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2-24-2022

## Vista: February 24, 2022

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### Digital USD Citation

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# THE USD VISTA

## The KIPJ's new VIP Lab

*Highlighting the campus resource confronting world issues*

HALEY JACOB  
FEATURE EDITOR

The University of San Diego prides itself on being a leading advocate for political and social awareness. The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (KIPJ) continues pushing boundaries in the education and opportunities it provides; such cutting-edge work is reflective of the institute's initial groundbreaking nature. The KIPJ was founded in 2001, which led to the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies' establishment in 2007. This put USD on the map for housing the first standalone school of peace in the country.

The Violence, Inequality, and Power Lab (VIP Lab) is the newest addition to the KIPJ. Founded in January, the lab is currently located in the KIPJ Suite and follows the KIPJ's mission of using applied research to end cycles of violence. The lab will work with cutting-edge research paired with a hands-on approach to confronting local

and global issues, hoping to bring people together to discuss and drive change in new ways.

VIP Lab Director Rachel Locke discussed her motive for starting the lab.

"There's this closing of democratic space and a huge rise in popular mobilization and demand for increased justice and reform to the institutions both here in the U.S. and around the world, and those forces are impacting both the possible and the challenges of achieving the possible," Locke said. "Our intention is to engage these forces, to think about how these forces are fundamentally about power and inequality, and how that shapes not just individual acts of violence, but also the responses that are being proposed to address those individual acts."

The VIP Lab replaced the previous "Impact:Peace" program at the KIPJ. Executive Director of the KIPJ, Andrew Blum, shared why he expects the lab to bring more substantial change.

"The Impact:Peace program was an interesting approach,"

Blum said. "There was a good underlying theory behind it, but it didn't work that well in practice. What the lab is, in contrast to that, is that it's a platform. It's not a specific program or specific approach, but it's a platform and almost like an ethos that we'll do different things with depending on the news we see."

Locke also provided her take on why the lab holds more promise for concrete action.

"Impact:Peace was more of an initiative; it was about generating evidence but also bringing evidence that others were generating to bear on the most urgent issues in the peacebuilding and conflict and violence prevention space. This is doing that as well, but by creating it as a lab, we're able to be very explicitly intentional about the experimentation aspects," Locke said. "So it's going to be a lot of iteration; we're going to put something out and then ask questions. We're also primarily going to be short term, so we're not going to be creating

See VIP Lab, Page 8



Students who are passionate about social justice can now gather in the KIPJ VIP Lab. Marissa Esteban/The USD Vista

## Attending London fashion week

*What I learned as an average USD student*

MEI FLORY  
CONTRIBUTOR

So, how does a third-year USD student in the middle of studying abroad with no ties to the fashion world get the chance to attend two shows? I'm still wondering that myself.

London Fashion Week, which took place from Feb. 18 to Feb. 22 this year, is considered one of the "Big Four" fashion shows and features over 200 designers residing in the United Kingdom. Big names in the fashion industry such as Burberry, JW Anderson, and Victoria Beckham often appear on the roster each year, and many upcoming designers get the chance to debut their



Two models for the Silk Road Fashion and Jaded Life Collective. Photo Courtesy of Kaelie Piscitello

collections to large audiences. With both a physical and digital schedule, along with the exciting shows and diverse street styles, it's no wonder London Fashion Week is such an exhilarating time of the year in the city across the pond.

About half of the shows are usually invite only and restricted to a select few, namely, celebrities, fashion editors, stylists, and models. Photographers, influencers, and buyers who are well-established are also included on the list, but certainly not the average citizen. Yet, it never occurred to me that for some shows, one can simply send an RSVP and hope for a reply. That's exactly what I did.

After browsing the full schedule on the website, I emailed a few designers expressing interest in their shows. My closest connection to the fashion industry was my position as an A&C assistant editor, so I explained that I wanted to write an article about all the events and designers in London — all of which were true statements.

Two days later, I received a reply from the Silk Road Fashion Event PR Director that I may attend their evening show, titled "Time Traveller." See Fashion Week, Page 9

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# NEWS

## How likely is WWIII?

### Toreros weigh in on the Russia-Ukraine border crisis

SPENCER BISPHAM  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

The threat of war looms over the Western world as Russia continues to gather its troops on the border of Ukraine. According to CNN, sixty five percent of Russia’s land combat forces are currently gathered along the Ukrainian border, which suggests that The Kremlin may be planning an invasion (similar to that of Crimea in 2014). World leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, are fearful that Russia’s desire to control Ukraine could draw other nations into a larger global conflict. In a statement to the American people, President Biden announced support for Ukraine on behalf of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). “The United States and our allies are prepared to defend every inch of NATO territory, from any threat to our collective security as well,” Biden said. “We [the United States] also will not send troops to fight in Ukraine but we will continue to support the Ukrainian people.” Ukraine is not currently

a member of NATO but has expressed interest in joining. Should this occur, it would make the U.S. and other nations responsible for protecting its territory. USD Veterans Affairs Coordinator and former Marine, Damar Jimenez, explained the specifics of what could occur if Ukraine were to join NATO. “Geographically, Ukraine and Russia are neighbors,” Jimenez said. “So, this presents a problem in two ways: if Ukraine were to join NATO, it would undoubtedly raise alarms from the Kremlin; and if war were to break out, Russia would have an advantage in resupplying ground forces as well as CAS (Close Air Support) and heavy artillery. It would be devastating if NATO is unable to cut Russian supply lines within hours.” Jimenez also sees this situation as a potential threat to the world’s democracy. “The possibility of war is there,” Jimenez said. “I hope all countries involved are aware of the life-changing implication war will have. If Russia were to invade Ukraine it could jeopardize democracy in the world.”

Several Toreros have also started to become mindful of this scenario, including ROTC member Allen Antonio. “I believe that the growing presence of allied military forces in the region is to deter the presence of Russian forces in the area,” Antonio said. “Until then, sources have confirmed that consistent measures have been taken into account for developing a diplomatic solution. Regardless, the role of the United States military is to remain prepared for any conflict that emerges. Training and showing presence with our international allies is crucial to sustaining the relationships we have with our European partners and abroad.” USD junior Surya Chandra is also ready to go if the government deems it necessary. “I mean, I’ll do what I need to do for the country,” Chandra said. “I considered joining the military when I was younger, so I’m not opposed to the idea, especially if it’s a good enough reason.” Vidya Nadkarni, USD professor in the department of Political Science, commented on what she believes will be the most prominent

effects of the Russia-Ukraine tension on the United States. “Americans will mostly be affected indirectly by paying higher prices for gas at the pump,” Nadkarni shared. “International instability and energy market volatility will also affect the stock market negatively and cause upward inflationary pressures.” She continued by stating what the likely effects of these tensions will be for the United States. “All these factors are likely to make it even more difficult for Democrats to win the midterm elections, especially if there is a large-scale war in Ukraine,” Nadkarni said. “Bottom line: in the short-term, Putin does not have to worry about public opinion in Russia, but Biden must worry about public support.” Nadkarni also argued the likely overall effects on the world as a whole after this dispute settles. “I don’t think anyone will come out a ‘winner’ here,” Nadkarni said. “The question is relative levels of loss and of course, Ukraine faces an existential crisis. At the very least, it will lose the eastern part of its territory, but it could lose more territory than that under the control of the

separatist republics, as Putin’s speech yesterday made clear that he considers a larger portion of the territory as legitimately part of Russia, even though Ukraine’s sovereignty is recognized by the world community.” At the time The USD Vista went to press, Russian president, Vladimir Putin, had deployed peacekeeping forces into two regions of eastern Ukraine. He recognized these areas as independent from Ukraine in an address to the Associated Press on Monday. “I consider it necessary to take a long overdue decision to immediately recognize the independence and sovereignty of Donetsk People’s Republic and Luhansk People’s Republic,” Putin said. “I’m asking the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to support this decision, and then ratify treaties of friendship and mutual assistance with both republics.” The tension between Russia, Ukraine, and the West remained palpable after this decision was made. With no clear resolution in sight, many countries remain vigilant of what is next.

