**Family Weekend Coming September 30 – October 1**

Sign Up Now!

SDSU’s Family Weekend is a widely anticipated annual event that takes place at the beginning of each fall semester. Family Weekend provides parents and students the chance to experience university life together.

The Aztec Parents Association sponsors the event in collaboration with Aztec Shops, Athletics, faculty, the library, residence halls, Greek Life, Associated Students, and others. Parents are given the opportunity to dine with university administrators at the picnic and serenade, attend a pregame reception and football game, tour the campus, and much more.

Aztec Parents and Family Weekend co-chairs Dan and Lori Steinberg said of their Family Weekend experience, “Family Weekend provided our son, Nick, a forum to tell us firsthand about his initial experiences at SDSU. It also provided us, as parents, the opportunity to express our interest and support for our son and his activities.”

Whether parents meet with university administrators over breakfast, attend a football game, or try their student’s favorite place to eat on campus, Family Weekend 2005 offers something for everyone. The chance for parents to view college through the eyes of their student is a priceless experience, and a weekend well spent.

For more information about Family Weekend 2005, and to register online, visit www.sdsu.edu/aztecparents.

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**SDSU Welcomes New Dean of Students Darlene V. Willis**

SDSU’s new Dean of Students, Dr. Darlene V. Willis, is a student advocate who understands the power of higher education. She was the first person in her family to graduate from college, and the only one to earn a Ph.D. Willis comes from a large, close-knit family who lived in the inner city of East Oakland, California. She is the fourth of six daughters who all have names that begin with a D (Debra, Dawn, Dana, Darlene, Denise and Dianna). In addition to her parents, James and Sheryl Griffin, and her five sisters, she is one of 36 first cousins, all of whom grew up within five blocks of each other.

“My parents have been married for the past 46 years and they worked hard to instill values in each of us,” said Willis. “We were poor, but I never knew it because we never went without the basics and knew how to make due with what we had. We laugh now, but my parents worked hard to come up with a $500 down payment to purchase our home so their children could be raised in a house.”

Willis went on to explain that even though the house was small, her parents made it into a loving home.

“We lived in a two-bedroom home with one bathroom,” she said. “My parents had their room and we six girls shared our room with three sets of bunk beds. It was quite an adventure, but it taught us to share and manage our time wisely.”

Willis herself has been married for more than 18 years to Phillip Willis, Jr., and they have two sons. Their oldest son, Phillip III, who is 17, just began his freshman year of college in North Carolina. Her younger son, James Cornelius, age 14, is a high school sophomore.

Willis said her position as Dean of Students offers a great opportunity to directly enhance the student experience at San Diego State. She is responsible for Career Services; Student Testing, Assessment and Research; the Cross-Cultural Center; the Center for Community-Based Service Learning; Greek Life; student clubs and organizations; and student leadership, retention and academic success.

“I am a strong believer in community service and civic engagement. I tell students, ‘To make your mark, you have to get involved in the university. You have to find what interests you and participate.’”

Before joining SDSU in July of this year, she worked at UCSD. She has worked in higher education for the past 16 years, including the Lawton School, Mills College, Cal State Hayward, and Cal State San Marcos.

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**Sycuan Indian Tribe Donates $5.5 Million to SDSU to Create Nation’s First Tribal Gaming-Focused Institute**

On July 25, 2005, the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation of San Diego’s East County, bestowed a $5.5 million dollar gift upon SDSU. The funds will establish The Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nations Institute on Tribal Gaming, which will be housed in the Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) Program. The generous gift to SDSU is the largest tribe endowment given to any California university.

“The Sycuan Tribe is proud to partner with San Diego State University to establish this important new educational program,” said Daniel Tucker, Sycuan Tribal Chairman. “San Diego State is nationally recognized as an innovative leader in higher education and we are honored to work with SDSU to create this new institute as a center for student learning and academic research that can help support the continued growth of the tribal gaming industry.”

