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The Running.

Mayella Vasquez
Asst. Feature Editor

Before his interview began, Father Robert Capone asked for a minute to center himself. “Let me just take a moment to get some fresh air, so that I can be intentional,” Capone said. This moment set the tone for the rest of the interview, which started with a prayer that this article may be of service to the University of San Diego community.

Father Capone is known throughout the USD community as a chaplain for the university. Capone lives in the Alcalá Vista Apartments as a Residential Minister for Cuyamaca Hall, and his main responsibility is teaching the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), which focuses on helping converts transition into the Roman Catholic faith and tradition. But Capone’s journey to find his eventual career started out like many students — at USD as a business major.

A Torero himself, Capone graduated from USD with a degree in business economics. Capone shared that his calling to be a priest had started while he was a student at USD. “In my second year at USD, I went to Florence for a semester,” Capone said. “It was a trip of travel and prayer, and it was there I first felt called to be a priest. This feeling just wouldn’t leave me. I tried to put it out of my mind but feeling just wouldn’t leave me. I knew I had to pursue this calling.”

Soon after he graduated, he worked with Merrill Lynch, a company consistently ranked among the best to work for. “It was a trip of travel and prayer, and it was there I first felt called to be a priest. This feeling just wouldn’t leave me. I tried to put it out of my mind but feeling just wouldn’t leave me. I knew I had to pursue this calling.”

USD students vote
Mikaela Foehr
News Editor

While voting is a central process to American democracy, it is also a confusing process. This is especially true for college students who often have the decision between voting in their home state or town and voting in their college town. This conflict, added to the general confusion of who to vote for and how to register, adds additional roadblocks for young voters.

At the University of San Diego, there are clubs on campus, such as USD Votes, USD College Democrats, and USD College Republicans, that actively try and get students registered. With the California primary day coming up, USD Votes recently held an event to get students registered and informed on Democratic Presidential candidates and local election issues in San Diego.

Vivian Mateos Zuniga, a sophomore involved in USD Votes, articulated the main intention of her organization as the month leading up to the primaries. “USD Votes’ main goal for the primaries is, of course, registering students, but also serving as a resource for our campus community as they prepare to vote in primaries throughout the country,” Mateos Zuniga said. “Primaries are really complex and different depending on what state you’re voting in so we’ve done our best to break it down.”

The state of California will host its primary election on March 3, choosing candidates for both the Republican race. California has a semi-closed presidential primary, meaning that only registered Democrats and unaffiliated voters can vote in the Democratic primary and only registered Republicans can vote in the Republican race. Presidential primaries have truly only existed for 50 years. Before the 1970s, party nominations were decided at conventions in which national representatives would appoint a single candidate for the general election. This method kept the nomination process out of the hands of the general voters. Primary elections are generally still elitist, both in who is running and who is voting.

Caucuses can take multiple hours on a given day that often fall during the work week, making participation less accessible to working-class citizens. Even the campaign itself costs tens of millions of dollars for each candidate, if not more, and air time on televised debates is based on financial donor counts, making candidacy all the more intangible for middle- and lower-class Americans. The nomination is decided by a mix of primary voting systems and caucuses.

See Primaries, Page 2
See Voting, Page 3

Father Robert
From businessman to chaplain

Former USD striker Berry, pictured in his old uniform during his final season.

Berry drafted to MLS
Colombus Crew SC picks former Torero, page 11

Audrey Garrett/The USD Vista

See Sports, page 12

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 15

TheUSDVista

An illustration of the six candidates who participated in the Las Vegas Democratic debate. California joins 13 other states voting in primaries on Super Tuesday.

Former USD striker Berry, pictured in his old uniform during his final season.

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TheUSDVista
The Democratic presidential nominee race intensifies as 14 states brace to vote

Preparing for Super Tuesday

Primaries from Page 1

Joe Biden

Mayoral Bloomberg

Bernie Sanders

Tulsi Gabbard

Amy Klobuchar

Elizabeth Warren

Michael Bloomberg

Tulsi Gabbard

The Democratic senator from Vermont is a frontrunner in the Democratic party, taking two early victories in New Hampshire and, debateably, Iowa. Sanders has a huge margin of victory at 39 delegates with a lot of momentum gearing toward his campaign. He aligns himself with the radical left, self-declaring as a “democratic socialist,” and reaches the largest population of young voters and voters of color. These demographics are critical for a potential victory in the South Carolina and California primaries.

This past week, state officials warned the Sanders campaign and voters that Russian forces are attempting to aid Sanders in securing the nomination followed by assisting the Trump campaign in the general.

