UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO  •  SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

THE USD VISTA

VOL. 58
ISSUE 3

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A limited return to campus

What USD’s new plan means for the university’s faculty and students

EMMA VALDISERRI
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

As of Friday, Aug. 29, USD’s President James T. Harris III, D.Ed. announced that the university will be making efforts for a limited return to its campus. Despite San Diego remaining under a stay-at-home order, the county has introduced new regulations for the Institutions of Higher Education on Sept. 1, allowing USD to make a limited return. Certain classes will be able to have in-person learning, and a limited number of students will be able to move in on campus to hopefully attain some level of the college experience they’ve hoped for since March.

Classes that are scheduled to return to campus will do so beginning the week of Sept. 21. While many faculty members and students are eager to return to campus, the classes that are planned to return are specific to certain labs, capstone courses, and other specialized courses. The buildings where these courses are being held will be open and will require those who enter to wear face coverings.

Under normal circumstances, USD’s campus hosts countless university events and activities. Despite situations having changed due to the pandemic, there are parts of campus that are and will be open for faculty and students to enjoy as the university is making efforts to restore a degree of normalcy on campus.

As of right now, the Student Life Pavilion (SLP), Hahn University Center, and Learning Commons are all open for individual studying. San Diego County has not permitted libraries to open; however, USD’s Copley Library will continue providing faculty and students with the online services and resources they need. As can be expected, face coverings are required in these spaces for individuals to feel safe and comfortable in their environment. USD is also experimenting with options for campus activities that can be conducted safely.

For faculty and students in need of some exercise between in-person or Zoom classes as the University returns, USD’s Campus Recreation plans to reopen the Bosley Fitness Center (BFC) and the Sports Center (SC), which includes the outdoor pool and adjoining tennis and pickleball courts, on Monday, Sept. 21.

Along with the return of classes and re-opening of university facilities, there is also a plan to have students who’ve expressed interest in on-campus housing to move in over the weekend of Sept. 18. According to Cynthia Avery, Ph.D., assistant vice president of Student Life at USD, a survey was sent to over 1,000 students who previously had a housing assignment. Of those students, approximately 550 indicated an interest in relocating to campus; most of these are first-year

The Student Life Pavilion is currently open for individual studying.

Paulina Oles/The USD Vista

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students. Housing will be prioritized for first- and second-year students, students who live in a different time zone, and students who are enrolled in labs and capstone courses. Most of the university’s residence halls will be open for housing with the exception of Founders and Camino Hall, which are both currently under construction, and Valley B, which has shared bathrooms. While certain residence halls can normally house up to four students per room, dorm rooms and bathrooms will be limited to one student each.

As part of USD’s plan for a safe and limited return, all individuals who visit campus are required to undergo a daily screening process at a screening station where their temperature is taken and afterwards they are given wristbands which allows them entry into any of the open buildings. Members living on campus or those who make consistent visits for work and class will receive daily emails from the USD COVID Action Team. These emails ask the members to participate in screening via a link.

As fall and flu season approaches, USD strongly recommends its members to get the flu vaccine as an extra safety precaution. The university is making strong efforts to keep the campus community safe, healthy, and COVID-free.

Since Aug. 24, San Diego State University has recorded 184 positive cases of COVID-19 on their campus, forcing them to pause their in-person classes for four weeks. USD says it has been very careful in monitoring the pandemic within the county and across nearby and local universities, and is still planning to move ahead with its limited return agenda.

“We have heard from many students and families about their strong desire to be on campus to engage in their learning,” Avery said. “For some students, this is the best learning environment for them.”

USD is driven to get members of its community back on campus in a safe manner. However, for this to happen, the university must rely heavily on its faculty and students to be personally responsible both on and off campus. Students are strongly urged to follow the student guide for the fall semester and comply with the student pledge that recognizes the importance of the health and safety measures for all Toreros.
As ASG Elections roll around, obstacles run rampant

The struggle of holding elections over the Internet has been real

TYLER PUGMIRE
NEWS EDITOR

As election season for Associated Student Government (ASG) was moved to the fall this year due to COVID-19, it was clear from the start that election season would not be the same this year for the students who participate in ASG. In electing the president and vice president last spring, debates were held over Zoom and streamed over YouTube for the public to see. That election in April has now given ASG their leadership team to carry them through COVID-19.

Joey Abeyta, president of ASG and Justin Daus, vice president of ASG have now been put into a now distanced elections. “The top two priorities we have in this election will be A: trying to inform students about the election and B: the perpetual struggle to always get out and vote.” Abeyta said.

“We anticipate that voter turnout will drop but we are obviously going to continue to fight and make sure that students know the issues on campus and how we are going to be able to solve them.” Instead of having posters on the walls of campus, and being able to promote one’s brand by getting in-person engagement from the USD community, candidates are now forced to post their flyers and make their pitches from their own social media, or attract voters through their mini-biographies on the ASG website. The @usd_asg Instagram account has also been posting some candidates’ flyers on their Instagram

“The top two priorities we have in this election will be A: trying to inform students about the candidates and the election and B: the perpetual struggle to always get out and vote.”

- ASG President Joey Abeyta

This semester’s Associated Student Government senate meetings will be held remotely over Zoom.

Anna Behrens/The USD Vista

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in order to garner even more attraction to each candidate.Another obstacle that has affected this year's election is the lack of senators who can represent their own housing situations. Residential senators are assigned to each living area that is provided through USD (this includes Pacific Ridge and Loma Palisades) in order to be a representative for the students living in those areas. Since first-year students will not be permitted to move into campus housing until the Sept. 18 weekend, there has been limited engagement for senators to sign up for these positions. For the residence halls who have no senators up for election, there will potentially be an interview process for anyone that wants to represent their communities.

