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THE USD VISTA

‘London Bridge’ is down *Britain’s longest-reigning monarch dies at age 96*

COLIN MULLANEY
COPY EDITOR

After 70 years on the throne as the reigning queen of the United Kingdom and British Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II died at the age of 96 on Sept. 8. Upon her passing, the United Kingdom and Buckingham Palace initiated what is referred to as “Operation London Bridge.” With the code phrase, “London Bridge is down,” officials launched the detailed and finely-tuned government plan for ten days of ceremony and mourning that will culminate with her funeral, according to NBC.

Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne on Feb. 6, 1952, after the death of her father, King George VI. She was never “meant” to be queen, in that she was not born to inherit the crown. Her father was not the next in line for the throne either, rather his elder brother, David. That is, until her Uncle David — King Edward VIII — abdicated the throne to marry an American divorcee and left the kingship behind to Elizabeth’s father, with Elizabeth second in line, New York Times reported.

During World War II, Elizabeth worked as an



Queen Elizabeth’s children accompany her coffin in St. Giles’ Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Photo Courtesy of @theroyalfamily/Instagram

ambulance driver and mechanic. She married after the war in 1947, to then Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark. The couple had four children over the course of their 73-year marriage, ending with his death in April 2021. Their eldest son, Charles, is now the King of England at the age of 73.

Elizabeth’s reign as Queen of the United Kingdom began in 1952, with the death of her father. Although her coronation would

not be for another year in June 1953, Elizabeth was immediately propelled into her father’s role as monarch at the age of 25. Guided by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, her coronation was considered revolutionary, because it was the first ever to be televised and marked the beginning of a second “Elizabethan age,” the New York Times reported.

As queen, Elizabeth saw the United Kingdom through great

difficulty and hardships, from the Suez Canal Crisis to the Falklands Wars and the Troubles in Ireland. Elizabeth was served by 15 prime ministers, including the first female prime minister of the U.K., Margaret Thatcher. She also met with 13 U.S. presidents — from Truman to Biden — and five Popes; she was the most widely-traveled head of state.

The most recent U.K. prime minister, Liz Truss, was

appointed on Sept. 6, just two days before the Queen’s death. Elizabeth was photographed for the last time, shaking hands with Truss at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, where she would pass away later that week, according to the New York Times.

USD international student Mason Tunbridge from North London expressed his reaction to the monarch’s death.

“I was shocked. The Queen has always been a presence, a constant. She was respected, classy, and epitomized leadership through example. She always led by example and was able to avoid a lot of scandals herself,” Tunbridge said.

Although Queen Elizabeth was popular among her subjects for much of her life and has received an outpouring of grief and remembrance, she was not without controversy during her reign. Elizabeth was occasionally criticized for having a cold, elitist attitude, especially surrounding her son Charles’ divorce of Princess Diana in 1996 and the late Princess Diana’s death a year later. More recently, Elizabeth was implicated in a scandal in the form of her son Andrew’s association with sex-trafficker and pedophile Jeffrey
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USD professors attend conference with the Pope

Advocating for marginalized groups in the faith community

HALEY JACOB
FEATURE EDITOR

Two professors from the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Diego attended a conference in Rome this past summer to mark the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis’ “Amoris Laetitia,” a 2016 encyclical document on marriage and family. The event took place at the Pontifical Gregorian University on May 11-14 and featured bishops, priests, theologians and other members of the Catholic Church



Professor Aaron Bianco shaking hands with Pope Francis after giving a presentation on LGBT issues in the church.

Photo Courtesy of Aaron Bianco

from 25 different countries. Attendees discussed the document and its implementation over the last five years, including critical questions about how the representation of certain minority groups can improve.

Professor Aaron Bianco and Dr. Emily Reimer-Barry submitted proposals last fall to earn a spot at the conference. In these proposals, prospective attendees wrote about the issues
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NEWS

The UK mourns monarch’s passing

Preparations begin for Her Majesty’s funeral

Queen’s Death from Page 1
Epstein; this scandal resulted in Andrew being stripped of his royal titles and duties in 2021, according to the New York Times.

Elizabeth was also seen by some as a representative of colonial expansionism. Although Britain increasingly decolonized during the rule of Elizabeth II, the monarchy itself carries a history of brutal exploitation of other nations, like India during the British Raj. Likewise, although Elizabeth served as a prominent female ruler, the system that she represented is built upon the British concept and patriarchal tradition of primogeniture, inheritance of the monarchy by the eldest son.

Despite the problems of the monarchy, Tunbridge still believes it plays an important part in the life of all British citizens, if only symbolically.

“There is an advantage in having someone to look up to, and even though it costs the taxpayers money, it brings in a lot in the form of tourism,” Tunbridge said. “Americans don’t

understand that the monarch is mostly symbolic, that they don’t actually have any political power.”

At the age of 21, Elizabeth delivered a speech in which she stated, “I declare before you all that my whole life — whether it be long or short — shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family, to which we all belong.” In his first public speech as King, Charles III invoked his mother’s commitment to duty by quoting the selfsame speech and citing it as his ongoing commitment as the new King.

“She was an inspiration to me and all my family, and we owe her the most heartfelt debt any family could owe to their mother, for her love, affection, guidance, understanding and example,” King Charles III stated.

Tunbridge expects King Charles to follow in the footsteps of Elizabeth, but with a caveat.

“The new King will do a fine job, but he is quite old, and it is probably best to prepare for not only the new king, but the next king after him as well,” Tunbridge said.

Queen Elizabeth leaves

behind a legacy as the longest-serving British monarch, the longest-reigning female monarch in history, and the second longest-reigning monarch ever recorded, after France’s Louis XVI. Her funeral will take place on Sep. 19 in London, at Westminster Abbey, after 10 days of ceremony.



The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral Castle, Scotland, on Sept. 8, 2022. Photo Courtesy of @theroyalfamily/Instagram

First case of Monkeypox reported at SDSU

USD Health Center comments on Monkeypox procedures

WILL SCADDEN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

As school started last week, so did the spread of a disease at another college in San Diego. A student at San Diego State University (SDSU) tested positive for Monkeypox, SDSU reported on Thursday, Sept. 1. The student is currently living off-campus and has limited access to on-campus facilities, to help prevent a potential spread of the disease. This is the first known case of Monkeypox among SDSU’s community.

According to the Center

for Disease Control (CDC), Monkeypox is primarily spread through close, physical, skin-to-skin contact with another person who is carrying the disease. Monkeypox can be contracted through brief physical contact with someone’s clothes, sheets or pets if they have recently tested positive. It’s important to note that this virus can be spread beyond skin-to-skin contact, including everyday interactions.

To test for Monkeypox, there must be an active rash or lesion, which most often appear as scabs, pimples or blisters.

Symptoms of Monkeypox can include fevers, headaches, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes,

chills, exhaustion, sore throat, coughing and rashes or lesions.

Stephanie Lynch, the Director for Health Promotion at the Center of Health and Wellness explained what to do if a student thinks they may be positive for Monkeypox.

“We know that students can become infected, and we want students to know that support is available through the Health Center and Timely Care,” Lynch said.

The Student Health Center can monitor and test for Monkeypox, and health providers in the county are providing free vaccinations. San Diego County has a limited supply of vaccines and is currently vaccinating “at-risk” individuals.

Appointments are required, and students can call the Health Services at 2-1-1 to see if they are eligible to make an appointment.

While Monkeypox is a viral disease, it has much lower transmissibility than airborne illnesses, such as COVID-19. Prevention strategies include: avoiding close contact with other people with sores or rashes, frequently washing your hands with soap or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Lynch explained how to stay safe from the disease, and quarantine is a solution for a positive Monkeypox case.

“Really the biggest thing to do is to limit skin-to-skin contact with other people,” Lynch said. “If a student did test positive for Monkeypox, the key prevention method is isolation. Student Wellness could help treat and isolate them.”

Lynch spoke on how the treatment for a potential case of Monkeypox would be handled on a “case-by-case” basis, according to the student’s living situation. She mentioned that if a student tested positive and was living on-campus in close proximity to another student, they could work with Student Wellness to isolate themselves. If a student living off-campus tested positive, they could still receive care from Student Wellness but would be asked to isolate themselves and to limit their time spent on campus.

USD junior Beck Chrisbens doubts Monkeypox will

stay contained to SDSU but trusts that USD is equipped to handle the disease.

“I feel like, if it’s at SDSU, it will end up here eventually,” Chrisbens said. “I think that USD has good health and safety protocols, so I’m not all too worried.”

While there is no clear-cut response plan to a possible Monkeypox outbreak, USD is adhering to all CDC, state and county health guidelines. There are currently no health restrictions in the state or county for Monkeypox, and students can work with USD to isolate themselves if they contract the disease.