New York billionaire and former Republican mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, made a late entry into the race, and his campaign has used an unorthodox strategy buying social media coverage, immense amounts of self financing (spending $400 million since declaring in November 2019), and building an entire platform around beating Trump. He participated in his first debate in Las Vegas on Feb. 19 and was instantly put on the chopping block by his fierce and unapologetic opponents.

Key notes include his financial worth of an estimated $60 billion, allegations of sexual harassment and gender discrimination in the work place (and the non-disclosure agreements attached to them), and his Republican roots. His polling numbers are debated as his campaign has not followed any usual route, but remains a strong contender for the nomination if he can gather late voters.

Joe Biden

though he led in the earlier part of this presidential race, former Vice President Biden has fallen recently to competitors Sanders and Buttigieg. Former vice president to Barack Obama, Biden relies heavily on older Democrats looking for a leader with experience who miss the days of 2008-2016. He pulled highly upon announcing his candidacy until December, but has fallen short since the beginning of the new year. He draws a lot of attention as one of the highest name values of the primary elections.

Amy Klobuchar

Klobuchar has gained a lot of momentum as a leading female candidate in this race. Senator Klobuchar is a moderate democrat from Minnesota who supports the Labor Party. She became a high-profile candidate by placing in the top three of the Iowa Caucus and New Hampshire primary, despite a hit in Nevada falling behind Warren in fourth with roughly 5% of the vote. Her late surge coincides greatly with the decline of the Warren and Biden campaigns.

Tom Steyer

barely beating Gabbard, Tom Steyer is also a low-tier candidate whose campaign is run mostly on progressive climate change policy initiatives. Most well known as a California billionaire, Tom Steyer’s campaign hasn’t led to much as he only received less than 4% of votes in New Hampshire with similar numbers in Nevada, the second lowest scorer of those still running. He self-finances most of his campaign and has spent nearly $800 million since declaring, his candidacy in July 2019.

Bernie Sanders

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Students get ready to vote

The meaning of voting and the challenges that go with it vary among USD students

Voting from Page 1

The California primary day coincides with “Super Tuesday.” The term “Super Tuesday” refers to the fact that 14 states are holding primaries that day, meaning 14 states are voting on who should be the Democratic Party’s presidential nominee. Although the media, and many forms of popular culture, tout the importance of voting in all aspects of local elections, the process of voting means different things to different people.

Junior Melissa Mariscal has been a consistent voter in California since she turned 18, and holds herself personally responsible for her vote and chooses to not allow herself to participate in races of which she is uneducated. “I’m planning on voting but I need to educate myself first,” Mariscal said. “I’m not just going to vote for someone or some office that I know nothing about.”

For other students, voting is just a civic duty, but part of their culture. Helen Skelend, a first-year from Oregon, has grown up counting down the days until she could vote. “I was raised with an activist’s mindset, so I’ve always been excited for when I was old enough to vote.”

“I was raised with an activist’s mindset, so I’ve always been excited for when I was old enough to vote,” - Helen Skelend

Being active in the community in Oregon, which made it so choosing not to vote was never an option for her.

“We are excited for next year and the next election, but we still have to get the students to vote,” - Brandon McCreary

Sophomore Giacomo Radaelli stated that he had intended to vote, but was unaware of how to register and was disappointed to learn he had missed the deadline. “I wish I knew more about the registration process because I want to vote but didn’t know the deadline passed,” Radaelli said.

Riadelli would also be a first-time voter, and it is commonly said that the first vote is the most difficult. It is harder for a number of reasons, including not understanding the registration process, not knowing where to find information on the elections, not being familiar with the offices on the ballot, and not knowing where or how to vote.

However, political scientists have found that voting in elections is habit forming, and according to a 2003 Yale University experimental study, once someone casts their first ballot, they are much more likely to vote again.

The registration deadline for the California primary passed, students may still be able to vote in their home states. Additionally, there is still a general election in November that students can register for in their respective states.

Campus housing availability

Renovations in Camino and Founders Halls cause a first-year housing shuffle

Although the University of San Diego is growing in population, its on-campus living situations do not reflect it. With a two-year on-campus living requirement, consistent enrollment growth, and the closing of two first-year living spaces, the fall of 2020 will be a logistical feat for Residential Life to accomplish.

According to USD enrollment data, the University of San Diego is currently experiencing the stress of trying to secure housing for roughly 60 students each year. This has resulted in a growth of over 1,000 undergraduate students in less than 20 years. The last two years consisted of a spike in first-year enrollment, placing stress on housing availability.