## Breaking tradition at Fordham University

### First non-ordained woman is selected to be President of a Jesuit University

JENNY HAN  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Fordham University, a Jesuit institution, recently announced their next president will be a non-ordained woman of Jesuit faith: Tania Tetlow. Traditionally, only priests of the Jesuit Order have led Fordham University and other educational institutions similar to it. According to The New York Times, “The decision makes Fordham the 21st Jesuit college or university to be led by a layperson and the sixth to be led by a woman. Ms. Tetlow, who has served as president of Loyola University since August 2018, was also the first woman and the first layperson to lead that institution.” For Sam Wilcox, a junior at Fordham who identifies as Protestant, this new change is a positive one. “I think it’s definitely a good thing,” Wilcox said. “It’ll be really good not just for only the student body but also for the Bronx Community. I’m just really excited to see what she has to offer.” Christina Boniello, a junior at Fordham University who identifies as Roman Catholic, also agreed with Wilcox’s thoughts. “I feel like having a women perspective of a predominantly male-led school board adds



Tania Tetlow, the 33rd President of Fordham University.  
Photo Courtesy of @fordhamuniversity/Instagram

perspective that they lack,” Boniello said. “Maybe that can evolve our school into something it hasn’t been before.” For Boniello, this new perspective is also important because it can help tackle prevalent issues that she sees in New York City, such as sexual assault. “I feel someone with a female perspective would probably make that [dealing with cases of sexual assault] more important than other Presidents have before,” Boniello said. Boniello also argues Tetlow would be more relevant and relatable to

university students in general. “I think it adds a great light as to how opinions and different ideas evolved throughout generations at a time, and I think it’s nice to have a newer, younger perspective rather than an older perspective because we’re dealing with college students,” Boniello said. Even though Tetlow would be bringing new ideas and perspectives to the table, both Wilcox and Boniello believe that Tetlow embodies what it means to be Jesuit. “She always talks about maintaining Jesuit ideals and a Catholic identity but I liked

how she didn’t necessarily talk about Catholicism as a religion but more focused on the ideals of a Jesuit,” Wilcox said. For both students, it’s these fundamental Jesuit values that will ensure that it will continue to be relevant in modern day society. “Being a Jesuit is definitely who you are as a person. It’s how you treat people, how you treat a community despite religion,” Boniello said. “I know that just by being at Fordham; it’s so accepting of all types of people, whether it be religion, race, or gender. That is something that is so important that I think that all schools should take advantage of whether it’s Jesuit, Catholic, or non-religious.” Aaron Bianco, a USD theology professor and alumni of Fordham university, shared how he was at first surprised by this announcement. “I was a little shocked. They have always had Jesuit Priests have that role,” Bianco said. “It did shock me a little bit. If you look at every Jesuit university, ninety eight percent of them are run by Jesuit priests or men” Bianco also shared his support for this monumental decision, and the effect it will have on the Church. “It doesn’t shock me that Fordham would be the first. It has always pushed the boundaries of the Church. It’s a very big

step,” Bianco stated. “I say all the time to people that don’t follow church stuff very often, but for the Church these small steps are giant leaps. For Fordham to say that yes we are a Jesuit institution, but there is no reason why a qualified woman can’t run the university makes sense.” While Fordham may be the first Jesuit University to make this decision, the world watches to see if the announcement will echo for the years to come.

#### Correction to Han (2022)

In the article “The future of masks at USD” by Jenny Han (The USD Vista, 2022, Volume 59 Issue 13, pp. 3), there was an error in the tenth paragraph.

The tenth paragraph, in regards to Dr. Giles-Watson’s Zoom class policies, reads, “she allows students to join class via Zoom if they feel uncomfortable being in a classroom setting.” The statement should be corrected to say that if students are ill, quarantined/isolated, or closely exposed to COVID, they should stay out of the classroom and will be allowed to join class via Zoom to not fall behind in classes. The Provost’s current policy permits only this use of Zoom but does not permit hybrid or remote teaching.

We regret this error.



# Canada’s “Freedom Convoy” could have international ramifications

*Concerns mount ahead of U.S. State of the Union Address*

**COLIN MULLANEY**  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

As the world approaches the second anniversary of COVID-19’s emergence as a global phenomenon, brewing political tensions are reaching an all-time peak. With most countries in the West loosening their restrictions and accepting COVID-19 as an endemic disease, Canada remains an exception.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau doubled down on mandates of vaccine passports and masks in Ottawa, even though “two-thirds of Canadians say it’s time to drop COVID-19 restrictions and begin living with the virus,” according to Maru Public Opinion.

Similar to Canadian public opinion polls, “seventy percent of the American people... say it’s time to just learn to accept COVID as a part of life,” according to a recent Monmouth University poll. On Feb. 16, California lifted its indoor mask mandates pursuant with updated Center for Disease Control (CDC)

guidelines, loosening COVID-19 restrictions after the Omicron variant. Canada has not made any decision thus far to update its restrictions or lift mandates, frustrating many Canadians and riling some into action.

In Ottawa, for example, hundreds of truckers have been protesting since Jan. 29, staging a large scale sit-in of idling trucks in Canada’s capital city. They parked their trucks on major streets, barricading commerce, and demanding that Prime Minister Trudeau lift vaccine passport mandates when entering the country: legislation which has affected truckers in particular.

Self-identified as the “Freedom Convoy” these truckers refused to leave until their demands were met, claiming to local media that they were prepared to stay indefinitely. Trudeau was quick to dismiss truckers’ initial gatherings, stating in a public appearance that they were, “a small, fringe minority” who “do not share the views of most Canadians.”

In response to the ongoing

protests, Trudeau refused to meet or negotiate with organizers, instead invoking Canada’s Emergencies Act for the first time since its inception in 1988. Among other things, the Act enables “city, provincial, and federal law enforcement officers... to remove demonstrators, their trucks, and cars, that have been blockading the streets,” according to CNN.

When protestors caught wind of Trudeau’s intent to have them removed, they increased their activities from idle blockades to more aggressive resistance. According to CNN, “one protestor launched a gas canister and was arrested” while another, “was arrested after throwing a bicycle toward a police horse,” and by the end of the day, “more than 100 were arrested and 21 vehicles were towed.”

USD sophomore Russell Gokemeijer agreed with the government’s actions to remove protestors by unprecedented means.

“If I was the Canadian government, I would not let that stand,” Gokemeijer stated

in response to the protestors’ increasingly aggressive tactics.

CNN analyst Juliette Kayyem seconded Gokemeijer’s assessment, stating on Twitter, “The convoy protest, applauded by right-wing media as a ‘freedom protest,’ is an economic and security issue now. The Ambassador Bridge link constitutes 28 percent of annual trade movement between U.S. and Canada. Slash the tires, empty gas tanks, arrest the drivers, and move the trucks.”

