine. USD is ranked as one of the top five business programs on the west coast, and one of the top two in Southern California. Students gave faculty an A+ grade for teaching effectiveness, the highest such rating of any school in the west.

BusinessWeek only considered schools accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for inclusion in the ranking. From the list of more than 500 undergraduate business programs with AACSB accreditation, the list was narrowed down to the top 96 schools for inclusion in the ranking.





To rank the undergraduate programs, BusinessWeek uses nine distinct measures, including surveys of some 80,000 business majors and more than 600 corporate recruiters, the median starting salaries for graduates, and the number of graduates each program sends on to the preeminent MBA programs. BusinessWeek also calculated an academic quality score for the undergraduate schools by combining SAT scores, faculty-student ratios, class size, the percentage of students with internships, and the number of hours students spend on class work each week.

University Professors, Steber Professors and Herzog Endowed Scholar

USD is proud to present the 2008-09 University Professors, Steber Professors, and Herzog Endowed Scholar:

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

Dr. Robert Donmoyer – School of Leadership and Education Sciences

Dr. Iris Engstrand – College of Arts and Sciences

Professor Hugh Friedman – School of Law

Dr. Loren Margheim – School of Business Administration

Dr. Lukasz Pruski – College of Arts and Sciences

STEBER PROFESSORS

Dr. Maria Pilar Aquino – Department of Theology and Religious Studies

Dr. Gene Rathwohl – School of Business Administration

HERZOG ENDOWED SCHOLAR

Professor Lynne Dallas – School of Law

The five University Professorships are the highest academic honor bestowed university-wide and are given in recognition of outstanding scholarly achievements in teaching and research. The two Steber Professorships recognize substantial contributions in the areas of teaching, research, and service and are limited, by the intent of the donor, Clarence L. Steber, to faculty in the School of Business Administration and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. The Herzog Endowed Scholar award recognizes the meritorious teaching and scholarly productivity of one of the professors in the School of Law.

The university takes great pride in the contributions of these eight faculty to their disciplines and to the University of San Diego, and is delighted their outstanding achievements are being recognized with these prestigious awards. These awards will be formally bestowed at the Fall Convocation on September 12, 2008.

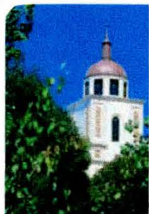
Creative Collaborations 2008

April 24, 2008, 12:15-2:15p.m.

Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, Rooms A-D

The abstracts are in and we are poised to have the largest student participation in *Creative Collaborations* this year. We encourage you to remind your students to attend to see the great work accomplished by their peers in collaboration with our great faculty. There is something for everyone with abstracts being submitted by students working in a great cross-section of disciplines. Stop by for lunch and a walk around the posters. More information is on the website: www.sandiego.edu/creative.





Following Creative Collaborations is a related event. ***Mentoring Undergraduate Research: A Faculty Panel.*** The panel will address the challenges to mentoring undergraduate researchers in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Suggestions regarding how to address these challenges and what resources are available will be discussed. Please join us after the Creative Collaborations poster session for a panel discussion jointly sponsored by the Experiential Education Committee featuring Jennifer Zwolinsky, Psychology Department, Eric Jiang, Mathematics and Computer Science Department, Debbie Tahmassebi, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, and others from **2:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Mother Rosalie Hill Hall Auditorium, Room 116.**

Commencement 2008 – Faculty Guide

On the [Commencement](#) Web site you will find the USD [Faculty Guide](#) for Commencement. This guide includes information about ordering regalia, procession instructions and special reserved parking for faculty who attend Commencement ceremonies.