Currently, students are finishing applications for on-campus housing in the next academic year, with applications closing Feb. 28. Next year will be especially complicated with the closing and renovation of Camino and Founders Halls for the entire academic year.

According to the Department of Residential Life’s website, students who would have been in Camino will live in the San Antonio de Padua (SAPs) living space, and students who would have been in Founders will be added to the Valley B living space. This is impactful because SAPs is a residence area normally open to sophomores and according to a 2003 Yale University experimental study, students who have found that voting in elections is habit forming, and according to a 2003 Yale University experimental study, once someone casts their first ballot, they are much more likely to vote again.

The USD Vista office is located on the fourth floor of the Student Life Center.

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Home is where the vote is
College students should thoughtfully choose whether to register in college town

Eric Boose
Opinion Editor

A member of Arizona’s state House of Representatives thinks students should not be allowed to register to vote using their campus address. State Representative Bob Thorpe, of Flagstaff, Arizona, has proposed a law that would make it illegal for college students in the state to list college residence halls as their address when registering to vote.

So much of what state and local governments decide impacts college students that it would be downright undemocratic to prohibit them from registering to vote in the city where they attend school.

Thorpe contends that college students, who do not spend the full year on campus, are canceling out the votes of residents who live the entire year in Arizona. Thorpe’s bill therefore prohibits voters from registering at any address where they “do not intend to reside 12 months of the year,” according to The Arizona Republic.

At least in terms of voter registration, then, I am Bob Thorpe’s ideal of a college student. Despite attending the University of San Diego, I am registered to vote over a thousand miles away, in my hometown of Spokane, Washington. However, I bristle at Thorpe’s suggestion that college students should not be allowed to register using their campus addresses for a couple of reasons.

First, Bob Thorpe is a Republican, who won his last election by fewer than 600 votes. College students, including those in Arizona, are more likely to vote for Democrats. The Arizona Republic found that of voters registered in University of Arizona residences, 47% are Democrats, while only 20% are Republicans. At Arizona State University, 53% are Democrats, and 17% are Republicans. The reasoning for this is non-partisan. These students have legitimate interests in being represented in the cities where they spend a substantial amount of time.

Second, and arguably more importantly, college students have legitimate interests in being able to vote in the city in which they attend school. Basically, college students spend about eight months in their college town — 75% of the year. That is eight months during which college students are subject to the laws of that state and ordinances of that city. If a student is registered to vote in a different state or even a different city, that student spends three-quarters of their year obeying laws and ordinances passed by legislators they had no say in electing.

To get into some more specific examples, students are more likely to interact with the police in their college town, purely by virtue of spending more time there. Students who are registered somewhere else have practically no influence over the conduct of law enforcement in their college town. Students are far more likely to pay rent in their college town than their hometown as well. Being registered elsewhere means students have little-to-no say over the housing laws which are affecting them. For students who work while in school, a city’s minimum wage is ultimately decided by the local government.

State and local officials make a multitude of decisions that affect college students, from overseeing law enforcement to changing the minimum wage. In San Diego, our local officials make rules about parking, they fund our public transportation system, and they set local property and sales taxes. So much of what state and local governments decide impacts college students that it would be downright undemocratic to prohibit them from registering to vote in the city where they attend school.

Ultimately, every college student should be able to choose whether they register in their hometown or their college town. I have specific reasons for remaining registered in my hometown, but even then, I have considered changing that and registering as a San Diego voter. I will not say that every college student should register in their college town. There does not seem to be a blanket “right answer” to the question of where students should vote.

However, students should make a considered choice of where to register, and they should register to vote. And no matter where they are registered, they should vote.

California allows for same-day voter registration.

People who wish to vote, but have not yet registered can register at a polling place on election day and cast their vote.

Degeheri Alumni Center will serve as a polling place for the California primary on March 3.

Audrey Garrett
Cartoonist

“don’t be intimidated, we bought our tickets just like everyone else”

The views expressed in the editorial and op-ed sections are not necessarily those of The USD Vista staff, the University of San Diego, or its student body.
On Jan. 2, 2020, President Donald J. Trump ordered the U.S. Armed Forces to conduct an airstrike in Iraq which resulted in the killing of Major General Qassem Soleimani. Soleimani was the leader of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force, an arm of the Iranian military designated as a foreign terrorist group by the U.S. Department of State. On Friday, the House Foreign Affairs Committee released a legally mandated, two-page unclassified White House memo stating the reasons for the ordered assassination of Soleimani. This memo showed the American people that Trump illegally assassinated Major General Qassem Soleimani.

