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THE USD VISTA

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Photo courtesy 4ing/Wikimedia Commons

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The Scholar Strike's origins and impact on USD

Detailing the 48-hour strike headed by college faculty and administrators

TYLER PUGMIRE
NEWS EDITOR

Anthea Butler, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, sent out a tweet on Aug. 26 that read, "I would be down as a professor to follow the NBA and Strike for a few days to protest police violence in America." Shortly after, the movement for the #ScholarStrike would take off.

USD professors were encouraged to partake in the Scholar Strike in an email sent out by Julian Tullis, Ph.D., May Fu, Ph.D., and Evelyn Kirkley, Ph.D., which detailed the scholar strike movement as a pause from regular instruction during the two days after Labor Day in order to focus on the issues that plague Black Americans nowadays.

Professors at the University of San Diego took Butler's call to action upon themselves, and many participated in the Scholar Strike. A social media post by the Ethnic Studies Department said this movement was, "prompted by the racist

police attack on Jacob Blake, the state-sanctioned permission of an armed white militia member to roam the streets after killing people, the W/NBA Strike, Professors Anthea Butler and Kevin Gannon (Grand View University) are calling on all academic faculty and administrators to strike for 48 hours after Labor Day."

The motive behind shifting the curriculum for the day was for students, professors, and administrators to shift their efforts toward local activism and education towards injustices in America.

Leeva Chung, Ph.D., professor of communication studies, explained the basis of the strike.

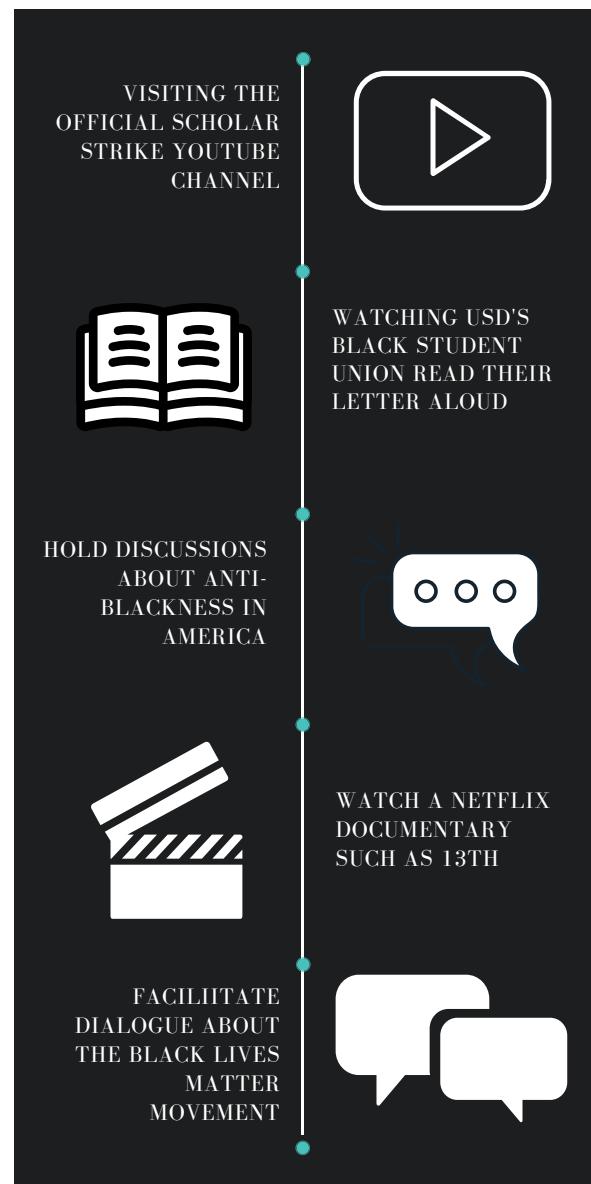
"When there are groups of people who feel their voices aren't heard, and they face an insurmountable amount of injustice, that they never felt they were a part of the group, that's a social movement," Chung said.

Tullis' email to USD staff also discussed ways to transform their classes into

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THE SCHOLAR STRIKE

A professor's guide to shift curriculum



Five recommendations sent in Tullis' email to USD faculty describing how to participate in the Scholar Strike.

Tyler Pugmire/The USD Vista



The Scholar Strike had over 5,000 participants, including many at USD choosing to reflect on injustices for the 48 hours after Labor Day.

Mikaela Foehr/The USD Vista

From Page 1 teach-in spaces devoted to Black lives, such as: visiting the Scholar Strike Youtube Channel, sharing and talking about the USD Black Student Union letter read aloud, holding discussions to teach about anti-Blackness in America, watching documentaries such as “13th” on Netflix, or to simply facilitate constructive dialogue about the Black Lives Matter movement.

The entire Scholar Strike movement spanned across more than 5,000 scholars, faculty, and administrators across the country. At other schools, the focusses ranged from over-policing in the campus community, to intellectual gatekeeping.

Butler, the woman who started the movement, is an associate professor

of religious studies and Africana studies, and explained that “With classes online, this will not be a walkout in a traditional sense but rather a hybrid model of protest that doesn’t stop at pausing lecture for a day.” Although an unconventional form of protest, the Scholar Strike movement made a very prevalent presence in the USD Community.

Professors in each college participated in the strike. Some who participated discussed the Black Lives Matter movement or turned their curriculum to include the history of oppression against Black people in some way.

Professor in the Communication Studies department, Leeva Chung Ph.D., chose to participate

in the strike.

“For a person who’s been at USD for 23 years, I teach intercultural communication, I do diversity training,” Chung said. “I felt like I would be a hypocrite if I didn’t support the scholar strike. I felt like I could give voice to what scholars across the US are doing to support racial inequality and injustice ... It’s not a matter of agree or disagree, it’s the acknowledgement of voices that need to be heard.”

Chung teaches three different classes and took three different approaches to each. For her first-year class, they were to visit the Scholar Strike page on Youtube and discuss three parts of it. For another, she read aloud parts of the USD Black Student Union letter, and

for her Interpersonal Communication class, the entire class watched Black Student Union members read the letter to USD aloud. Matthew Martinez, a sophomore transfer student from the University of Chicago, was in support of the strike.