Please come to celebrate this special day with our graduating students and express your pride in their accomplishments. – Provost Julie Sullivan

Institutional Research and Planning

See the Stat Book on the Institutional Research and Planning Web site for Spring 2008 updates and trend data from previous years:

- Enrollment: Headcount and FTE by level
- Majors: Counts of undergraduate and graduate students for major fields
- SCH/FTE: Student credit hours by subject area and level, with FTE calculations
- Grades: Grade distributions and average GPAs for Fall 2007

Find these data by going to the IRP Web site at www.sandiego.edu/irp. Then click on Stat Book, which is password protected. Use the same login procedures that you use for USD e-mail and MySanDiego. The left menu bar will lead you to the sections described above -- and more!

Faculty Honored at Mortar Board Faculty Appreciation Dinner

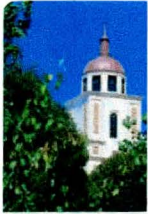
The University of San Diego Mortar Board Chapter held its Eighth Annual Faculty Appreciation Dinner on February 20, 2008 to honor faculty who have made a significant contribution to the academic achievement and personal growth of USD Mortar Board members.

The faculty members who were honored this year were selected because they represent the ideals upon which Mortar Board is based. They were recognized for their academic excellence, superior leadership and dedicated service.

Dr. Colleen Bee
Dr. Jonathan Bowman
Dr. Veronica Galvan

Dr. Matthew McGarry
Dr. Michael Morse
Dr. Rick Olson





Dr. Michael Gonzalez
Dr. Kevin Guerrieri
Dr. Valerie Hohman
Dr. Frank Jacobitz
Dr. Kelli Khuong
Dr. Jeremy Kua

Dr. Diane Pattison
Dr. Gail Perez
Dr. Leigh Plesniak
Dr. Deborah Sundmacher
Dr. Charles Tu
Mrs. Mandy Womack

The Big Read is Launched at Alcalá Park

USD is partnering with the Black Storytellers of San Diego in the Big Read this semester. The Big Read initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. Members of the USD community are encouraged to read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston and participate in book discussions scheduled between April 4 and 23. On Friday, April 25, USD will welcome Valerie Boyd, educator, journalist and author of *Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston*. This keynote event is open to the public. The film version of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* will be shown on Wednesday, April 30. For details about the Big Read at USD, please visit the Center for Educational Excellence Web site at www.sandiego.edu/cee/.

Center for Educational Excellence

The Center for Educational Excellence (CEE) is a campus-wide center that aims to provide a variety of faculty development opportunities. CEE offers consultation and mentoring to faculty on learning, teaching and assessment; facilitates collaboration among academic units and student services; and partners with Information Technology Services to support faculty use of instructional technology. CEE may be contacted directly to set up individual or small group consultations on topics such as defining learning outcomes, teaching and assessment of student learning.

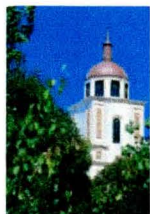
Upcoming Faculty Workshops and Events

Event details may be viewed at www.sandiego.edu/cee/. To register for these events go to www.sandiego.edu/cee/programs/registration.php or contact the CEE at ext. 7402 or cee@sandiego.edu.

New! Arts in Education Series

Co-sponsored with the President's Advisory Board for Inclusion and Diversity, Community Service-Learning and Ethnic Studies Department. Faculty are invited to explore the power of arts for students and teachers and discuss what we gain pedagogically from cultural performing arts. Join inspirational artist educators on Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.

March 12:	New Directions in Hip Hop with grace shinhae jun of bkSOUL and Ant Black of Collective Purpose
March 26:	Polynesian Dance and Culture with Francine Cepeda Blacksher of Troupe Name
April 2:	Puerto Rican Dance, Music, and Culture with Jade Power and Jose Fuste of Areito Borincano
April 9:	Taking the Stage: African American Theatre with Monique Gaffney and Grandison Phelps IV
April 23:	Border Performance with Henry Torres of Lux Boreal



Lunch & Learns

Intellectual Property Rights: Copyright

Wednesday, March 12, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Mother Rosalie Hill Hall, Room 201

GIS: Not Just for Geography

Tuesday, April 1, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Olin Hall, Room 226

Advising Students of Color

Wednesday, April 9, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Mother Rosalie Hill Hall, Room 127

Assessment Workshops

These workshops support faculty as they develop program-level and Core Curriculum assessment plans during the Spring 2008 semester. Workshops are tentatively titled; please contact [Carole Huston](#) or [Chris Procello](#) if there are assessment areas you are interested in as you complete your plans.