Other political commentators like Ben Shapiro weighed in on his show saying, “it is amazing to see that the Canadian authorities who have spent two years locking down their citizens in unprecedented ways and helping to squash small business... are now very concerned about ‘economic impacts’ of people clogging up the arteries of the roads.”

Joe Concha wrote for TheHill, highlighting the hypocrisy in the government turning against truckers, who were previously heralded as essential, frontline workers. The government

has cracked down on that demographic, despite the fact that “perhaps no other job in the world affords more isolation, more self-quarantine, than that of a trucker.”

Concha also questions the science behind enduring mandates, amidst “a fading coronavirus variant, hospitals working at full capacity, cases plummeting, and a population that is almost fully vaccinated.”

Ongoing mandates and COVID-19 policies have received pushback across the world. According to CNN, “officials in the US are concerned that similar unrest [as the trucker convoy] may arise in Washington D.C., as President Joe Biden prepares for the State of the Union address on March 1.”

While the U.S has not been nearly as strict in its COVID-19 mandates as Canada, some fear that disaffected people, angered by two years of the pandemic restrictions, could be liable to resist in a violent matter and that the Canadian protests are not an isolated occurrence that only Canada will face.



The University of San Diego’s media team is once again being recognized by The San Diego Press Club for their journalistic excellence. Congratulations to USDtv and The USD Vista for their award-winning coverage and the student journalists behind it.

-USD Media Relations

(From left to right: VP Charlotte Johnson, JD, Alexandra Karos, Eli Roberts, Aidan Jacobs-Walker, Taylor DeGuzman, Kristin Moran, PhD, and Gina Lew)

# The USD Vista

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# OP-ED

## American-born Chinese Olympian battles dual identity and social stigma

*Figure skater faces criticism after renouncing her U.S. citizenship for the Olympics*

RASHNO RAZMKHAH  
CONTRIBUTOR

Cold nights, snowy days, and the hopefulness of a brand new year marks the beginning of the 2022 Winter Olympic games. Bursting with patriotism and overjoyed with pride, the representatives of each nation participate in the Olympic events that best highlight their talents and skills. This year’s news headlines have been rather difficult on Zhu Yi, a 19 year old Chinese-American figure skater who renounced her American citizenship in order to compete for China.

Second-generation immigrants’ experiences are very different from their parents, but that should in no way invalidate their sense of identity and connection to their ancestry. Though I was born and raised in Iran for the majority of my life, I can relate to Yi’s identity crisis. It is extremely difficult to know who you really are when you are “too American” and “not American enough” at the same time.

Yi faced a lot of backlash from the start of her Olympic journey, mainly because critics did not consider her as “Chinese” to begin with. She was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA where her dad taught at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as a celebrated computer scientist.

On Feb. 6, 2022, Yi fell down twice during her routine which made matters all the more difficult. According to an article by NBC, some Americans rooted for her downfall because she renounced her U.S. citizenship, while the Chinese community criticized her for her emotional reaction after the fall, her overall “American”



Zhu Yi celebrates her Chinese heritage in Beijing, China, for the 2022 winter Olympics.

Photo courtesy of @beverly.zhu/Instagram

upbringing, and her poor Mandarin which contributed to making her appear disconnected from Chinese culture.

It is not uncommon for athletes with dual citizenship to change their official status in order to qualify for the Olympics in a different country. Hakeem Olajuwon, a Nigerian-born athlete, was a key player on the 1996 American Dream Team that landed the United States an Olympic gold medal. Tanith Belbin was born in Canada but competed for the United States in 2006 and won silver in ice dancing. However, neither one of them had to face immense criticism and backlash like Yi.

Another American-born athlete chose to compete for China as well. Eileen Gu, a skier born in San Francisco, CA to a Chinese mother and an American father, chose to compete for her mother’s national team this year to kick off her Olympic career. Unlike Yi, Gu has captivated the Chinese community with her fluent Mandarin and is

beloved by the Chinese media.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to visit my homeland after quite some time. Even though I do not consider myself an “American,” I had to face the reality of no longer being seen as fully Iranian. The people I had grown up with were now teasing me for my American accent and my Western views. Interestingly enough, I sometimes feel foreign and out of place here as well when my American friends talk about their experiences growing up. That’s what I have in common with Yi; perhaps a lot of other immigrant children feel this way too.

The Women’s Sports Foundation highlights social stigma as one of the prominent reasons why girls are more likely to quit sports. Bullying, pressure, and abuse has driven many talented female athletes out of the game; from athletes like Simone Biles to Mary Cain.

U.S.A. gymnastic star, Simone Biles, revealed that she was a victim of Larry Nassar’s

abuse a few years ago. When she announced her decision to step down from competing professionally due to her anxiety and trauma, she told The Guardian how her experience as a black woman played a part in her athletic journey, “As a black woman, we just have to be greater... because even when we break records and stuff, they almost dim it down, as if it’s just normal.”

Mary Cain, once one of the fastest female runners in the world, shared the emotional and physical abuse she had to endure while she was a Nike athlete. From being told to lose weight to being publicly body shamed by her coach, Cain has experienced it all.

Emptier stadiums, harsher critiques, lower compensation, body image issues, abuse, and higher expectations, that’s the reality of female sports. In Zhu Yi’s case, she was facing all of the above with an additional case of dual identity.

If I were asked to choose

between my American and Iranian citizenship, I would be torn, but ultimately I would choose my American identity. That is not to say that I am not in touch with my roots, but that I would rather choose the stability and privilege of being an American citizen over the everchanging uncertainty that comes with being an Iranian one.

I admire Yi for choosing the opposite. She gave up her American citizenship and a stable life for the mere possibility of having a prominent figure skating career as a Chinese athlete. Though her professional future remains unknown in China and the United States, she has acted as a prime example of what a lot of immigrant children and female athletes endure in the face of societal expectations. I hope that Zhu Yi’s experience can spark a bigger conversation about the perception of “American” children born into immigrant families and female athletes who are continuously mistreated in the sports industry.



Zhu Yi performed her figure skating routine for millions of people watching around the world.  
Photo courtesy of @beverly.zhu/Instagram

Zhu Yi faced incredible backlash for competing for China in the Olympics.  
Photo courtesy of @beverly.zhu/Instagram

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# EDITORIAL

## Book bannings are on the rise

### *The dangers of censorship limiting intellectual freedom*

MARIA SIMPSON  
OPINION EDITOR

Well over a month into 2022 and there is already enormous political conflict brewing in the US. However, this time the warring left and right have brought their quarrel down from Capitol Hill and into classrooms across America.

Books are being banned in schools across the country at rates much higher than in prior years, allowing censorship to creep in.

Banning books may not sound threatening, but it is an intrusive and unconstitutional form of censorship that we must combat.

Virtual learning during the past two years gave parents a unique window of opportunity to see exactly what their children are learning and reading, and many are unhappy with the material. Many parents are concerned that their children's minds are being polluted with certain material, especially regarding race, gender, and sexuality.

The majority of these challenges concerning certain books are occurring in Texas and in my home state of Tennessee. These conservative states are challenging books such as "Maus," a Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Art Spiegelman about World War II, Toni Morrison's classic "Beloved" which depicts the horrors of slavery post Civil War, and "All Boys Aren't Blue," a memoir by George M. Johnson about growing up identifying as a queer black man, just to name a few.

However, it is not just right wing individuals that are demanding the removal of certain titles from library shelves.

