

University of San Diego

Digital USD

USD Vista

USD Student Newspapers

2-17-2022

Vista: February 17, 2022

University of San Diego

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.sandiego.edu/vista>

Digital USD Citation

University of San Diego, "Vista: February 17, 2022" (2022). *USD Vista*. 1127.
<https://digital.sandiego.edu/vista/1127>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the USD Student Newspapers at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in USD Vista by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact digital@sandiego.edu.

The Official Student Newspaper of the University of San Diego since 1968

THE USD VISTA

Black History Month at USD

How the university is celebrating this historic month

SPENCER BISPHAM
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

The University of San Diego is in the middle of its celebration of Black History Month (BHM), and there has been quite a range of activities. People from every corner of the USD community have come together to put on a myriad of events; from lunches, to workshops, and several guest speakers. Many are still working to make this month about honoring and acknowledging the Black experience.

USD's Vice President for Student Affairs, Charlotte Johnson, J.D., clarified the intention behind the celebration.

"We are a contemporary Catholic university that celebrates the joy and spirit of humanity," Johnson said. "That celebration foregrounds our celebration of Black History Month and the contributions of Black people to not just American history and culture, but to the world as we know it."

Found online at the USD News



As a predominately white institution, USD is making efforts to celebrate their Black students.

Jaden Hauptman/The USD Vista

Center is information for almost every upcoming event at USD, including its offerings for Black History Month. They include lecture series, ministry programs, panels, and film screenings — many of which run through various student organizations.

Johnson emphasized that

there are many different ways that USD celebrates its Black community members year-round.

"In addition to taking this month to highlight the achievements and the experiences of Black people here, nationally, and across the globe, we manifest that celebration in our leadership,"

Johnson said. "Our provost is an African American woman, our Vice President for Student Affairs is an African American woman, our dean of the libraries is African American. You see in the leadership this manifestation of the celebration and honoring of Black people at every level."

An example of this manifestation is the Black Student Resource Commons (BSRC), where students and faculty work side-by-side to "enhance and increase student success and retention by building community engagement, facilitating identity development and supporting students' college experience."

This month, they are offering many events for Black students on and off campus. These events include: a sit-in, lip sync battle, discussion groups, a roller skating night, and much more.

According to Taniah Ayala, a USD sophomore who works at the BSRC, being in community can help make things easier.

"My experience has been weird," Ayala said. "Of course being a Black student you stand out. Everything you do and say will be recorded or misinterpreted. However, at USD I know that I am not alone. I'm so happy to have found a community of people just like me."

She added that USD has room to grow beyond BHM.

See BHM, Page 8

The sky's the limit for USD Baseball

New head coach Brock Ungricht is confident his team can achieve greatness

MARI OLSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Baseball is back at the University of San Diego. The 2022 season kicks off against the University of Oregon at Fowler Park on Friday, Feb. 18, and new head coach Brock Ungricht can't wait to get started.

"I'm excited to get the season going and be in the dugout with our guys. I love being in the dugout with our team and competing against anybody else across the world," Ungricht said.

Ungricht played college baseball himself at San Diego State University (SDSU), and decided early on that coaching was going to be in his future.

"Everybody has an end to the road of their career, and fortunately, mine came quickly, so that I could get involved on the coaching side and do something that I really love to do, and that's to impact and mentor people," Ungricht said. "You're not going to play the game your whole life, but what are you going to give back to the game and give back to people, to inspire them for their lives?"

Ungricht's first coaching opportunity came at Kearny High School, right up the road from USD. After a successful year there, he was hired at SDSU by Tony Gwynn, his former college coach, and then moved to Stanford University, where he spent six years learning what it means to foster a successful collegiate



Fowler Stadium is ready for the beginning of the baseball season.

Mari Olson/The USD Vista

baseball team. But as a San Diego native himself, he couldn't resist the opportunity to go back home.

"It tugged at my heart strings, because that's what I felt like I was set out to do," Ungricht said of getting a call from former USD head coach Rich Hill, asking him to join the USD

staff in 2018. "To come back home, it's a total dream come true. I'm so grateful, thankful, blessed to be in my backyard."

Ungricht has been with the USD baseball program since 2018, when he was initially hired as an assistant under Hill. When Hill

See Baseball, Page 11

MORE STORIES

CA mask mandate

See News, page 2

Joe Rogan censorship

See Opinion, page 4

What makes in-person better

See Feature, page 6

Museum month

See A&C, page 9

Gonzaga game concerns

See Sports, page 12

Don't miss the latest news.

Find us online:



@USDVista



@theusdvista

uofsdmedia.com

NEWS

SAT is modified and moves online

USD continues its test blind admissions policy

KARISA KAMPBELL
NEWS EDITOR

Anxiously filling out scantron bubbles on a test that could determine the destiny of one’s future college is now a memory of the past. The SAT has been moved to an online format starting in 2024. NPR has reported that the previously three hour long test will now be shorter, both with fewer questions and shorter reading prompts, and calculators will also be allowed. These modifications to the test will be implemented in 2024. This change follows student and college requests as the SAT continues to lose its prevalence in college admission decisions. According to the National Center of Fair and Open testing, over 1,800 universities have already made the decision to make standardized tests such as the SAT optional. USD is part of this statistic, having recently made the decision to not require testing for admission consideration in both Fall 2021 and Fall 2022. Stephen Pultz, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment, explained the university’s decision to be a test optional institution. “For years, there has been a growing body of evidence that standardized test scores favor students with more resources than those with less,” Pultz

said. “From the disparity in educational opportunity across different high schools, to the correlation between test score and family income, it was becoming clear that the tests were not helping us (or other colleges) promote access or create a more equitable admissions process.” Because of this evidence, USD decided to make a proactive decision for the fall 2021 admissions cycle. “The committee looked at historical data, information from the testing agencies themselves, and spoke with other schools that had already made the decision. In March of 2020, the committee recommended that USD move to a test optional admission policy,” Pultz said. This new decision would be pushed even further due to the pandemic; however, for the 2021 admission cycle, USD made the decision to completely avoid standardized altogether. “Testing centers were closed all around the world and so USD decided that for the 2021 admission cycle, we would not look at scores at all,” Pultz expressed. “We did not want to place the added stress of trying to sit for the exam on top of the incredible disruption they were experiencing.” From this decision, the admissions department saw some surprising and promising results that making the SAT

optional is, in fact, beneficial to diversity and inclusion. “The results were very positive,” Pultz shared. “First, we experienced a 20 percent increase in applications from students who identified as Black and Hispanic. The average GPA of the entering class was unchanged from the year before, and we enrolled the most racially and ethnically diverse class in our history. As a result, we made the decision to continue our test blind policy for this admissions cycle and will continue to gather data related to student success before making a long term decision.” Many students respect this decision and are happy for the younger generations that the significance of the SAT is dwindling. USD junior Justin Aroesty expressed what he thinks about the SAT, and USD’s decision to be testblind for this admissions cycle. “Good decision, I think it’s progress. Standardized testing doesn’t show all the context about the student,” Aroesty shared. “It’s one dimensional. It’s not a very accurate way to pick how valuable a student can be at their campus.” Similarly, USD first-year student Gabe Wilson who was admitted under USD’s new test-blind pretense, agrees that this is overall beneficial. “I think it’s great. I don’t think one test can be used to measure if someone can get into a school

or not,” Wilson said. “At the end of the day, most of the test is knowing how to take the test. The weight of what it holds is what makes it even harder, and therefore harder to do well on it.” With major decisions being made about the future of the SAT comes rising questions about the future of grad school testing requirements. The LSAT and MCAT are critical tests that require intensive studying and deep understanding of the testing material. Many highly regarded law schools, such as Harvard and Columbia, are now accepting the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) instead. While some change is occurring in the realm of graduate school testing requirements for admissions consideration, it appears that drastic changes, like the changes to the SAT and undergraduate admissions processes, are farther away. USD’s decision to continue test-blind for this admissions cycle supports the beliefs held by many students in the USD community and USD values as a whole: the SAT is not a fair indicator of student success, especially for students of color. While USD’s decision to remain test blind for this admissions cycle and the SAT moving to an online format are mutually exclusive decisions, the SAT is quickly becoming an admissions requirement of the past.