Similar to Chrisbens, USD senior Stone Martin is not concerned.

“I’m not too worried about Monkeypox,” Martin said. “I know it is mainly spread through skin-to-skin contact, so I feel as if a huge outbreak is less likely. If someone does get sick, they can just avoid people for a while.”

There have been no cases of Monkeypox reported here at USD, yet members of the Health and Wellness Department have taken precautions for a potential spread. The Health and Wellness Department sent an email on the first day of school, alerting students of the disease, and included prevention strategies and resources for students worried about the possible spread.

To learn more about Monkeypox or USD’s prevention strategies against it, visit USD’s Health and Wellness website.



The USD Health Center provides Monkeypox testing through local providers. Photo Courtesy of @mufidmajnun/Unsplash

New parking plan has students ‘running up that hill’

Over 1,000 students on waitlist for commuter parking passes

ABIGAIL CAVIZO
NEWS EDITOR

While beginning the 2022-2023 school year, the USD community is re-acclimating to their new schedules, new classes and the San Diego culture. Amid these changes, parking services implemented a new parking plan that impacts faculty, staff and students alike.

Approximately 1,016 students are currently on a waiting list for commuter parking passes. Although the plan is meant to solve parking issues, it has some caveats. Some professors, for instance, struggle to find parking close to their appropriate building.

In 2017, a campus-wide committee initiated the original “USD Mobility and Parking Plan,” using feedback and data from previous years, along with a consultant. This plan was necessary in order to accommodate USD’s growing student population, as well as the addition of new structures, such as the Knauss Center for Business Education. The committee intended to implement the plan in fall 2020, but due to COVID-19, the committee ultimately decided to carry out the parking plan in phases.

Phase one took place during the 2020-2021 school year, specifically mapping out where students were allowed to park. Phase two began during the 2021-

2022 school year. This change was that first-year students are no longer allowed to bring their vehicle on campus, unless they apply for an exception due to a medical disability or off-campus employment. The most notable change was the third phase, which went into action on July 1.

Instead of faculty and staff having the option to purchase their own individual, reserved parking spot, they may now purchase a “proximity” pass, meaning they can park anywhere they want within that specific lot. The “proximity” permits are for full-time faculty and staff in the lots closest to the buildings, available for \$880. The “faculty/staff” permits include lots that are primarily in the main structure, available for \$425. The “commuter” and “residential” permits are available for \$375. “West Parking” permits are available for \$225. Lastly, the “perimeter” spots are available for \$125.

The only permits still available for purchase are the West Parking and perimeter lots. This information can also be found on the main USD website in the “Office of Parking Services” tab, under a document titled, “Parking Rules and Regulations.”

Dr. Julia Schafer, a professor in the Chemistry Department, commutes from Chula Vista. She used to pay a flat rate of approximately \$380 for a spot with the yellow faculty/staff label, but she now pays for a proximity

spot under Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice (KIPJ).

“I know I just spent a lot of money for parking at my work [close to Shiley], but the convenience of coming or going is nice,” Dr. Schafer said. “My colleague is super frustrated, because she’s in the West Structure which is all the way at the bottom of the hill, but she still paid the \$425, which is much more than our old faculty-staff parking rate.”

Mike Dils, Director of University Mobility and Scheduling, explained that the increased pricing is because –in previous years– it was unfair for some to only have the leftover spots in the West Structure when people would pay a flat rate. With the new parking plan, the pricing is according to the closeness of the buildings, meant to reduce the time people spend looking for an available parking space.

For those who are on the waiting list for a spot, Dils recommends utilizing the new tram service schedules to get around campus.

“Part of the reason why we increased tram services to five in the morning was to better accommodate our grounds crew, custodial staff, business engineers and others who start [work] at five,” Dils said. “Currently in ‘proximity,’ some of the lots have waitlists, so we’re trying to balance the supply and demand of these waitlists.”

USD senior Jayden De Armas makes an hour-long

commute from North County to campus, but she does not pay for a spot, because USD ran out of commuter spots so quickly.

“I park across the street at Goshen [down the hill from USD], and it’s honestly as good as it gets,” De Armas said. “Even if I did get a West Lot spot, the only ones left are down in the gravel lot, which is essentially the same distance as across the street, so with that and possible parking citations, I don’t think it’s worth it.”

Dils explained that although they have not changed the citation fees, parking services are giving the USD community members grace during the beginning of the school year, to acclimate to the new parking plan.

“We’re giving a lot of warnings to try to encourage people to park in the right places,” Dils said. “At the moment, it’s hard to get that data [whether or not the new parking plan increased parking citations] because we’re not citing as we normally would, but once everyone gets settled, we’ll be able to pull that data.”

The parking services’ silver Prius cars are used for not only citations, but they also collect data on how many cars are parked in each lot. This data is then used to see how fast Parking Services can reduce its waitlist of those who want spots.

“The goal was so people wouldn’t circle so much around the Mesa [main campus area where many of the classrooms, administrative offices, dining

and student services are located] and they could go where they’re going to park,” Dils said. “It’s all about the data, so we’re happy it’s coming in and that the West Structure is better utilized.”

Additionally, Dils spoke about how parking services are working through the waitlist weekly.

“Parking is currently through the waitlist, and we’ve moved approximately 400 students off of it since the beginning [of the school year],” Dils said. “People have purchased permits and are not always parking at the times that they’ve purchased them, so we’re trying to make sure that, even though we have a lot of permits, we look at the lot and work to balance that.”

It is too early in the year for the data to show if this year’s parking plan is more efficient than previous years, but the waitlist is addressed every week. For those who are still on the waitlist for a commuter spot, using the new Bird bikes provided on campus is a possible option. Parking services are also working on an updated tracking system for the new routes and times so that the tram system can also be better utilized for those without parking spots.

It’s worth noting that, in total, two lots were converted for more physically open spaces to be available in the main campus area. Parking services recommended that, if students are emailed about an opening, respond fast, as there are 1,000 people in line for the desired commuter spaces.



Parking services provides a map of the “USD Mobility and Parking Plan,” outlining where each permit can park on campus; this is available on their website.

Photo Courtesy of sandiego.edu/parking

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San Diego is bringing on the heat

Temperatures soar to the high 90s

SALENA CHACON
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

The first week back at USD was filled with energy, excitement... and heat. The “San Diego Heat Wave” hit USD with full force as temperatures soared to the high 90s. According to the Sustainability Department, this heat wave is causing a Statewide Emergency, making it the most extreme on record in San Diego for the month of September.

Typically, San Diego weather hovers in the 70s, which has only exacerbated the stir this heat wave caused among students. Buildings such as Maher, the Alcalá Vista (Vistas) Apartments, San Antonio De Padua (SAPS) and other residential buildings have no air conditioning, creating uncomfortable living conditions for a large number of students. For those living in these buildings, there is zero relief from the heat.

USD sophomore Aoibheann Murphy lives on the third floor of Cuyamaca in the Vistas. Her apartment’s position directly faces the sun, leading her room to reach a high of 92 degrees.

Murphy described her failed attempts to relieve the heat.

“I was getting towels wet, giving them water, and putting them in the freezer. That was working for a while, but then

they would just melt. Then we would put ice in front of the fan; I don’t really think that works,” Murphy said. “We have all the blinds closed, we have a blackout curtain to keep the sun out. We have all the windows open, we have fans blowing a kind of breeze around from the windows. We have two fans in each bedroom and then two in the living room, so there’s six total.”

Murphy explained how the heat pushed her and her roommate to relocate for a couple of nights, eventually deciding to spend the night in the multipurpose room of the Alcalá Vistas.

“We went in the [Palomar] lounge, and it was way nicer, and it was actually cold. We were able to get a good night’s sleep for once. And now we’re at a hotel,” Murphy said.

While other circumstances contributed to Murphy’s stay at the hotel, the heat was the primary reason.

Facilities management identified the University Center, Student Life Pavilion, Learning Commons and residence hall lounges as “cooling areas,” these areas are not meant for students to spend the night.

The heat led students, such as Murphy, to question why air conditioning isn’t being installed in buildings currently without it.

“I just think it’s crazy that they

never had air conditioning. I know that we’re in a heat wave and these are temporary matters, but it’s always warm at the beginning and end of the year, so this isn’t new,” Murphy said. “And I know right now it’s extremely hot, but it’s still hot for most of the year, so I’m shocked that we don’t have it.”

John Alejandro, the Director of Sustainability, addressed these concerns.

“Many of our residence halls are older buildings that did not originally have air-conditioning,” Alejandro said in an email. “In most cases, it’s either simply not practical and/or extremely cost prohibitive to install air conditioning.”