Liberal states and parents are on their own censorship crusade as well. Their choices of censorship are formulated to erase American history, which limits education for younger generations.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, one of the most common books in middle school and high school curriculums and a literary classic, is also a very commonly banned book.

It was recently removed from a Washington school district curriculum due to racist language and the depiction of a white savior.

Some school districts in other blue states are removing John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," another staple of American literature, for racist speech as well.

It always boggles my mind that parents and legislators fight so hard to ban these kinds



A stack of previously banned books in American schools.

of books. They completely disregard the fact that books like these are taught so that students learn American history and how inhumanely and atrociously minority groups were treated in the past.

That knowledge then opens the gate for those children to examine the world they are living in. They can see what has improved and what corruption remains so that hopefully that young generation can take the next step to fix it.

In the end, it doesn't matter what political criteria you lean toward, banning books is ignorant, outrageous, and flat out unconstitutional.

Freedom of speech is prized in America and is one of the most valuable freedoms we have.

Banning a book from a school or library equates to

silencing that author's voice. If you truly cannot stomach the concept or content of a book, then simply do not read it. Every individual has the freedom to choose what media or literature they consume as much as every author ought to have the freedom to publish their ideas.

Banning books also has consequences that could be considered even more dire than just silencing an author. It hinders the education of children growing up in a world where it is so important to know and understand the intricacies about race, diversity, sexuality, gender, and many more topics that parents and legislators are afraid of "corrupting" the young minds of America with.

Imagine how many high schoolers are struggling with their identities and trying to

figure out who they are; but there is no information to guide them, no characters or authors for them to look to and see a reflection of themselves.

Stripping that opportunity away is hurting these children more than any profanity or sexually explicit scene in a book ever could.

Banning educational books is clearly harmful. However, bannings go beyond just political books.

Some very commonly banned books are innocent children's stories.

The "Harry Potter" series faced heavy trial as it rose in popularity due to witchcraft in the story.

"And Tango Makes Three" by Peter Parnell is a picture book about two male penguins who adopted a baby penguin.

This has been banned from numerous schools for depicting a homosexual relationship.

I remember learning about banned books as an incredibly bookish elementary school student and feeling totally aghast that one of my favorite stories could be removed from the shelves of my school's library.

However, banning books in schools and libraries in the US is nothing new.

This issue has been occurring since before America was even its own country.

However, it seems that this problem only gets worse, not better.

According to the American Library Association, there were 330 incidents of official book bannings from September through November of 2021. The total number of incidents for the entire year of 2019 was 377.

This demonstrates the heavy increase of censorship within the last year.

Despite the fact that our knowledge of the world and access to information is always expanding, school curriculums and libraries are becoming more limited.

Thankfully, USD is proudly standing up against banned books.

Copley Library has held an annual Banned Book Week in late September since 2017 to help educate people about the dangers of censorship and the importance of intellectual freedom.

Everyone – whether you are conservative, liberal, a parent, a student, a legislator, or anything in between – should be in favor of complete intellectual freedom as a core value no matter what their political leanings are. Unfortunately, that concept is under attack right now.

The book banning plague is a tricky situation and one that is quickly sweeping the country with horrible consequences. Fortunately, there are some little things that each of us can do to combat this censorship.

Reading banned books to promote those ideas and authors is the most important thing. Educating ourselves on the concepts that political groups are attempting to silence is incredibly important. It is good to stay informed about what books are being banned, why those ideas are being censored, and what greater consequences could arise from that.

I encourage everyone reading this to take some of these actions and stand up for your freedom of speech.

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.



# BUY BLACK

## support local Black restaurants.

Supporting your local Black-owned restaurants not only enriches your typical diet, but also helps close the growing racial wealth gap contributed by wide-spread chain restaurants. In honor of Black History Month, The USD Vista suggests choosing to eat at a Black-owned restaurant—here are some suggestions!



## Muzita Abyssinian Bistro– \$\$

Located in University Heights, this restaurant is owned by the Worldemichael family with a goal to provide an authentic Ethiopian dining experience by using their mother’s homemade recipes. The restaurant’s name is a reference to their younger sister, Muzit, who loves to cook. Instead of eating with silverware, expect to eat the food with your hands. Its cozy ambiance combined with seating, offered both inside and outside, is meant to mimic a house.

True to cultural traditions, all entrees come on a large plate to encourage people to share the food with one another. Under the vegetarian column, there are seven options, such as the ‘Hamli,’ containing braised spinach and collard greens. Their most popular dish is the ‘Beggie Kilwa,’ popular for its New Zealand leg of lamb. For those who have never had Ethiopian food, USD sophomore Leah Zelalem recommends it to everyone. She describes her favorite part of Ethiopian food to be the mirage of spices the culture’s food has to offer.

“I try to make all of my friends try it, especially if they’re not Ethiopian just so they can experience and taste the different flavors that it has to offer,” Zelalem said. “I love embracing my culture, so it makes me happy seeing other people try it.”

## Rhythm’s Chicken and Waffles– \$

Rhythm’s Chicken and Waffles is a great choice for those looking for food options in Pacific Beach. They’re known primarily for their hardy Chicken and Waffle Sandwich—two belgian waffles containing cheese, bacon, and fried chicken. For those who prefer more of a classic fried food option, they also serve chicken tenders, a chicken sandwich, or chicken fries. Although there’s no inside seating, their location on Pacific Beach allows customers to eat oceanside.

Established in 2018, the owners decided to create this spot because before them, there was no other San Diego option for chicken and waffles. The fast service, location, and easy-to-access order window creates the perfect equation as to why people keep coming back.

This list of eateries are just a few of the USD Vista’s recommendations for local black-owned businesses anyone can support. For those who want more information on different places, the app “EatOkra” uses your current location to find nearby black-owned eateries. EatOkra features over 11,500 restaurants, allowing the community to leave reviews and recommendations on their favorites. This app is a perfect resource to help Black owners have an equal opportunity for their voices to be heard, while also providing customers with new dining experiences.



## Nomad Donuts– \$

Unlike the typical chain doughnut shop, Nomad’s Donuts offers a unique array of flavorful doughnuts. Their wide selection features classic doughnut options, such as chocolate and vanilla bean, but it’s their specialty doughnuts that attract their regular customers. The specialty menu lists doughnuts like blueberry cake and ube taro coconut. Finally, they have vegan options such as vegan passion fruit chocolate and vegan orange ginger tahini. The shop also serves seasonal doughnuts exclusively available during different months of the year and hand-crafted Montreal-style bagels and sandwiches. Nomad’s Donuts’ fast service is great for when you’re in a rush for a quick breakfast snack or coffee, but outside seating is an option as well.



## Rollin Roots– \$

Many used to know it for its food truck, but unfortunately after multiple unsolved break-ins, the truck was burned down by a perpetrator who has yet to be caught. These crimes against their business did not stop Rollin Roots’ owner Avonte from persisting with his dream to provide good, original, vegan food to his community. This new location, open from 4-8p.m., welcomes people in with options to sit both outside and inside.

Located in Mira Mesa, Rollin Roots serves vegan fried food with options such as plant-based buffalo chicken sandwiches to cauliflower wings. Rollin’ Roots started because Avonte wanted to get more into eating vegan food but couldn’t find any recipes that lived up to his original meat-based favorites.. The restaurant’s deep ties to its community allows them to give back. They have a “pay what you can” policy in which they will always give food to their customers, even if someone can’t afford it at the moment. They’ve also helped raise money for other marginalized groups, such as when they had an Instagram fundraiser for ‘The Trevor Project’—a nonprofit organization focused on supporting the mental health of the LGBTQ+ community.