The institute will be the first of its kind that’s exclusively dedicated to the research and academics of tribal gambling.
Q:

"I believe that when a student is accepted into any university, we also accept the parents and family members." — Dr. Darlene Willis, Dean of Students

Willis received her undergraduate degree at UC Irvine in four years, despite sitting out for a quarter due to a chronic illness. Even with the challenge of being diagnosed with Lupus, Willis continues to beat the odds and has successfully managed her life. She often speaks on her experiences including her childhood, education, and the ability to be a mom, wife, and professional while successfully managing a chronic illness.

"I took the long and backwards road for my master's and doctorate, " she said. "I held both to go back to school to make her give me college information. I wasn't a good test taker so I always had to prove myself. Only about seven students from my high school went on to college out of a class of 400 or so."

Willis when she was growing up.

In addition to being a busy wife, mom and college dean, Willis, along with her husband, co-founded a nonprofit group called Concerned Parents Alliance, Inc.

"It is a grassroots parent organization that was developed to empower parents and students to take control of their educational journeys," she said. "We created an educational component called College Bound San Diego. This program is in direct response to the educational achievement gap as it relates to students, especially African American students, in the Poway Unified School District and San Diego County. We empower parents and students to learn the college requirements for themselves, to stay engaged in the educational process, learn black history, public speaking, writing, academic testing and preparation, and we provide customized college visits. We have traveled to over 37 colleges and universities, and most recently, to New York, London and Paris. In order to reach more parents, we also host a radio program on 1040 AM entitled "Concerned Parents Alliance's Educational Hour."

As the new Dean of Students, Willis said that, besides working with students, she is excited to have ongoing interactions with parents.

"I believe that when a student is accepted into any university, we also accept the parents and family members," she said. "I want parents to know who the Dean of Students is to feel free to call me when they need assistance." When asked what her future goals are, Willis emphasized her dual roles as mom and college administrator.

"Personally, I look forward to continuing to serve as mother to both of my sons as they experience the challenges and highlights of being students," she said. "Professionally, I want to become a vice president and maybe eventually a president of a university. I love higher education, particularly serving and helping students."

San Diego State University maintains and promotes a policy of non-discrimination and non-stigmatization on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin. The California State University is committed to providing equal opportunities to men and women CSU students in campus programs, including intramural and intercollegiate athletics.
Jeff Schemmel.

SDSU Officially Welcomes New Athletic Director

New Game Plan to SDSU —

New Athletic Director Brings a great catch for SDSU.

but it's his personal enthusiasm and dedication to athletics that makes him for the University of Minnesota, and assistant director of athletics at University, senior associate athletics director and chief operating officer for the 2001 NCAA men's basketball Final Four, serving as senior vice president and executive director of development for Arizona State University, senior associate athletics director and chief operating officer for the University of Minnesota, and assistant director of athletics at Kansas State University.

Leaving his position as a Conference USA associate commissioner, the SDSU community is eager to have a man of Jeff Schemmel's experience and caliber on board. "Jeff brings versatile talent and experience from some of collegiate athletics' biggest programs and events to help lead our Athletics department," said President Stephen L. Weber at a press conference welcoming Schemmel to SDSU. "He has a track record of success as a high ranking administrator for a major Big Ten university and for Conference USA. He has been extremely adept at attracting major events, hiring top coaches, and expanding revenue streams and private support. He's an expert on complex compliance issues. Most importantly, he is committed to running a first-rate athletics program dedicated to the success of our student athletes on the field and in the classroom that will build pride among our university, alumni and fans."

Schemmel's job experience includes his services as executive director for the 2001 NCAA men's basketball Final Four, serving as senior vice president and executive director of development for Arizona State University, senior associate athletics director and chief operating officer for the University of Minnesota, and assistant director of athletics at Kansas State University.

"I am thrilled and honored to join the Aztec Athletics program," Schmeichel said. "I want to continue the good work already begun in support of our student-athletes and coaches. At the same time, I know the university and the community are eager to see competitive success. We will be committed to doing all we can in every sport we sponsor to win consistently and with integrity."