Taking into consideration that installing air conditioning in the older residence halls would be a costly and extensive task, many students are left wondering if alternative options have been considered, such as portable air conditioning units, window air conditioning or box fans in each room.

Although this heat wave impacts students, it also takes a toll on the environment. Dr. Yin, a climatologist and USD professor in the Department of Environmental and Ocean Sciences, pointed out that the main problem regarding this unusual increase of temperature is the stress that it puts on both us and the earth.



San Diego warns drivers of extreme heat impacting power. Abigail Cavizo/The USD Vista

“Basically, for any living thing there is a heat stress – whether it is vegetation, animals or human beings. And I think that’s probably the greatest impact of all,” Dr. Yin said.

Dr. Yin also described how in such intense heat and with no water in their bodies from rainfall, plants aren’t able to evaporate or transpire. This causes great amounts of stress, and can even lead to plant failure. Similar to plants, it is crucial that students understand that the heat can damage their health.

Students are urged to take these precautions, which includes those listed by the Student Affairs and echoed by Facilities Management in an email.

“Open windows in rooms and use sash locks on windows for nighttime security, close the

shades, use fans to help circulate air and try not to use an oven for cooking,” Facilities Management said. “Also look for opportunities to study in air-conditioned buildings, take breaks in cool zones whenever possible, drink plenty of water and stay hydrated.”

Most importantly, students should visit the USD Health Center if experiencing potential signs of a heat-related illness, which – according to an email sent by Residential Life – include extremely high body temperatures, red hot and dry skin with no sweat, rapid, strong pulse, dizziness, confusion or unconsciousness.

This spike in temperatures spurred concern among students with older heating and cooling systems, causing worry for the upcoming, cooler fall weather.

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EDITORIAL

The “write” prescription for my mental health

How poetry helped my depression

JESSICA MILLS
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

(Cw: mental illness/depression)

If you ask my friends or family to describe me, they’d probably use words like “compassionate,” “bubbly” or “reliable.” Truthfully, I wouldn’t disagree with any of those descriptions.

But I’m also a sad girl. Not all the time — not even most of the time — but enough of the time.

Like most, my mental health journey is ever-changing. What works one day likely differs from what works another day. For me, traditional routes like therapy and medication aren’t always enough. As a creative person needing an outlet to release negative thoughts, I turned to poetry.

Since a young age, writing has been a natural instinct. I have filled countless diaries with stories I created, gossip I wrote down and mementos for future reflection. I didn’t start using my writing as therapy until I turned 20 years old, but, I felt the effects immediately.

I started by focusing on my most prominent emotion, and then described it in any way I could think of. I related it to colors, actions, expressions and even objects around me. In doing so, my emotions felt less scary. I’d given them a face: something I could relate to

and visualize. I took my power back from those unsettling and intangible emotions.

Healthline, an online health journal, explains that writing offers individuals a safe space to process negative thoughts and emotions and reflect on impactful life experiences.

Like Healthline, I believe utilizing traditional mental health outlets is important. I also argue that engaging in creative routes can be equally healing.

Although I feel comfortable talking openly with a therapist, there are some thoughts I’m not always ready to vocalize. With writing, that sense of vulnerability was never an issue. I didn’t need to fear judgment or pity.

No matter the mental illness one struggles with, writing down troubling feelings can be very beneficial. When you transfer those emotions onto a page, it can create room for happier thoughts.

As I continued to keep up with my writing, the length of my depressive episodes shortened significantly.

This morphed into a routine. When I felt a depressive episode approaching, I’d grab my laptop and start typing.

When you need an emotional release, I recommend finding a quiet place to write down your feelings.

Not only can this be a helpful

distraction from negative thoughts, it can also minimize the fear that accompanies them.

Some people might prefer other creative outlets, such as making music or painting. Others may find their release through physical activities such as yoga.

Whatever that outlet may be, I encourage everyone to explore what works best for them and implement it into their routine.

September marks Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. As of 2020, the National Institute of Mental Health says suicide is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. among individuals between the ages of 15-24. Providing hope, information and strategies for mental health management is crucial to help those in crisis.

I don’t think writing is the sole answer for helping one’s mental health; therapy and medication are great options. In fact, I’m an advocate for both, but life gets busy and health care isn’t always accessible.

I argue that writing can help one’s mental health immensely.

If you are in need of help, advice or someone to talk to, here are some mental health resources available to you: SAMHSA National Helpline It’s Up 2 Us Campaign San Diego County Mental Health Crisis Help 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



Writing can be a great form of processing mental struggles.

Photo courtesy of @lilartsy/Unsplash



Every individual should try their own outlets to help clear their minds and ground themselves.

Photo courtesy of @realkayls/Unsplash



Creative/physical outlets are great, but counseling is usually the best place to start looking for mental support.

Photo courtesy of @wocintechchat/Unsplash

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EDITORIAL

The Biden Administration’s flawed attempt at loan relief

Rising debts spark pivotal yet underwhelming changes in repayment

JACKIE MARQUEZ
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

The dream of lecture halls, overnights and dining hall food currently stands behind a paywall. For many students pursuing the college experience, financial aid in the form of scholarships and grants do not cover the rising cost of attendance.

The solution? Taking out exorbitant student loans. As a result, student debt in America is stifling opportunities for new graduates.

As America nears the end of the pandemic, student debt repayment is now a critical issue. Although the U.S. Department of Student Aid paused payments for eligible loans on March 13, 2020, this pause was extended through Dec. 31, 2022, and loan repayment is a looming reality for borrowers once again.

Given the harsh reality of college debt and repayment, the Biden Administration must follow through on long-term solutions. The pandemic worsened the financial stress of paying for college, but the pandemic is not the only reason that paying off debt is challenging. To truly alleviate the student debt issue, the government must target systemic issues such as rising tuition and dependence on loans. However, based on their proposed action plan they are not prepared to do so.

Seeking to ease students and graduates back into repayment, the Biden Administration announced a three-part plan which will target loan repayment. The first part introduces a student debt cancellation program that will cancel up to \$20,000 in loans for Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 in loans for Non-Pell Grant recipients. Pell Grants are federal grants given to undergraduate students who show exceptional financial need in order to help offset college costs.

This cancellation is a one-time relief, not something that borrowers can apply for every year. It applies to both current students and recent graduates, and the application will open sometime in October. Borrowers are eligible for debt cancellation, if they make less than \$125,000 individually or less than \$200,000 if married.

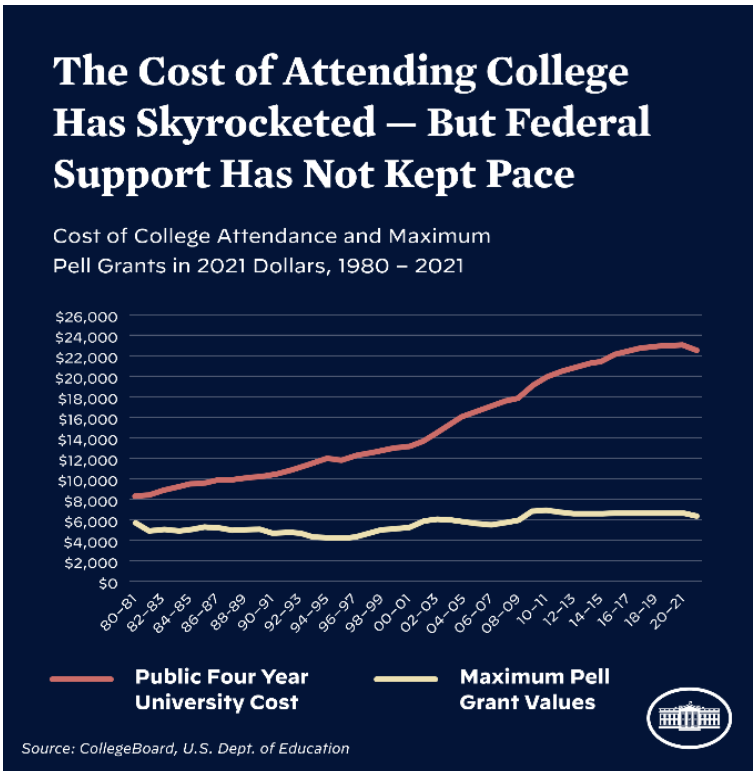
The second part entails a change in how loan repayment will work after the end of the repayment pause. It includes a new, income-based repayment plan that would max out payments at 5% of the borrower’s income. There is also an attempt to fix the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, a program that intends to credit public servants through loan forgiveness.

These first two plans of action are a great start. Both the loan cancellation and the new repayment plan lighten the burden that borrowers carry. They are a step in the right direction.