“Nothing is finalized, but the interview process is something we are looking into,” Abeyta said. Despite concerns about lower voter turnout, there have been more candidates for this year’s ASG elections than in years past. This is likely due to the creation of the new position of at-large senators: seven people who will serve the ASG senate outside of residential or academic affiliations. “At-large senators are like the libero in volleyball, they can attack problems and represent constituents from all communities,” Abeyta said.

“At-large senators cover more niche-based identities at USD,” Daus added. “These cover a plethora of things, including athletics, Greek life, ROTC, University Ministry, etc.”

According to ASG’s Meet the Candidates website, there are thirteen people running for seven spots as at-large senators, one of them being Max Donahoe. Referencing his experience when running this year versus last, he described it as “a whole different environment.” While he can't campaign in person, he does say that this year has allowed him to seek out new ideas and really put forth the process of reaching out to voters, citing Instagram and social media as crucial to his campaign.

ASG is going to look different this year, with new senate positions, new senators, and virtual meetings. Nevertheless, Abeyta seems confident that they will not be slowing down, and he has noted there are still many opportunities and ways to improve USD, whether that be at campus or from a distance.
USD’s premature opening is unsafe for students and faculty alike

Harris’ decision to reopen campus in September shows a prioritization of money over health

WHITNEY LYNN
CONTRIBUTOR

The University of San Diego seems to change their COVID-19 plan every other week. On May 7, President James T. Harris III, D.Ed. sent out an email to the USD population, bringing forth a six-point plan to keep students safe when they return to campus. This email stated the university’s intention to reopen in August, which was unexpected as many universities across the country began plans to be fully remote for at least the fall semester.

On July 9, Harris sent another email reiterating the six-point plan and the goal of getting students back on campus. The email did state that a hybrid learning model would be implemented, meaning some classes would be online while others would continue to meet in person. This plan did not last long. Harris sent another message on July 29 stating that USD would be fully remote.

This seemed like the end of the back and forth, for at least the first semester. However, Harris announced on Aug. 28 that there will be a limited return to campus beginning Sept. 18. This decision comes across as an opportunistic play for money and displays lack of concern for both USD students’ and San Diego county’s health.

Being on campus is a huge part of one’s “college experience.” None of us envisioned our lecture classes to be pre-recorded videos we would watch in our bedrooms. We hoped to be sitting in a classroom with other students and our professor present. The reason so many USD students, along with myself, chose this institution was for the small classroom sizes. These small classes allowed students to make close connections with their professors and other students. Out of everything we are “losing” this semester, I believe that is the greatest detriment to our learning.

Some students think it’s good USD is trying so hard to get students back on campus. They miss their friends, the beautiful campus, the college atmosphere, in-person classes, and of course the beach. However, just because we miss our lives does not mean the pandemic is over. I would be lying if I said I didn’t want to sit in an overheated classroom in Camino right now, but my desire to do what is best for my health and the community’s health is greater. It would be great to be back, but I know it's not.
wouldn’t be safe.

Across the nation we are seeing colleges suspending in-person classes within the first few days of students being there due to rapid increase in cases. In our own city, San Diego State University has halted in person classes due to a case spike amongst students and faculty.

“We are also closely monitoring universities across the country who are reversing decisions to bring students back on campus, and hope to learn how best to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the likelihood of a similar scenario from happening at USD,” Harris said in a recent email to the USD community regarding reopening sent on Aug. 28.

The lesson learned from colleges sending students home is you cannot trust college kids to follow the rules. There is no way to ensure all students will follow social distancing guidelines. All it takes is one party, and USD could have an outbreak.

“Please note that the university does not intend to close the campus if county or state COVID-19 data reflect a growing trend of cases or outbreaks,” Harris said in his last email about reopening. This shows a blatant disregard for health and safety to leave the campus open, knowing that there is an increase in cases. It seems that the university’s plan, if there was a COVID-19 outbreak on campus, is to do nothing.

San Diego County was just taken off California’s COVID-19 watchlist, so why is Harris trying so hard to get us put back on? Not being on the watchlist does not mean we are in the clear. San Diego is still under stay-at-home orders. Now is the time to remain vigilant, so we will not lose this hard earned progress.

“A vast majority of courses will continue under remote instruction for the remainder of the fall semester,” Harris said. If most classes remain online, what is the point of returning? Why pay $12,980 to sit in a dorm room on your laptop? The decision to move students back onto campus a month into the semester with only two months remaining comes across as reckless and desperate, with little regard to the health of students or faculty.

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.
Oh, to be rich, famous, and powerful: Lori Loughlin’s two month prison sentence

As the rich and powerful are able to skate past criminal offenses with little more than a slap on the wrist, it seems unlikely that the rest of us could get away with the same.

TAYLOR DEGUZEMAN
A&C EDITOR

Imagine a perfect world where trying “hard” ceased to exist. You didn’t have to build a strong resume to get your dream job; you got your dream job because of who you are. You didn’t need to work tirelessly from 9-5 to make money to support yourself; you have all the money you could ever ask for. Even craziest of all, instead of indebting 18 years of your life volunteering, working, being a student, facing adversities, playing sports, participating in musicals, sculpting the perfect enough version of yourself to fill the void of possibly not getting into that prestigious dream college of yours, instead of all of that, you just got in, plain and simple because of sheer love for your children. Through a muddled lens, one could make the argument that they wanted to give their daughters the best possible college experience: a taste of “normal life” away from paparazzi and the glamour of Hollywood. In a way, it is difficult to even grasp the amount of money and net worth that both Loughlin and Gianulli have. It is difficult to grasp the implications of being worth so much, and the power behind having $500,000 to spare just to get your child into any college of their choice.