During his time at the University of Minnesota, Schmeichel was instrumental in the hiring of head football coach Glen Mason and men's basketball coach Dan Monson. Under Mason's direction, Minnesota's football program climbed from the lower end of the Big Ten conference, and transformed into a team that's played in four bowl games during the last few years. Coach Monson is accredited with the positive turnaround and honorable success of Minnesota's once ill basketball program.

Besides having a keen eye for hiring Grade 'A' coaches, Schmeichel has also been very successful in increasing marketability and support from the college community. During his tenure at Minnesota, Schmeichel oversaw a $3 million football capital improvement campaign, and he helped raise $1.6 million for the university's basketball program – putting Minnesota in the NCAA men's basketball Final Four at Minneapolis.

According to Schmeichel, he plans to "bring a fresh energy" in order to protect the health or safety of students or other persons. FERPA affords parents these rights until the student reaches the age of 18, or attends a school beyond the high school level. At that time, these rights are transferred to the student.

"My best piece of advice to you is to keep the lines of communication open between you and your student as they develop responsibility for their educational career." — Dr. James R. Kitchen

There are exceptions, of course, such as in an emergency in order to protect the health or safety of students or other persons. FERPA affords parents these rights until the student reaches the age of 18, or attends a school beyond the high school level. At that time, these rights are transferred to the student.

Many parents are often taken aback by this law. However, most college students are now legal adults, and as such, have rights to privacy. The most important thing parents can do is to communicate openly with their sons and daughters.

College is a time of great changes for your student, and with these changes will come growth. Encourage your student to talk with you openly about how his or her classes are going. Ask if he or she is encountering any problems in a particular class. Ask what subjects are most interesting. Send your encouragement before big tests and projects are due. Communicating throughout the semester is key. Your student is responsible for all aspects of his or her education, and you can help by empowering them to take on that responsibility.

SDSU does not send "report cards" to students. Grading information is available for students electronically through the SDSU WebPortal.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at Family Weekend in a few weeks. In the meantime, enjoy the fall semester and continue to let me know what's on your mind.

Sincerely,

James R. Kitchen

Message from Vice President for Student Affairs James R. Kitchen

I personally want to welcome back all returning parents, and to welcome our new parents, to the 2005-2006 academic year. Whether your student is a first-time freshman or transfer student this fall, or is a graduating senior, it is a time of exciting changes for you and your son or daughter. As Vice President for Student Affairs, I often get calls from parents asking why they can’t have access to their student’s grades. After all, they say, they are paying for their student's college education, and parents feel that they should be able to monitor their son's or daughter's progress. As the father of a recent college graduate, I can certainly relate to that sentiment. On our campus, we value the role of parents as partners in the educational process. We know how important parental involvement is to each student’s success. But as a college administrator, I am required to follow the law in guarding the privacy rights of all students.

From a legal perspective, only students have access to their educational records, including grades. My best piece of advice to you is to keep the lines of communication open between you and your student as they develop responsibility for their educational career.

The Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, commonly known as the Buckley Amendment, is a federal law providing that universities will maintain the confidentiality of each student's educational records. The law basically says that, besides the student, no one outside the institution shall have access to a student's educational records, nor will the institution disclose any information from those records without written consent.

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AZTEC PARENTS BOARD MEMBER PROFILE:

Dan and Lori Steinberg

Putting four kids through college, with two more almost ready to join higher education, the Steinbergs are becoming pros as college parents. Along the way, they have developed ideas of what seems to work best for their college students.

“We feel that parents should e-mail and/or phone their students once per week, but not more than that. We have to let them spread their wings,” said Dan. “Our top three words of advice for parents is that their college student are: ‘relax, participate, and communicate.’”

They are both in agreement that the first semester of a student’s college career is critical to their adjustment. Although they stress involvement during this time, the Steinbergs believe that students need to adjust to the challenges of college-level coursework and balance out their involvement.

“If they don’t absolutely need to work, it is better that they not the first semester,” said Lori. “Or, if necessary, they should work no more than 10 hours per week, and preferably on campus. We feel they should be on campus and involved with the university as much as possible.”