“The Scholar Strike taking place was very refreshing for someone who is new to campus,” Martinez said. “I think the ability for teachers to talk about real issues in our country is very important to get a proper college education.”

As professors return back to their original course content, the Scholar Strike movement plans to continue to spread awareness for racial injustice and encourages activism in local communities.

Campus Quarantine: SDSU reverses their hopeful re-opening

An in-depth look at how SDSU is attempting to mitigate Coronavirus risk on campus

EMMA VALDISERRI
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

San Diego State University (SDSU) has been forced to pause their in-person classes and place a stay-at-home order for students living on campus as their number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to rise. The university began its semester on Aug. 24 and

has already recorded nearly 500 cases, including students living on and off-campus. Labor Day weekend festivities, as could be expected, didn't help prevent the spread of the virus. Despite the trend of universities having to postpone or cancel their in-person classes, USD's plan for a limited return starting Sept. 20 is still in effect. The CSU system,

however, has announced that their classes will be primarily online for spring 2021.

According to the Daily Aztec, 75% of the COVID-19 cases are off-campus related, and 73% of the cases are among first- and second-year students. The stay-at-home order went into effect on Sept. 5 at 10 p.m. and was meant to last until Sept. 8 at 6 a.m. However, the university has extended the order until Sept. 14 to give the San Diego County Health and Human Services Department more time to investigate multiple clusters of positive cases around campus.

The stay-at-home order only applies to students living on campus; however, those living off campus have been strongly encouraged to obey the order. Students quarantined on campus are allowed to leave their dorms for essential purposes only, such as food, medical care, work, and exercise, as long as they wear face coverings. Residence halls

and certain on-campus facilities are open while recreational and outdoor vicinities have been closed until further notice.

Students without face coverings will be subject to consequences that can lead to suspension or expulsion. So far, nearly 500 COVID-19 policy violations have been issued to students, indicating that the university is not taking violations lightly. SDSU security is on watch both on campus and in nearby neighborhoods to ensure that students are following the order.

The university plans to resume in-person classes starting Oct. 5, if they're able to control the spread of the virus and rely on their students and faculty to be responsible for their actions both on and off campus. Once classes resume, all members are required to wear a face covering and maintain their distance. Certain graduate-level courses that require in-person hours resumed on Sept. 10, requiring all students to wear face coverings.

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SDSU implemented a stay-at-home order for all students living on campus.

Photo courtesy of Natalie Luciani

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SDSU is far from the first university in the nation having to pause its in-person classes. The University of Notre Dame, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Wisconsin in Madison have had to shift their classes online after experiencing outbreaks on campus.

Other universities such as Oklahoma State University have experienced issues with Greek life, having forced a

sorority to quarantine after 23 of its members tested positive for the virus. Many universities like the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, are continuing their Greek life recruitment processes online to prevent the spread of the virus.

USD still plans to get students and faculty back on campus, a decision that has stirred up controversy among members of the USD community. While many are in favor of the limited return due to the benefit of in-person

learning, others believe USD should hold back on its plan, arguing that health and safety should be prioritized over in-person education and financial gain.

Senior undergraduate, Natalie Tasca, expressed her concern for USD's plan for a limited return to campus.

"The benefit gained through in-person classes doesn't outweigh the increase in cases among students and the people they interact with," Tasca said.

Those in opposition to USD's limited return are primarily concerned about the health issues involved, concerned the university will fall victim to the ongoing trend of reversing in-person learning.

USD will have first- and second-year students moving in on campus starting Sept. 18 and specialized labs and courses will begin in-person classes starting Sept. 20. At this point, only time will tell how the university's plan will play out.



While other universities have sent all of their students back home due to COVID-19 outbreaks, SDSU is hopeful to return back to in-person classes on Oct. 5.

Photo courtesy of Natalie Luciani

It's time to stop quarantining your anxiety

As stay-at-home orders stretch on into the future, it's important to address the impact living through a pandemic has on mental health

BAYLYNNE BRUNETTI
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

When lockdown first commenced and we were forced online, I will admit that I was not gravely upset. As a student who suffers from GAD (Generalized Anxiety Disorder) and SAD (Social Anxiety Disorder), nothing was more enticing to me than to have to sit at home with limited human interaction for the foreseeable future. The first few weeks were fine as I schlepped through class online and took naps with my beloved dog, Meela.

However, a month came and left, and I began to long for the very thing that frightened me ... human interaction. As the days pressed on and I ran out of Chloe Ting workout videos and random hobbies, I began to get more anxious than I had been at school. I was not sleeping, I was irritable and I was suffering from depersonalization, a feeling of being in a dream-like state. I began

to start to process a lot of trauma I had endured in my lifetime thus far and it was painful, sometimes borderline unbearable. I wanted nothing more to go back to the distractions that I had pre-COVID.

I am not alone in feeling this way. In fact, since quarantine began, Distress Helpline, a sub-network of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline that offers emotional support

to people in need after natural and human-caused disasters, saw an 890% spike in call volume in April 2020 compared with April 2019. The Alliance, known as NAMI, reported a 65% jump in HelpLine calls according to USA Today. These are just a few statistics that are replicated across hundreds of suicide prevention lines across the country.

A global pandemic

is obviously terrifying. There is fear of dying, or our loved ones dying, and it would be naive for me to brush over that when gazing at these statistics. But, there also needs to be a light cast on the baseline of these calls and the anxiety around quarantine — underlying mental health issues.

This country has a history of not being the best on mental health care. Uninsured people can rarely afford mental health help and the county health care systems are inundated with so many people, it is hard to be seen. Mental health is still taboo and people do not like to share what they struggle with. In normal times, it is even easy to completely distract yourself from the issues you may have and hide it from those around you. But, with quarantine, this is next to impossible. Sitting at home with yourself is very uncomfortable for a lot of people, myself included. It is terrifying to have

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

USD Counseling Center:

619-260-4655

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

1-800-273-8255

The Trevor Project:

1-866-488-7386

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From Page 5 to sit with yourself and hear your own thoughts, which is why a lot of people cannot be alone. Quarantine forced us all to sit with ourselves and our demons, and unfortunately some beautiful souls lost that battle.