During the 2019 ‘Varsity Blues’ college admissions scandal, several individuals were accused of criminal conspiracy in bribing undergraduate admissions decisions at several top, prestigious universities. Of those accused, the most high profile names involved were Loughlin and her husband, Mossimo Giannulli. Loughlin and Gianulli were accused of paying $500,000 to the founder of The Edge College & Career Network, Rick Singer.

The bribery successfully landed Olivia and Isabella Gianulli, their daughters, acceptances into the University of Southern California (USC), under false crew (rowing) team credentials. To think that neither of the girls played the sport competitively means that they took two viable spots on the rowing team that could have gone to prospective USC crew recruits.

After both parents plead guilty to the charges in May 2020, it was recently released that Loughlin would serve a two month prison sentence on top of two year supervision, complete 100 hours of community service and pay a fine of $150,000. Her husband, who committed an additional count of honest services fraud on top of what his wife committed, will serve a five month prison sentence on top of two year supervision, 200 hours of community service, and pay a fine of $250,000.

It is interesting to see the situation from the perspective that Loughlin and Gianulli merely acted out of sheer love for their children. Lori Loughlin’s light sentence compared to those of less privileged individuals seems to indicate that money really does make the world go round.

Photo courtesy of Alexander Schimmeck/Unsplash

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This case hits home with USD also being involved in the college admissions scandal. Though Loughlin and Gianulli are well-known, high-profile names involved in the scandal, other individuals not as involved in the public eye contributed as well. Namely, Robert Flaxman, a former father of a USD engineering student, pled guilty to paying $75,000 in order to fabricate his daughter’s ACT scores, which were sent to USD.

The case not only concerned his daughter, but also his son, as well as Martin Fox and former USD men’s basketball head coach, Lamont Smith. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Fox facilitated bribes paid for by Flaxman and received by Smith in order to designate the son and daughter as a basketball recruit and team manager. Both Flaxman’s son and daughter received admission, but only his son decided to attend USD as an Industrial and Systems Engineering major for three years. The son no longer attends USD. Flaxman was sentenced to one month in prison on top of a $50,000 fine and 250 hours of community service.

Another case involving a mother from La Jolla, Elizabeth Kimmel, who was accused of paying $475,000 to Singer, the founder of the College and Career Network used to bribe admissions, is set to go to trial in January 2021 after Loughlin and Gianulli go to trial. Singer promised Kimmel that he would get her children into Georgetown and USC by boosting their qualifications.

A child only hopes that their parents would do anything to make them happy. But paying thousands and thousands of dollars to admit your kids to a prestigious university is crossing all the lines of fairness, morale and integrity. Dismissing the amount of hard work and dedication that goes into college admissions, let alone the blood, sweat, and many many tears that go into preparing to apply for colleges, solely because you have the wealth and power to do so, is crossing every line in the book. The year before college applications are due, some students spend countless hours in SAT or ACT prep classes, preparing to take a standardized test that will, in some cases, make or break their college decision. The summer before college applications are due is one of the most stressful times of a student’s high school career. One can find themselves writing and rewriting and revising a multitude of personal essays and statements for months to get the perfect essays that make them stand out amongst millions.

Not taking into consideration the years and years of dedicating one’s life to a sport, passion or project, and only thinking about the year a student spends focusing on college admissions, a two-month and even five-month sentence pale in comparison to that one year.

Would you or I receive such a light sentence? Would someone way less privileged, less high profile, less famous, receive this sentence? I feel that the answers are undoubtedly no.

In 2016, a Texas mother was sentenced to five years in prison for voting illegally during the 2016 election. Crystal Mason, an African-American mother of three, voted on probation, after being released for serving prison time due to tax fraud in 2012. Under Texas law, a felon on supervision is ineligible to vote. Mason was unaware of this and her probation officer never told her that she could not vote due to her status.

Mason was unaware that her actions were illegal; Loughlin was aware.

There is a distinct difference between a two-month sentence and a five-year sentence. There is a distinct difference between unknowingly committing a crime under Texas law by exercising one’s right to vote, and purposefully committing criminal conspiracy in bribing college admissions to acquire acceptances from prestigious colleges and universities.

Our justice system rewards the rich and powerful while harming and punishing the poor or less fortunate. Our justice system is supposedly founded on fairness, in treating the rich and poor equally. But in several situations, and especially this one, it seems that fairness is dealt out according to who is fortunate enough to pay for their crime. In this not so perfect, perfect world it appears to be the case that the rich and powerful merely receive a slap on the wrist, a month or so in prison, and get to live out the rest of their life, whereas the poor and less fortunate much rather stay in prison then live in debt for the rest of their lives paying probation bills.
Lindsay J. Cropper Memorial Writer Series: Jericho Brown, Ph.D.

Jericho Brown, Ph.D., a former USD professor and 2020 Pulitzer Prize recipient, is the first Black writer to be featured in the Cropper Series for this academic year.

BRITTANY LANG
FEATURE EDITOR

The USD English Department, in order to uphold its commitment to the “enduring work of anti-racism” following the death of George Floyd and the strengthening of the Black Lives Matter movement, announced that the 2020-2021 Lindsay J. Cropper Memorial Writer Series will be a celebration of Black creative writing exclusively.

Through the use of the written word, the department has made a promise to embrace more diversity in order to cultivate an understanding of what the Black experience entails in the United States. They have also reaffirmed their mission to stand in solidarity with the Black community and other marginalized groups.