Friday afternoons 2-3:00 p.m. in Camino Hall, Room 153

April 4: Assessing Student Learning

April 11: Making Curricular Improvements

Special Campus Luncheon Event – *Where Are We with WASC?*

Thursday, March 27, 12:15-2:15 p.m.

Hahn University Center, Forum B

Preceptor Workshops – *Looking Forward to Fall 2008*

Tuesday, April 15, 12:15 – 2:15 p.m. or Friday, April 18, 3-5:00 p.m.

Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, Rooms H&I

New Faculty Forum – *Service Through Committee Work*

Tuesday, April 22, 12:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Degheri Alumni Center, Room 120

Annual Gender Studies and Women's Center Awards Dinner Banquet

Thursday, May 1, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Hahn University Center, Room 107

Faculty Newsnotes Publication Dates and Deadlines

Listed below are the remaining dates of publication for 2007-2008 Faculty Newsnotes. Please direct all entries to Peggy Agerton, Special Assistant to the Provost, at agertonp@san Diego.edu.

Submission Deadline

April 28, 2008

Publication Date

May 9, 2008





Varia

Christopher Adler, Ph.D., Music Program, in February performed his composition Music for a Royal Palace in Carnegie Hall and at Skidmore College by Ensemble ACJW, Carnegie Hall's new resident ensemble. The work was commissioned by Carnegie Hall and the Silk Road Project in 2006. In addition, he performed a recital of his compositions at the University of Alaska Fairbanks New Music Festival.

Dr. Adler has also just released a new CD of five of his compositions, *Ecstatic Volutions in a Neon Haze*, on innova Recordings, with funding from the Academic Strategic Priorities Fund and Faculty Research Grants.

Bahar Davary, Ph.D., Department of Theology and Religious Studies, gave a talk at the Catholic Worker of San Diego at Our Lady of Refuge Parish in Pacific Beach on Friday, February 15th. The talk which was titled "How Muslims See Christians" addressed a basic Islamic Christology and Mariology and presented a Qur'anic perception of Christianity.

Ali Gheissari, Ph.D., Department of History, presented a research paper on "Heteroglossia and the Sense of an Ending in Persian Diaries: Notes on Etemad al-Saltaneh and Alam," at a thematic panel on "Authorial Models and Ancestral Voices," at the Middle East Studies Association annual conference in Montreal, Canada (November 19, 2007). He also published a research article on "Satire in the Iranian Constitutional Press" (*Iran Nameh*, Vol. 23, Nos. 3-4, Fall-Winter 2007; first published in English in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, Vol. 25, No. 2, 2005); and *Tabriz and Rasht in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1906-1911* (a documentary volume in Persian, Tehran, 2008). Dr. Gheissari is currently working on an edited volume titled *Contemporary Iran: Society, Economy, Politics* (forthcoming by Oxford University Press).

Eric Jiang, Ph.D., Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, recently published a paper entitled "Detecting Spam Email by Radial Basis Functions Networks" in *Journal of Knowledge-based and Intelligent Engineering Systems*, 11(2007), pp. 409-418.

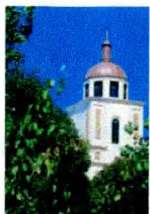
Terence McGoldrick, Ph.D., Department of Theology and Religious Studies, gave a paper in January for the annual day of ecumenical dialogue between the Anglican and Catholic dioceses of San Diego on the topic: "Does it Matter-- Christ in the World Today?"