Following its release, New York Democrat Eliot Engel, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, stated his take on the implications of the memo. “This official report directly contradicts the president’s false assertion that he attacked Iran to prevent an imminent attack against United States personnel and embassies,” Engel said. “The administration’s explanation in this report makes no mention of proving there was an imminent threat that required them to strike in less time than it would take to get Congressional approval. The Trump administration had previously stated that there was a threat so imminent and top secret, that not even Congress could know about it. At least, that was the story President Trump told in a press conference at Mar-a-Lago following the airstrike. The official military justification, provided to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs as required by law, makes no attempt to substantiate the president’s claims of imminence.

In the memo, the White House claimed that Trump had the power to order the airstrike under the Constitution and Congressional War Powers Act, as necessary and appropriate to “defend U.S. national security against the continuing threat posed by Iraq” and to “enforce all relevant Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.” The AUMF was created for the reasons stated above, to not be abused by the current administration to bypass congressional approval.

On Jan. 13, President Trump reiterated his claim that Soleimani posed an imminent threat.

As a matter of international law, the strike targeting Soleimani in Iraq was taken in United States national self-defense, as recognized in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, in response to a series of escalating armed attacks that Iran and Iran-supported militias had already conducted against the United States. The United States reported the air strike to the United Nations Security Council on January 8, 2020, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Although the threat of further attack existed, recourse to the inherent right of self-defense was justified sufficiently by the series of attacks that preceded the January 2 strike.

A White House memo lists retaliation for previous attacks, not an imminent threat as justification for killing Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani.

Donal J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump
The Fake News Media and their Democrat Partners are working hard to determine whether or not the future attack by terrorist Soleimani was “imminent” or not, & was my team in agreement. The answer to both is a strong YES., but it doesn’t really matter because of his horrible past!

On Jan. 13, President Trump reiterated his claim that Soleimani posed an imminent threat.

In the memo, the White House claimed that Trump had the power to order the airstrike under the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) in Iraq. The Trump administration’s assertion that the 2002 Iraq AUMF now authorizes force against “threats to, or stemming from, Iraq” is problematic and contrary to what Congress intended. Congress passed the 2002 Iraq AUMF to authorize the war against Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq. It permitted the president to use the armed forces as “necessary and appropriate” to enforce all relevant Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq. The AUMF was created for the reasons stated above, to not be abused by the current administration to bypass congressional approval.

No one is sitting here saying Soleimani was a great man. But, the precedent that was set by taking out a public military figure on official business of a legitimate state is extremely dangerous. Not to mention, the White House responded to the threat of Iranian retaliation with threats to bomb sites important to the culture of Shia muslims, who make up 90% of Iran’s population. The bombing of such sites would be a violation of the Geneva Convention and the Hague Convention, which would classify those strikes as war crimes.

The repercussions of this administration’s handling of the Soleimani assassination will be felt for years to come as new precedent is laid out and a very distinct line is drawn in the sand. There is a reason why Congress has the power to declare war. Having a temperamental man with volatile Twitter fingers in the Oval Office is dangerous to not only our foreign policy, but our national security. With the memo showing there was no imminent threat, we have started seeing what too much executive power looks like. This time, we could find ourselves at the brink of war. That is how serious the ramifications of Trump’s actions could be.
WHAT'S IN YOUR LUNCHBOX?

MADDIE BAILEY
Senior Maddie Bailey is a big fan of packing lunch for school, because it is a great way to save money and eat healthy. One of her favorite school lunches is a spinach salad with hard boiled eggs, tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkin seeds, occasionally all over quinoa. Another one of her other go-to packed lunches are homemade bowls, with sweet potatoes, zucchini, and a protein source like tofu or tempeh. Bailey believes packing lunch for school can be done easily, and can also help promote a plant-based diet, as vegetarian lunches are usually a better choice as they don’t include ingredients that can go bad without refrigeration.

CAMERON FRUEHE
Senior Cameron Fruehe doesn’t always pack lunch, but when she does she loves to get creative with a sandwich and sides. Fruehe is a fan of using different proteins in her sandwiches, switching between deli meats like turkey, ham, tuna, or other alternative proteins. One of her favorite sandwiches to bring is a tuna salad sandwich on sourdough bread, with avocado, tomato and lettuce. She makes her own tuna salad as well, with mayonnaise, avocado and chopped celery for an added crunch. In her earlier days at USD, Fruehe always bought lunch at school, but now that she lives off campus she has enjoyed bringing food with her when she is going to be on campus for longer amounts of time.