USD will continue its test blind admissions policy for the 2022 admissions cycle. Jaden Hauptman/The USD Vista

USD STUDENT MEDIA IS HIRING!

- USD VISTA EDITOR-IN CHIEF
- USDTV STATION MANAGER
- USD RADIO STATION DIRECTOR
- HEAD OF OPERATIONS
- DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
- WEB EDITOR

Positions are open for
Academic Year
2022-2023.
Email :
mminnick@sandiego.edu
for apolications and
inquiries

The future of masks at USD

USD to require masks even after California removes mandate

JENNY HAN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 7, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced that mask mandates would be lifted for individuals who are fully vaccinated after Feb. 15. However, there are exceptions. According to ABC7, anyone, regardless of vaccination status, must wear masks in high-risk areas such as public transit, living areas, and K-12 schools. In addition, CA has stated that counties can choose to implement their own indoor masking requirements that may deviate from the state. San Diego County stated that they will be following Newsom’s decision.

This announcement sparked controversy regarding enforcing the mask mandates in educational settings. Ky Synder, a member of the COVID-19 action team and the Vice President of University Operations, has stated that USD will continue to enforce mask mandates after Feb. 15.

“The County guidance for wearing masks in schools and classrooms has not changed. We are asking the county if there is a specific recommendation for colleges and universities,” Snyder said. “In the meantime, we will maintain our face covering requirement inside all buildings. Our return to campus testing identified 157 COVID cases in our first two weeks of testing with a 2.5 percent positivity rate which is over double our fall rate. We will monitor the County guidance, our on-campus positivity rate and make decisions accordingly.”

However, there is debate on if the mask mandate should remain. USD junior Mateen Mazloom is one student who believes that mask mandates should be lifted.

“I don’t think masks should be banned or prohibited, but rather to provide students with a choice,” Mazloom said.

He explained how mask mandates have hindered experiences, relationships and emotional connections with other students for him. Mazloom also touched on the controversy surrounding the USD vs. Gonzaga game.

“I could understand if the masks were for safety purposes, but we are far past that,” Mazloom said. “The university recently hosted Gonzaga for a basketball



Even after the Feb. 15 expiration of the California mask mandate, USD will continue to require face masks indoors for the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Jaden Hauptman/The USD Vista

game against the USD boys’ team on Feb. 3. The JCP held 4,871 fans in an environment that was practically mask free. This occurred all while we are enduring Zoom classes and preparing for masked classes with anywhere from 20-30 students.”

He also stated that he is not alone in his views.

“Most students walk out of buildings and immediately take their masks off. A lot of students may not voice their support, but I’m sure we would all love to return to our beautiful school without having to worry about carrying around our face masks,” Mazloom said. “Give students the freedom they deserve. After all, without us, there would be no school to begin with.”

While some, like Mazloom, believe masks should be a choice, others argue in support of keeping mask mandates for the purpose of safety. Maura Giles-Watson, PhD, USD associate professor

of English, is one professor who strongly concurs that the mask mandate should remain. In her ENGL 321 syllabus, she requires that students wear either an N-95, KN-95, or KF-94 respirator mask for in-person classes. Dr. Giles-Watson provides these respirator masks to students free of charge. In addition, she allows students to join class via Zoom if they feel uncomfortable being in a classroom setting.

One reason why she enforces these mask rules, and is in favor of the mask mandates, is because of her living situation. As a result, the lifting of mask mandates would have serious consequences for her.

“I regret that, although I love my job and my students, I would have to take a leave of absence in order to protect my medically vulnerable spouse from exposure to COVID,” Dr. Giles-Watson said.

She states that she knows other professors would also have to do the same if USD

were to lift the mandate.

“Many faculty and staff members are older and thus more vulnerable themselves; others have small unvaccinated children at home; still others are caring for elderly parents or grandparents,” Dr. Giles-Watson said.

All in all, she believes that it’s much too soon to be lifting the mandate.

“Governor Newsom is making a mistake,” Dr. Giles-Watson said. “He is a politician and he has made this decision for political reasons, not scientific ones.”

T.J Tallie, PhD, an associate professor of History and Director of the Africana Studies Major, along with Amanda Peterson, PhD, a professor of Spanish and Director of the CORE curriculum, agrees that the mask mandate shouldn’t be lifted yet.

“Simple fatigue with wearing masks is a wildly insufficient rationale for putting far more people daily

at risk,” Dr. Tallie states.

“We are a community, and we’re collectively responsible for keeping each other as safe as possible in this pandemic,” Dr. Peterson said.

There are also students, who support the mask mandate for similar reasons. Elizabeth Hrabovsky is a first-year who is in favor of the mask mandates.

“We’ve [the county] dropped the mask mandate in the past and it has prolonged the pandemic so much,” Hrabovsky said. “I feel like if we hold out for just a couple more months, it’s going to be over quicker than if we take off the mask mandates.”

While masks remain mandatory at USD, they are not (for the vaccinated) in the San Diego community. In the meantime, The USD Vista will continue to report on new changes regarding COVID-19 throughout the semester. keeping the campus informed.

The USD Vista

Editorial – 619.260.4584
Business – 619.260.4714
www.uofsdmedia.com / @TheUSDVista

Taylor DeGuzman - Editor in Chief
Maria Watters - Associate Editor
Samantha Anciano - Managing Editor
Yana Kouretas - Copy Editor
Marissa Esteban - Art Director
Karisa Kampbell - News Editor
Maria Simpson - Opinion Editor

Haley Jacob - Feature Editor
Anna Valaik - Arts & Culture Editor
Mari Olson - Sports Editor
Kai Welsh - Distribution Manager
Julia Sotille - Social Media Manager
Michael Gutierrez - Finance Manager
Morgan Valent - Advertising Manager

Gina Lew - Student Media Advisor
Marie Minnick - Operations Advisor

The USD Vista publication is written and edited by USD students and funded by revenues generated by advertising and a student fee. Advertising material published is for information purposes only and is not to be construed as an expressed or implied endorsement or verification of such commercial venues by the staff or University. The USD Vista office is located on the fourth floor of the Student Life Pavilion in room 403B.

All inquiries should be sent to:
THE USD VISTA
5998 ALCALA PARK
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of The USD Vista staff, the University of San Diego or of its student body. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to The USD Vista office. Letters should be limited to 300 words and must be signed. For identification purposes, USD identification numbers and writer’s year must be included in the letter. The USD Vista reserves the right to edit published letters. Any content sent to the editor will be considered for publication unless otherwise stated.