I have been in therapy for anxiety since I was in 4th grade. I have tried every management style in the book and they all usually rely on deflection. Every therapist tells me to envision a stop sign, or think happy thoughts instead of facing my anxiety. My question is, what is so wrong with facing my anxiety? Is

mental illness so taboo that I have to ignore it? These are such irrational thoughts and situations that I build up in my head until I want to explode in tears ... so, why do I give them so much power? With that planted in my mind, I decided to go on a quest to face my fears.

Let me clarify that in no way did my anxiety disappear or magically cure itself. It is very much real and very much still here. However, the way I deal with it now helps calm me down at a much higher rate — by facing it. Instead of feeling an anxiety attack coming on and getting scared and pleading with my brain

to not go down that road — thus triggering the flight or fight response — I tell my brain to bring it on. Instead of allowing myself to create these hypothetical fears, I draw a mental chart and pinpoint what the fear is that I am feeling. By no means is this the right way to navigate anxiety. We all have tips and systems in place to manage the fear that takes place. At the risk of this sounding like a self-help book, I will leave it at that.

Quarantine has been profoundly difficult for us all. The fear of the unknown, having no social life, having no school or other saving grace from

our thoughts, has made a colossal impact on our lives. The most important thing I can leave you with is that you are not alone. Believe me, with the levels of anxiety I have, I am almost always convinced that no one could possibly feel this way. But, that is not true and plenty of people battle the same demons. We are all in this together, and it is time to face it.

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.

Challenging the cancel culture phenomenon

What once began as a tool to boycott public figures for their problematic behavior has now taken on a new form that has harmfully impacted the way we view accountability and forgiveness.

BRITTANY LANG
FEATURE EDITOR

It seems like every day in the Twitter world there is a new hashtag trending in relation to another celebrity, influencer, politician, you name it, being “canceled.” Often you see a hashtag followed by the name of a public figure and “...is over party.” This new form of essentially boycotting other individuals has become such a global phenomenon, that it has now been embedded in the daily vernacular of young adults everywhere.

Cancel culture has been on the rise for the past couple of years, and has become a way to publicly shame others through social media platforms by exposing their past wrongdoings. The goals for doing so vary, but when it comes to anyone who is a public figure in the spotlight, the aim is to hinder the support and praise they receive, to get them removed from a certain position or role, or, in more extreme cases, put them in jail.

Among the list of in-

dividuals who have been “canceled,” there are a few standouts that frankly no one views as undeserving of receiving this title. Some of the individuals have been Jefferey Epstein, Harvey Weinstein, and Bill Cosby for their heinous crimes committed against young women. Although exposing and eventually charging these individuals for their inexcusable ac-

My fear is that cancel culture has evolved into something new. It has taught us to continuously hold other people’s past mistakes against them, which has an underlying lesson that we are all paralyzed in the time when we said something that was ignorant or did something that was damaging. The implication is that people don’t really change, as if we can never evolve from our past transgressions.

tions took a lot more than a 20 year old sending out some tweets.

Cancel culture in many instances does bring to light certain actions by individuals that need to be addressed. Although there are varying levels of the seriousness of the actions taken, even at the lower level it is undeniable that we should always take responsibility for our

mistakes and do what we can to make reparations, whether they were moments of ignorance, exhibiting microaggressions, and so on.

However, I am less concerned about what will happen to a celebrity after one of their old problematic Instagram posts resurfaces. When it comes to addressing the cancel culture phenomenon, I

am much more concerned about the detrimental effects it can have on the human experience and in particular, political activism.

My fear is that cancel culture has evolved into something new. It has taught us to continuously hold other people’s past mistakes against them, which has an underlying lesson that we are all para-

lyzed in the time when we said something that was ignorant or did something that was damaging. The implication is that people don’t really change, as if we can never evolve from our past transgressions.

Cancel culture can halt people from changing their opinions or extending support to a new group, in fear that their past actions will be used as ammunition by others to say they are not worthy to do so.

Another damaging consequence of cancel culture is that it has recast the notion of “innocent until proven guilty.” Individuals are ostracized over speculation and unsound evidence of misconduct before they have a chance to explain themselves or prove its falsity. Doja Cat and Aziz Ansari are prime examples of individuals who have been impetuously canceled and have had an extremely difficult time trying to undo the damage.

The harms of cancel culture can manifest in many different ways, and it is time to question what

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this culture says about us as a society. Most importantly, we need to question how exactly we should hold people accountable while also giving them the room to educate themselves and change their behavior.

A few months ago, at the height of the BLM protests, there was a photo circulating of a man in a wheelchair holding up a sign which said, "I'm sorry I am late, I had a lot to learn," while holding another sign which read, 'Black Lives Matter.' Though we cannot be sure what he specifically had to learn, we can make a good assumption that he was somewhat ignorant

to what the true Black experience in American entailed, and the degree in which racism is institutionalized.

Around the same time, a TikTok went viral which was made by a young man that begins with footage of himself 4 years prior at a Trump rally, sporting lots of MAGA apparel. Then the video cuts to footage of him today where he is draped in a LGBTQ+ flag, showing that he is now a proud gay man and no longer identifies himself with Trump.

These two men are living proof that through our own life experiences

and education, we are constantly changing and coming into our own. Something that cancel culture and political polarization has hindered society from doing is normalizing having our opinions change.

Some might jump to say that the man on TikTok isn't a real member of the LGBTQ+ community because he was once an avid supporter of a president who doesn't seem to value or advocate for the rights of their community. However, this is a counterintuitive way of

When someone takes responsibility for their past and makes a conscious effort to educate themselves, that is something we should learn to value as a society.

thinking. When someone takes responsibility for their past and makes a conscious effort to educate themselves, that is something we should learn to value as a society.

Although we all may be quick to jump and say, "that person's actions seem like performative activism" or "their past actions don't line up with what they're claiming to support," we should instead try and assess the authenticity of what they are doing, and see if they are making reparations for anything injurious they have said or done in the past. If so,

then they deserve to be excluded from being put in the same category of individuals who have not done the same.

The essence of political activism is to get others to change their opinions. After all, what good would canvassing, protesting, debating, and sharing information do if we only continued to hold one's past choices against them? This would mean that all these actions taken to advocate for a cause and gain support would be futile.