Looking into clubs, intramurals, or other on-campus activities right away will help ease them into college life and help them get past any homesickness,” continued Dan. “We both believe the Greek system is an outstanding opportunity for personal growth and social experience, but we don’t believe in fraternity or sorority pledging the first semester because it can be a little too demanding on time. SDSU has a fine Greek system. Nick has been a member of a fraternity since his sophomore year and has had a very positive experience.”

Both Lori and Dan are business owners in the Los Angeles area. They have a technology and service-oriented company providing secure payment processing solutions for merchants. After attending SDSU, Lori transferred to UCLA, and then went on to a successful business career. Dan attended Pepperdine and CSUN (Northridge) graduating cum laude and went on to become the student coordinator of freshman orientation at CSUN, which probably steered him into getting involved in SDSU’s orientation programs.

“There is little spare time for these busy Aztec Parents. They enjoy cooking, reading, sports and travel, but spending time with their family is their greatest joy. ‘We have a lot of extended family members – more than 25 immediate members in the LA area,’ said Dan. ‘We look forward to seeing our kids begin their professional lives, family lives, etc., and we look forward to becoming grandparents — but not just yet!’

Both Dan and Lori are enthusiastic about the Aztec Parents Association. “The communication and information available because of the Association is comforting, and the opportunity to be aware of what our students are experiencing is rewarding.”

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“The communication and information available because of the Association is comforting, and the opportunity to be aware of what our students are experiencing is rewarding.”

As advisory board members, the ability to influence some spending initiatives on student programs has been a valuable experience for us and, in some small way, makes us feel like we can do something to directly help our son and other SDSU students. Plus the friendships we’ve gained from being part of the organization – all of these are major reasons why we think the Aztec Parents Association is valuable.”
Students Helping Other Students in the Residence Halls

We know that many lessons in college occur outside of the classroom for all students every year. For students who live on campus, living with a roommate, being on a budget, and being self-reliant are just three new learning experiences. That is why the Residential Education staff strives to make living on campus a fun, exciting, and educational experience for its residents.

Staffed with trained students, the residence halls serve as students’ home away from home. Resident Advisers (RAs), Residence Hall Coordinators (RHCs), Residence Hall Coordinator Assistants (RHCA), Academic Mentors (AMs), and Faculty-in-Residence (FIRs), are housed in the residence halls to facilitate students’ transition into college, and to help them further take advantage of the endless opportunities offered on campus.

Director of Residential Education, Cynthia Avery, explains the qualities that she and her staff look for in potential RAs and AMs.

“When looking for RAs and AMs, we look for students with leadership potential, who demonstrate an interest in helping out other students. We look for students who will role model student engagement in the university experience, commitment to academic success, and an interest in learning more about diverse cultures. Students who can communicate effectively, work collaboratively within a group, and think creatively, tend to have an edge in our extensive selection process.”

All residence hall staff members play a key role in welcoming and assisting students in the residence halls. However, it is a team of student paraprofessionals, RAs, that go above and beyond, to make students feel at home in their new residence hall.

“The RAs are outstanding role models. They reach out to students and help guide them through the maze of the university: The paraprofessional staff members are well trained on the resources available to students, as well as on how to identify transition issues and help students succeed,” said Avery.

“RAs develop positive relationships with the students from the beginning and let their residents know that they are here to serve them. They provide a minimum of ten programs per year for their residents. ”

“All residence hall staff members play a key role in welcoming and assisting students in the residence halls.”
— Cynthia Avery, Director of Residential Education

RA applicants undergo two selection processes. The primary selection process starts at the beginning of spring semester to hire staff for the following academic year.

The RA is a full-time SDSU student who has had intensive training on development issues of college-age students. “The Resident Advisors undergo extensive training for a few weeks before classes begin. They are trained in safety procedures, campus resources, how to develop and implement educational events for the residents, how to run floor meetings, developing roommate agreements and community standards, etc.” said Avery. “They also take a three-unit, upper division course during their first semester as an RA. This class focuses in large part on the diversity within our society, our campus and within our residence halls. Students learn about identity development models, how to develop the sense of community within a diverse population, how to resolve conflicts as they arise, how to identify and address issues such as eating disorders, etc.”