EDITORIAL

Attempting to deplatform Joe Rogan is not about truth

Manipulation, control, and profits surround the Spotify issue

COLIN MULLANEY
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

I awoke on the morning of Jan. 29 to the news that Joni Mitchell was pulling all of her music from Spotify and felt a sinking in my stomach. Mitchell was not the first to go, rather she said in a public statement that she was “standing in solidarity with Neil Young” in protest of Joe Rogan’s podcast and exclusive \$100 million contract with Spotify.

In particular, Young and Mitchell were upset with Rogan for giving a platform to guests like doctor and mRNA vaccine developer, Dr. Robert Malone, who presented views contrary to the mainstream narrative on COVID-19 vaccines.

Young and Mitchell demanded that Rogan be deplatformed and his contract terminated by Spotify before they would make their triumphant returns. As both a Mitchell and Rogan fan, the situation forced me to decide where I stand on the issue of deplatforming opposing views: part of the broader, ongoing conversation around censorship and cancel culture.

Everyone knows the First Amendment of the Constitution protects the right to free speech, the cornerstone of a thriving democracy; but, the First Amendment also does not apply to private institutions and corporations, which can regulate their own internal affairs and employees as they please.

On principle, therefore, I am in favor of allowing Spotify to censor or deplatform Joe Rogan as they see fit. However, that



Spotify is popular among millions of Americans and can be a big influence.

does not mean that they should deplatform Rogan, that their intentions for doing so would be pure, or that we should willingly accept censorship as the new normal in media and tech.

As it stands, Spotify has not terminated its contract with Rogan, but renegotiated with him to remove particular episodes, like his episode with Dr. Malone, and preface the show with disclaimers.

But this fight is not settled, nor is it an isolated incident. Rather, part of a string of battles already fought and lost by proponents of free speech and open dialogue.

Deplatforming of major figures began when Twitter banned former president Donald Trump after the Jan. 6 insurrection, which gave unprecedented power to Big Tech companies. If Twitter can silence the leader of the free world, then they can silence

anyone, and that should concern you no matter your political leanings. Big Tech CEOs are, in this way, more powerful than the entire American electorate, and who’s to say they won’t yield the same unregulated power against you, if they so choose?

Ironically, Twitter banned Trump for his authoritarian use of power by wielding authoritarian-style power against him. And while it may be within Twitter’s legal rights to ban its users, it sets a dangerous precedent that has already expanded with the permanent ban of Georgia congresswoman, Marjorie Taylor Greene, for alleged COVID-19 misinformation.

This overreach by Big Tech is exactly the sort of behavior that got populist Trump and Greene elected in the first place. Big Tech is poking the bear of the Republican base, and if they are not careful, they will

Photo courtesy of Sara Kurfieb/Unsplash

be responsible for Trump 2024. The heart of the matter is, deplatforming is not only unprecedented, unregulated, and overreaching, but actually counterproductive to its professed goals. Nothing makes consumers more interested in listening to content than banning it. It’s human nature 101.

Censors waving their hands around and shouting “nothing to see here” like the Wizard of Oz is probably the biggest tell that something nefarious is going on. It attracts more attention to the censored material than simply leaving it alone.

In a democracy, one must necessarily believe, as Shakespeare says, “the Truth will out.” Otherwise, how can the population be trusted to cast a vote or make important decisions on anything?

Censorship reflects a clear distrust in the ability of Truth to prevail, relies on

the subjective judgments of a select few individuals, and therefore it is antidemocratic.

Certain powerful figures in Big Media and Tech have stopped believing in this underlying principle of Truth and democracy, and so they concur that the only way to influence is to manipulate and destroy those they disagree with, which has lasting, negative implications for us all.

For this reason, theirs is not a populist approach — for the public good like they claim — but an elitist and self-interested one. Consider, for example, that those now publicizing the Rogan controversy, smearing him publicly, and calling for him to be deplatformed are mostly members of the legacy media, who are his direct competitors for viewership and profits.

So, if Joni Mitchell disagrees with Rogan’s guests, she should not be trying to get his content censored by removing her own impressive life’s work from Spotify.

Instead she should be creating her own, better content to counterbalance Rogan’s guests. If she believes in the message and truth she professes, she would benefit by promoting her own songs more. Not holding her content hostage.

In reality, Mitchell and Young know they’re played out and can’t outcompete Rogan’s 11 million listeners per episode, so they’re throwing a tantrum for publicity, clinging to relevance.

Mitchell knows better, Spotify hopefully knows better, and we all have to do better to see through these manipulative, self-interested tactics behind cancel culture.



Joni Mitchell is standing in protest against Rogan’s podcast with the removal of her music from Spotify.
Photo courtesy of @jonimitchell/Instagram



Joe Rogan has an estimated 11 million listeners per episode.
Photo courtesy of @joerogan/Instagram

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.

EDITORIAL

The truth about COVID-19 and vaccines

Stop making COVID seem like it's not a big deal

MEGAN VALADEZ
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

My family of six and I, including two high risk parents and an 82-year-old grandmother, contracted the COVID-19 Omicron variant, despite being fully vaccinated and boosted. We were considered breakthrough cases.

I think it is important to note that the Delta and Omicron variants are not going to be the last variant we see.

It seems as if our country learned nothing after the Delta variant when it comes to testing efficiency.

Testing needs to be easier and more accessible. We should have been prepared for testing surges when the Omicron variant hit, but unfortunately, we were not.

We were able to dodge COVID for over two years because we took every single precaution possible, despite my parents having to work in person.

Everything precaution, from weekly testing to wiping down anything we bought from the grocery store, to washing any article of clothing that was worn outside the house and not seeing anyone outside of our immediate family was exercised in our household.

We had no idea the journey we would embark on over the next week.

It all started when it took us over two hours of online research just to find a PCR testing site that would take all six of us. That testing site was almost an hour away.

Throughout the week that my family had COVID, we ended up getting tested five different times, at three different testing sites.

Over the course of three days, I spent a total of ten hours waiting in line to get tested. My parents missed multiple hours of work and my siblings and I missed days of school.

According to the New York Times, around 500,000 California residents tested positive for COVID-19 the week of Jan. 2, 2022. That same week, around 4-5 million Californians got tested.

The reason I include this information is to show just how many people needed to be tested, which most likely resulted in millions of people waiting in long lines, or waiting multiple days for PCR results.

I found myself imagining what it would be like to be in the shoes of millions of people



Testing sites force people to wait long hours, often in freezing weather.

who waited in line like my family and me. I thought about what would happen if my mom's boss wasn't so understanding to give her the paid time off to test multiple times.

I imagined what it would be like to lose my job because I had to wait long, treacherous hours in a line just to get tested. I didn't even want to imagine what it would be like to lose a week's pay because you got the virus that was spreading a mile a minute; unable to provide necessities for your family.

We should not have people waiting to get tested for hours in the freezing cold temperatures of New York City. People should not have to take a whole day off of work just to wait in line. I

should not have spent over two hours on the internet in hopes of finding a test. I should not have to drive an hour away just to get tested. And I should not have to wait three to five days for my results to come back.

We need to think about the endless repercussions of COVID, and not just the possibility of having long-term COVID or lasting symptoms.

We need to think about the millions of people who have lost their jobs because they spent too much time waiting in line for a test or recovering from COVID. We must think about the people who were forced to go to work while they were infected, possibly spreading the virus to more people. Once

again, capitalism prevails.