On Thursday Sept. 3, the Cropper Series welcomed the 2020 Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry, Jericho Brown, Ph.D., for a reading and discussion for their first event of the academic year.

Brown grew up in Louisiana and holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of New Orleans. He graduated with a BA from Dillard University in 1998, and went on to earn his Ph.D. in literature and creative writing from the University of Houston. Brown is currently an associate professor and the director of the Creative Writing Program at Emory University in Atlanta.

He is the recipient of many prestigious awards which include the Whiting Writers’ Award and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, as well the National Endowment for the Arts. His first book, “Please” (2008), was the recipient of the American Book Award. In addition, Brown’s “The New Testament” (2014) won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was named one of the best of the year by multiple writing associations.

Brown crafted a collection of poems for his book “The Tradition” (2019) which was not only the winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize this past May, but has appeared in a myriad of esteemed magazines, online news sources, and has been gaining much traction across multiple social media platforms.

“The Tradition” questions why and how human beings have grown accustomed to terror in countless aspects of our lives, and the bigger implications our complacency about atrocities such as rape to mass shootings has. Through his elegant use of prose, he interrupts this complacency by introducing the ways which we can escape from it.

The Cropper Series commenced on Thursday with an introduction of Brown from the director of the series, Brad Melekian, Ph.D. He began by giving insight into Brown’s career as a writer, proceeding to then praise his immense success and the powerful and poignant poetry Brown has gifted to the world.

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Photo courtesy of Jericho Brown

Many USD students and faculty members joined the Zoom meeting this past Thursday to listen to Brown recite a collection of his highly acclaimed poems.
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“When reading through his work, one is struck by the clarity and precision in which Jericho Brown sees the world,” Melekian said. “His poetry is unflinching, unrelenting, and precise.”

While Brown was discussing his writing it became evident that he does not seek to shield readers from the violent realities of life, and particularly those which are inflicted upon Black bodies. His intention is to bring them to light in the rawest form possible. However, in a seemingly contradictory way, his poetry is founded in faith and hope.

Brown began working as a creative writing professor at USD in 2008 which was his first full-time job after finishing his studies. He left in the fall of 2012 for his current position at Emory University. When speaking on his past career at USD, Brown had nothing but praise.

“(USD) is the place where I learned to teach... where I learned the importance of teaching, and I felt like I was really taught that by the other professors there,” Brown said. “There was real care for how we could do that together there.”

Brown began his reading by reciting a passage from the second part of his essay titled “Faith in the Now,” which touched on his love and immense appreciation for poetry.

“One of poetry’s more thrilling attributes is its ability to outlive the poet... the poem is a poem because it asks us to reconsider ourselves, what we hold dear and what we despise,” Brown said. “Through the poem itself we cannot return to the world unbothered.”

He proceeded to follow this up with a recitation of the lyrics to the Negro National Anthem which were included in his essay — a song Brown learned in his infancy in the pews of his local church. This piece is something that resonates with him deeply and has had an influence on the subject of his poetry writing. After reading, Brown continued on to explain the connection between God and the Black community.

“Because we insisted that belief in God could be the only explanation for our survival on this planet; belief and freedom were inextricably tied,” Brown said.

Brown then began to recite some of his most loved poems from “Please,” “The New Testament,” and “The Tradition.” One of these poems was titled “Foreday in the Morning,” a moving piece that speaks volumes of the unrelenting perseverance of the Black community in America.

“I love Black women / Who plant flowers as sheepish as their sons. By the time the blooms / Unfurl themselves for a few hours of light, the women who tend them / Are already at work. Blue. I’ll never know who started the lie that we are / Lazy,” Brown recited.

One of the other poems Brown included in his reading was titled “Bullet Points,” which is an unapologetic poem he wrote on police brutality. He was prompted to do so after specifically learning of the individuals who had supposedly committed suicide while in police custody.

“But I promise you, I trust the maggots / Who live beneath the floorboards / of my house to do what they must / To any carcass more than I trust / An officer of the law of the land / To shut my eyes like a man / Of God might,” Brown quoted.

The following poem Brown chose to read was titled “Stand,” a profound sentiment of his feelings towards his lost loves.

“Somebody died while / We made love. Some- / Body killed somebody / Black. I thought then / Of holding you / As a political act,” he recited.

Brown asserted the fact that poetry can often touch us and teach us more through evoking powerful emotions within ourselves, in a way that nothing else can. It presents us with a better understanding of experiences we may not have experienced ourselves.

The goal of the Cropper Series this semester is not just to introduce Black writers to the community at USD so that their written word can be used as tools for educating ourselves on the Black experience and anti-racism, but to also simply celebrate the remarkable talent that all individuals from all walks of life have.

Brown touched on the undeniable truth that because racism is so embedded into our society, Black writers, particularly those who are Black men, are not seen as having this kind of elegance and creativity. He believes these destructive socialized ways of thinking only serve to hinder members of the Black community from expanding their creative horizons.

The USD English department this year has made a promise to celebrate the diversity that exists in the world of poetry and literature, doing their part to ensure that this detrimental typecasting will someday be a thing of the past.
WHO’S YOUR SENATOR

Breaking down representation in the ASG Senate

Constituents need to know their representatives. Beyond voting, knowing who their representatives are and how to reach them is integral in keeping a democratically-elected body working for the people who elected them. While the Associated Student Government (ASG) has been gaining students’ attention over the past semesters, namely through the conflict over the College Readership Program, many students are still unaware of the specifics of the ASG Senate structure and which senators have been elected to represent their interests.

The ASG Senate is made up of 30 senators. These 30 senators are elected by varied and overlapping constituencies that include residence halls (10), academic disciplines (6), commuter students (7), and the university at-large (7).