Organizing group activities, such as ice-cream socials, movie nights, camp-outs in the residence hall study lounge, and numerous other activities, RAs work hard to help students get involved in their new ‘mini community’ in the residence halls. The transition to college life, and getting to know other students, is much easier when students become involved with campus.

“As a parent, it is important to remind your student of all of the fantastic resources on campus. Encourage them to get involved on campus,” said Avery. “Their Resident Advisor is the best place to start. If the RA doesn’t have the answer, they will know whom to contact to find the answer for your student.”

Avery offers a few tips for parents whose students will be living on-campus for the first time. “Develop a regularly scheduled time to ‘check in’ with your student. When you talk with your student, be sure to ask open-ended questions. Ask more than ‘How was your day?’ If your student has complaints or concerns about their roommate, let them vent, but try to redirect their energy to resolving the conflict. If your student shows signs of homesickness, don’t panic. This is quite normal. Encourage your student to stay on campus for at least the first three weekends of the year. If they can do that, they’ll be more likely to get engaged on campus. Student involvement helps to make the campus not seem so overwhelming.”

Avery concludes in saying, “Trust the job you did in raising your student. Understand they will grow and change significantly; blossoming quite a bit over the next several years as they prepare for adulthood, their careers, and relationships with significant others. Expect your relationship with them to change. Although they may have resisted your advice in high school, they may seek it out in the next few months!”

Outstanding Student Organization of the Year

The Hillel/Jewish Student Union at San Diego State University was recognized as Outstanding Student Organization of the Year by the Associated Students of San Diego State University.
Named after a legendary character in Camelot, "Genevieve" Gen Smith is quite the character herself. For her family, friends, and all who have come in contact with her, Gen is a ray of sunshine. Her outgoing, friendly, and very energetic personality make her a great fit for her major.

As a student in the Hospitality & Tourism Management (HTM) Program, Gen said "I love my major. It's hands-on, and it's great." Planning to graduate in May 2006, Gen plans on going into the sports industry. "I want to be a sports events director, or a sports events coordinator," Gen excitedly continues, "San Diego is very touristy, so I would love if I found a job I liked. But I'd be willing to move to 'Middle America' for a job as well. There's a booming HTM industry there."

With her professional goals determined and in sight, Gen has been preparing for her future career by volunteering. "I've been volunteering at various organizations and events while in college. I've met so many people, and it's an excellent way to network," says Gen. Her volunteering includes the X-Games, the L.A. Marathon, walking in the March of Dimes, Super Bowl XXXVII, and, most recently, Gen volunteered in San Diego's Rock 'n Roll Marathon. "I handed out cups of water to the runners at the finish line," says Gen.

"Volunteering at the Super Bowl in San Diego was amazing! After that experience I kept volunteering for sporting events. Volunteering has been a great experience, professionally and personally, for me. I've gained a better perspective on how events are planned and executed, and I've witnessed, first-hand, negative and positive attributes about event planning. I've seen events that were amazing, and I've seen some that could've been better."

Gen refers to her time studying abroad as being her most memorable college experience. "Studying abroad gave me a deeper cultural understanding. A much deeper understanding and appreciation than I could've gotten out of a book. I got to see Stonehenge and Wimbledon – things you read about in school or see on TV. To see them first-hand is amazing, it's unreal!"

"If you're used to such a different style of living it's truly remarkable how many different people you meet through class, work, community gatherings, introduce yourself. You meet so many people that way," says Gen who is still close friends with her roommate from her freshman year.

With her love of travel, Gen has studied abroad in London through a CSU affiliate program, and most recently in Japan through SDSU's College of Extended Studies (CES). She has also traveled on her own to Canada, England, Australia, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, France, Italy, and Mexico.

With all her college experiences to think of, Gen said getting settled in San Diego was the toughest. "I came out to San Diego not knowing anyone. Making new friends and being on my own was the most challenging aspect of college, by far."