I think a lot about the hypotheticals and what-ifs. But my biggest question was: What if my parents and grandmother were not vaccinated and boosted? We let COVID run its course through our house because we all knew we had mild symptoms. Not everyone is lucky enough to do that. I was lucky enough to see that despite my grandmother and parents being high risk, that their symptoms were fairly minimal. Not all high risk people are afforded that.

According to the official California state government website, from Jan. 17 to Jan. 23 of 2022, unvaccinated people were 5.9 times more likely to get COVID-19 than people

who received their booster dose and 11.4 times more likely to be hospitalized. From Jan. 10 to Jan. 16 of 2022, unvaccinated people were 21.8 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than people who received their booster dose.

Getting COVID is not as easy as people make it out to be, especially when your whole family gets it at once.

It was impossible to find testing within an adequate distance, we wasted hours of our days waiting in line to get tested, and we could not prevent the entire household from getting COVID due to simply not having enough rooms for us to quarantine in.

Stop making COVID seem like it's not a big deal, because it is.

It was the hardest week of my life and I am grateful that my whole family was okay. If my grandmother and parents were not vaccinated and boosted, they probably would not have survived. I would not be writing this article because I would still be grieving the loss of my family members after their funerals. My siblings and I would be parentless and I would have to be their main caregiver. Life can change in the blink of an eye.

Think about my story, and the stories of the millions of lives that were flipped upside-down after they lost a loved one due to COVID-19.

Remember this story the next time you tell someone COVID isn't a big deal.

Stop being selfish and get vaccinated if you qualify.



COVID testing sites are packed with crowds seeking reliable tests.

Photo courtesy of Jakayla Toney/Unsplash

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.



DR. SUSANNAH STERN

“There are so many things that make in-person learning better than online, it's hard to know where to start. I love how in-person learning feels alive, dynamic and engaging. In the classroom, I feel connected to students through all my senses. I can hear their reactions, see their emotions, and feel the vibe in the room. This gives me energy and insight, and makes teaching and hopefully learning so much more fun and interesting.”

LILA VISCHER



“I focus better in-person because I feel more accountable to show up and participate. It is easy to slack off or even fall asleep when you can attend classes in your bed. Being in-person is more engaging and harder to get distracted.”

SAY GOODBYE TO POOR CONNECTION!

STUDENTS AND STAFF TALK THE BENEFITS OF IN-PERSON LEARNING.

With in-person learning back in full swing, USD students and staff share special aspects to being back in the classroom.

ELY REDOBLE

“In-person learning allows us students to connect with others that remote learning doesn't allow us to do. By having face-to-face contact with others, we are able to develop personal relationships and have a more hands-on experience. It gives us the opportunities for interaction and a more efficient way of communication when talking with classmates or professors. Thus, we are able to engage with others and have a more thoughtful learning experience overall.”



PROF. KETH MACDONALD



“Hands down, it's hands-on. Hands-on learning especially when you're trying to get across a scientific concept is absolutely important. I've taught classes where I've done only lecture and group interaction and I've done just lecture material but not working with hands-on things in the lab, but by far when you have a chance to work in a lab as a student and learn some of the things that apply to where a concept is applied scientifically you learn far better than when you're just theoretically working with things. This is especially when it is a non-major; when it's a science major they're taking in knowledge and they're scaffolding it to where they can have concepts and facts and details within the discipline where they don't have to necessarily connected to hands-on but that's because they're more immersed in the material. Somebody who is a non-major whose primary goal is to learn new things, they really need a deeper connection and the way to do that is through hands-on.”

FEATURE

Celebrating Black history on campus

Events recognizing Black History Month at USD

SPENCER BISPHAM
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

BHM from Page 1

“What could help us progress and make the Black community feel much safer is by always holding people accountable,” Ayala said. “The university needs to stop giving false promises and actually commit to what they ‘preach’ or so heartedly ‘stand for.’ Not just students, but faculty, administrators, everyone needs to be educated. Whenever there is a need, I don’t want any hesitation or questions regarding the experiences we’ve all faced. I want to see USD be on top of these situations and not worry about their so-called ‘image’ instead of sweeping things under the rug.”

USD first-year Alonna Deshotel shares similar mixed experiences to Ayala.

“Although it has not been easy, I think I’m working on better understanding my purpose here,” Deshotel said. “Though being Black has not made it easy to find people who relate to things you do, come from the same experiences, or even find close relationships that aren’t surface level.”

She also had more specific ideas on how the university could improve.

“I think Black hair care products and Black products in general should be added to the pantry,” Deshotel said. “Considering the pantry provides things the students are in need of, Black students do need products for our hair which can be hard to get if you don’t know the area. I also believe it will help a lot if they let Black students have first pick of the only two Black therapists on campus. So at least when there’s nowhere to turn, at least we have a place we can feel safe.”

Change is also on the radar of the Black Student Union (BSU), a student organization on campus, where building community and supporting Black students are their top priorities.

Kaia Morrison, USD senior and president of the Black Student Union, reflected on the rate that change at USD is being enacted.

“I think that the most important thing that I’ve learned, being here and being president, is that things take time,” Morrison said. “As much as we would want USD to be 30 percent Black this semester, these things take time and they take patience. The key

is being persistent and voicing what you need in those moments. There’s little stuff that they can give to us at the drop of a hat, but bigger stuff like increasing Black faculty and the Black student population takes a little time.”

President James T. Harris III, DEd, said that more BIPOC student enrollment is something the school is proactively focusing on.

“I’ve been very proud of the fact that the percentage of students of color has gone up,” Harris said. “We’re moving in a very positive direction. The class we just had and the one before that are the two most diverse classes we’ve ever had. This incoming class right now looks to be even more diverse, [and] right at the top of the list of what I want to do here is hire more diverse faculty.”

BSU, which recently had its first general body meeting on Feb. 14, is also involved in several of the events that are put on to recognize Black History Month.

Toreros are encouraged to view the full list of programs for this month at the USD News Center or on the Instagram pages of the Black Student Union or Black Student Resource Commons.



The Black Student Resource Commons on the fourth floor of the SLP.
Haley Jacob/The USD Vista

My dog ate my homework!

Professors share the most memorable student excuses for late work

JESSICA MILLS
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

Sometimes turning in late work is unavoidable. Whether there’s an issue with traffic, an alarm doesn’t go off, or the occasional forgetfulness, missing an assignment due date is a dreadful experience shared among many college students.

While college deadlines are typically immovable, many professors welcome open communication regarding missing and late work.

Over the years, USD students provided both honest and entertaining excuses for assignment mishaps. Most excuses tend to be reasonable, but some are deemed unforgettable by professors, serving as a source of great entertainment.

USD associate professor of English, Dr. Carlton Floyd, also referred to as “Floyd” by colleagues and students, shared the most memorable student excuse that he came across in his 22 years of teaching at USD.

“A student called me to say that even though they knew a paper assignment was due, that the surf was too good to miss, and that if I could wait in my office for a while, their mom would drive



USD students get creative with their excuses.

Photo courtesy of Sharon McCutcheon/Unsplash

down and deliver their paper,” Floyd said. “Of course, their mom lived about an hour away.”

Adjunct Instructor and Internship Director in the Communication Studies department, Gregory Ghio, has been teaching at USD for what he refers to as a “long, long, long time.” Ghio found that while most of his students adhere to his no late work policy, one student’s excuse almost seemed too good to be true.