NAT YEE
Junior Nat Yee ensures high energy levels for rigorous school days by preparing a protein-packed lunch. Yee makes a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on special, protein-enriched bread, as well as a beef patty on an onion bun, totaling his lunch’s protein count to an impressive 42 grams. Yee’s goal is to eat 20 grams of protein every two hours to gain weight.

GRACE GETCHELL
Arguably one of the most impressive packed lunches on USD’s campus is Grace Getchell’s assortment of healthy and delicious options. Getchell typically makes stuffed bell peppers as the main feature of her lunch, and then brings blackberries, celery, brie, roasted chickpeas, and cucumbers for snacks. With long days on campus away from home, Getchell knows how important it is to bring a variety of food choices that will sustain her throughout her busy days.

ANIL NANKANI
Anil Nankani loves bringing lunch to campus with him. Anil’s packed lunches typically feature some kind of meat as a protein, in addition to assorted vegetables, half an avocado and cauliflower rice. His lunchtime formula shows that getting into a routine with your meals makes packing lunch second nature.

Spread by Alee Pingol/The USD Vista; Content by Lizzy Jennings/The USD Vista; Illustrations by Audrey Garrett/The USD Vista
Alumni priest comes full circle

Father Robert Capone leads USD community in faith as a chaplain of the university

As years passed, Capone further realized his passion for community outreach and supporting those in need.

“The domestic church is the human family and I wanted to support the human family,” Capone said. “Engagement in the community was important.”

In 2017, 17 years after his ordination, Capone found his way to USD, where he joined the University Ministry (UM) team.

“I felt my calling was leading me to a new place,” Capone said. “I wanted to teach but I don’t have a Ph.D., so I was offered a place in University Ministry.”

In addition to his responsibilities with UM, Capone is now also the chaplain for the men’s basketball team.

Junior Antonio Zamora, a student manager for the men’s basketball team, shared the role that Capone has on the team.

“Father Rob always makes it a point to talk with the players and be a support system for them,” Zamora said. “These conversations often motivate and influence his prayers that he leads before every game and pre-game meal. Father Rob is there every step of the way and plays an integral part of our success as a team.”

Zamora also expressed the influence Capone has had on his life.

“Father Rob has been there for me through moments of joy, despair, and the in between,” Zamora said. “I remember when my godbrother passed away and Father Rob made it a point to console me one-on-one to help bring closure at a time I desperately needed it. I’m thankful for his presence in my life.”

Capone expressed how he views his place within the team, sharing that he acts as a support system for the players.

“Being a priest is challenging, but it is so satisfying,” Capone said.

Years later, Capone is still gratified by his vocation and finds fulfillment in playing an active role in the USD community.
Memories of a past life

Brenda Nuñez explores childhood memories of Mexico in her senior thesis project

Catherine Silvey
Feature Editor

Last Thursday, senior visual arts student Brenda Nuñez presented her senior thesis project, “Sueños y Recuerdos,” (Dreams and Memories) an exhibit she created in the Visual Arts Center Gallery that was displayed throughout last week. Nuñez started her presentation by explaining where the idea and focus of her presentation emerged from and why this piece was so personal for her. “I knew I wanted to focus on one thing and that was my Mexican-American identity,” Nuñez said. “I wasn’t sure how it was going to go about it, but I knew I was going to make up my topic because of my initial idea to focus on things I was uncomfortable with and things that I took from Mexico.” Nuñez cited a painting by Frida Kahlo as a source of inspiration for her art, noting that being caught between two identities can create a space of isolation she wished to capture in her exhibit.

“A piece of work that’s always stood out to me is a piece by Frida Kahlo titled ‘Self Portrait Along the Border Line Between Mexico and the United States,’” Nuñez said. “In this painting, she’s standing along the border and to the left you see Mexico, a beautiful place with colorful flowers and roots, and to the right we see the industrialized country of the United States. Though she was Mexican and from Mexico, I looked at this and related to it as a feeling of feeling stuck or unattached or displaced. So that’s definitely mine. I knew I needed to connect to that feeling.” Nuñez expressed feeling simultaneously connected to and detached from Mexico, as she was born and lived there during the first years of her life. However, when she was four years old, her mother took Nuñez and her sisters and drove to California, to have a fresh start for their family in the United States. While she had not talked much with her mother about their past life in Mexico, Nuñez shared that her mother immediately opened up when Nuñez asked for her stories of her past life.