Living in the residence halls proved to be a great way for Gen to get acquainted with SDSU. "Students should try to be as social as they possibly can in the residence halls. You gotta got out and meet people, do the community gatherings, introduce yourself. You meet so many people that way," says Gen who is still close friends with her roommate from her freshman year.

"All in all, Gen calls her last few years at SDSU "enlightening."

"It's amazing how many different people I've met through class, work, and volunteering."

An industry that was once overshadowed, and perhaps misunderstood, is now a flourishing industry. According to the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) tribal government gaming has created more than 553,000 jobs nationwide. Furthermore, in 2004 NIGA reported Indian gaming to have generated $8.5 billion in gross tribal government revenues. California has the most gaming facilities. They produced $5.3 billion in revenue in 2004. For more information please visit www.indianganaming.org.

"San Diego is the natural place to build the nation's premier academic and research institute on tribal gaming, since this county is home to the largest tribal gaming community (nine tribes with gaming facilities) in the world," said Joyce Gattas, dean of the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts. "We're very grateful to all those at SDSU's tradition of working with the community to create innovative programs."
SDSU Welcomes Start of Trolley Service to Campus
Opening Culminates 10 Years of Planning, 5 Years of Construction

After 10 years of planning and five years of construction, the San Diego Trolley’s new line and underground station at Alvarado Campus Park along Alvarado Road, SDSU State University are now open for business. Students, faculty, staff and visitors will begin to enjoy a new era of convenient access to and from Montezuma Mesa.

SDSU President Stephen L. Weber hailed the opening of the SDSU Trolley station and the debut of the Green Line service to the university as an historic occasion for the campus and the community. “This is a spectacular achievement and an excellent example of what San Diegans can do when they work together,” Weber said.

“The opening of the Trolley’s Green Line represents a key milestone in the physical development of our campus – but more importantly in our linkage to the community of San Diego,” Weber said. “Improved bus and trolley service will encourage even greater interaction between the San Diego State campus and the region.”

Weber also said the trolley is an important part of the university’s plan to help meet increasing student demand for higher education over the next 20 years.

The trolley will reduce traffic impacts and also will lessen the need to build additional parking so more space can be devoted to additional classes and other facilities to serve students,” he said.

The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), which operates the San Diego Trolley, projects more than 4,000 riders will use the SDSU station each day; even higher ridership is expected during campus special events. In addition, a bus plaza that opened in January (directly above the underground station) facilitates access to and from the trolley.

Trolleys will serve SDSU from about 5 am to 11 pm seven days a week, including holidays. The street-level bus plaza is served by several routes.

The station’s amenities include art elements from the ceiling to the floor, glass-encased elevators and the latest ticket vending machines with color monitors. It also features state-of-the-art safety systems and 18 closed-circuit security cameras. Four transit security officers have been assigned to monitor the station and 4,000-foot tunnel.

The SDSU station is one of four new stops built as part of the Mission Valley East Trolley extension. The stops, which are now part of the Trolley’s new Green Line from San Dieguito to Old Town, are expected to generate more than 11,000 new trips a day, and enhance transportation capacity and mobility within the busy Interstate 8 corridor.

First envisioned by MTS more than 25 years ago, the project is funded with state, federal and TransNet dollars, including the bond half-cent sales tax. No SDSU funds were used for construction.

For more information about the Green Line opening or trolley service in general, please visit http://www.sdcommute.com.

Campus Master Plan

San Diego State University is currently in the process of revising its Campus Master Plan, which will guide the growth and development of the campus over the next 20 years. This is an important effort intended to help SDSU grow in a smart, planned manner consistent with its mission of teaching, research and community service.

SDSU’s proposed Campus Master Plan revision lays out a plan for the university to accommodate the rapidly growing demand for higher education in the region and state. According to the California Postsecondary Education Commission, there will be an increase of more than 775,000 students seeking higher education in the state by 2010-11, a trend often referred to as Tidal Wave II. The California State University (CSU) has indicated that no new campuses will be built in the immediate future – requiring the system’s existing 23 campuses to accommodate future student enrollment demand.

The demand for higher education is also generated by employers who are requiring an increasingly educated workforce.