## Cafe X: By Any Beans Necessary– \$

The owners of Cafe X are a hardworking mother-daughter duo who provide the community with a unique coffee roast, blending together a mix of chocolate berries with vanilla undertones. The company’s name is a nod to Malcolm X and his vision to dismantle the country’s inequality, further emphasized by their slogan: “It’s more than just coffee. It’s a movement.”

They started their business to make an impact, specifically to support and nourish Black people and marginalized communities. They’re currently working on the “Black Women’s Resilience Project.” The project aims to, “highlight the racial and ethnic experience of poverty as a social construct, rather than a character deficit, and will work with the community in real-time to develop solutions that eliminate it.”

The changemaker hub is currently planning on taking a trip to Cafe X’s new location next month. Although she has yet to try it, USD sophomore and changemaker hub worker Sofia Hart is excited to drink coffee from a black-owned business that also emphasizes activism. “We’re going down there to engage with more local social enterprises as well as learn about the company and work that they do,” Hart said. “It’s not just about coffee, but their company also focuses on social change and equity work.”





# FEATURE

## The VIP Lab aims for innovation

### What to expect from the KIPJ's newest development

HALEY JACOB  
FEATURE EDITOR

#### VIP Lab from Page 1

a project that's going to be a 10 year long project, and that's a bit different than what Impact:Peace could have been doing."

The execution of these short-term projects will involve outside partners who will aid the VIP Lab in thinking about new approaches to prevent and reduce violence. Currently, the lab is beginning to work on the issues of climate change, migration, cities and violence, and identity-based mass violence.

The VIP Lab plans to participate in projects in the San Diego area that allow for student involvement.

"Our work in San Diego specifically would involve students, both graduate and undergraduate students, so we've budgeted for student involvement," Locke said. "The hope is that we would have recurring projects here locally that students could be research assistants in or support events that we're having that are associated, so there will be many opportunities like that."

Blum also encouraged students to reach out to the lab and share perspectives and input that will help their team gauge the type of projects the community wants to see happen.

"If students have ideas, reach out to us," Blum said. "We don't know exactly what students are passionate about, so we welcome

students coming and asking questions, providing input, or giving us ideas about how to get students involved because we don't deal with undergraduates day in and day out. We would love to get good ideas from you all about how to get you all involved."

Overall, the main objective of the lab is to normalize and centralize conversations around power inequalities as core to conversations around peacebuilding and violence prevention.

It's essential to address and understand how structural and institutional forces are the leading barriers to achieving progress toward concrete change.

"More and more talks of power and inequality are being sprinkled into conversations, and I think with that we can do a lot more institutional change about what gets funded, what gets supported, who has a seat at the table, and whose voices matter and all of that other work," Locke said. "But first, you have to sort of push the conversation forward."

The Violence, Inequality, and Power Lab is an exciting development for the university and the global effort toward peacebuilding and violence prevention as a whole.

As a changemaker campus, USD has a responsibility to lead meaningful conversations about political and social issues that impact our community and world — imperative to changemaking at USD. The introduction of the VIP Lab is another powerful step in the right direction.



The Director of the VIP Lab, Rachel Locke speaking at a podium.

Photo courtesy of Julia Canney



The VIP Lab is located on the first floor of the Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice (KIPJ).

Haley Jacob/The USD Vista

# Violence, Inequality and Power Lab



KROC SCHOOL  
Institute for Peace and Justice



# ARTS & CULTURE

## Staycations are the new vacations

*It's time to rediscover the beauty of Southern California*

ANNA VALAIK  
A&C EDITOR

For many, planning a spring break trip can be more stressful than it is exciting. Vacations are pricey nowadays, and no college student wants to see their bank account go down \$500 in the blink of an eye. On top of that, many may not be ready to travel yet, especially if the trip involves flying. For those struggling to plan the “perfect” spring break 2022, think about turning your vacation into a staycation. Besides, there are worse places to be stuck in than San Diego.

Staycations are wildly underestimated for a plethora of reasons.

First of all, there's no unnecessary pressure or need to go anywhere: everything is on your own terms, which takes away the stress of normal vacations. Day trips, short excursions, and activities around different neighborhoods are available at a moment's notice. There's no need to plan in advance. Instead, you can just take pleasure in being a tourist in your own city.

With a fresh perspective and a positive attitude, regular spots can feel new again. Also, San Diego doesn't lack in activities, restaurants, and sightseeing. Made up of countless areas, each with their own unique feel, this beautiful city should get the recognition it deserves. So, there's no better time than spring break, a week off with zero responsibilities and countless hours to explore, to truly see Southern California for what it is — heaven on earth.

### Cabrillo National Monument

Cabrillo National Monument lies at the southern tip of the Point Loma Peninsula, and the views from this look out spot are truly unmatched.

The area offers a gorgeous view of the harbor and the city skyline, especially on a clear, sunny day, which will likely be plentiful during spring break.

The national park includes green spaces, Old Point Loma Lighthouse, and various remembrances of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's legacy, whom this place is named after. He was the first European to set foot on what later became the West Coast of the United States.

Although Kate Sessions Park in Pacific Beach and Sunset Cliffs in Ocean Beach both receive the attention they deserve, Cabrillo National Monument should be next on the list for a sunset picnic.

The monument is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 365 days a year. Day passes depend on the group size, but one vehicle entering the park will cost \$20.



Spring break can be a time of exploration and travel, even close by the San Diego area.

### Camping — Joshua Tree or Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Not far from San Diego, both around a two-hour drive away, are two wonderful places — Joshua Tree and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park — to go camping for a few days. Even if camping may not sound all that glamorous or relaxing, these parks and their one-of-a-kind environments make up for it.

Joshua Tree, located quite close to Palm Springs, is known for its rugged rock formations and expansive desert landscapes. It has around 100 miles of hiking trails and more than 8,000 climbing routes, so it's perfect for those who enjoy taking in nature while exercising. However, Joshua Tree is quite the excursion from San Diego, so definitely plan ahead. USD senior Kate Moriarty, who has visited the park, recommends taking advantage of the hikes and landscapes outside the camping grounds. She also suggested spending around two to three days in the park in order to experience it to the fullest.

Similar to Joshua Tree, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is a beautiful destination to camp at. As the largest state park in California, it boasts twelve wilderness areas, all with gorgeous plant life and views. Being only an hour and a half away from San Diego, it's not difficult to spend a weekend

in this otherworldly place.

Prices vary depending on party size and length of stay. For example, a weekly entrance pass costs \$30 at Joshua Tree; this fee admits all passengers in a single vehicle. At Anza-Borrego, access to the campgrounds will be around \$35 per night, which is a bit pricier.

Both locations recommend reserving spots in the campgrounds in advance to ensure there's little to no issues when visitors arrive.

### Los Angeles

Take a drive southeast to Los Angeles (LA), which has quite literally everything. From celebrities, countless sight-seeing opportunities, delicious food, the beach, and various neighborhoods to explore, someone could spend a week in LA and not even scratch the surface of uncovering what this city has to offer, which is a blessing in disguise. It only means there's always something new and exciting to see or do.

For example, for those who want to take in the entire city, hike Runyon Canyon. Located in West Hollywood, this popular hike boasts incredible views of the ocean, city skyline, and gorgeous homes nestled within the hills. If people-watching sounds more exciting, go check out the Venice Beach boardwalk. Let's just say it's more exciting than

the Mission Beach boardwalk, which is saying a lot. LA also has incredible art museums; LACMA and the Getty could be explored and enjoyed for hours.