Alejandro Meter, Ph.D., Department of Languages and Literatures, published a review of *El ojo en el caleidoscopio: las colecciones de textos integrados en la literatura latinoamericana*. (Mexico: UNAM, 2006) in the last issue of *Chasqui: revista de literatura latinoamericana*.

Norm Miller, Ph.D., Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, spoke at the Financial Planner's meeting on Feb. 6 where he discussed subprime issues, commercial real estate, global real estate, exchange traded funds and hedge funds. On Feb. 7, Miller spoke at the University of California-Irvine's Winter Symposium on Urban Research, where he presented "Commercial Real Estate Valuation: Fundamentals vs. Investor Sentiment." Miller also presented the "Economics of Green" at the U.S. Green Building Council-San Diego Chapter's "Green Meet: Green Adds Value" forum Feb. 20.

Miller will present at the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties Conference, "Develop Green: Sustainable Solutions for Commercial Real Estate," in Glendale, Ariz., March 12-13. On March 25, Miller will take part in the San Diego Chapter of Lambda Alpha International's "Economics and Real Estate Working Paper Research Lunch Series."





George Reed, Ph.D., Department of Leadership Studies, directed the International Society on Military Ethics conference held at the University of San Diego on January 24-25, 2008. Over one hundred scholars from around the world met in Mother Rosalie Hill Hall to present papers and discuss the intersection of military service and ethics. Dr. Reed also chaired a panel discussion on Military Obedience and Conscientious Objection.

Tom Reifer, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, has three upcoming presentations: "Asian Regionalism & Global Power in the Longue Durée," Conference on Andre Gunder Frank's Legacy for Critical Social Science, University of Pittsburgh, April 11-13, 2008; "After the American Century: The US & the Changing Social Foundations of the Global System," Global Review Colloquium, Illinois State University, March 6, 2008; and "Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century: The US in the Global System," International Studies Seminar, Illinois State University, March 5, 2008.

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, Ph.D., Department of Theology and Religious Studies, edited a book titled *Buddhist Women in a Global Multicultural Community* (Sukhi Hotu Press, 2008). She also completed a book chapter, "Buddhist Feminist Reflections," for *Reading Buddhist Philosophy*, ed. Jay Garfield and William Edelglass (Oxford University Press, 2008), and the entry on "Buddhist Beliefs and Traditions" for the *Encyclopedia of Death and the Human Experience*. She will present a paper on "Manipulating Minds: Buddhism and Neuroethics" at the Western Commission for the Study of Religion to be held at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena.

Jorge A. Vargas, J.D., School of Law, published two articles: "Conflict of Laws Rules under Mexican Law," *Yearbook of International Law*, Vol.9, published by the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law/ Institut Suisse de Droit Comparé (Sellier, European Law Publishers), 2007; and "Acquisition of Real Estate in Mexico by U.S. Citizens and American Companies" in 9 (2) *San Diego International Law Journal* (Spring 2008, forthcoming). In addition, Prof. Vargas monograph titled: *Mexico and Its Legal System: Access the Most Complete Mexican Law Library in the Internet*, has been posted (March 2008) in the Web site: www.llrx.com (Law and Technology Resources for Legal Professionals) quite popular with legal practitioners, judges and government officials. Prof. Vargas was a panelist in the forum: "Opportunities in International Law for USD Law Students" held at the School of Law on November 15, 2007.

Allison Wiese, M.F.A., Department of Art, is included in the exhibition Inside the Wave at the San Diego Museum of Art. The show, curated by Betti-Sue Hertz, features projects by a select group of artists from the San Diego/Tijuana region working within spheres of alternative cultures to produce thought provoking works that engage issues of everyday life and material culture. The exhibition runs from March 8 through June 1, 2008.

Matt Zwolinski, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, has recently had two papers accepted for publication. "The Separateness of Persons and Liberal Theory" is forthcoming in the *Journal of Value Inquiry*, and "The Ethics of Price Gouging" is forthcoming in *Business Ethics Quarterly*.