Residential Senators
Each student residence hall is granted a senate seat, with the exception of the Alcalá Vista Apartments who get two. To qualify to be elected senator of a residence hall, the student needs to be living in a dorm in the respective area. However, amid the partially-remote spring 2020 semester, the ASG decided any student who was initially assigned to a residence hall may be elected senator of that dorm by other students who were also initially assigned to the area.

Candidates:
- Mahler: Tiana Fee
- Manchester: N/A
- Point Loma Palisades/Pacific Ridge: N/A
- San Buenaventura: Jessica Lefford, Madeleine Woo
- UTAs/PTA: Chidi Okaru
- Valley A: Meg McWilliams
- Valley B: N/A
- Valley C/SAPS: N/A
- Vista Apartments: Harrison Tarbox, Javian Johnson

Commuter Senators
There are seven Senate seats reserved for students who do not live on campus, typically referred to as “commuter students.”

Candidates:
- Alana De La Torre, Alanna Bledman, Brooke Powell, Maya De La Torre, Mia Soto, Fanisce Bia

Academic Senators
Each academic school on campus has its own senators to represent their interests. Due to its larger size and greater variations in majors, the College of Arts and Sciences has four senate seats, divided by area of study.

Candidates:
- College of Arts and Sciences:
  - Natural Sciences: Arianaz Ahmadi
  - Social Sciences: Carter Lawton, Lauren Pettes
- School of Business: AJ Armenta, Kevin Suimanjaya
- School of Engineering: N/A

At Large Senators
These seven seats are filled by senators elected by the entirety of the student body. This means that any student can run for these seats, and anyone can vote for them. These elected senators are intended to represent the diverse needs of the student body, and be a source of continuous feedback to students.

Candidates:
- Alexa Andrade, Ari Sambroano, Ben Thibeau,
  Carly Coberly, Catalina Carabajal, Christian Soldier Welch, Dot Adedigba, Elena Cruz,
  Emily Ridley-Zecco, Ezra Wheeler (they/them), Jamie Appleton, Max Donahoe, Sean Kenney

Open Seats
Not all Senate seats are currently being sought by students. After the election results are announced, there will still be open seats among Residential, Commuter, and Academic Senators. However, these seats will eventually be filled and Joey Abyta, ASG president, is looking into a potential interviewing process, in coordination with the ASG executive team, to solidify an entire Senate.

All Senators are required to hold office hours during the week, which should be posted on the ASG Senate website. As well, every Thursday at 12:15 p.m., the ASG Senate meets to discuss various business, initiatives, and campus-related issues. These meetings, currently being held over Zoom, are open to the public, and include an agenda item labeled “Hearing of the Public” where all students are welcome to share concerns, ask questions, or demand action.

Overall Senate Structure

The USD ViSTa

Spread by Alee Pingol / The USD Vista, Content by Mikaela Foehr / The USD Vista
There will forever be only one Chadwick Boseman. A king. A warrior. A lover. On Aug. 28, 2020, the world stood still. After just 43 years, Boseman’s life became a legacy.

The words that Boseman spoke so clearly at his alma mater Howard University’s commencement ceremony in 2018 ring powerfully today and echo his life on earth.

“Sometimes you need to feel the pain and sting of defeat, to activate the real passion and purpose that God predestined inside of you,” Boseman said. “Purpose is an essential element of you, it is the reason you are on the planet at this particular time in history.”

Boseman's purpose was multifaceted. By playing iconic roles such as Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in Major League Baseball, James Brown, known as the “Godfather of Soul,” and Thurgood Marshall, the first African American justice in the Supreme Court, Boseman took the responsibility of representing influential Black figures in history that made his cultural footprint admirable.

Though he was diagnosed with colon cancer four years ago, Boseman was a fighter. He continued to make films and persevere despite the reality of his health and possibilities of his future. In the public statement his family posted on behalf of his passing on Boseman’s social media platforms, the family said that several of the films he completed were filmed “during and between countless surgeries and chemotherapy.” His role as T’challa, king of Wakanda, in the Marvel movie “Black Panther” unveiled that there is no limit to what a superhero could look like, and that there is more to be said about a superhero’s grace, kindness, and humility than their powers alone.

Many agree that it is difficult to even begin to put into words the gravity of Boseman’s impact and influence on this world. The weight of his passing hits home, especially extending to the sentiment felt by the USD community.

Eric Pierson, Ph.D., director of film studies at USD, spoke highly of Boseman’s career and how his 43 years of life will continue to be magnified.

“Dying as suddenly as he did always enhances an individual’s legacy, because whatever work you had, that is the only work you will ever have,” Pierson said on behalf of Boseman’s larger-than-life roles that spoke to Black culture.

Pierson shared his thoughts on what the future may hold for the next Black Panther character after Boseman.

“What a lot of people might not know is that Black Panther is the spirit that inhabits the person,” Pierson said. “Because the spirit can be transferred, the structure of the story is more flexible. The spirit can be housed in any number of individuals, including T’Challa’s sister, which would be such an interesting, different kind of film.”

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Boseman was set to prepare for “Black Panther II” this month. Production for the film was set to
begin in March 2021.

What Pierson admired most about Boseman in each of his films was his ability to inhabit each character he played.

“When I see his work I’m always fascinated by his acting, I forget that he’s playing a character,” Pierson said. “It’s one thing to inhabit a character whose life begins on the page and then you get to interpret what comes off the page. It’s another thing to inhabit a character that has a long history, and history that needs to be researched by the actor in order to accurately and authentically portray them.”

Pierson expressed how Boseman stood out as an exceptional actor to him.