Despite this effort, there are still flaws in this debt relief plan. The cancellation amount is unsatisfactory, and the plan itself is a short-term fix. According to Forbes, the average amount of American student loan debt in 2022 is \$28,950 per borrower. According to the USD Tuition and Financial Aid Page, the average student debt upon graduation is \$27,020 at USD. The maximum amount of forgiveness a borrower can qualify for is \$20,000, but many will only qualify for \$10,000 because they did not receive a Pell Grant. This leaves the average borrower with \$8,950 to \$18,950 in debt. This is still a sizable amount of debt, especially considering that there are many Americans who take out more than the average amount of loans.

The loan cancellation is a limited offer; after the loans are canceled, it’s back to business. This aid provides only a fragment of relief for students who are already in debt, but it does nothing for the prospective students who will inevitably go into debt in the years to come. It is an inadequate attempt to win over young, educated voters, not the solution to systemic issues that we need. While \$10,000 in relief is better than nothing, the Biden Administration must continue to develop a long-term debt forgiveness plan that will go beyond a one-time relief.

Although the first two parts of this plan begin to prepare students and graduates for the loan repayment, the third is unsatisfactory. This final part seems to be a vague promise to increase the Pell Grant maximum and decrease the cost of community college. According to the White House’s Briefing



Tuition costs in the U.S. continue to rise despite stagnant federal support.
Photo courtesy of CollegeBoard, U.S. Dept. of Education/The White House



President Biden’s student debt relief is only the first step of many that students need.
Photo courtesy of @potus/Instagram

Room Fact Sheet, “To further reduce the cost of college, the President will continue to fight to double the maximum Pell Grant and make community college free... This Administration has already taken key steps to strengthen accountability.”

This is the kind of legislation we need, however these promises are currently nothing but promises. The White House attempts to recognize these problems by mentioning the insufficient maximum

Pell Grant amount and the ever-rising cost of tuition.

Yet, they fail to provide concrete legislation that addresses these issues. They also fail to explain the steps that have already been taken to achieve such promises.

These problems ultimately reflect a shortcoming of the relief plan: an inability to account for longevity. This plan starts strong, it details concrete approaches to easing borrowers back into repayment. However,

when it comes to long-term solutions, this plan does very little to alleviate the systemic problems that are causing the debt crisis. Unless the Biden Administration devises more tangible solutions, tuition will continue rising, Pell Grants will keep failing to cover costs of attendance, and loans will still be the primary form of financial aid.

The White House attempts to recognize these problems by mentioning the insufficient maximum Pell Grant amount and the ever-rising cost of tuition. Yet, without concrete legislation, these issues will continue to plague American students.

The Biden Administration needs to follow through on their promises with additional legislation. For instance, legislation that would set a price cap on tuition, to block universities from continuously upping their price tag is imperative.

According to the University of San Diego Undergraduate Educational Costs Page, USD tuition has increased by \$1,690 from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year alone.

This tuition increase is not unique to USD; The tuition for Santa Clara University increased by \$1,656 from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year and Loyola Marymount University tuition increased by \$2,374. The above graphic from the U.S. Department of Education captures the rise in tuition in comparison to the rise in federal Pell Grants.

It is evident that an increase in cost is not matched by an increase in grant value. An increase in the Pell Grant maximum is necessary, especially for USD students who are experiencing rising costs first-hand.

What the American college student needs is a proactive and preventative solution, not a treatment of surface-level symptoms.

We need legislation intended to stop the debt crisis at its source, and it must be more sustainable than a temporary debt cancellation and vague promises of change. While a good start, this loan debt relief is not the end of the road for change to the college financial aid system, and we as young voters must push for our needs to be represented.

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.

FEATURE

Conference in Rome addresses issues in the Church *How the event advocated for change and progress*

HALEY JACOB
FEATURE EDITOR

The Church from Page 1 they hoped to address at the conference. Bianco submitted his proposal on LGBT issues and LGBT families, and Dr. Reimer-Barry's proposal pertained to women's issues and the role of women in the Church. Bianco shared that — out of over 600 proposals overall — only 26 were accepted, making it an impressive feat for two professors from USD to attend.

Bianco had initial hesitation about submitting his proposal, considering LGBT issues are often a controversial topic in the Church.

However, Bianco knew he wanted to discuss the topic of LGBT issues and especially LGBT members and families in connection to family life in the Church.

"Amoris Laetitia is really about the family and marriage and what's best for family life," Bianco said. "Too often when we talk about family in church context, we leave out that LGBT members also are in families and make families of their own."

For his presentation, Bianco shared the stories of four different people in his life.

"One was a student currently at USD. One was an older man I met who had been out of the Church forever. One was a transgender woman, and then a married lesbian couple," Bianco said. "I told all four of their stories, and what the Church means to them, but how they've been treated. And I had pictures of them up, so it became real. [The audience] could really feel their stories, and I'm convinced that that's what caused so many people to be impacted by my talk."

Bianco felt nervous delivering his speech, especially with the rector of the university, a bishop and a cardinal in attendance. However, his presentation proved impactful when two of them thanked Bianco for sharing the stories.

"To be very honest, I was somewhat harsh on the hierarchy of the Church that they're not doing enough," Bianco said. "I was just very honest in my talk about how the Church can't welcome on the one hand, and then, on the other hand, take back the welcome. So yes, there was a little bit of 'uh oh, they're all in here, and they're going to be very pissed.' And actually, two of them did come up to me and said to me, 'I'm so thankful that you shared these stories for us.'"

Dr. Reimer-Barry's presentation addressed problems in Amoris Laetitia surrounding women's issues.



Dr. Reimer-Barry giving her presentation on women's role in the Church at the conference in Rome.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Emily Reimer-Barry



Dr. Reimer-Barry described her interaction with the Pope as a "powerful experience."

Photo courtesy of Dr. Emily Reimer-Barry

"Amoris Laetitia has a lot of really positive things to say about family life and things that I think helped move the tradition forward in some important ways," Dr. Reimer-Barry said. "It talks about the full humanity of women. It talks about how marriage is for life and love. It talks about how true love should never be coerced. You know, true love is mutual and reciprocal. These are all really positive things. But at the same time, there are some aspects of the document that remain problematic. I wanted to point out some of those aspects of the problematic pieces, to name them and problematize them, and also see if other people in the room agree."

Dr. Reimer-Barry discussed the document's adherence to gender norms and the issue of perpetuating gender-based inequalities.

She believes some aspects of the document presented masculinity and femininity as two, rigid categories, creating a situation of constraint.

Dr. Reimer-Barry also talked about the dangers and limitations of adhering strictly to patriarchal traditions in the Church when wanting to

emphasize relational justice.

Dr. Reimer-Barry hoped to bring a new perspective to addressing the issue of bodily autonomy and reproductive loss. She quoted global statistics from a United Nations report that found that half of the pregnancies today are pregnancies that girls did not deliberately choose. Dr. Reimer-Barry wanted others to think about how the coercion of sex leads to forced pregnancies in some contexts. Framing that statistic as a human rights issue could provide some common ground or a progressive starting point for talking about the human dignity of women.

"In Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis talks about how in a healthy marriage, there should be respect, there should be love, there should be equality, there should be a back-and-forth in the relationship: that it should not be a relationship built on domination and submission," Dr. Reimer-Barry said. "His understanding of marriage would be totally opposed to this reality of pregnancies that women and girls do not deliberately choose. Decision making about reproduction, decision making about sexuality,

and a sense of control over how and when to say 'yes' in a sexual encounter—those are all things I think the Pope would be in favor of. What I tried to do is say, 'can we find common ground here? Is this a place where we can build?'"

Dr. Reimer-Barry believes talking about what makes a sexual relationship healthy is a better starting point to combat the divide between the split categories of pro-life and pro-choice.

"How do we create a good sex ed. program?" Dr. Reimer-Barry said. "How do we create healthy relationships? How can we strengthen family life? What are some of the more basic questions for parishes and communities to work on? I think Amoris Laetitia does have some good things to say there."

Bianco and Dr. Reimer-Barry had the opportunity to meet the Pope, and the Pope's message to Bianco affirmed his work in the Church.

"I said to him, 'Your Holiness, I work with young adults and LGBT people in the United States, and they're leaving the Church so often,'" Bianco said. "And he said to me, 'you need to continue your work with both of those groups, because both of

them need to hear how much God loves them.' So we talked just a little bit more about how I was doing the work. I was so scared walking up, and he made it like you were talking to your grandpa. It's just the way he grabbed your hand and laughed with you. It made it kind of informal, which made it much easier for me to say what I wanted to say."

Bianco has hope for the future of the Catholic Church in terms of progressiveness and acceptance, especially after getting the opportunity to speak at the conference.