“When my mother left Mexico, she told me she just kept driving and driving, even though I can’t remember the actual car ride.”

-Brenda Nuñez

Nuñez noted that the video was meant to capture the nature of these memories and keep them, like the images on the wall. “I decided to ask my mom questions,” Nuñez said. “To my surprise, she pulled out boxes and boxes of documents that she had kept for over 20 years. She had letters and emails and family photos and this wedding video that I had never seen before. When I look at them, it just makes me become aware of how badly my mom fought for our safety and how important our family is to her, that everything she’s told me in my life wasn’t made up and wasn’t exaggerated.”

It was with both these documents and her long-held feelings of discomfort surrounding her past that Nuñez set forth in creating her exhibit. The exhibit is centered around black and white photographs hung on the wall of a desert landscape resembling the terrain of the border. “The images represent a feeling of isolation and you can’t really locate where they’re taken,” Nuñez said. “It looks like a border land, so you can’t tell if it’s here or in Mexico.”

Some of the photographs have scratches caused from the development process, creating a distortion in the final image. This was not intentional, and actually a mistake that almost led Nuñez to throw out the images. However, upon taking a second look at the photographs, Nuñez liked the way the scratches looked and felt that they gave the project new meaning. “The physical scratches in the photograph appear to make it look like it’s fading or burning like a memory you can’t hold onto any longer,” Nuñez said. “The scratches also make the images appear like a dream, like a more surreal event. I also think that these images take an imaginative approach — I think they borrow concepts from magical realism. They take a realistic narrative — my life story — and combine it with these surreal images that I’ve also created of what Mexico looks like.”

In addition to the photographs, Nuñez created a two-minute video that was played on loop during the duration of the exhibit. The video spliced together clips from her parents’ wedding videos with clips of a desert landscape. “To me, it was a foreign and strange concept to see them together, so I thought it was important to showcase,” Nuñez said. “I combined them with clips of the desert that I took recently because I wanted to connect them to the images on the wall.”

Nuñez noted that the video was meant to capture the nature of memory as a dream-like state. “When my mother left Mexico, she told me she just kept driving and driving, even though I can’t remember the actual car ride,” Nuñez said. “When I think of it, I think it’s just like this never-ending landscape. It’s like you can never see the end of the road or get away from what you’re trying to get away from. So I cut these clips in the desert in and out, kind of in a way where they’re flashing back and forth like memories flash through your head.”

Another component of the exhibit was the inclusion of lit religious candles and colorful flowers to represent Nuñez’s Mexican heritage. Nuñez used real flowers in her exhibit to represent the effect of time on memories, tying them to the central theme of her presentation. “I also chose to use real flowers because I wanted them to slowly wilt and fall off and fade and die, just like my memories have over time,” Nuñez said. “As badly as I want to contain these memories and keep them, like these flowers inside these boxes, they’ll still fade and change.”

Nuñez concluded her presentation by noting that the process of creating this exhibit made her ultimately more comfortable with and connected to her Mexican-American identity. “‘Sueños y Recuerdos’ is a body of work that explores my Mexican-American identity, but also resurrects repressed memories,” Nuñez said. “Though I’m still not ready to return to Mexico, I’ve learned through this process the importance of my culture and the permanent, deep connection to it.”

The visual arts senior thesis exhibitions will continue throughout the rest of the semester, presented by the graduating majors. Each week a different senior turns the Visual Arts Center Gallery into a new exhibit. Thesis presentations take place on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Visual Arts Center Gallery in Sacred Heart Hall behind Camino.
The Lindsay J. Cropper Memorial Writer Series is back with author Alexander Chee

Shelby Todd
Asst. A&C Editor

This month’s Lindsay J. Cropper Memorial Writer Series event brought another opportunity for Toreros to hear from inspiring authors with a reading by novelist Alexander Chee. An esteemed writer whose popular works include the novels “Edinburgh” and “The Queen of the Night,” and the essay collection “How To Write An Autobiographical Novel,” Chee makes it clear that his background as a Korean American has shaped his career. He shared with the audience that 20 years ago, getting his first novel about a gay Korean American contending with the trauma of sexual assault published was not an easy task. However, Chee’s belief in his work and persistence to push past rejection got that novel published and allowed him to grow as an author. Chee has been a prominent part of the breakout of Asian-American authors in the literary landscape and continues to advocate for further inclusion of diverse voices in mainstream literature.