Delicious coffee can be found at Go Get Em Tiger, Alfred Coffee, and Hilltop Coffee + Kitchen. Casual food spots include Joan's on Third, Daughter's Deli, Salt's Cure, and Malibu Farm. Save room for dessert, too, because Donut Friend makes extraordinary donuts in a wide range of flavors.

Just a short drive up the coast, LA can fulfill every wish on someone's spring break wishlist. Think of it as a big and oftentimes boujee version of San Diego.

### Temecula — Wine Tasting

For those over 21 and looking for a boozy brunch that doesn't involve Duck Dive or Crushed in Pacific Beach, venture up to Temecula for a day of wine tasting. Little do many people know that Temecula is a mini Napa Valley, boasting over 40 wineries. Wineries vary in price, so there's something for everyone. Also, most are open daily; this is to the advantage of those visiting during spring break because you can beat the weekend crowds if need be.

Wineries are not only about enjoying beverages, but also about getting outside, appreciating scenery, and eating delicious food with close friends.

Photo courtesy of Anna Valaik/The USD Vista

Some highly ranked wineries include Callaway Vineyard & Winery and Vindemia Vineyard & Winery. Find a group and head inland toward Temecula because it will without a doubt be a good time; however, make sure to have a designated driver or a responsible mode of transportation.

### San Diego County

USD students didn't choose San Diego as their home for nothing; everyone knows this is arguably one of the best cities in the United States, but let spring break serve as a reminder as to why. It's easy to find the go-to spots around and frequent those exclusively, but there's more to this place than just Pacific Beach or La Jolla.

For example, North Park feels like the hipster-mecca; it has endless vintage shops, book stores, and coffee shops. Encinitas is a quiet surf town, perfect for a lazy Saturday; it's easy to just pack a beach bag and enjoy the coast for hours there. Mission Hills is a hidden gem right by school; even though it's a bit more residential, it's a lovely place to walk around and take in the beautiful homes.

All this is to say that some extravagant vacation isn't necessary for a relaxing, worthwhile Spring Break 2022, which is an entire week free from responsibilities.



# London Fashion Week from a fresh perspective

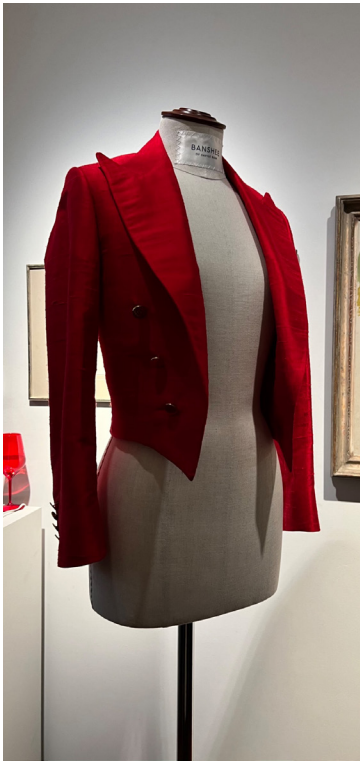
## A once-in-a-lifetime study abroad experience

MEI FLORY  
CONTRIBUTOR

**Fashion Week from Page 1**  
The Silk Road Fashion and Jaded Life Collective event were the first of the two shows I attended. It taught me several important lessons, not just about London Fashion Week, but also about optimizing each and every one of life’s opportunities.

Reject Rejection

Before sending out emails, I realized that the worst thing that could happen was not getting a reply or receiving a rejection. If I did, then I wouldn’t gain anything, but I also wouldn’t really lose anything either. With that in mind, it became much easier to ask if I could attend. If anything, I put my name out there and increased my chances of scoring a seat at the next show. Maintaining a neutral mindset prevented me from getting my hopes up, but it also allowed me to reject the common belief that nothing could be worse than rejection. Taking risks became way less scary when I realized that the consequences were really minimal. After this experience, my attitude about asking for the things I want and advocating



Piece from the Banshee at Savile Row Presentation.

Photo courtesy of Mei Flory  
for myself changed for the better — it will definitely carry over to my life at USD. Even for situations such as joining a new club, speaking up in class, or applying for an internship at a big company, taking the risk to put oneself out there could be and can be life-changing. One shouldn’t let the fear of rejection prevent them from going after what they want.

Making Friends

Believe it or not, fashion shows also function as huge networking events full of incredible people from all different fields and backgrounds. Journalists, photographers, friends of friends, influencers, and first-time attendees (like me) are much more friendly than one might think and are often willing to connect. As any business major would say, networking is key. Talking to more knowledgeable attendees such as Rose (@roscherr on Instagram), an influencer and model under Phoenix Model Management, helped me learn more about how to get invited to future events, as well as where all the after parties would take place. While navigating through career fairs and future plans, I’m finding that knowing the right people really helped me get to the places I wanted to be. In addition to taking risks, talking to more experienced people in any field can give one the inside scoop on what really happens behind the scenes. Not only does it help in advancing one’s career, but it also gives one a better idea of whether the work they’re pursuing is the right fit for them.

Pop-Ups and Other Events

The fashion shows aren’t the only events happening in

London during Fashion Week. Stores such as BOSS, Browns, and French Connection hosted promotional events and sales in honor of Fashion Week. The London College of Fashion hosted a special showroom featuring incredible works of art from the school’s graduate students. Even some restaurants such as Gaucho prepared special menus and drinks to celebrate. Taking time to explore other



American students at London Fashion Week.  
Photo courtesy of @sakshiipatiil/Instagram

events across the city led to more opportunities, including a quick tour of London’s Chinatown.

Have Fun

My “imposter syndrome” smacked down my god complex the second I sat down in a front row seat at the Silk Road Fashion and Jaded Life Collective show. I didn’t deserve to be there. I shouldn’t be considered “press.” I’m just a student who got lucky. But when the models in their shimmering gowns, sharp suits, and high heels walked across the runway, I forgot about all of that and stared in awe at the fashion itself. I thought about how the designers must have worked endlessly to see their clothing in motion. The event coordinators must have struggled to get the right venue and set up the guest list. The models flawlessly strutted down the stage, never daring to show their nerves. Everyone there worked hard to make the show a success, and I hoped that as an audience member, I showed my appreciation. Being at London Fashion Week isn’t about me or my insecurities at all. It’s about loving fashion as an art form, trying new things, meeting new people, and having fun.

# 100 years of “The Great Gatsby”

## How society has changed since Spring 1922

KARISA KAMPBELL  
NEWS EDITOR

Dazzling parties, extravagant escapism, and wealthy affairs – these are the things that defined the spring of 1922 in the eyes of narrator, Nick Carraway. Now, 100 years after the original setting of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel, “The Great Gatsby”, the struggles and dreams exploited in the reality of the 1920’s are as prominent as ever. Through the pandemic, “the green light shining” just far enough out of reach, is both a simultaneous reminder of the hope and the destruction of dreams previously known in a time that no longer exists. Even a century later, students still revel in the proseful beauty that encompasses the immortal struggles of wanting something that can not be obtained, and escaping from a not favored reality. USD sophomore Paul Tuft argues that the greed present in “The Great Gatsby” has not disappeared. “It’s honestly kind of like looking in a mirror,” Tuft described. “I think that if anything, society has gotten more greedy and people always want even more. Technology and convenience have only made the problems in ‘The Great Gatsby’ worse today.”