"The Vatican has different parts that organize different things in the Church," Bianco said. "For one of those to be a co-sponsor of an event, and check off that it's okay for me to come to speak on LGBT issues — that would not have happened ten years ago. Having Francis as the Pope is changing things drastically. The Church moves at a snail's pace and it always has. Today in society, we don't move like that, but the Church still somewhat does. These small things that happen — you have to look at those and say, 'okay, that would not have happened even five years ago, or six years ago, and now it's happening today.'"

Dr. Reimer-Barry believes the conference is a positive step toward change, mentioning how the networking and information sharing that took place at the conference has the power to inspire important conversations outside the event.

"It was definitely not a group of people who were there to just repeat the past for the sake of repeating the past," Dr. Reimer-Barry said. "It was about 'if there's something broken we need to fix it, how are we going to fix it? Who should be at the table when we fix it?'"

However, Dr. Reimer-Barry acknowledges that there is still a lot of work to be done in the Church.

"The Church is still such a clerical, male-dominated space," Dr. Reimer-Barry said. "I think conferences like this lead us in the right direction, but I just feel overwhelmed by how much work we still have to do. The Church is still part of this struggle toward justice in its internal structures, as well as its outward facing."

Despite the critiques on Amoris Laetitia, the document still has many positive aspects that Bianco and Dr. Reimer-Barry recognize.

The conference created a space for people of diverse backgrounds to honor the progress of the Church, while allowing conversations about where improvement is still needed. Those fighting to create a more progressive future within the Church generate great optimism for what is to come.

The reviews are in: USD named “Most Beautiful Campus”

Students share their favorite spots on campus to celebrate
the new title



Jackson Tamoush/ The USD Vista

Chase Wunsch (Senior)
“I like all the outdoor study spots, because you get to enjoy the San Diego weather. You also get to see friends that make studying more enjoyable.”

Angela Amaro (Junior)
“I really like the open-air courtyard in the middle of Camino Hall. I love the trees and the architecture of the buildings. One of the entrances to the building also has the school’s original name engraved above the doors, and it’s nice to appreciate the school’s history. It also houses my favorite departments of the school and has a very homey, beautiful, and peaceful feeling.”



Jackson Tamoush/ The USD Vista

The Princeton Review named USD its “Most Beautiful Campus” on its list this last August. The University of San Diego is the number one ranked campus in the ratings and reviews by students enthusiastic about campus. Shared their favorite spots on campus to celebrate the new title.

Vanessa De La Riva (Junior)

"The 'Harry Potter' room in the library is a great study room to focus. It's super quiet, has cool sculptures, and has a beautiful overall aesthetic. I love the ambiance and frequently find myself going there to study because of the room's beauty."



Jackson Tamoush/ The USD Vista



Jackson Tamoush/ The USD Vista

Marissa Schaad (Sophomore)

"I love sitting on the big steps in front of the Immaculata and the fountain. You can see the rest of the campus from that spot. I especially love sitting there at sunset, because you get the perfect view."

Noah Schliesman (Junior)

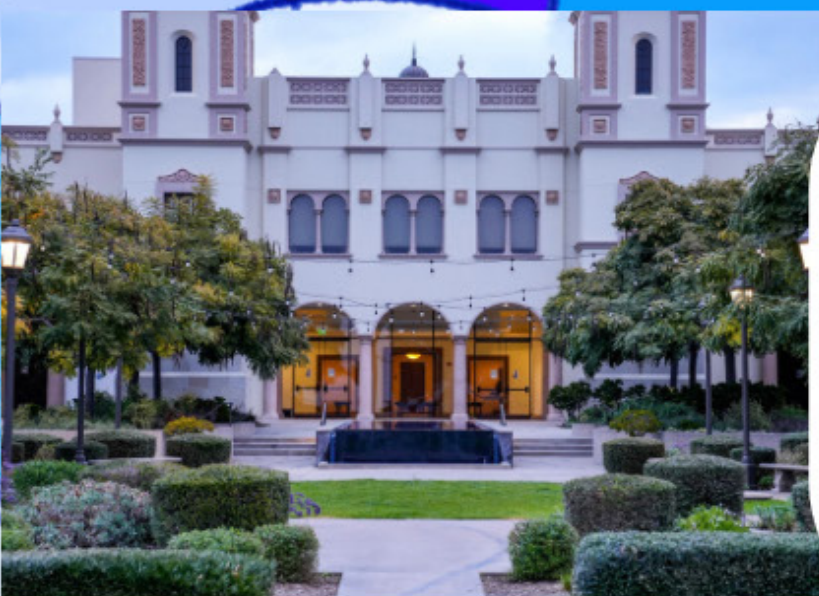
"I love going to the patio outside of Shiley to study. The lookout is really nice, it's usually pretty empty, and it's very spacious. I like how peaceful it is there."



Jackson Tamoush/ The USD Vista

Vanessa Mai (Sophomore)

"I love the Garden of the Sea behind the KIPJ. I like the spot because it looks over everything, and you can see the ocean from there. On top of that, it's just so peaceful there. It almost feels like a movie set. It really could be a movie set. It feels surreal."



Jackson Tamoush/ The USD Vista

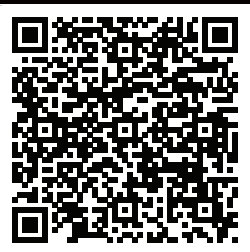
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‘Scoping out the semester

Look to the stars to help with stress and uncertainty

JESSICA MILLS
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

A new semester often feels unpredictable. Between new faces, courses and environments, there’s a lot to process. Astrological horoscopes rely on solar and planetary alignments and can offer comfort during times of uncertainty. Your sun and Mercury signs influence your education. The Sun represents one’s core personality and identity. Mercury determines communication and thinking patterns. Online sites, like Cafe Astrology, can determine these placements with one’s birth time and location. Look to your own sun and Mercury placements for your fall semester horoscope predictions.

Aries

(March 21 - April 19)

Your academic semester looks promising, Aries. You’ll take on different leadership roles in group work and help build a safe space for peers to voice their ideas. However, it’s important to remain mindful of stress in these scenarios. You frequently bear the responsibility for your team, Aries. Voice your needs, and allow others to share the labor. This is a semester to work on patience instead of impulsivity in schoolwork and relationships.

Taurus

(April 20 - May 20)

Surround yourself with soft sounds and soothing aromas, Taurus. Ruled by the throat and neck, it’s crucial to relax your shoulders and pamper yourself accordingly to reduce tension. Engage in laid-back pleasures like yoga, meditation and walks. Embrace your ability to focus and complete tasks by limiting interference as much as possible. Academic opportunities look to be worthwhile this semester. Approach this change in season with an open mind, and favorable results will follow.

Gemini

(May 21 - June 20)

Fasten your seatbelt, Gemini. Opportunities to study abroad are likely to appear toward the end of the year. Until then, set up your monthly goals and stick to them. Short attention span and concentration may be challenging this semester, but utilizing to-do lists will lessen distraction. Remain patient, Gemini. With consistent effort, your hard work will unlock new achievements.

Cancer

(June 21 - July 22)

Allow yourself time to relax, Cancer. Taking care of others is a natural instinct but may wear you down during exam periods. Finding a balance between studies and personal interests will reduce anxiety. This semester, focus on putting yourself first. It’s



Astronomers named each zodiac sign by the shape of stars representing the shape of animals.

LibbyBudenholzer/The USD Vista

okay to say “no,” Cancer. Your contributions are worthy in and out of an academic environment.

Leo

(July 23 - Aug. 22)

The spotlight is on you, Leo. This semester, your writing and creative endeavors will flourish, so spend extra time revising your work. You may struggle with upcoming exams. If available, utilize practice tests. Don’t be afraid to ask for help, Leo. You have all the required tools, so go forth and apply them.

Virgo

(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Luck is on your side, Virgo. With the right preparation, exam performance looks to be in your favor. However, working in group scenarios is likely to lead to unproductivity. Find your own study spot, and cut out any distractions. Many sleepless nights look to be ahead. Ruled by the digestive system, take extra care to eat nutritious foods, and avoid excessive caffeine. This will counteract any tiredness and short-term energy.

Libra

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Expect to hear advice from a mentor, Libra. Their message will be helpful when experiencing feelings of doubt. Reflect when necessary, but

don’t dwell in the past. Your diplomatic and gracious nature will effectively lead many in-class discussions. Preparation is your area of focus this semester. You may even change your approach to studying. Once you find balance, stick to it.