Chee is a professor of English and creative writing at Dartmouth College. During the Cropper event, Chee read excerpts from two upcoming novels, currently titled “Children of Atlantis” and “The Prince.” Chee’s first excerpt demonstrated his skill as a writer, creating vivid imagery for audience members of the real-life events of Jacques Cousteau’s underwater colonies in the 1960s. His ability to captivate the audience with a personal perspective on a lesser-known historical event was remarkable. His second reading was a scene from his novel that depicted realistic relationships and explored themes of diversity and sexuality. Both of these projects have yet to be released, but the excerpts read provided anticipation for the final pieces. Many classes in the English department have been able to embrace the Cropper series and align class material with the real-life events of the story. Chee’s ability to captivate the audience with a personal perspective on a lesser-known historical event was remarkable. His second reading was a scene from his novel that depicted realistic relationships and explored themes of diversity and sexuality. Both of these projects have yet to be released, but the excerpts read provided anticipation for the final pieces.

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After the reading, Chee answered audience questions and gave students advice on finding motivation and creating original content that is based on personal experiences. Like all of the Cropper Series events, students, faculty, and the public were once again given a great opportunity to expand their knowledge and get inspired by an extraordinary author.

The Lindsay J. Cropper Memorial Writer Series will be finishing its 2019-2020 series with a showcase of the students in the English Department’s Creative Writing emphasis. Students completing the program will get the chance to demonstrate a culmination of their learning by reading an excerpt from their own works. The event will take place on April 30 in Mother Rosalie Hill Hall Room 102 with a dessert reception to follow.

Humans Of San Diego

Welcome to the newest addition to The USD Vista, “Humans of San Diego.” Here you will find photos and quotes from San Diego’s locals and visitors alike. Enjoy their slices of San Diego life, and get a chance to meet those outside the USD bubble.

Roller Blading Bliss

“Mike on vacation. Currently lives in Boston and previously lived San Diego, getting ready to blade at one of his favorite places on earth, Mission Bay! (and only a matter of time until he escapes the cold winters of Boston and moves back to SD!)”

—Mike Rogers, Mission Bay CA, One December morning, 2019.

—Photos and content by Audrey Garrett—
Of the thousands of Division I college athletes, very few ever get the opportunity to play their sport professionally. Before the start of 2020, seven University of San Diego former players were able to extend their careers past the collegiate level. But on Jan. 9, one more name was added to that list — Miguel Berry.

Those who got the chance to watch him play remember his striking speed with the ball and remarkable footwork that allowed him to blow past defenders and score 17 goals in his senior season alone. Berry ended his career as a Torero tied as the nation’s top goal scorer in a single season. In addition to being named the WCC Co-Player of the Year, Berry also made the United Soccer Coaches All-American Second Team, the All-WCC First Team, and a CoSIDA Academic All-American.

Despite all he accomplished while playing at USD, Berry had his sights set on playing professionally since he first started playing with his brother.

“There are videos of my brother and I kicking a ball back and forth before I even turned two,” Berry said. “And since then I always just wanted to play professionally.”

Berry’s dream of playing professional soccer became a reality when he was drafted seventh overall by the Columbus Crew SC in the Major League Soccer Superdraft.

I already had a few missed calls from my agent and Coach Quinn,” Berry said. “Henry Lander and I watched together, which isn’t surprising to people who know us because we’ve essentially done everything together the last three and a half years.”

Berry’s career with Crew SC began with training camps in Chula Vista, California, and Cancun, Mexico. After returning from Mexico on Feb. 6, Berry and the Black and Gold headed to Tucson, Arizona to participate in the 2020 Visit Tucson Sun Cup until Feb. 22.

“Trainings are meticulously planned and very intense,” Berry said. “You feel pressure to perform every day, but that is ultimately really exciting because it makes you a better player. It’s been an incredible experience thus far.”

Last season, Columbus finished tenth in the Eastern Conference of the MLS. Reporting a total of 39 goals and allowing 47, Berry’s goal-scoring abilities will be a key asset for the team entering their 2020 season.

While making it to the professional level has been a lifelong goal for Berry, he has yet to be satisfied and continues to work toward his future goals.

“My immediate goal is to get better,” Berry said. “Every day in training I get to learn from incredible players, and I really want to be the best player I can be. I’m a long way from doing that, but every day I’m focused on making a conscious effort to get there.”

Berry has yet to officially sign his MLS contract. There is little doubt that Berry will continue to improve with Crew SC, but whatever the future holds, Miguel Berry’s legacy will leave a lasting mark on USD sports. His name may even be remembered as one of the greatest in Torero soccer history.
Utah sweeps San Diego
USD softball drops to 7-8 on the season after back-to-back losses at home

Chris Spiering
Sports Editor

The University of San Diego softball team hosted University of Utah as the Utes came into town for a double-header against the Toreros Monday afternoon. After losing both games, USD fell to 7-8 on the season while Utah improved to 12-2.