“He was flying in

his dad’s jet to the MTV music awards,” Ghio said.

Assistant professor of Strategic Communication, Dr. Aziz Muqquddam, has taught at USD for two years. Out of the many unique excuses he’s heard, Dr. Muqquddam felt one really stood out.

“The deadline was approaching for a group project and one student was notably slacking compared to their partners,” Dr. Muqquddam said. “They came into my office

and I agreed that they could submit the project a day later, which happened to be on a Tuesday, to which the student said ‘I do have yoga on Tuesday and I really need it, so can I turn it in on Wednesday?’”

Dr. Muqquddam appreciated the student’s sincerity, and because they had built a rapport throughout the semester, he agreed to accept their work late.

Lecturer in the Communication Studies department, Michelle Kennedy, reflected on her past two years at USD and the many unforgettable interactions with students.

One student’s excuse, however, left her speechless.

“I got an email once from a student that said it wasn’t just diarrhea but explosive diarrhea,” Kennedy said. “They used those exact words.”

Professor Kennedy also shared a cautionary tale for college students who use social media.

“I received a message from a student saying their grandmother had died and they wouldn’t be able to come to class that day,” Kennedy said. “But, we were connected on social media through a former student and a picture came up of them with other students at a concert.”

While every professor

has unique experiences with late work excuses, they all agree on two things.

One, most students do turn in their work on time. Two, they all appreciate honesty from their students.

“Honesty goes a long way, more than a lie or a random story that’s hard to believe,” Kennedy said. “Sometimes we do need a day off, and I value students’ honesty when vocalizing the need to prioritize their mental health, especially during COVID.”

While some excuses for late work may seem dramatic or absurd, advocating for oneself is anything but.

Most professors understand the taxing pressures surrounding college life, having been in students’ shoes as college students themselves.

Although many professors maintain their no late work policy, providing open communication from students can allow for compromise.

It’s encouraged for college students to find a healthy balance between academic and social life, but there is an appropriate time and place for fun.

However, if you do decide to skip out on an assignment for a beach day with friends, just make sure to keep it off social media.

ARTS & CULTURE

Must-see museums in San Diego

A guide to your next weekend excursion

ISABELLA SANCHEZ
ASST. A&C EDITOR

San Diego has more to offer than just its amazing beaches and trendy restaurants. Some of the city's most popular spots are its unique museums and art galleries. In San Diego there's always a museum that fits anyone's interest, and there's no better time to visit them than now. February is "Museum Month" in San Diego, so it's only appropriate to visit the best museums the city has to offer. If you're in need of weekend plans, look no further.

Beyond Van Gogh Immersive Museum

Admission price:

Student-timed admission price (show student ID): \$32.99 on weekdays or \$41.99 on weekends.

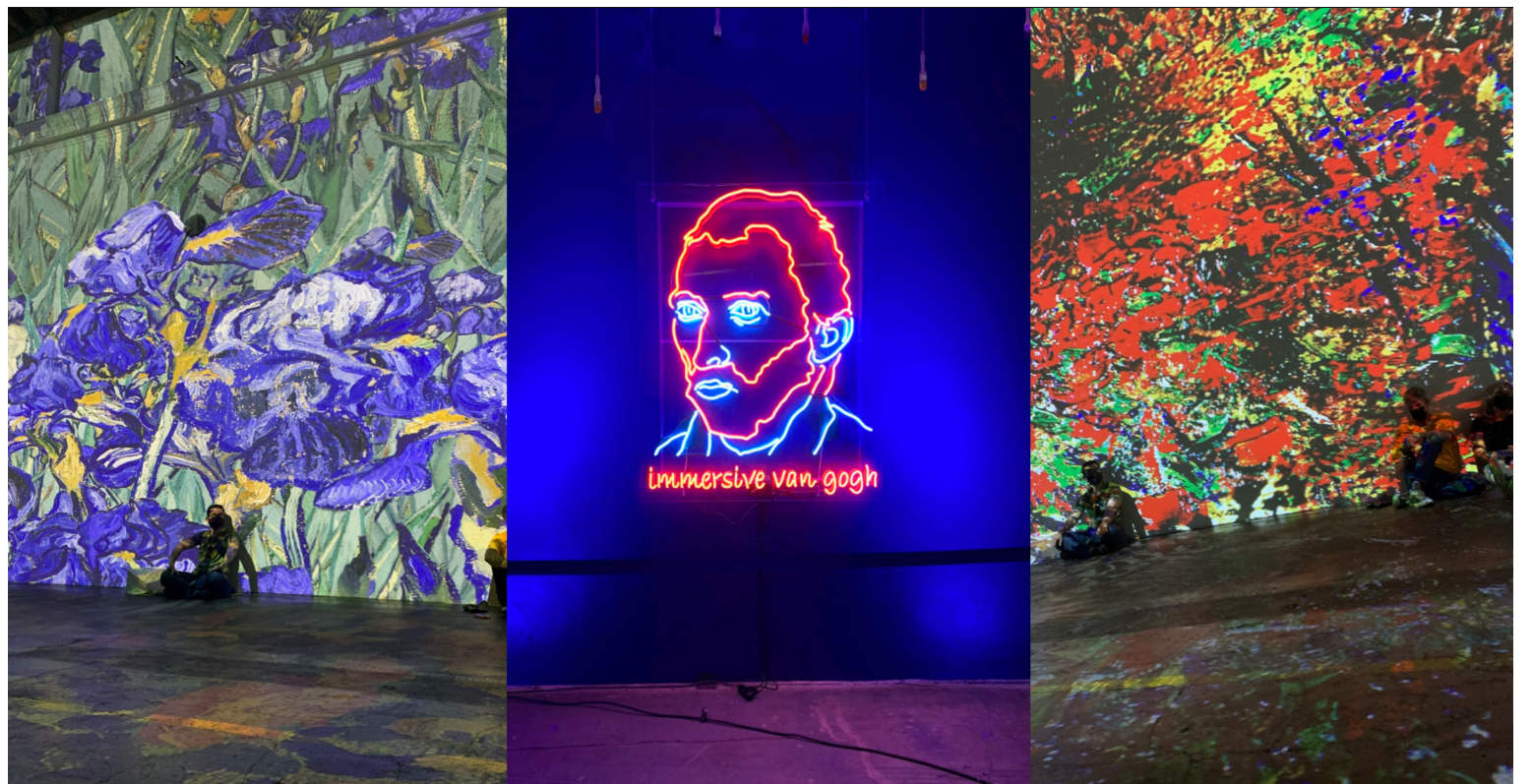
Immersive yoga: \$56.99

Distance from campus: Approximately 23 minutes.

As the name suggests, Van Gogh's Immersive Museum located at the Del Mar Fairgrounds truly immerses its visitors in breathtaking art.

What is special and different about "Beyond Van Gogh" is that it utilizes projection mapping, animation, and music for visual storytelling. Accompanying the art is a symphonic soundtrack that changes as the projection of the art changes, creating different stories for each piece.

The entire experience includes an hour of exploring the exhibit, which is spread between three rooms. The first room consists of a walk-through section of written panels that tell the story of Van Gogh's life



The "Beyond Van Gogh Immersive Museum" features artist Van Gogh's work through projection and interactive art.

Isabella Sanchez/The USD Vista

and snippets from thousands of letters he wrote to his brother about his passion for art.