“What I’ve really enjoyed about his work is that there are things that aren’t on the page of the script that Boseman brings to the conversation. He was one of those actors that saw more than the words,” Pierson said. Not only does Pierson appreciate Boseman for what he was capable of doing on the screen, but he also appreciates the poise and grace Boseman carried into any space he entered.

“His humility was so apparent, I think he always understood how fortunate he was to be in this space at this time and his ultimate goal was to make the most of it,” Pierson said. “The fact that he was able to do seven films after his diagnosis, and three of them were his Marvel films, is an amazing show of his commitment to his work and to his craft.”

Pierson believes the best example of Boseman’s impact on others is showcased through a Jimmy Fallon Youtube video where fans thank a Black Panther poster and thank Boseman for what he and the movie mean to them.

“I cannot tell you how much it means to have you step into the role as a King and hold that position with so much grace, so much poise and so much joy,” a fan said.

Shortly after she says these words, Boseman comes out from hiding behind the curtains to thank her with a huge smile and a huge hug. Pierson shared that though Boseman only had the opportunity to live 43 years, each of those 43 years were incredibly influential and will continue to sustain for years to come.

“What’s interesting is if I were teaching a course on African American images in film, I’d have to include three or four of his films in the course,” Pierson said. “He would probably have the biggest contribution to that conversation, and that is what people are gonna know him for.”

Anica Quizon, junior, is a fan of Boseman and all that he represented as well. She explained how much of a cultural influence Boseman had in Hollywood and beyond.

“Boseman’s impact in Hollywood and the film industry was remarkable,” Quizon said. “I understand how important and necessary representation in media is, especially for young people of color. His portrayal of such powerful roles, such as Jackie Robinson and Thurgood Marshall, brought black history to life and to the forefront of mainstream cinema.”

As a big Marvel fan, Quizon remembered how excited she was when the cast of Black Panther was announced, and talked about what the movie meant to her.

“The idea that younger generations would grow up seeing a Black man and an all Black cast, in a Marvel superhero movie was so uplifting to me,” Quizon said. “The story of Black Panther and the idea of a powerful African nation, untouched by colonization and left to thrive was a game changer. I also recently learned that Boseman advocated for the use of African accents in the film, rather than European accents, and this just showed how deeply he cared about Black culture and Black representation.”

Boseman’s life made an exceptional impact on Marvel superfan Shane Wilson, junior. Because Wilson also loves baseball, Boseman’s role as Jackie
Boseman's role as Jackie Robinson struck a chord in him and made him a fan before he had watched Black Panther. "Baseball and comic books are two of the greatest influences on my life," Wilson said. "After hearing the man who portrayed one of my favorite ball players and then one of my favorite superheroes had passed, the rush of sadness and melancholy flooded in."

To Wilson, Boseman's cultural influence in Hollywood was a victory for representation, especially opening up doors for more diverse representation of superheroes in the future. "When one thinks about all of the Avengers, or any heroes in general, their ethnicity is primarily white or caucasian," Wilson explained. "Prior to Black Panther, I believe the only two Black heroes many could remember were the characters Lando Calrissian and Mace Windu, both from the Star Wars Universe. That alone should speak truth to why he had such a strong cultural influence on Hollywood and beyond."

Wilson explained that Boseman was much more than a superhero on screen. "Boseman was not just a superhero on the big screen," Wilson said. "I feel that the selfless and giving person that T'Challa is in the film, is merely an extension of Boseman, a real life king fighting each day to inspire others to fight just like he did in this life." The "short, but powerful legacy," as Pierson said, of Boseman is a legacy marked by strides in representation for Black culture and an inspiration for all those with a purpose, ready to be fulfilled. Boseman ends his commencement speech at Howard University with: "The light of new realization shines on you today how his legacy is not wrapped up in money that you will make, but the challenges you choose to confront. As you commence from your past press on with pride and press on with purpose. God bless you. I love you."
San Diego’s tastiest: thirst-quenching drinks and treats

San Diego’s tastiest features Trilogy Sanctuary, Roots Bowls, Bobboi Natural Gelato, Blue Bottle Coffee

ANNA VALAIK
ASST. A&C EDITOR

August and September in San Diego can be hot, so hot that finding the nearest AC unit or beach becomes the only priority in life. When the sun is scorching and it’s 90 degree weather, it’s also important to stay hydrated and fuel up on those long days. When the ocean no longer serves as a refreshment and all that sounds good is a deliciously cold smoothie, coffee, or tea, here are the spots to go to that will most definitely serve up a thirst-quenching beverage or treat.

Trilogy Sanctuary
7650 Girard Ave Suite 400, La Jolla, CA 92037

Trilogy Sanctuary, a joint vegan cafe and yoga studio, is a hidden gem within La Jolla. Perched on a rooftop, the ocean views mixed with the giant floral mural on their wall make for the perfect place to enjoy food and drink. Their motto — “nourishing mind, body, and spirit” — really does ring true when you step foot into their cafe and look at their menu. Free parking is available on the street, and there is normally no issue finding a spot. Also, make sure to enter the storefront and proceed to the elevator, which will take you to the rooftop where the cafe is located.

The smoothie list is extensive, ranging from sweet chocolate to more green, vegetable-based flavors; they have something for every taste preference. For example, the Blissful smoothie, which is $10, is packed full of so much goodness — coconut water, pineapple, mango, avocado, and turmeric. Also, if a smoothie sounds too filling, they have kombucha on tap and their infused lattes elevate any basic coffee or matcha drink. The Flower Child matcha latte, at $8, adds a touch of sugar to the earthy matcha flavor. Trilogy is a vegan’s dream, but it also caters to anyone looking to enjoy a Pacific Ocean view with a drink in their hand.