Holding things against

others when they are trying to do better, is extremely damaging to the human psyche — no positive change will come from this and our end goals will never be met, whatever they may be. It is important to acknowledge however, that there might never be consensus on the reasons we should forgive others for their past actions, and what constitutes sufficient indemnification.

However as students of USD, it is conclusive that we ultimately let the victims of such harmful speech or acts decide

for themselves what the appropriate room for forgiveness is rather than letting a third-party dictate the action's degree of seriousness and the adequate reparations for it.

It could be that a simple apology and the promise to change is enough. In some cases it is not nearly enough, and in very serious instances, the damage is too great to ever come back from. Considering that some of the most arguably undeserving individuals of forgiveness are those who have sat or are currently sitting in positions of great power, it is clear that certain people are untouchable by just being "canceled" on the internet. More has to be done.

Through involvement in political activism and giving people the opportunity to learn from their past mistakes, we will see results. It is time we all learn to move past the ways in which cancel culture can obstruct the real change we are trying to achieve. Though there might never be an agreed upon standard on how we properly hold individuals accountable, extending respect and appreciation to those who are trying to atone for their past shortcomings is a good place to start.

Community engagement despite the limitations: the Mulvaney Center at USD

Forming relationships in all communities no matter what the circumstances may be

BROOKE TOOMA
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

The ups and downs of 2020 have not stopped the staff and volunteers at the Mulvaney Center from serving and forming relationships with the communities in San Diego and across American borders.

The mission of the Mulvaney Center at the University of San Diego has grown from its focal point of community service into its spotlight on community engagement. According to Austin Galy, assistant director of Student Leadership and Learning, the center's goal is to encompass authentic relationship building, work for social change, and

role.

"Within my role I work with students that are bridges between the USD community and our off-campus partners," Galy explained.

The Mulvaney Center was initially a volunteer office in 1986 but it has since transformed into the Center for Community Service Learning. The Karen and Tom Mulvaney Center for Community, Awareness and Social Action finally claimed its title in honor of its donors — Karen and Tom Mulvaney — in the more recent 2000s.

Galy spoke about the extraordinary impact that the Mulvaney Center has made on the center itself.

"They are genuinely



Austin Galy is the assistant director of Student Leadership and Learning.
Photo courtesy of the University of San Diego.

With the support map. from the Mulvaney Center, students have the ability to partner and work with communities in local San Diego areas — also known as "anchor neighborhoods" — as well as across the border with partners in Tijuana, Mexico.

Students can potentially be partnered with organizations that align with what they are studying and are passionate about, while building uplifting relationships of trust and respect with people from communities across the

Galy went on to explain the intentions of the Mulvaney Center.

"The bread and butter of the work is building trust and capacity," Galy stated.

During these unprecedented times, the Mulvaney Center has not stopped working toward a brighter future and a better community as a whole. Although the hands-on experiences that they are used to have been limited, they are still fulfilling their goal of community engagement.

"The bread and butter of the work is building trust and capacity."

-Austin Galy

understand the systems of injustice when engaging with different individuals across all communities.

Galy has been with the Mulvaney Center for about four years now and spoke about his specific

remarkable people who care and want to make a difference in the world," Galy said. "They allow students to have these opportunities that otherwise wouldn't be there."

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Galy shared the way that he views the modifications being made at the Mulvaney Center in response to these unanticipated circumstances.

“It’s definitely been what I call, ‘building the airplane as we’re flying it,’ in this remote community engagement realm that we are in,” Galy said.

This semester, they are partnering with five schools in Linda Vista — Kit Carson Elementary School, Linda Vista Elementary School, Montgomery Middle School, San Diego

trying to bridge those educational equity gaps and keep students at grade level.”

The USD students working with these K-12 classrooms are offering tutoring and mentoring for Title IX programs in the virtual classroom in order to keep students on track at school despite their potential setbacks. Through doing this, USD students are able to ensure that the Title IX federal law — prohibiting discrimination based on sex in educational programs — is followed, while assisting these teachers that are adjusting

Vendors Initiative.

“We work with local mom and pop businesses in Linda Vista and elsewhere and we try to connect them to USD,” Galy said. “Rather than saying, ‘I’m gonna go cater from Starbucks,’ why not order from a local coffee vendor so that we can invest that money and help cultivate that sense of community as well?”

Among their other goals for the future, Galy mentioned his excitement in regard to the center’s upcoming plans for students who are part of their Beyond Border’s

in need.

Galy explained his positive outlook on the future of USD and its relationship with those on both sides of the border.

“I think that you will see a lot of growth in that relationship over the next infinite number of years,” Galy said.

He believes that it is important for everyone to know that the center’s goal is not to solve, modify, or change anything in the communities that they have relationships with. Instead, they strive to form stronger relationships with both the Linda Vista community and the communities across the border through familiarizing themselves with the ancestral knowledge that remains through storytelling, food, culture, and language in an effort to learn and grow together.

Galy shared his outlook on the Mulvaney Center and the engagement that they take part in.

“It’s not as though we have the answers, but rather through community and relationship building, we can really learn from one another,” Galy said.

To learn more about the Mulvaney Center at USD and how to get involved, visit <https://www.sandiego.edu/mccasa/>.

“It’s not as though we have the answers, but rather through community and relationship building, we can really learn from one another.”

-Austin Galy

Cooperative Charter School, and Mark Twain High School — and currently have about 45 undergraduate and graduate students that are working remotely with the different K-12 classrooms through Zoom.

Galy mentioned the discussion he had with some of the principals at these schools.

“We are still trying to figure out some of the kinks and how to work through it because it’s just uncharted territory,” Galy explained. “We are

to a virtual classroom through Zoom.

The Mulvaney Center has also been focusing on the Local Vendors Initiative during this time of uncertainty and economic setback. Through the initiative they help support minority-owned businesses in local communities by connecting them to USD and encouraging different USD departments to visit and support these local vendors.

Galy went into further detail about this Local

Team. Maria Silva, Director of Neighborhood and Community Engaged Partnerships, and Jocelyn Olguin, Program Director with the Mulvaney Center, work with undergraduate students serving and engaging on both sides of the U.S. and Mexico border.