The exhibit's second room features designs of digital dots that show visitors how the studio animators recreate Van Gogh's famous brush strokes and his three-dimensional effect.

Finally, the visitor arrives at the main exhibit where every inch of the room is covered in Van Gogh's paintings. The artwork is digitally mapped on the walls and floor in a 35-minute film that plays on a loop.

It starts with Van Gogh's darker paintings to still lifes and self portraits, and finally, pieces that are a kaleidoscope of colors.

Through animation, Beyond Van Gogh brings the paintings to life with flickering flames, starlight sparkles and swirls, and even tree limbs growing across the floor and walls.

The immersive Van Gogh experience allows its visitors to truly feel as if they stepped directly into a Van Gogh painting.

Due to the digital animation aspect, the exhibition makes it feel like the artwork is being painted before people's very eyes and that the masterpieces are alive.

Another special aspect to this museum is that it offers immersive yoga in the main exhibit room among the artwork and the beautiful symphonic score.

The classes are taught by local yoga instructors each Thursday and Saturday. Bring your own mat, towel, and water and enjoy an "experience of a lifetime," according to the instructors.

Tickets can be bought on the museum's website at www.vangoghsandiego.com and are available now through Mar. 6.

Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA)

Admission price:

Every visitor can go without a general admission fee and can instead make a contribution based on how much they want to pay.

Distance from campus: Approximately 15 minutes.

MOPA is located in Balboa Park and it is only one out of three museums in the US whose main focus is to preserve and collect photography. For anyone who admires the art of photography, this museum is a must visit. What is unique about MOPA is that it offers annual exhibitions that are thought-provoking and engaging. It is currently showing three temporary unique exhibitions, among its bigger collections.

Aaron's Siskind's Mid Century Modern exhibit focuses on his photographs shot during the 1940's and 50's. The collection revolves around Siskind's interest in abstraction during postwar photography. All of the pieces are stunning in their minimalism and darker monochromatic color scheme. This exhibit is currently open until May 1, 2022.

After Siskind's exhibit, one can go to Norman Seeff's Beyond The Boundaries and admire the subjects of his lens.

As a photographer, filmmaker, and multimedia artist, Seeff focuses his camera on artists and innovators who have impacted culture. Don't get this exhibit confused with typical portraits – Seeff describes his work as "creating an experience."

If colorful and more imaginative artwork is more your style, then the 15th Annual Juried Youth exhibition, Darkest Nights, Brightest Stars, is the exhibition to go to. This exhibition features art that relates to two separate themes: growing up and space. Young artists in K-12 in San Diego and Tijuana shared their interpretation of the themes through photography and video.

The results are unique and visually appealing pieces that stretch the imagination. This exhibit is available until April 10.

From a truly immersive experience to a gallery of unique photographs, the Van Gogh Museum and MOPA are the perfect weekend trips if you want a change of scenery.

Museum Month is the best time to celebrate art and artists, and explore some of the museums here in San Diego.



The MOPA exhibits the art of photography and is the perfect gallery for those who appreciate different photography styles and techniques.

Photo Courtesy of @melenasands5/Instagram

USD students wait to see their peers perform at Music Box

Showing support for student bands, artists, and musicians

KATHERINE ELY
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

Hundreds of students in the San Diego area abandoned their homework on a school night to flood Music Box and watch student artists: Tunewave, Headband Andy, We the Commas and keni can fly play.

Music Box typically puts on concerts for crowds of 21 and older. However, they made an exception for this particular event to express their support for musical artists and specifically, artists from our very own USD community. Events like this one, which took place on Feb. 8, are crucial for small artists to gain popularity and recognition.

The excitement and dedication of the fans in the audience truly shined throughout the night. Students cheered as the bands took the stage, with many in the crowd singing along.

USD senior keni can fly, who closed the night, is a solo performer who garnered a reputable fan base here in San Diego. His unique alternative hip hop sound is easily recognizable among listeners, and just in the last two years his single “veering” has reached up to 600,000 listens on Spotify.

At one point during keni can fly’s set, the audience eagerly came together in a moment of unity to chant, “Make him fly!” encouraging the young artist to crowdsurf.

USD junior Nick Brumback, who plays guitar and sings for Tunewave, discussed his reaction to the crowd’s enthusiasm.

“It’s fun seeing friends at the show,” Brumback said. “Some of them knew the words, which was really funny.”

He couldn’t believe the support they were receiving.

“There was one moment when I looked my friend right in the eyes and I was singing and she just said the words right back to me and I freaked out,” Brumback noted.

USD senior Peyton Heisinger said, “It makes me grateful for the community we have here,” about the atmosphere of the crowd.

USD senior Jordan Rahe, who was also in the audience, described the atmosphere of the event as feeling like a “big USD party with live music.”

Performing in front of large crowds is a difficult thing for many artists to learn and master over time, and it takes a certain kind of energy to do. Tunewave also faced a few major setbacks before taking the stage.

“We had a lot of technical difficulties on stage,” Brumback said. “We had a guitar string break, and then got a replacement guitar that didn’t work.”

The difficulties didn’t stop there.

“As soon as we switched that guitar, the amp wasn’t working,”

Brumback said. “We’ve had technical difficulties before and it kinda ruins some of the show, but now I think we’re more comfortable just rolling with the punches and working with what’s being handed to us.”

USD senior Henry Kiley, who plays bass guitar for Tunewave, discussed the unpredictable nature of performing live.

“No matter how much we practice the set and know the songs, when it comes to shows there’s always something that happens that you can’t account for,” Kiley said. “Now it’s just realizing that and responding, dealing with it.”

To him, that’s rock & roll, and he knows it can be messy.

Concerts like the one at Music Box are really helpful for artists like Tunewave who are just starting out and looking for experiences to better understand the music world and what it means to be a performer. They, like all artists, are looking for opportunities to not only expand their audiences, but to also grow as musicians and find their sound so that they can evolve.

Kiley further discussed what it felt like to be on stage with the band and why concerts like the one at Music Box are helpful towards building strong relationships amongst members.

“It’s just so much fun being up on stage, and being with the guys now that we’ve gotten a lot tighter and a lot better as musicians and being comfortable playing these songs together,” Kiley said. “It’s just a good time and 30 minutes of chaos and fun.”

Keni added that, “This music, this art, the community we’ve formed around it and the fact that we have the ability to share it with people who want to receive it is like the most surreal feeling ever. It’s pretty magical.”

Keni also mentioned that everyone performing was either a current or former USD student, aside from his drummer, Quincy Bunn, who flew out from Boston to play the gig.