Scorpio

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Your horizons are expanding, Scorpio. Networking in and out of the classroom will bring about necessary growth. This may be out of your comfort zone, but trust that this is pivotal for future careers. Scorpio placements are ruled by the hips. Tension may store in this area of your body, so stretching regularly is important. You are entering a learning phase, Scorpio. Switch up any tedious routines and seek new knowledge.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Your efforts are noticed, Sagittarius. Change will occur in professional and academic pursuits. Do not shy away from these possibilities, and it may be just what you need. Your creative self is at its peak, Sagittarius. Channeling your energy toward this area will feel instinctual. Your adventurous manner will shine in the classroom. Do not hesitate to share your point of view with peers and instructors.

Capricorn

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Calm your mind, Capricorn. You often let your thoughts wander. Take a breath, and focus on what is in your control. Utilize lecture videos when studying. Sources outside of the classroom will resolve any confusion. You may feel a lack of motivation toward the end of the year. Reading will help to regain your concentration.

Aquarius

(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Use your time wisely, Aquarius. Many external pursuits will likely peak your interest. Time management will prevent any interference with your educational goals. Effective study habits will drive progress this semester. An Aquarius in athletic or extracurricular activities may be in a successful position this semester. Enjoy your good fortune.

Pisces

(Feb. 19 - March 20)

You spend much of your time daydreaming, Pisces. Taking a creative course will focus this energy into a worthwhile project. Allow disturbances to pass. Competition will appear in various academic ventures. Accept this challenge, but don’t rush the task. Discard any impulsivity, and take a

step back this semester, Pisces.

Many students reflected on their horoscopes during the first weeks of class. USD senior Avalon Miracle, found her Cancer horoscope accurate.

“This describes my first three weeks back at campus so perfectly.”

USD senior and Taurus Austin Smith will use his horoscope to aid in relaxation.

“This was very accurate. I’m working on not allowing academic stresses to get the best of my physical health.”

USD senior and Aries Kate Roberts, believes her horoscope will be useful for future class assignments.

“My horoscope touches on past habits I’ve needed to work on,” Roberts said. “So, this is a reminder to be mindful when working on assignments and group work.”

Despite potential feelings of apprehension, a new semester provides boundless opportunities. Whatever your zodiac sign, looking to the stars could help push you in the right direction.

The following astrological services were utilized to create the fall semester horoscopes: GaneshaSpeaks, MyPandit and PavitraJyotish.

Female empowerment is back in Reid’s new novel

Taylor Jenkins Reid speaks on sexism and systemic issues

SARAH FAHEY
ASST. A&C EDITOR

This past week, USD’s College of Arts and Sciences welcomed Taylor Jenkins Reid, the New York Times best-selling author of TikTok’s viral book, “The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo.” Taylor Jenkins Reid came to introduce her new novel, “Carrie Soto Is Back,” which leads the reader through athlete Carrie Soto’s comeback into the world of tennis after a short retirement, despite the odds against her.

Like Carrie Soto, Reid portrays young women – especially those of minority communities – as empowering, strong characters. The main character in her latest novel is Carrie Soto, a tennis player of Argentine-descent with an unconventional personality.

A potentially unlikable and annoying character, Carrie is a strong-headed athlete with a coarse personality, pushing boundaries through her win-at-all-costs attitude. Not only is she one of the best athletes, but she knows and shows it.

Reid challenges stereotypes against female athletes in “Carrie Soto Is Back,” in hopes of pointing out the systemic issues that follow women into the real world.

“I think that to write these stories about what women go through and to not articulate the things that I think are unfair would be a waste of telling the story,” Reid said. “One of the things that I wanted to explore is that there are many things that female athletes face that male athletes don’t.”

For example, Carrie Soto faces criticism for her body, adding to her unlikability from the tennis fans in the novel. She comes back from retirement



Reid embodies female empowerment in her new novel.

with an aged physique, subjecting her to more criticism surrounding her capabilities.

“Carrie’s body is not here for us to like it or not like it. It’s there for her to do her job,” Reid said.

Much of the novel seeks to empower women by challenging how society typically criticizes women in the spotlight. Reid highlights how a woman’s success is undermined in the professional world.

“It is very hard as a woman to be successful and likable, because we as a society don’t really like it when a woman knows how good she is,” Reid said.

As multiple fans of Reid have noted, Carrie is not an “enjoyable” character. However, she does her job, and excellently so. “It doesn’t matter if you

don’t like Carrie,” Reid said. “She won the match. There is nothing you can do about it.”

Reid emphasized that Carrie’s tennis performance was not up for debate. Throughout the story, she was put down because society viewed her as stubborn and determined.

Also in the novel, Reid challenges language barriers between Carrie and her father, Javier. Reid features conversations between the father-daughter duo in Spanish that aren’t translated for the reader.

“It’s important to me to destabilize the idea that, as an English-only speaker, you deserve to have everything translated,” Reid said. This tactic in her novel questions



Reid thanks crowd after introducing her new novel.

Sarah Fahey/The USD Vista

the English-centric bubble that much of today’s media and culture provides, disrupting what is usually handed to monolingual English-speakers.

USD senior Carmen Gomez appreciated Reid’s attempt to stray from mainstream norms.

“In today’s modern age, translation is easy,” Gomez said. “You may not get the full context, but a basic understanding can be achieved.”

Reid discusses the importance of appreciating different languages and cultures without clinging to our perceived normalcy.

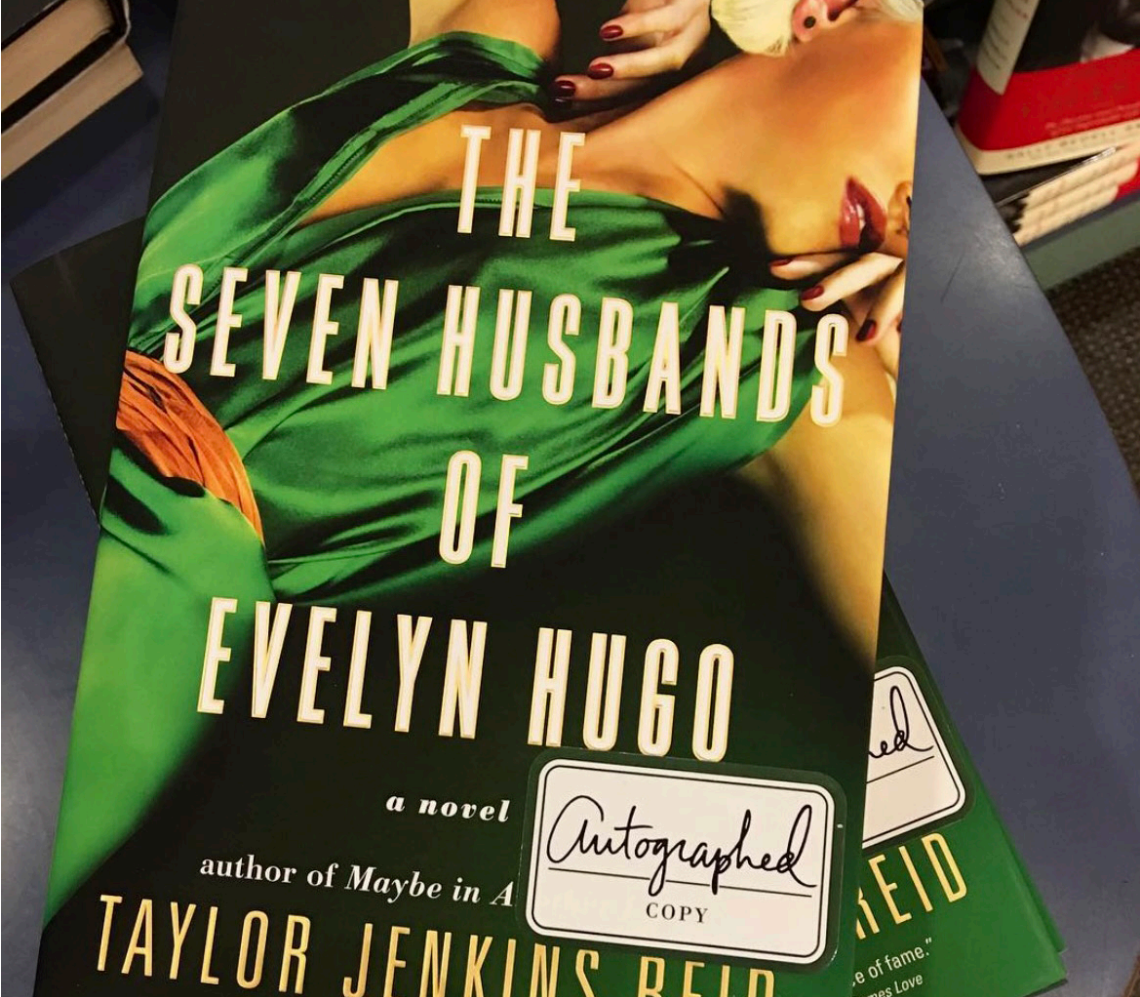
Reid utilized this event not only to showcase her work but to spread female empowerment and awareness of real world systemic issues as well. She confronts her readers’ comfort by keeping Spanish dialogue untranslated and highlighting each character’s background. She confronts her readers’ comfort by keeping Spanish dialogue untranslated and highlights each character’s background.