Roots Bowls
1225 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92103

Considering it’s on a main road in Hillcrest, this acai bowl place can be easy to miss and drive past. The storefront is unassuming and small compared to the other restaurants and shops along the way, but it’s worth the stop in because of these bowls. Metered parking can be found out front or behind the shop. Acai bowls are a staple for many Southern Californians, which means people can be very particular about their preferences.

What makes Roots Bowls stand out is how they pair chia pudding with acai. The freezing cold, sorbet-like acai goes on bottom, while the chia pudding is layered perfectly on top. The mix of these two textures and flavors makes this acai bowl unlike many others you can find in San Diego. The bowls start at $10, and the price goes up if there are add ons. Roots Bowls have pre-set bowl offerings, but the DIY option makes it easy to get exactly what you want. Also, their bases don’t just stop at acai and chia pudding; they offer a matcha, pitaya, non-fat yogurt and more. The Flower Child matcha latte, at $8, adds a touch of sugar to the earthy matcha flavor. If you’re feeling extra, make sure to order the Blissful smoothie, which is $10, full of so much goodness — coconut water, pineapple, mango, avocado, and turmeric.

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with activated charcoal base. In a city where acai bowls can become routine and boring, Roots Bowls goes against the grain and elevates this Californian staple.

Bobboi Natural Gelato
8008 Girard Ave #150, La Jolla, CA 92037

Bobboi brings Italy to San Diego every day from noon to 9 p.m. The quaint shop, full of multi-colored gelato cups and large containers of their homemade gelato, makes this the perfect place to enjoy a scoop. After a long day at Windansea or observing the seals in La Jolla, Bobboi is a great night cap. Although the lines get long later in the day, especially during the after dinner hours, it’s worth the wait.

This is very little parking out front, so you may have to park on a neighboring street or downtown La Jolla, which is just a short walk away. Also, because ice cream is normally a dessert, the parking is normally free because customers typically stop by after 6 p.m. The gelato is made in house every day using organic ingredients; they are truly dedicated to their craft. Their ever-changing list of flavors can make any customer happy, and even those looking for a vegan, non-dairy option. The scoops range from $4 to $8 depending on the size. Feel free to mix and match the flavors, too, because every one of them complements the other. However, Bobboi's charcoal vanilla is a must try. It may look odd, considering it's grey in color, but it is unlike any other vanilla ice cream out there. Bobboi knows their gelato considering people will wait in incredibly long lines just to enter and smell the chocolate radiating off the ice boxes.

Blue Bottle Coffee
3725 Paseo Pl #1060, San Diego, CA, 92130

Blue Bottle, a coffee company made popular in San Francisco, opened their first San Diego shop in Del Mar. The Blue Bottle is located within One Paseo, a well-curated shopping center full of hip boutiques and delicious food spots. One Paseo has one main retail parking garage that is free, and if that is full, overflow parking is available off of Paseo Place as well. When sitting on the beach no longer sounds nice on a hot summer day, head to Del Mar for some retail and food therapy. Blue Bottle Coffee, in particular, has been roasting and brewing coffee since 2002 and has been an iconic San Francisco staple ever since. They offer all the coffee staples, such as lattes, cappuccinos, and mochas, but their New Orleans style iced coffee is like no other. It's cold brew mixed with milk, roasted chicory, and cane sugar, and is $4. When you want the perfect ratio of sweetness to coffee, this drink is the one. Blue Bottle has standard coffee shop prices, and only becomes expensive with add-ins in the drinks. As an afternoon delight, Blue Bottle Coffee will satisfy any coffee lover.

Considering San Diego feels like summer year round, it is no surprise the food scene here includes so many tasty, cold beverages and treats. Whether it be a boiling hot August day or an ice cream cone is simply calling your name, these places, and so many more, do not disappoint.

Bobboi Natural Gelato has a large assortment of flavors.
Anna Valaik/The USD Vista

The iconic Blue Bottle logo. They have been brewing coffee since 2002.
Anna Valaik/The USD Vista
While COVID-19 has forced most athletes at the University of San Diego to postpone their seasons and or significantly alter their training routines, two Torero tennis players have managed to continue competing in spite of the pandemic. Redshirt junior August Holmgren has been competing in his native country of Denmark since June, and redshirt sophomore Solymar Colling played in the International Tennis Association Summer Nationals in early August.

Due to the more relaxed health restrictions in Denmark, Holmgren has been free to practice with his club team and compete regularly. “I've been playing as many tournaments as I possibly could since I got home because I didn't know how long that would be possible,” Holmgren said. “My level has been better some days, and worse other days, but I feel like I've gotten a lot of confidence which helps me prevail in tough situations.” Holmgren proved his ability to overcome tough situations numerous times throughout his summer competitions.

In one match, he faced a particularly difficult opponent who won the first set 6-1. Despite feeling he played poorly, Holmgren was able to battle his way back, winning the second and third sets in a close tie-breaker. This mentality has led Holmgren to win more than twenty matches and four tournaments in just three months.

Along with his competition overseas, Holmgren has continued to train with his teammates at the University of San Diego. As a captain, it was important for Holmgren to keep up his training regimen with the Toreros to preserve the team mentality that helped them achieve great results.

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success in past seasons, including back-to-back WCC championships. By tracking each others’ workout progress online, Holmgren and the rest of the men’s tennis team are able to push themselves to be in the best shape possible by the time they are able to reunite.

Despite the obvious challenges of long-distance team practice, Holmgren is confident that when the time comes, the USD men’s tennis team will be ready to work.