Being the closest four-year university to this border, USD is provided with an abundance of potential civic engagement opportunities to cultivate relationships, provoke learning, and assist those

For as long as pandemics have existed, people have turned to art as a coping mechanism. Art has always been a therapeutic medium, helping people to process confusing feelings, reconcile emotional conflicts, and reduce anxiety. In the midst of a pandemic, in which we are harshly reminded of our own mortality, engaging in the arts is not just a useful outlet — it is a necessity.

Famous works of art created during past pandemics, namely the Black Death in 1346 and the Spanish Flu in 1918, are often viewed as depressing. However, they are also hopeful. Our current pandemic, just like previous ones, will eventually come to an end. Though the following artistic perspectives and representations have radically changed over time, their collective desire to capture the essence of a pandemic has remained the same.

During the Black Death, the deadliest pandemic in human history, a popular style of art arose called “Danse Macabre” — the dance of death. These paintings and woodcuts depict people being escorted to their graves by dancing skeletons, similar to grim reaper figures.

Art in a pandemic: An exploration of art, from the Black Plague to modern times

The next major pandemic was the Spanish Flu, which began at the tail end of World War I. Over one third of the world’s population became infected, causing more deaths than the war itself. According to an article from Time Magazine, “How Art Movements Tried to Make Sense of The World in the Wake of the 1918 Flu Pandemic,” everyday life during this time period simply “felt ridiculous.” The article also explains that the specific art movement that arose from this period was called the Dada movement, which “explored [a sense of] hopelessness, tried to fight against it and showed the ways in which everyone was trying to cope.”

One artist who emerged during this movement was George Grosz, who painted “The Funeral” in 1918. The Time Magazine article describes what this piece depicts, specifically: grotesque humans, “haphazardly overlapping one another in what appears to be a never-ending street, surrounded by nightclubs and buildings. In the middle of the crowd is a skeleton perched on top of a coffin drinking from a bottle.” The artist was interviewed about his painting and explained the concept he was trying to convey. Grosz said, “In a strange street by night, a hellish procession of dehumanized figures mills, their faces reflecting alcohol, syphilis, plague ... I painted this protest against a humanity that had gone insane.”

Totentanz (Dance of Death) Lübeck by Bernt Notke



Photo courtesy WikedKentaur/Wikimedia Commons {{PD-US-expired}}

The Funeral by George Grosz

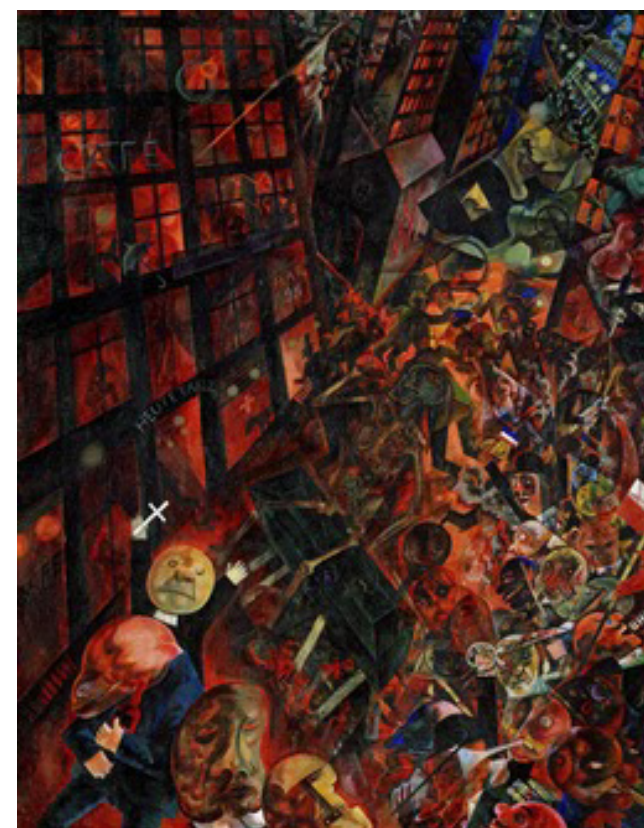


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Self-Portrait with the Spanish Flu by Edward Munch



Photo courtesy of 4ing/Wikimedia Commons.

Only time will tell whether a new style or art form will manifest in depictions of COVID-19. But for now, we can simply appreciate the beauty and perspective of the modern pandemic art that has been created so far. In their creativity, artists have grappled with questions surrounding mortality, the possibility of an afterlife, and the role of selfless caregivers. In the age of COVID, the art of previous pandemics offers us a chance to reflect on these questions, as well as to ask our own.

The show must go on

Watching movies in theaters has quickly become a nostalgic pastime, but movie theaters are now open in San Diego amongst strict health and safety measures

TAYLOR DEGUZMAN
A&C EDITOR

Smelling the freshly-made, buttery movie theater popcorn, feeling the cold, brisk air as soon as you enter the theater, and sitting in an aisle filled with a group of friends all feel more like a distant memory.

Watching movies in theaters has quickly become a nostalgic pastime. Gone are the days when people would wait in lines to sit in a jam-packed theater, ready to watch the movie of the year. As a sign of the times, movie junkies took a long break from watching films in theaters, especially with the entertainment industry taking a major hit, halting all current productions.

Once drive-in movie theaters opened during the summer, frequent moviegoers found themselves watching old movies from the comfort and safety of their own vehicles because social distancing was possible.

However, after nearly seven months of closure, traditional movie theaters in San Diego are finally open. And with the major

release of Christopher Nolan's film, "Tenet," on Sept. 3, people are more than ready to see a new film and have some sense of normalcy. Here are a few ways people can make their next special appearance at the movie theaters as picture perfect, and especially safe, as possible.

Drive-ins:

**Santee Drive-In
Movie Theater 10990 N
Woodside Ave, Santee,
CA 92071**

Drive-in movie theaters are making a comeback. For those who miss watching movies outside of their home, drive-ins are a great way to start — people can enjoy a movie from the comfort of inside their own vehicle. The Santee Drive-in is about 20 minutes away from campus. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. and the film starts at 8:00 p.m. While admission to drive-in theaters back in the 1930s was 25 cents, admission to the Santee Drive-in is \$10 a person. Those unfamiliar with drive-ins may not know that drive-ins show a double feature, so individuals pay \$10 to see two films, whereas typical movie theater tickets range from

\$12-\$15 a person for one film. According to which double-feature people choose, they will drive into theater 1 or theater 2. The movie pairings this weekend are "Tenet" and "The New Mutants" or "Broken Hearts Gallery" and "Bill & Ted Face The Music."