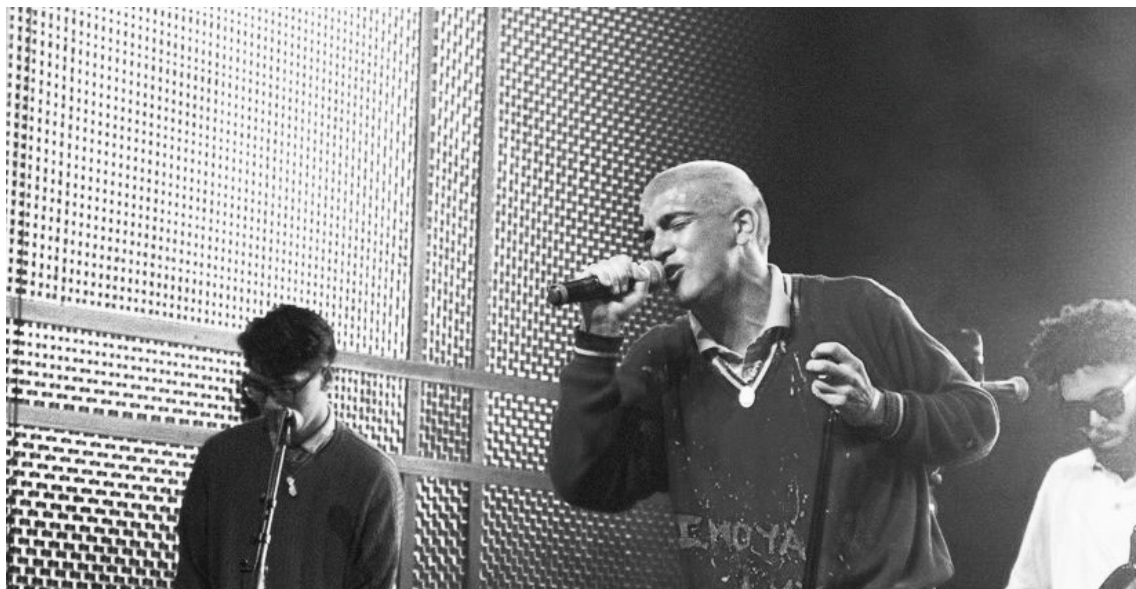
“I think it really just gives an opportunity for the students to have a platform to express themselves which I haven’t really seen in a significant way over the four years I’ve been here,” Keni said.

“I definitely plan to do more in the future, hopefully I meet more student artists too.”

The concert at Music Box was a great opportunity for these four student bands to perform and expand their audiences.

On top of that, it successfully introduced USD students to the hard work and dedication these artists have put into creating music.

In turn, we have created a safe and supportive community for them to continue their work and take the next step to reach their dreams.



Student artist, keni can fly, and his band, play their set at San Diego’s Music Box in front of family and friends.

Photo courtesy of @kenicanfly/Instagram



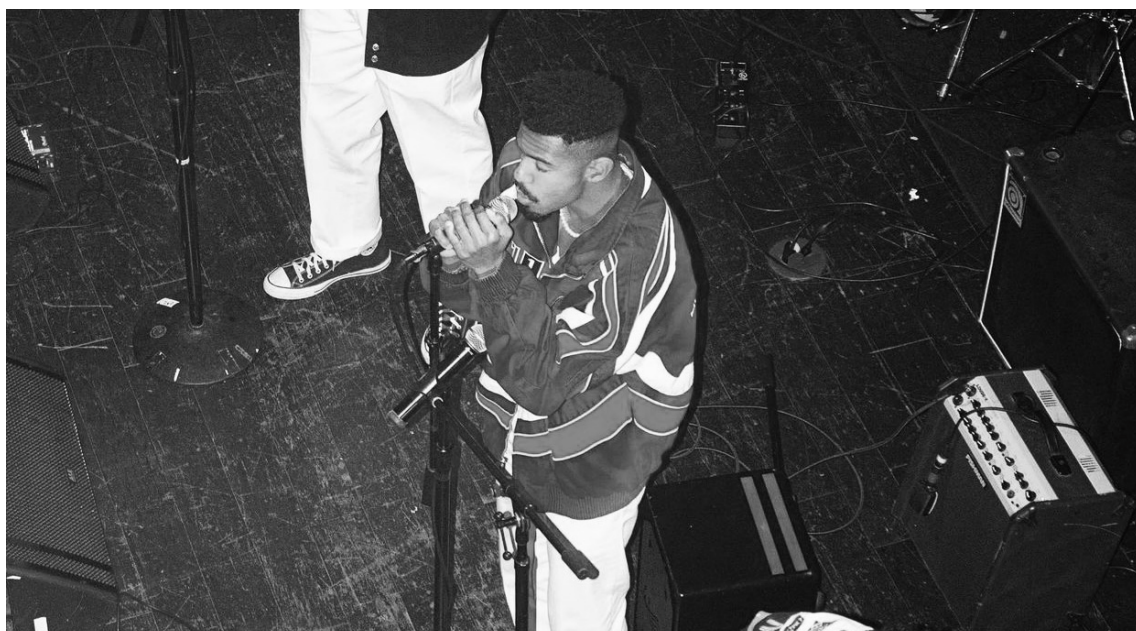
USD alumni, Andrew Felix, also known as “Headband Andy,” was one of the openers for keni can fly.

Photo courtesy of @fukshittapes/Instagram



Tunewave, another USD student band, opened the show at Music Box with peers cheering in support.

Photo courtesy of @tunewaveband/Instagram



We the Commas is a band of three brothers, one of which graduated from USD.

Photo courtesy of @fukshittapes/Instagram

SPORTS

USD Baseball ready to hit it out of the park in 2022

Toreros looking to kickstart positive momentum on opening weekend

MARI OLSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Baseball from Page 1

left the program this past summer to lead the team at the University of Hawaii, Executive Director of Athletics Bill McGillis promoted Ungricht to the top job at USD.

Ungricht compared the transition from assistant to head coach as “like parenting, to a certain extent.”

“You set the ground rules, the expectations, the core values, what you want them to be and then it’s consistently holding people to that standard, holding them accountable for your core values,” Ungricht said.

Although the relationship the team has to an assistant is different from that of a head coach, Ungricht felt as though his team adjusted seamlessly to his new leadership.

“I’m thankful to have a great group of young men to where it was flawless from them to be like, okay, whatever coach says, we’ll do,” Ungricht explained. “I’m giving them respect and in turn they give me respect back, so it’s worked out really well.”

Redshirt junior shortstop Cody Jefferis, who has been at USD for four years, also spoke of the easy transition for Ungricht.

“The coaches here are some of the best coaches I’ve ever been with and been coached by,” Jefferis said. “Especially with Coach Ungricht, moving from an assistant the last couple years to head coach, it’s been fun to work with him and see him develop as a coach, and to develop myself with him.”

Both Jefferis and Ungricht, perhaps unsurprisingly, identified winning a West Coast Conference (WCC) championship as their biggest goal for the season. Coming off of last season, Ungricht is confident that the team has the momentum to achieve it.

“Coach Hill had a good year last year, 33-12, 77-37 over the last three years, which is one of the highest on the west coast and in the country for winning percentages,” Ungricht said. “It’s because of the guys we brought in. It’s the people, the players, the personalities, it’s the young men that we’ve been able to bring in and rally around and empower them to go out and do what they can do.”

The Toreros just missed out on the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament last season, and they are ready to go back and try again to make it there.



Fowler Park, home of USD Torero Baseball, is ready and waiting for fans to pack the seats and support their team.

Mari Olson/The USD Vista



Redshirt junior shortstop Cody Jefferis (#1) can’t wait to start the season.
Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com

“They were one game short of winning the conference last year,” Ungricht said. “They did such a good job of passing that down to this group here that they have that confidence. They have something to prove, they feel like they can beat anybody, they have that belief already. Now it’s about going out and executing it and doing it. It all starts with the confidence.”

Jefferis talked about the possibilities this team has in front of them.

“I see a ton of potential, to see the team grow from the start of the fall up until now, we’ve done a lot and accomplished a lot as a team,” Jefferis said. “I don’t know what the limit is for us, but I don’t see why we can’t take it as far as possible because we have the talent to do it and we have the guys to do it.”