“I don’t think motivation is going to be a challenge at all,” Holmgren said. “I think getting back into the flow of things will be fairly quick because everyone wants to get back on course and start working hard again.”

Confident that lack of motivation won’t be a factor in the team’s productivity in the future, Holmgren believes adjusting to the Toreros’ playing philosophies will be their biggest obstacle to overcome. And individually, Holmgren will have to switch his playing style from that of his club team in Denmark back to the Torero style of play. Though he admits the adjustment will be particularly difficult due to his extended time away from the team, Holmgren is ready and eager to face the challenge.

On the other side of the world, redshirt sophomore Solymar Colling placed second at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Summer Nationals in Texas.

Like Holmgren, Colling was able to practice daily, but could not compete in any tournaments for most of the summer.

“In the beginning I felt robbed of my season,” Colling said. “I went back (to Texas) and was able to practice at the academy I trained at before, but there were mostly junior players, and I just felt a little out of place being away from school and my team.”

The transition from the team environment at the University of San Diego to quarantined training was difficult for Colling. In the early days of the pandemic she found herself wondering what the point of training was if there was a possibility she wouldn’t be able to compete.

But, as a Division I athlete with her sights set on playing professionally, Colling knew she had to overcome her doubts in order to attain her goals.

“I just practiced every day, sometimes for six hours at a time, and I feel like I got better,” Colling said. “For me, the difference between the Division I and professional level comes down to work ethic and the mental game. We all know the basics, so for me to get to that next level, I used this situation to just focus on my game and try to remember why I love tennis and why I want to go pro.”

All her work paid off. The hours of practice and training, along with the time she spent on self reflection, allowed her to focus on her love for the game of tennis and reach a new level of play, culminating with her impressive performance at the ITA Summer Nationals in which she took second overall. Colling attributes her most recent success to her newfound mindset that allowed her to enter the tournament with no expectations other than to simply enjoy the experience and the ability to compete.

However, along with her individual competition, Colling has had her sights set on returning to the courts at the University of San Diego with her fellow Toreros in the spring.

Like Holmgren, she has been able to keep up with her teammates virtually, but realizes there will be some serious obstacles they will have to overcome together.

“We really do get so close as more than just teammates but as friends,” Colling said. “It will be difficult to build up that relationship without having been together last season. But I think once we all get back together we will be ready to work to be as good of a team as we can.”

Both Holmgren and Colling have put in the hours to keep themselves competition ready throughout their time away from USD. While it is uncertain when Torero fans will be able to see Holmgren and Colling take the courts again, they can be sure that the men’s and women’s tennis teams will be ready for any competition that comes their way.

“My level has been better some days, and worse other days, but I feel like I’ve gotten a lot of confidence which helps me prevail in tough situations.”

- August Holmgren

-Solymar Colling
Altering the game plan for athletes at USD

Torero athletes were forced to adapt to a new sports world this summer due to the COVID-19

SOFIA BRUZZO
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Instead of practicing under the San Diego sun with their teammates, preparing to compete for championships, USD athletes spent their summer on the sidelines as COVID-19 continues to evolve.

Callie Johnson, a sophomore on the swimming and diving team at USD, expressed her concerns now that they will not be returning for the semester.

“I feared that the progress we’ve made since last year and that which most athletes have been working towards for the majority of their lives, will be lost with such a long break,” Johnson said.

Johnson is not the only one with this dilemma. Student athletes are facing questions and unknowns, and it is up to them and their coaches to determine how they will adapt.

Nick Classen, a junior on the rugby team, explained how they have been reshaping their program.

“We have some unofficial things where we go to the beach and do a beach practice or workout,” Classen said. “It’s no longer monitored by coaches, it’s all player run.”

Players are being provided with specific workout plans and practice ideas by their coaches as well as weekly Zoom meetings to track their progress.

“The coaches are being really supportive and they’re encouraging us to stay on top of our sport,” Johnson said. “They’re also keeping in mind the impact that COVID is having on all of us and our lives.”

With the summer now behind us, athletes have had some time to look back on their experiences training apart from their team.

“Training has become a lot more individual now that we’re virtual,” Johnson said. “Usually we’re racing against each other in practice and in swim meets and now it’s just you and the clock. You really have to focus more and be motivated individually rather than be motivated by the team.”

For others like Classen, the biggest problem they faced was lack of resources and facilities.

“I just had to find other things to do to workout. Things like running and swimming and calisthenics,” Classen said.

Athletes are used to dedicating several hours a week to perfecting their craft. However, keeping such a strenuous schedule is hard when coaches are not around to enforce practice and workout times.

“The hardest part is probably the consistency because previously we were practicing around two times every day for three hours each practice and it’s hard to commit to that when you’re by yourself,” Johnson said.

With nothing but uncertainty in store for these USD athletes, they haven’t let the circumstances hinder their dedication to their sport. During isolated training, athletes have had to maintain their mental edge by constantly preparing themselves for a possible turn around in regulations, always being ready to return to their sport at a moment’s notice.

“If we can do our homework and watch our videos and learn as much as we can without actually playing, then coming back, theoretically we should be able to just jump right back in.” Classen said.

Johnson expressed her main focus while training on her own, emphasizing that “instead of focusing on what I can do for the team, I focus a little bit more on what I can do to improve myself. And in the back of my head I keep in mind that everyone on the team is expecting me to perform when it comes time.”

The hope is that these student athletes will be allowed to resume training on campus as the semester progresses. Athletes are eager to be back with their teams and coaching staff. Regardless, athletes must continue to hone their craft until then and realize that, just as Classen mentions, “It is a challenge, but these are challenging times and we have to adapt as best as we can.”