Safety Guidelines and Tips

As you drive into the parking lot of the theater, a parking attendant helps to ensure that one parking space is vacant between parked vehicles to promote social distancing. Individuals are more than welcome to bring chairs to set up outside of their cars to view the film, but the

quality of the film's audio is improved within the car. Masks are mandatory when exiting the vehicle to use the restroom or grab some popcorn and drinks from the concession stand. But Santee Drive-in veterans know that it is highly encouraged to bring your own food and drinks from outside.

Beef 'n Bun

**2477 Fletcher Pkwy,
El Cajon, CA 92020**

The famous, and USD fan favorite, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers is close to the Santee Drive-In, as well as Sonic, a vintage style drive-thru fast-food restaurant where workers on roller skates bring food to customers' cars to enjoy.



The Angelika Film Center in Carmel Mountain.

Taylor DeGuzman/The USD Vista

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However, when looking for something different, make a stop at Beef n' Bun to grab a few burgers, fries, and arguably the best milkshakes in San Diego to add to the vintage feel of your drive-in experience. Entrees range from \$6-\$10. Make it a combo with fries and a drink, and their regular sized milkshakes become \$2.25 instead of \$5.69 if not ordered as a combo.

Don't feel intimidated by the long drive-thru line at this restaurant, which is a testament to the quality of their food and famous milkshakes. Their quick service makes the line go fast, but make sure to get there early to allow ample time before the gates at the drive-in open at 7:30 p.m.

Movie Theaters: AMC Cinemas
7037 Friars Rd.
San Diego, CA 92108
(located in Fashion Valley)

For those who are ready to sit in almost comfy movie theater seats and complain about how cold the inside of the movie theater is because they swore they didn't need a jacket, wait no longer! Seriously, AMC's "Safe & Clean" policies and procedures created a simplified food and drinks menu to promote shorter lines and quicker service.

AMC theaters have several new restrictions to make sure individuals' next movie experience is as seamless and safe as possible. Masks are required for all, but be aware that neck-gaiters, open-chin bandanas, and masks with vents or exhalation valves are not deemed acceptable. For eating and drinking inside the auditorium, masks may be removed in order to enjoy food and drinks.

All AMC auditoriums have decreased seating capacities to 40% or less based on municipality guidelines. In auditoriums with reserved seating, AMC's new ticketing technology will block the seats surrounding individuals' seating selections. In auditoriums that do not offer reserved seating, AMC recommends that guests leave social distance and space between other guests. If any guest feels uncomfortable in their seat or reserved seat, they may move to another socially distant seat or see an associate for help or for a refund.

There will be extra time between movies for stricter cleaning and disinfecting procedures. A more detailed description of AMC's new cleaning policies is available online to alleviate any worries or



Cinema Under the Stars offers zero-gravity chairs that add to the experience.

Photo courtesy of Cinema Under the Stars

hesitance before visiting any AMC Cinemas.

New films screening at AMC theaters:

Tenet

The New Mutants

The Personal History of David Copperfield

The Eight Hundred Words on Bathroom Walls

Cinemas Under the Stars 4040 Goldfinch St. San Diego, CA 92101

A hidden gem in Mission Hills, and only a 10 minute drive from campus, Cinema Under the Stars offers an escape from traditional movie theaters and provides a different outdoor experience than drive-ins. The outdoor theater is known for mostly screening classic films and cult favorites, previously showing films such as "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "The Princess

Bride," "Singing in the Rain," "Casablanca," and much more. Featuring a 20-foot screen with HD projection, Cinema Under the Stars screens movies each week Thursday through Sunday, with movies starting at 8 p.m.

Guests suggest bringing a pillow and blanket to add to the cozy, comfortable feel of the outdoor theater. Tickets for the theater start at around \$18, and guests must reserve tickets by 5 p.m. on the day of the screening. When reserving seats, the website blocks specific seats in order to promote social distancing between guests. Seating includes single or double zero-gravity reclining chairs, loveseat cabanas, or regular deck chairs with ottomans. For parking, there is a paid lot next door, as well as free street parking in the neighborhood after 6 p.m.

Staff Picks: Podcasts

The USD Vista staff hand-picked their favorite podcasts to listen to

ANNA VALAIK
ASST. A&C EDITOR

Over quarantine, many people took to new forms of entertainment such as listening to podcasts. There is something about learning something new, engaging in a conversation, or simply hearing a unique voice on a podcast that provides a one-of-kind experience that music does not always create. When browsing Apple or Spotify, millions of different podcasts jump out, but The USD Vista staff took it upon ourselves to help sort through those options and pick their favorites.

“RISE” Podcast –
Rachel Hollis
Regan Ferrari/Social
Media Manager

“RISE” is a conversational podcast that addresses both business and personal development. Rachel Hollis, the host and a bestselling author, and her guests give their listeners valuable life lessons to take into the real world. “I read Rachel’s book ‘Girl, Stop Apologizing’ and I loved it,” Regan said. “My favorite episode is

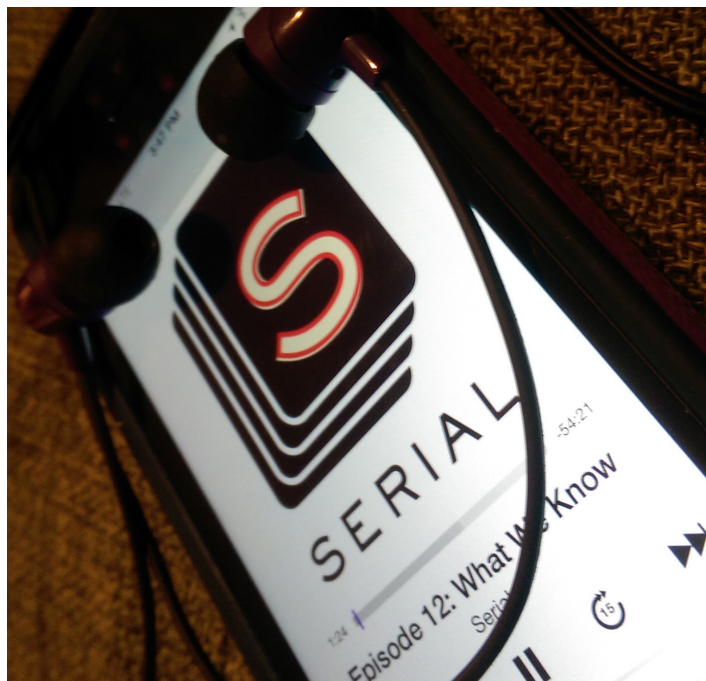
probably ‘How to Stop Caring What Others Think.’ Definitely a great episode!”