Taylor Jenkins Reid utilized this event to showcase her work and to spread female empowerment and awareness of real world systemic issues as well.



Crowd gathers in KIPJ auditorium for Reid’s event.

Photo courtesy of Michelle Kennedy



“The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo” went viral on TikTok after readers posted quotes and plot spoilers.

Photo courtesy of @Tjenkinsreid/Instagram

ARTS & CULTURE

Serena Williams' game-changing fashion

How the tennis star's bedazzled looks transcend boundaries

JESSICA MILLS

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

When picturing a uniform for a female tennis player, a short, one-toned skirt or dress comes to mind. Perhaps a matching visor as well, but – when Serena Williams steps out onto a tennis court – her uniform is anything but ordinary.

Williams played her last tennis match on Aug. 29. In ESPN's 43-year history, it was their most watched event ever, with 6.9 million viewers. During the game, Williams wore what may appear as a simple Nike black dress, but it was actually a symbolic farewell: a bodice, bedazzled with a galaxy of stars and a six-layered skirt with one tier for every U.S. open title she won.

Since her professional debut in 1995, the decorated tennis champion crafted a specific image for change. Her outfits are carefully designed as an expression of identity and a weapon against racial barriers and gender stereotypes.

In the sports world, women – especially women of color – are frequently told to “blend in.” During her career, Williams rejected the idea that non-male athletes should look and behave a certain way. She wore tutus, one-legged catsuits and everything in between. Alongside her outfits, the tennis star unashamedly brought her emotions, build and confidence to every match.

Despite the science behind athletic-performance garments, female tennis players often wear a short and simple flap of fabric meant to be a dress. These hyper-feminine uniforms lead to society sexualizing players and reinforce an unrealistic body and beauty standard.

While less material might help reduce friction, Williams is a prime example of how aerodynamics can be achieved without sexualization. A dress code is enforced in most professional tennis tournaments, but form-fitting skirts are not required. Despite this, athletic clothing

companies continue to manufacture tennis uniforms that force femininity. Conversely, Williams' clothing highlights her performance, not just her body.

Williams donned one of her most memorable and controversial on-court looks at the 2004 U.S. Open: a Nike denim skirt and studded tank top. Regardless of negative feedback, Williams embraced mixing active wear and street style.

During the 2013 Australian Open, Nike chose to debut their Black History Month Collection with Williams. Her vibrant, orange shoes featured African elements and patterns, matching her Nike headband. “Seeing Serena,” a novel detailing Williams' return to tennis after giving birth in 2017, addresses the attention she faced as a black woman in a white-dominated sport. Rather than cowering from scrutiny, Williams used her skills and fashion to change the game for everyone. Early on, she decided to be “a subject of that attention, rather than an object” as stated in the book.

Returning to the 2019 French Open, Williams sported a two-piece top and skirt by Virgil Abloh for Nike x Off-White. The black-and-white top featured the words “Mother,” “Goddess,” “Queen” and “Champion,” in both English and French, as a mantra for her game.

USD junior and tennis player Jordyn McBride believes Williams' outfits embody confidence, strength and feeling comfortable in one's skin.

“She adds a lot of glamor to her outfits, such as flowy skirts, diamonds in her hair and eccentric colors,” McBride said. “It shows that you can be feminine on court while also being tough, and she balances between those gracefully.”

McBride explained that future tennis players will be impacted by Williams' fashion choices.

“Serena Williams set the tone for women in sports; that you can wear what makes you feel great, while still being



Williams stepped out for her last match in her Nike black dress.

Photo courtesy of @Serenawilliams/Instagram

the best at what you do.”

Her love for fashion started at a young age, when her mother used Vogue patterns to create tennis outfits for her and her older sister, Venus. Early in her career, Williams would sew and rhinestone different pieces of her outfits, paying special attention to every detail.

Now, Williams designs clothing for her own fashion brand called S by Serena, which empowers others to look and feel their best. Diverse models and a wide range of sizes further push her mission of inclusivity.

Throughout her 27-year career, Serena Williams altered the world's perception of women – especially women of color – in sports. She proved strength and beauty can exist synonymously. While this may have been her final game, Williams' enduring influence on the world is just beginning.



Williams Nike black dress embodies her boldness.

Photo courtesy of @Nikewomen/Instagram



Williams donned a colorful look for the 2022 Eastbourne Tournament.

Photo courtesy of @Serenawilliams/Instagram



Williams' in her Off-White x Nike collaboration outfit for the 2019 French Open.

Photo courtesy of @Virgilabloh/Instagram

SPORTS

USD baseball off to MLB training camp

Four USD baseball players drafted into the big leagues

Taylor Nielsen
SPORTS EDITOR

From July 17-19, Major League Baseball (MLB) teams gathered in Los Angeles, California, to select the next group of athletes ready to start their professional baseball careers. Of the 616 selected players, four came from the University of San Diego baseball program.

USD baseball is no stranger to their players being drafted into the MLB. The 2022 draft marked the 33rd consecutive year that a MLB team selected an athlete from their program, an accomplishment highly regarded by the program.

Brycen Mautz

St. Louis Cardinals

The St. Louis Cardinals drafted San Diego local Brycen Mautz in the second round of the MLB draft, making him the 59th pick overall. The left-handed pitcher has been looking forward to this moment since the first time he picked up a baseball.

“Playing professional baseball has been a dream of mine since I started playing tee-ball, and I’ve never really looked back,” Mautz said.

The experience of his dream becoming a reality will always be a moment that Mautz looks back on. He celebrated the day with his family, friends and coaches who got him to where he is today.

“My head was racing the whole day I was drafted, and when I finally got to hear my name be called, it just kinda went blank, and I just remember hugging my parents,” Mautz said.

Since then, he had the opportunity to travel with his family to St. Louis to walk Busch Stadium, put on his jersey and officially sign his contract.

From there, he went on to Jupiter, Florida, to begin training.

Mautz looks forward to using the skills he gained from playing for USD. He showed a great amount of respect for the USD baseball program and the work they did to prepare him for a professional baseball career.

“The life skills and people I met at USD not only provided me with a strong foundation but opportunities I never would have been able to have,” Mautz said.

Ian Churchill

Toronto Blue Jays

When the Toronto Blue Jays picked graduate student Ian Churchill in the 10th round of the MLB Draft, Churchill felt the relief of his perseverance and hard work paying off.

He spent five years playing at three different schools to chase down his dream of becoming a professional baseball player.

“I had a lot of great coaches

and friends in my corner telling me to keep pushing and keep working hard to chase my dreams,” Churchill said.

When they called his name, Churchill was completely shocked.

“The whole thing was a blur. I got drafted way sooner than I thought I would. I was in the kitchen watching the draft on my laptop. I celebrated with my mom, who was working from home that day,” Churchill said.

He relocated from his hometown of San Marcos to Florida to play for the Toronto Blue Jays minor league affiliate team, the Dunedin Blue Jays.

He has officially signed at the spring training complex. Churchill looks forward to continuing to make connections with other players in the baseball community, especially more experienced players who have already started making an impact on Churchill.

Caleb Ricketts

Philadelphia Phillies

The Philadelphia Phillies picked well-accomplished junior, Caleb Ricketts as the 212th overall pick in the seventh round.

His standings as the 2022 West Coast Conference (WCC) Player of the Year and a semifinalist for the 2022 Buster Posey National Collegiate Catcher of the Year made him a player to watch during his collegiate career.

“It was a very surreal experience for me, because I knew I was always capable of being drafted and it was just exciting to finally see it happen,” Ricketts said.

As he transitions into his professional baseball career, he shows a great amount of gratitude towards the USD baseball program and the impact they had on his development as a player.

“I definitely would not be the player or man I am today, if I had not spent four years at USD. My experience at USD allowed me to mature in ways that I needed to mature in order to be ready to play professional baseball,” Ricketts said.

Over the summer, he traveled to Philadelphia to sign his contract and immediately caught a flight to Florida to begin training, which is where he resides now. Ricketts is looking forward to making new friendships in the baseball community and seizing the opportunity to play baseball for as long as he can.

Chase Meidroth

Boston Red Sox

Chase Meidroth was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the second round of the MLB Draft. Meidroth became the 19th pick overall.

During the 2022 season, he was chosen twice as the

WCC Player of the Week and was selected for the All-WCC First Team. In the spring season, Meidroth played in 56 out of the 57 games, where he started infield both at second base and third. His successful 2022 season will set him up for a good start in professional baseball as training begins.