Game one lasted over three hours as the Utes took a 6-4 lead in the ninth inning with a two-run homerun over the left-center field fence. That lead would be enough for Utah as USD went hitless in the bottom half of the inning, which closed out the game.

Both teams were scoreless until the top of the third inning where the Utes scored three runs off a triple by third baseman Ellessa Bonstrom.

USD would respond with four runs in the fourth inning. First-year designated player (DP) Clareese Santiago got the scoring started with a two RBI single, followed by a triple from sophomore first baseman Lauren Hendrickson to tie the game at three. Junior shortstop Halle Kyler then doubled to take the lead 4-3, and the Toreros had a lead going to the fifth inning.

Utah would find a way to tie it up in the top half of the fifth inning as the runner reached on a fielder’s choice, scoring a run.

After three scoreless innings, the game went into extra innings where the Utes capitalized off a leadoff double in the ninth. Bonstrom hit a two-run shot to take the lead, which would seal the game one for Utah, 6-4.

Senior second baseman Sara Silveyra discussed the emotions of losing in a heartbreaking fashion. “We were right there with them the entire time,” Silveyra said. “We just didn’t take advantage of the opportunities we had and I think we could have executed a lot better. But we were right there the entire time.”

Despite losing a close game to a fierce component, Head Coach Jessica Pistole noticed her team’s efforts in the loss. “I think we have battled through some tough pressure situations,” Pistole said. “The reality is we didn’t execute with our opportunities. We just need to be better in those areas and we can certainly come out on top in those games.”

Game two was a bit of a different story, compared to the efforts in game one. Sophomore pitcher Madison Earnshaw was on the mound for the Toreros. It was a smooth start of the game for Earnshaw as she got through the first two innings unaltered.

The top third inning was led off by a double by the Utes. The scoring started for Utah when there was an infielid single hit to Earnshaw and the runner beat the throw to first. It was a heads up play by the Utes’ base runners as the runner scored from second base and the player who hit the ball advanced to second base. A few batters later, Earnshaw registered her third strikeout of the game — which ended the inning leaving the bases loaded. The score was 1-0 after the third inning.

Earnshaw was back out for the fourth inning where it escalated quickly. She started the inning by loading the bases without registering an out. A two-run single by Elisia Espinosa made the score 3-0. The next at bat was a grounder to second base where Silveyra tried throwing the runner out at home, but was called safe. The score was 4-0 as there were still zero outs.

That would be all for Earnshaw as she was replaced by first-year pitcher Courtney Rose. Earnshaw went 3.0 innings giving up six hits and five earned runs.

The Utes crossed one more run in after the ground out to Silveyra; where this time she took the easy out instead of forcing a throw to home.

The score was 5-0 going into the bottom of the fourth inning. USD got their first base runner in the fourth inning after first-year catcher Elisa Princic got plunked on the foot. She would then advance to third base after two past balls, but the Toreros couldn’t get Princic home.

After a lead-off double in the fifth inning, Utah capitalized with two runs off back-to-back singles upping the score to 7-0.

In the bottom half, the Toreros registered their first hit of the game with a single to the left side of the infield by Hendrickson. This was followed by an error by the Utes’ shortstop and USD had two runners on base for the first time in the game. But, sophomore third baseman Sophia Bjork ended the inning with a ground out to third.

After Utah scored their eighth run of the game in the sixth inning, USD was forced to score a run or else they would lose off the “run-rule,” also known as the mercy rule.

Senior catcher Madison Casiano attempted to rally the Toreros in the bottom of the sixth with a single to center, but two-straight groundouts secured the Utes run-rule victory.

Pistole thought that the team could have played better in game two, despite the long and intense game one. “I don’t think we really showed up much to play that second game,” Pistole said. “Offensively, (the pitcher) was throwing the same pitch and we weren’t making adjustments. I think we need to be able to create that energy and fire regardless of what the other team is doing.”

The Toreros now sit at a losing record (7-8) so far in the season but Silveyra knows that this record does not define the team. “I think we are going to bounce back just fine,” Silveyra said. “This team has a lot of fight and I think losing like this is actually going to push us to be better in the future.”

San Diego is back in action on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. The Toreros take on Long Beach State to open up the San Diego Classic at the USD Softball Complex.