Jay and Daisy, the two love interests, sharing a special moment.

Photo courtesy of @leonardicaprii/Instagram  
Tuft also explained how escapism plays a big role in the novel and the world today. “Everyone parties in the ‘Great Gatsby’ as a way to escape, to get away from the reality of their problems,” Tuft said. “Today, everyone is trying to escape the Pandemic world in whatever ways they can: vacations, parties, or even pretending like it doesn’t exist at all. It’s a reality the world will face for a long time but nobody wants to come to terms with it.” Similarly, sophomore Gage

McPhail thinks that society has only developed more problems since the spring of 1922. “We’ve always lived in a messy world, but to be honest I think it’s just gotten messier,” McPhail expressed. “All we care about is materialism and it’s so hard to get away from that. It’s unfortunate, but it’s the way our society runs at this point.” Love and lust are also themes explored throughout F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel. Jay Gatsby is in love with Daisy, a girl from his past, who is now married. Nick Carraway is able to bring these two together. However, it is evident that much of Daisy’s appeal to Gatsby is built up by anticipation and his desire to obtain the unobtainable. Dating in 2022 is not much different than what is portrayed in the novel. Today, more commonly people long for “the chase”, and a chance to strive for things that may be out of reach versus seeking genuine connection with others. Sophomore Cole Strazzara shares how this view on love has only been exasperated. “Love and dating today is so taxing,” Strazzara noted. “Whether people will admit it or not, there’s always a fear that someone is cheating, even just emotional cheating, because the internet makes it so incredibly easy to do.”

Strazzara shared how there still seems to be a double standard today, much like the double standard present in “The Great Gatsby.” For example, it was fine for Tom Buchanan to cheat, but not for Daisy to cheat on Tom with Gatsby. This type of unfair treatment still exists today. “I feel that it’s still expected that men cheat, whereas women are expected to stay loyal, and that’s something that I wish would have changed since 1922,” Strazzara said. “It’s inexcusable for anyone to cheat, so why is society still making more exceptions for men?” While society may not have changed much for the better, McPhail remains optimistic that society can shift away from lustful, materialistic tendencies. “I think these problems are more problematic than ever before, but I also think that we are more aware of these problems than ever before as well,” McPhail expressed. “I’m hopeful for the future, and that in another 100 years we will be, societally, in a better place.” Regardless of the fact that “The Great Gatsby” uncovers the reality of a society that existed 100 years ago, students are still able to relate to the charming wit and ever enduring struggles that makes this F. Scott Fitzgerald novel so timeless and memorable.



# SPORTS

## Weekly Recap

*Softball, baseball win at home for first time this season*

MARI OLSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

As sports begin to pick up the pace at the University of San Diego with the spring season underway, find out how USD athletes and sports are faring both in San Diego and on the road. Last weekend, baseball and softball opened their seasons at home, both basketball teams began to wind down their regular seasons, and women's tennis played three matches in quick succession.

**Women's tennis**

The University of San Diego Women's Tennis team recorded their third clean sweep in a row with a 7-0 win over the University of Hawaii at the Skip and Cindy Hogan Tennis Center on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Redshirt junior Solymar Colling and redshirt sophomore Elizabeth Goldsmith won the first doubles match 6-1, with the other two doubles pairs beating their Rainbow Warrior opponents as well.

The Toreros won all six singles matches as well, with sophomores Abigail Desiatnikov and Jordyn McBride, junior Victoria Kalaitzis, and first-year Claudia De Las Heras all winning their matches in two sets.

USD traveled to Santa Barbara to play Washington State University on Saturday, Feb. 19, and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) on Sunday, Feb. 20. The Toreros continued their winning streak against WSU, beating the Cougars 4-1.

Unfortunately the Toreros could not end the weekend with a win, falling to UCSB 2-5. De Las Heras and Kalaitzis won their singles matches, but the Gauchos proved to be too much to handle for the USD team.

**Softball**

After winning three games last weekend at the Easton Classic in Fullerton, CA, Torero softball headed back to San Diego. They started off last week with a game away at the cross-city rival San Diego State University on Wednesday, Feb. 16.

USD was unable to overcome the Aztecs' powerhouse team, with a final score of 1-3 in favor of the team to the east.

All of the runs were scored in the fourth inning. The Toreros went ahead first with redshirt junior outfielder Alexia Torculas making it to home base off a double hit by redshirt senior utility player Noelle Hee.

However, in the bottom of the inning, SDSU put three players in scoring positions and converted all three into runs,



Redshirt first-year pitcher Ashley Dougherty was an important part of the Torero defense in the Torero Classic. Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com



Senior guard Marcellus Earlington looks for a shot against players from the University of Portland. Photo courtesy of usdtoereros.com

putting the Aztecs up 1-3 by the end of the inning.

Neither team was able to create any more scoring opportunities, and the game finished in seven innings with the Aztecs ahead.

USD Softball also hosted the Torero Classic tournament over the weekend at the Softball Complex. The team posted their first home win of the season on Friday, Feb. 18 against DePaul University, with a dominant 9-5 scoreline.

The team continued their momentum on Saturday evening, making a huge comeback to defeat South Dakota State, 6-5, in eight innings.

After going down 4-1 at the end of the fourth inning, the Toreros rallied in the bottom of the seventh, making a few key plays and taking advantage of a fielding error by the Jackrabbits to tie the game at four at the end of seven innings.

In extra innings, the Toreros scored twice and the Jackrabbits scored once to give USD the 6-5 win, their second of the tournament.

USD Softball couldn't find their groove in the first game

on Sunday, going down 1-8 to Oregon State University. However, they were able to find their mojo again in the second Sunday game, defeating the University of California, Riverside 5-2 in the final match of the Torero Classic.

USD Softball plays this weekend in the Mary Nutter Classic in Palm Springs, CA. The Toreros will play five games in three days during the tournament.

**Men's basketball**

In their final road game of the 2021-2022 regular season, the Torero men's basketball team took on the University of Portland on Thursday, Feb. 17, falling to the Pilots 60-92.

USD only shot 39 percent from the field, unable to match Portland's 63 percent from the field and 58 percent from the three-point line.

Senior guard Jase Townsend led the Toreros with 16 points and junior forward Yavuz Gultekin wasn't far behind with 15 points, but their combined efforts weren't enough to propel USD to a win.

The Toreros are 7-7 in the

West Coast Conference (WCC) with two regular season games left to play before the WCC tournament begins on Mar. 3. USD will take on Saint Mary's on Thursday, Feb. 24, and the University of San Francisco on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

**Women's basketball**

The USD Women's Basketball season is beginning to wind down toward the postseason as well, but there are still important contests to be played before then. The Toreros posted a win over the University of the Pacific on Thursday, Feb. 17.

The Toreros worked hard for the 87-80 scoreline over the Tigers, shooting just 41 percent from the field and 19 percent from the three-point line.

Senior guard Steph Gorman set a new career high, scoring 23 points to lead the Toreros to victory.

Graduate guard Sydney Hunter backed her up with 17 points and 11 rebounds, and redshirt junior Kiera Oakry added 14 points of her own to push USD over the edge.

The Toreros traveled to the

Bay Area on Saturday, Feb. 19, to take on Saint Mary's University (SMU). However, the team couldn't find a way to beat the Gaels, and fell 67-79.

Graduate student Jordyn Edwards put up 16 points in the effort to beat SMU, and Hunter recorded another 10 rebounds.