Meidroth did not respond to the opportunity to interview.

Although the USD community will no longer be able to cheer on these four players at Fowler Park, their legacy on the team will last.



Brycen Mautz walks Busch Stadium after signing for the St. Louis Cardinals.
Photo courtesy of @brycenmautz/Instagram



Ian Churchill throws fast ball to opposing team.
Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com



Caleb Ricketts throws ball across the field to make a play.
Photo courtesy of @usdbaseball/Instagram



Chase Meidroth runs to his teammates after making it to home plate.

Photo courtesy of usdtoreros.com

SPORTS

Baseball hits postseason out of the park
Team wins first WCC Championship since 2013

Taylor Nielsen
SPORTS EDITOR

While most students packed up their dorm rooms and off-campus housing at the end of the spring semester, the University of San Diego baseball team packed their bags for a postseason appearance in Stockton, California.

Every year following the end of regular season play, the West Coast Conference (WCC) hosts a championship tournament for the league's highest ranking teams. The winner earns a coveted spot in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Regional Tournament.

After a two-year break due to coronavirus restrictions, the WCC welcomed teams back to Banner Island Ballpark. The league expanded the tournament and invited the top six teams to compete, instead of the usual four. More teams present meant more games, specifically four days of back-to-back games from May 25-28.

The opening day consisted of two, single-elimination games



The USD baseball team celebrates after becoming the WCC Champions.

between the four lowest ranked teams. Teams received their seed based on their final standing in regular season play. The Toreros finished their season at No. 3 and matched up to play the No. 6 seed, the University of San Francisco (USF).

In a back-and-forth game against USF, the Toreros didn't pull a definite lead until the bottom of the sixth, after they came back from trailing by three runs. They recorded six home runs during the game, two of which came from the WCC Player of the Year, junior Caleb Rickets. They finished the game ahead of USF and won 10-5, which sent USF home and propelled the Toreros to day two.

In their first double-elimination game of the weekend,

Photo courtesy of @usdbaseball/Instagram

the Toreros faced No. 2 seed University of Portland (UP) on day two. The USD baseball team dominated over UP, ending the game with an impressive 22-8 lead. Seven USD players made it a multi-hit game, including Rickets, who recorded a third home run for the weekend.

On day three, the USD baseball team made a statement when they continued their winning streak against No. 1 seed Gonzaga. The USD baseball team came back in the bottom of the fourth after Gonzaga maintained an early 0-3 lead through the third inning. The Toreros tied up the game 3-3 and pulled forward 5-3 in the fifth inning. They maintained the two-run lead throughout the rest of the game

and won against the top seed.

After ending the third day undefeated (3-0), the USD baseball team awaited their opponent for the final day of the tournament. If they won the next game, they would take home the conference title. Their opponent would be a rematch against UP or Gonzaga. The decision would be the result of a single-elimination game at the end of day three.

On Saturday, May 28, the USD baseball team faced Gonzaga again, who had knocked UP out by winning 7-0 Friday night. USD and Gonzaga's second match of the weekend extended into two extra innings. The back-and-forth game came to a standstill when the two teams ended the tenth inning at a tie, 12-12. In the eleventh inning, Toreros Jack Costello and Cody Jefferis hit two homers and took the conference title for the USD baseball team.

The 2022 USD baseball team brought home the second WCC Tournament win in program history which earned them an automatic bid for the program's ninth NCAA appearance. The team returned home to await the announcement on which

of the sixteen tournaments in the NCAA Division I regionals that they were placed in.

On Monday, May 30, the team received the news at USD that they would play in the Corvallis Regional Tournament, hosted by Oregon State.

They headed up the coast for their first game against Vanderbilt and closed out the game with a one run lead of 3-2.

In the second game, they faced the hosting team, Oregon State, for a chance to make it to the tournament's championship game.

However, the Toreros endured their first postseason loss, falling 3-12 to Oregon State. They headed to a single-elimination, redemption game where they faced Vanderbilt for the second time that weekend. After losing to USD the previous day, Vanderbilt packed a punch, and the Toreros were sent home after losing 4-14 in their final game of their 2022 season against Vanderbilt.

While losses are always disappointing, the USD baseball team's conference win and NCAA appearance was a comeback for the program as a whole.

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USD athletics kick off fall sports

A recap of teams’ early season performances

Thomas Jefferson
SPORTS EDITOR

Football

The University of San Diego football team started their season with a bang in their season opener versus LaVerne. The Toreros won with a score of 58-0, the largest winning margin in almost a decade.

In his debut as a Torero, running back Chris Childers had a successful game. He recorded 112 rushed yards with 17 carries and two completed passes, which resulted in Childers scoring two touchdowns.

Sophomore wide receiver Vance Jefferson also put on a performance, having four receptions for 107 yards and two touchdowns.

USD dominated this game from front to back with the Toreros racking up 492 total yards compared to LaVerne’s 108. LaVerne only recorded 14 rushed yards. San Diego also forced 11 punts, emphasizing the defensive pressure the Toreros implemented against the Leopards.

The USD football team is now 1-0 and will travel to Davis, California, for a Saturday night game against University of California, Davis.

Volleyball

The USD Volleyball team, ranked No. 15, started the year off strong with an impressive record of 4-1 in tournament play.

The team recently won against the No. 8 ranked team, Ohio State. Both USD and Ohio State started off the first set by going back and forth, but the Toreros slowly pulled away, resulting in a 1-0 start to the match.

The second set followed suit, going down to the wire with a close Torero win of 26-24, giving the Toreros a strong 2-0 set lead over the Buckeyes.

In the final set, the game was yet another back-and-forth battle, drawing the game to a neck-and-neck close.

With the Buckeyes being up 24-22 and on the verge of winning their first set, the Toreros continued fighting to eventually pull out their last set win 28-26, resulting in a 3-0 sweep over Ohio State.

Grace Frohling and Breana Edwards both had 13 kills each, leading the way for this back-and-forth match against the Buckeyes. This is their second win against a top ten school this season after defeating No. 6 Pittsburgh on Aug. 26.

The Toreros have a busy schedule ahead of them, with two tournaments in the next month.

On Sept. 16 and 17, they will host San Diego State University and Pepperdine in the Jenny Craig Pavilion for a



The USD football team makes a bold entrance onto the field before the start of the game.
Photo courtesy of @usdfutbol/Instagram



Men's Cross Country team warms up before their race.
Photo courtesy of @usdxcctf/Instagram



Starting players being announced.
Photo courtesy of @usdwsoccer



Men's soccer team huddles after end of their home game.
Photo courtesy of @usdmsoccer



Cross Country breaks before start of race.
Photo courtesy of @usdxcctf



USD Volleyball team celebrates after winning point.
Photo courtesy of @usdvolleyball

match up outside of conference play, against Southern California rivals. Their first West Coast Conference game will take place on Sept. 22 at home against Pepperdine.

Cross Country

The San Diego men and women cross country teams both had their season openers at the Mark Covert Invite, hosted by Cal State Fullerton. The men's team placed fifth within the 15 team field, while the women placed fourth. On the men's team, graduate student Ethan Steiner had a strong season debut, with a 10th place finish and a time of 25:37.9. Other notable performances came from sophomore Jake Coleman with a time of 26:15.6 and graduate student Ian Converse with a time of 26:17.3. Both also finished in the top twenty five.

On the women's team, sophomore, Madeline Heller finished in 13th place with an impressive time of 19:12.3. Daniella Hubble finished close behind Heller in 20th with a time of 19:25.3.

The Toreros will travel to the University of California Riverside Invite on Saturday, Sept. 17 in lieu of the USD Invite that was canceled.

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team has been off to a slow start, having gone 0-3-1 in their first season games. Their most recent game was against Cal Baptist on Monday, Sept. 5 where the Toreros lost 2-0. Both teams did not score any goals in the first half, but Cal Baptist pulled away when the Lancers scored once in the 50th minute of the game and once again 10 minutes later.

San Diego hopes to bounce back when they face their local opponents, the University of California San Diego in an away game on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team had a decent start to their season and are looking to even out their win-to-loss record. The team started the year off 1-3-2.

In their most recent game against Long Beach, they ended the game with a tie. At the 25 minute mark, Long Beach scored their first goal, leaving San Diego down 1-0.

The Toreros continued to battle, evening up the score to 1-1 when Eden Quiroz scored at the 54 minute mark. San Diego took the lead with the help of Josefine Schlichting in the 68th minute of the game. Long Beach tied up the game again at the 88th minute.

Their next game will take place at Stanford on Thursday, Sept. 15. They will return home to play against Northern Arizona on Sept. 25 at 1:00 p.m.