“You’re Wrong About” – Sarah Marshall and Michael Hobbs
Catherine Silvey/
Managing Editor

“You’re Wrong About” aims to unmask common misconceptions about popular events and people. Catherine notes, “This podcast is both very interesting and informative on current events and issues. A personal favorite episode of mine is the recent one titled ‘Wayfair and Human Trafficking Statistics,’ which debunks a lot of the conspiracies and statistics regarding human trafficking that have been circulating on social media.”

Serial – Sarah Koenig
Celina Tebor/
Editor in Chief

“Serial,” a podcast revolving around a murder mystery, provides anyone with the perfect fix of suspense and drama. Celina says, “Season 1 of ‘Serial’ was one of the biggest reasons why podcasts became popular



“Serial” is editor-in-chief Celina Tebor’s favorite podcast.

Photo courtesy of Casey Fiesler/flickr

and if you listen to it, you’ll understand why. You can never go wrong with the original.” This podcast truly is the podcast that started it all. It’s a must listen for all crime and adrenaline junkies.

“Dissect” – Cole
Cuchna
Tyler Pugmire/
News Editor

“Dissect,” in every season, dissects an entire album, song by song. Each episode is jam-packed full of musical, social, and personal anecdotes. The host, Cole Cuchna, is incredibly well versed in the music industry, and music artists come alive

in this podcast. Tyler recommends starting at the Frank Ocean season, where Cuchna analyzes Frank’s “Blonde” album.

“WHOA That’s
Good Podcast” – Sadie
Robertson
Taylor DeGuzman/
Arts & Culture Editor

This podcast aims to answer one single question in all their episodes: what is the best advice you have ever been given? Sadie Robertson, the host and all-around positive human being, brings on guests from all disciplines to examine and explore this deep question. Taylor

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Podcasts have risen in popularity among students and younger generations.

Photo courtesy of Rick Harris/flickr

says, “It’s definitely a feel good podcast that’ll make you feel blessed to be alive and inspire you to live and love the heck out of life. Two of my favorite episodes are: ‘Relationship Goals’ and ‘God Made you with Purpose in Mind.’”

**“Lore” – Aaron Mahnke
Hallie Wiltshire/
Assistant Opinion Editor**

Hallie describes “Lore” best: “This bi-weekly podcast retells dark tales from history, focusing on mythical creatures, tragic

events, suspicious deaths, and more. I enjoy it because I love history and creepy stories. The creator also discusses human nature and why people create these kinds of stories. As an anthropology major, I find this kind of information fascinating.” Hallie’s favorite episode is “Episode 4: Dinner at the Afterglow.” She says, “It’s just haunting enough to make you think about the meaning of life and death.”

**“The Daily” – Michael Barbaro
Emma Valdisseri/**

Assistant News Editor

“The Daily,” which is one of the top-rated podcasts out there, gives daily political and news updates to their listeners.

Multiple journalists come in to discuss the world’s biggest events, providing details that go beyond simple headlines. Emma says, “It keeps me up to date on current events beyond just their headlines and shares crucial interviews and facts about what’s going on in America. It’s not the most uplifting podcast, but it’s really informational, emotional, and super important to tune into every morning.” “The Daily” is the perfect addition to Americans’ daily cup of joe morning routine.

**“The Sakara Life”
Podcast – Whitney Tingle and Danielle Duboise
Riley Weeden/
Assistant Feature Editor**

“The Sakara Life” founders sit down every week with different people, within the wellness world, to discover new ways to build a healthy, beautiful life. Focusing on physical and mental well being, these conversations aim to address how science and spirituality can coexist

and change our lives. Riley enjoys learning about health and wellness, and this podcast gives her a new perspective on how to live a sustainable life in 2020.

**“30 Animals That Made Us Smarter” –
Patrick Aryee
Eric Boose/
Sports Editor**

The natural world remains a mystery to many human beings, but “30 Animals That Made Us Smarter” gives listeners a glimpse into the amazing things we learned from the animal kingdom. Eric describes it as “a podcast about biomimicry, which is basically when humans copy things from nature in design. The show focuses on biomimicry in engineering, telling stories of how engineers have taken ideas from animals in order to solve problems.” Eric liked one episode in particular: “One of my favorite episodes is about how a Japanese designer copied the shape of a kingfisher’s head to make the country’s famous bullet trains more streamlined.” This is the perfect podcast for anyone looking to learn a bit more about Mother Earth, and maybe you will hear something that relates to San Diego, too!

Recruiting during a pandemic

COVID-19 related restrictions have forced coaches to change their usual strategies for bringing in new players

SOFIA BRUZZO
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

While COVID-19 has certainly altered how we go about our daily lives, the global pandemic has especially taken a toll on a group of people vital to colleges and universities across the country. Athletic college recruiting has taken a turn due to COVID-19 restrictions, changing the way coaches go about finding the next star players for their athletic programs.

Prior to the global pandemic, college recruiters would spend the majority of their time evaluating high school junior and senior athletes, interacting with them and their families. Recruits would normally travel to campuses for unofficial or official visits and enjoy being sought after by some of the best athletic programs in the country. However, for this new recruiting class, they are going to have to adapt to the new norm, and so will the recruiters.

Now having to watch online streamings of games from the comfort of their homes, coaches — like USD men's basketball assistant coach Martin

Bahar — are adjusting to a new kind of recruiting.