Women's basketball will look to bounce back against the University of Portland on Thursday, Feb. 24 in their final road game of the season.

**Baseball**

USD Baseball started their season off with a bang, emphatically putting the University of Oregon away on opening night with an 11-1 win.

The Toreros started off strong with a two-run home run in the first inning, and continued to pile on the runs, including scoring seven in the seventh inning.

Senior starting pitcher Garrett Rennie held down the fort for USD on Friday night, as he started his first game in two years coming off a season-ending injury last year.

Rennie and the defense, with the help of the relief pitchers, held the Ducks to only one run all night.

On Saturday evening, the Toreros posted another seven-run inning, this time in the third. USD went up 9-0 by the top of the fourth.

Sophomore starting pitcher Brycen Mautz set a career-high 12 strikeouts, and reliever Jack Hyde put in the work to keep the Ducks at bay during the game, but Oregon still found a way to put up four runs during the game.

A final insurance run in the sixth inning for the Toreros put the scoreline at 10-4.

USD clinched the series win on Sunday, narrowly beating the Ducks 5-4. The Toreros went down 0-1 early in the first inning, but rallied in the third and fourth to make the scoreline 4-1.

Two solo home runs by the Oregon offense and an RBI double tied the game at 4-4 in the eighth inning. But USD was able to take advantage of a breakdown of the Oregon pitching staff, who walked in the winning run for the Toreros in the bottom of the eighth.

Sophomore pitcher Ivran Romero ensured the Torero win in the top of the ninth.

The Toreros couldn't find one last push to sweep the Ducks, losing 11-21 in the final game of the series on Monday, Feb. 21.

USD Baseball will play in the Tony Gwynn Classic against the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Fresno State University beginning on Friday, Feb. 25 at Fowler Park.



# Toreros take down Lions as tennis season heats up

USD Men’s Tennis gets off to a confident 1-0 start in WCC play

MARI OLSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of San Diego Men’s Tennis team kicked off their West Coast Conference (WCC) schedule on Friday, Feb. 18, posting a shutout win over the Loyola Marymount University (LMU) Lions at the Skip and Cindy Hogan Tennis Center. With five seniors playing for the Toreros this season, the tennis team is ready to hit the ground running in their pursuit of yet another conference title.

Head coach Ryan Keckley, entering his tenth season at USD, was excited before the match for the team’s season to start ramping up.

“I think we’ve had a magnificent couple of months, but we’re underplayed,” Keckley said. “I think the four matches that we’ve had so far, we’ve done a fantastic job owning our identity and really playing to the tangibles that will give us success moving forward.”

USD was 3-1 going into the match against LMU on Friday. Non-conference wins over University of California, Irvine, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Arizona State University (ASU) were confidence boosters for the Toreros.

Keckley noted that the victory against ASU was especially notable for the team.

“It was a very challenging Arizona State team, who we’ve lost to the last three years. So it was great to get a 4-3 win,” Keckley said. “So to do it at their place, at 1500 feet elevation, was a testament to the toughness that I think this team has and will have moving forward.”

In another show of strength, the Toreros won 4-0 over the Lions on Friday, with two of the three doubles teams defeating their opponents.

Redshirt senior August Holmgren, ranked no. 7 in the country, defeated LMU’s redshirt senior Manoel de Alencar 6-1, 6-2 in an exciting match up on Court 1.

Meanwhile, on Court 3, first-year Iiro Vasa was busy toppling LMU junior John Otico, eventually winning his match 6-3, 6-1.

Senior Alex Stater, who won 6-1, 6-2 over LMU graduate student Rana-Roop Bhullar, clinched the victory for the Toreros.

Since the Toreros achieved the victory with four wins, the other three matches were left unfinished. Only seven points are available in collegiate tennis matches, and once a team has



The USD Men’s Tennis team goes through their pre-match pump up routine on the Sherri Stephens Court.



First-year Iiro Vasa played a key role in the win over the Lions on Friday.

Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com

earned four points, through a doubles win and three singles wins, the opposing team is no longer able to earn enough points to win. Graduate student Gui Osorio, senior Will Davies, and redshirt sophomore Marvin Schaber all split sets with their LMU opponents.

It’s a step in the right direction for Keckley, as USD looks to win another WCC championship and make a name for themselves on the national stage this season. The Toreros won six WCC titles in a row before a turbulent season in 2021 and the canceled 2020 season.

“Every year we’re trying to win the WCC and each year it gets more and more challenging, because every team’s doing a great job,” Keckley said.

An opening WCC win certainly puts the team on track toward that goal.

Keckley also talked about how the attitude of the team is one of the most important aspects of reaching their goals this season.

“Our guys are great because they really do believe in the process. Every day we’re working to solidify the fundamentals and each person’s identity on the tennis court, and I think our

guys do a wonderful job listening and learning the sport,” Keckley said. “It really is just a day to day grind. And they believe in it, and they work hard, and our team culture is in a wonderful place where they’re all working and learning together.”

Keckley emphasized the team’s desire to continue moving forward positively this season.

“It really is just each day growing and each match growing and building up more confidence,” Keckley said. “That’s really what it’s about, building confidence and preparing our guys in the right ways so that when our competition comes to town we’re ready to handle any kind of adversity that they throw at us.”

As the season starts to ramp up, Keckley is planning to take every match one at a time.

“Every match we look at as an opportunity, regardless if it’s WCC, PAC-12, Big 12, every match is an opportunity to go out and prove to the country who we are, that we are a top 25 team in the country and that we do have a competitiveness about us that is going to make every match challenging,” Keckley said.

The USD Men’s Tennis team is currently ranked no. 25 in the country. With big contests

Toreros were severely affected by cases of COVID-19 and injuries, Keckley is thrilled that his team has gotten off to a strong start.

“I think getting off to a solid start really boosted not only the coaches’ confidence but the players’ confidence that we are doing the right things,” Keckley said. “It’s just exciting to see how far this team can go because we have a very good six [singles players], we have a very good one who is now ranked number seven in the country, and our doubles is a perk. So when you have that recipe, I think you become a very dangerous team.”

Keckley encouraged fans to come out and support the Toreros at their brand new tennis center.

“It is an awesome time,” Keckley emphasized. “Hopefully people can come out and enjoy the competitive tennis, enjoy the environment that we’ve tried to create and enjoy the new facility, and see why this university and this sport is so special.”

Men’s tennis also took on the University of Oregon on Sunday, Feb. 20 at the Hogan Tennis Center in a challenging matchup.

The Toreros worked hard to beat the Ducks 4-0, with Davies, Schaber, and Vasa playing key roles in the victory.

The next WCC match for USD will be against Gonzaga University on Sunday, Feb. 27, at home.



# GO BLUE OR GO HOME

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**Football - Spring Game | 11 AM**  
TORERO STADIUM

**Men’s Basketball - vs. San Francisco | 2 PM**  
JENNY CRAIG PAVILION

**Women’s Basketball - vs. Santa Clara | 4:30 PM**  
JENNY CRAIG PAVILION

**Baseball - vs. Fresno State | 5 PM**  
FOWLER PARK

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO ATHLETICS

COMING UP  
THIS WEEK

USD SOF @ Utah  
Friday, Feb. 25  
10:30 a.m.  
Watch: flossoftball.com

USD WTEN @ ASU  
Saturday, Feb. 26  
11 a.m.  
Watch: pac-12.com

USD MTEN v. Gonzaga  
Sunday, Feb. 27  
12 p.m.  
Hogan Tennis Center  
Mari Olson/The USD Vista