So who are these guys? Although Ungricht clearly believes in the team as a whole, he highlighted a few players to be on the lookout for this season.

“Cody Jefferis, he hit 341 last year, had an outstanding year as a leadoff hitter, and played an unbelievable shortstop, in my opinion the best shortstop in the conference. He is gonna give you the same play day in and day out, Mr. Consistent, and he’s the mainstay of our team,” Ungricht said.

Redshirt junior catcher Caleb Ricketts and sophomore outfielder Jack Costello, both named to the All-WCC preseason team at the end of January, provide experience and confidence in the Toreros’ offensive lineup.

Ungricht mentioned first-year infielder Justin Descricio as a player “who is pushing to really make an impact defensively and he can handle the bat too. He’s just an all around really good baseball player.”

Grad student Ian Churchill, senior Garrett Rennie, and redshirt sophomore Brycen Mautz are all key starting pitchers for the Toreros, and Ungricht feels confident about



Head coach Brock Ungricht is ready to see what his team can achieve.
Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com

his bullpen roster as well.

Jefferis and Ungricht are excited about the tough matchup against Oregon to start their season.

“It’s going to be exciting to open up with such a strong team. We’ll be able to see where we size up with everybody,” Jefferis said.

Ungricht talked about how the team has an opportunity to begin to build a confidence base right from the first series of the year.

“It’s a great test to see where we’re at. It’s an early part of the season, so whatever happens happens, but you’ve gotta be able to respond and persevere through the hard times and the good times and to go to the foundation of the belief in yourself and the ability that you have which trickles down to everybody else,” Ungricht said.

Jefferis can’t wait to get his potential final season with USD Baseball underway.

“I’ve been waiting for season

to come. You count down the days and stuff. I’m excited to play and enjoy my last season with the guys. Whatever happens, I just wanna enjoy it and do the best that we can,” Jefferis said.

Ungricht backed his team in knowing that they can achieve great things this season.

“I believe in our guys, I believe we can beat anybody. Anybody. No doubt about it, but we gotta stay with us and believe in ourselves and our process and each other, as a group and as a team, then we’ll set out to do what we’re expected to do and what we want to do,” Ungricht said.

But in the end, he is just excited to play, exactly like Jefferis.

“That’s what I’m most excited about. The competition, with our guys. Because I love them,” Ungricht said. “Seriously.”

USD baseball opens their campaign tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. at Fowler Park against the University of Oregon.

Men’s basketball game raises concerns

Commerce over common cents

JAREK MORGAN
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The call to support fellow students and student athletes run hand in hand at the University of San Diego — whether in the classroom, on the court, or in the jam packed Jenny Craig Pavilion (JCP).

There were approximately 4,871 people total in attendance at the Feb. 3 matchup against the new no. 1 team in the country, the Gonzaga University Bulldogs, as reported by Marcy Lanoue, Senior Associate Director of Athletics and Chief Development Officer.

Historically, the USD vs. Gonzaga game is a joyous event for all fans and spectators, especially notable because of the turnout each time they face one another. However, for this particular game it raised the ire of some who thought that sporting events took precedence over classroom and student safety. As of Feb. 3, classes for undergraduate students were still online.

The start of the 2022 spring semester began remotely for all USD students and faculty. While students were given a timeline of when they would return to in-person learning, the issue was raised: attending a basketball game to support Torero athletes was in conflict with the inability to safely return to classroom learning experiences.

A full week after the game, junior pitcher Ryan Robinson of the USD Baseball team spoke on fellow students’ concerns who were forced to wait to return to campus. Much of the concern arose because the big sporting event had students and fans packed into the stands in the JCP.

“Seems like the standards and priorities for the university are very mixed up as a student who is paying full time tuition for in-person learning,” Robinson said. “I don’t know. It just made me feel like everything was not falling under the same category consistently.”

The basketball game was played prior to the return to in-person learning, and many students still thought that having a sporting event before allowing everyone to return to campus was not putting the student experience first.

The university recently released an image that was posted on social media by the @usdtoreros Instagram account which showed a large number of people in attendance at the men’s basketball game. Most notably, the individuals were not



An official USD account posted this photo on Instagram, sparking backlash. Photo courtesy @usdtoreros/Instagram



The game against Gonzaga aired on national television, bringing the event beyond the USD community. Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com

adhering to the mask mandate and other COVID protocols that were said to be in place for the game. The mask mandate stated that all personnel in attendance must wear proper facial coverings at all times except while eating or drinking.

Speaking from his experience while in attendance at the event, Robinson recalled what he saw while supporting his fellow Torero athletes.

“The university standard for everyone wearing a mask on campus was slightly skewed that night because if you looked around during the game it seemed like not a lot of people

were wearing a mask,” Robinson said.

While students voiced their displeasure over double standards, the administration did their due diligence to make sure they were in adherence to the California Health and Safety Protocols, as well as go above and beyond to ensure the safest game possible for athletes, coaches, students, and all fans in attendance.

In order to enjoy the game, all spectators had to provide proof of full vaccination status or a negative COVID test within 72 hours prior to attending the game.

USD Executive Director of Athletics Bill McGillis ensured that additional protocols were put in place for the ultimate safe fan experience.

“No one was allowed into the arena without proper facial covering upon entrance,” McGillis said. “While inside the arena, we could not police every single fan. However, additional security was brought in to help enforce the mask mandate.”

McGillis listed several key additions that were used during the game.

“To further express our request of continuing to wear your mask, we provided at

least four public addresses from commentators, multiple video announcements, and our scores table was used for a bold image stating ‘wear your mask,’” McGillis said.

Though the university may have been disappointed that some in attendance chose not to comply with the standards that were set forth, the athletic department repeatedly gave critical information about attending the event leading up to the game.

McGillis spoke in great length about information given to the students prior to the Feb. 3 tip off.

“Because classrooms were not yet open, we chose not to aggressively promote the game,” McGillis said. “We wanted to be sensitive to the classroom population as well as being sensitive to the community.”

McGillis offered greater details and accurate information regarding ticket purchasing and programs put in place for the game.

“We as a department chose to promote how to be there safely, and how to acquire a ticket,” said McGillis. “We also heavily incorporated the “Know Before You Go” campaign to guarantee that all would have complete understanding of what was being required during the game.”

The “Know Before You Go” campaign emphasizes that students can help protect the health and safety of their friends, family and community members by getting tested and isolating if their tests return positive.

McGillis expressed what was most important to the student athletes and team personnel during the contest.

“We did no advertising, we sent informational messages and that was that,” McGillis said. “We didn’t feel it was necessary to advertise it. To our staff it didn’t matter to me or the department if the game sold out, we simply wanted to host a good game for the basketball team. Whoever came, we wanted them to have the best experience possible.”

When conversations are clouded by polarizing opinions, it is important to remember that all are working toward a common goal of safety and happiness for all on campus.

The USD community, from athletics to administration, faculty and students, hopes to foster fair-minded individuals who seek to understand, educate, and respect one another. Whether in person or online, we are one student body, united by a contagious Torero spirit.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS	USD WBB v. Pacific Thursday, Feb. 17 6 p.m. Jenny Craig Pavilion	USD SOF vs. DePaul Friday, Feb. 18 7 p.m. USD Softball Complex	USD MTEN v. LMU Friday, Feb. 18 12 p.m. Hogan Tennis Center Mari Olson/The USD Vista