“During the summer and spring time we were used to being in the gyms 10-12 hours, watching hundreds of kids compete per day,” Bahar said. “It’s going to be a very video-based recruiting process for the remainder of the year. It’s a lot of emailing and FaceTime calls with recruits and evaluating

“I think in a lot of ways we’re going to continue to do well in recruiting. Just like every program, sometimes you don’t get everyone and that’s just a part of the business.”

them over film, and that’s going to be the norm for this recruiting class.”

While coaches and recruiters adjust to these new norms, current Torero athletes have been taking note of what high school players are experiencing as well. Carson Lewis, a sophomore linebacker on the football team, addressed the difficulties his prospective teammates might be facing as they experience a new type of recruitment.

“The most difficult part of recruiting for me was having to make that final decision as it was all coming to an end and

getting to select from schools you want,” Lewis said. “A lot of this will change, especially for the high school seniors who have to commit. For the people like me, I got a couple offers my senior year, they probably won’t be getting these offers as seniors if their season is pushed back.”

Coaches and recruiters are struggling to connect

- Martin Bahar

with players as COVID restrictions continue to prevent face-to-face interactions, causing some frustration within programs. One such frustration is trying to evaluate things that don’t come across well on video, as men’s basketball head coach Sam Scholl explained.

“You’re missing out on body language and emotion and those types of things in these video meetings,” Scholl said. “Video doesn’t show a lot of the intangible things that you need to see in really good players.”

Not only is virtual

evaluation strenuous, but establishing relationships with recruits and their families has also proven to be difficult. While official and unofficial visits are currently not allowed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Steve Oliver, Torero football’s recruiting coordinator, gave some insight on how his program is showcasing the beautiful USD campus.

“Some kids are coming to see the campus on their own and then will FaceTime us as if we were both there,” Oliver said. “And for those who can’t make it out here, we go on campus and FaceTime a kid and flip the camera and talk about the school so they can experience it that way.”

Bahar expressed the same concerns, explaining that, “a lot of kids want to see the campus and meet the students and staff in person so that’s a challenge if that’s an important emphasis for them and their families because unfortunately we can’t provide that.”

Despite not having the opportunity to make official visits and participate in summer clinics, these incoming

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athletes are still finding ways to build relationships with their new teammates through the virtual environment.

“Eventually I’ll meet them and we’ll get to practice together,” Lewis said. “We’ve already been in Zoom calls and communicating with them so when we get back on the field it won’t be a problem.”

However, even as recruiting teams struggle to adapt to this new reality, they are hopeful for what is to come. Oliver urges players to continue to perform.

“Continue to work hard, the process is gonna play itself out,” Oliver said. “The best thing you can do is put in the work and use



Thanks to COVID restrictions, Torero coaches have had to find new ways to show off USD’s beautiful campus, usually a helpful recruiting tool.

that extended off season to your advantage so you can have a better senior season.”

Despite the many challenges college athletic

programs are facing across the country, Bahar is confident in USD’s athletic prospects.

“I think in a lot of ways we’re gonna continue to

Mikaela Foehr/The USD Vista
do well in recruiting,” Bahar said. “Just like every program, sometimes you don’t get everyone and that’s just a part of the business.”

USD releases Return to Play Protocol

The 15-page document details guidelines for resuming practice and competition in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

ERIC BOOSE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of San Diego’s Athletic Department has made its Return to Play Protocol available to the public, posting a link to the document on usdtoreros.com. The protocols include COVID test requirements for both

athletes and coaching staff, guidance on the use of face coverings, and guidelines for voluntary workouts, which commenced Aug. 31.

The document outlines protocols that student athletes, as well as coaches and staff (referred to as “inner bubble individuals”), must follow during practices

and workouts, and prior to any competition in the future. The guidelines vary slightly based on the risk level of each sport, but all student athletes and inner bubble individuals are required to test negative for COVID-19 in order to access any USD athletic facilities. When athletes, coaches, and staff arrive on campus each day

they must pass the daily symptom and temperature screening.

Student athletes are currently allowed to participate in voluntary strength and conditioning workouts, as well as individual skill training, such as free-throw shooting for basketball or individual batting practice

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 for baseball. During this so-called voluntary workout period, USD’s Return to Play protocols dictate that no more than six athletes can take part in a workout or training session at one time. The RTP protocols also mandate that athletes and coaches should stay at least six feet apart for the entirety of the workout or drill, and that everyone involved in a session must wear a mask for the entire time. Coaches in ball sports (like soccer, volleyball, or football) are required to wear gloves. Athletes and staff are all responsible for bringing their own water bottles to workouts and practice, and all activities are overseen by at least one member of USD’s sports medicine team.

The protocols are modeled, at least in part, after the protocols of professional sports leagues and other universities, as Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Athletics Bill McGillis explained.

“We looked at the protocols of Major League Baseball, the NFL, and other entities to really understand best practices and concepts for protocols,” McGillis said in late July. “We have tried to take a lot of that into account as we develop our



Mikaela Foehr/The USD Vista

own (protocols).”

Any student athletes who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 10 days before returning to athletic activities. Those with symptoms must wait the required 10 days after the onset of symptoms, be fever free for 24 hours before returning, and show improvement in symptoms. For asymptomatic athletes, the 10 days begin with their positive test, and they will only be allowed to end isolation if they do not develop symptoms during that time.

From there, the policies diverge. Athletes and inner bubble members in “low contact risk”

sports — golf, tennis, swimming and diving, and track and field — are not required to undergo any further testing unless they develop symptoms or have “high contact risk.” Those in “medium contact risk sports” — baseball, softball, and cross country — are only required to undergo “surveillance testing” every two weeks during the non-conference pre-season, conference season, and postseason time periods.

Football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and rowing are the sports listed as “high contact risk,” and are recommended to undergo surveillance testing every two weeks during the current

voluntary workout period if “physical distancing, masking, and protective measures are not maintained.” Surveillance testing will occur every week of the pre-season, season, and postseason for high risk sports.

If and when teams are allowed to play competitive games, USD’s protocols currently require that high-risk sports players and inner bubble members be tested prior to leaving campus for competition and within 72 hours of the first game following their departure from campus. Low- and medium-risk sports are not required to undergo these tests, but they still may.