The plan calls for the university to increase its enrollment capacity from 25,000 full-time equivalent students to 35,000 full-time equivalent students by 2025. This growth will occur slowly over the next 20 years to keep enrollment in line with available budgets and facilities.

To support the increased enrollment, the proposed plan includes a new classroom and support space at Alvarado Campus Park along Alvarado Road, a new residence hall for undergraduate students, a new and larger student union, a hotel, and affordable housing for faculty and graduate students on university-owned land just north of Interstate 8. The approved plan focuses future SDSU development entirely on university-owned or affiliated land.

SDSU has conducted a thorough community outreach program for the Campus Master Plan during the last 10 months. The plan enjoys broad regional support, with endorsements from more than 35 elected officials, civic and community groups and individuals.

A final decision on the plan is expected at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting on September 20-21.

For complete details on the Campus Master Plan, visit http://advancement.sdsu.edu/masterplan/
**Focus On Wellness**

**Talk to Your Student About Substance Abuse**

As students arrive on campus, either for the first time, or returning from the summer break, there is always a mix of excitement and trepidation for both students and their parents. Your students are entering a different environment, both social and physical. Perhaps they are new freshmen or transfer students, or returning students who will be living in a new environment. For many students, their social development will take a big leap forward in college as they become more self-sufficient, and learn to navigate through a world of diverse peers, colleagues and professionals.

While the inevitability of self-discovery and growth may seem cliché, it is important to consider this within the context of some risks associated with this time. Students will be far more likely to encounter situations where drugs and alcohol are available once they leave home; and national research shows that entering freshman are particularly at risk for initiating drug use and heavy drinking. Although SDSU has several recognized programs in place to deal with these issues and we are seeing positive results, SDSU students are no exception to experimentation.

The most important thing you can do as parents is to keep the lines of communication open with your student. As with all substance abuse issues, parental attitudes are most potent when they are expressed explicitly. Talk with your son or daughter about your expectations regarding their alcohol and drug use.

Make sure that they realize that you include abuse of prescription drugs, in addition to illicit drugs and alcohol, among the things you expect them to avoid.

Encourage them to learn more about the effects of mixing medications with alcohol or other drugs. You might be amazed how much influence you still have with your student if you have a frank, but respectful, and honest, discussion about substance abuse issues.

As for prescription drugs, some students believe they are safe to take. They are, after all, approved by the FDA and prescribed by a healthcare provider. Some believe it's okay to share another student's medically prescribed drug. The fact is, use of prescription medicines for recreational purposes poses tremendous risks. These are potent drugs that should be used only after consultation with a physician to assure that negative side-effects can be tolerated.

Using alcohol or any kind of drug causes mental impairment and physical harm. It can also lead to life-long addictions. As a parent, your attitudes toward drugs and alcohol will have the biggest influence on your student. So have that talk with your son or daughter and let him or her know what you expect.

For more information check out [http://aod.sdsu.edu](http://aod.sdsu.edu).

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**Look at What the Aztec Parents Annual Fund Supports!**

Thank you to all the families who contributed to the Aztec Parents Annual Fund last year. Members of the Aztec Parents Advisory Board met in June to discuss departmental requests for the Annual Fund grants. Your contributions helped us provide the following:

**Aztec Parent Fund Grant Awardees:**

**COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**
- Peer Facilitated Relationship Violence Prevention Program
- Bounce Back Program

**CENTERS FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT (CSI)**
- Martin Luther King Junior Parade (Cross-Cultural Center)
- CSI’s Combined Student Involvement Lecture Program
- "Sex Signals" Workshop (Fraternity and Sorority Life)
- CHOICES Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Harm Reduction Program (Fraternity and Sorority Life)
- Students in Action Leadership Program (Center for Community Based Service-Learning)

**DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES**
- Fourth Annual Disability Awareness Day

**ENROLLMENT SERVICES/ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER**
- Exemplary Academic Adviser Awards

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
- Enhance the browsing collection for students

**STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
- Speaker series focusing on students’ choices after graduation

**RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION**
- Faculty-in-Residence Program
- Learning Communities
- Academic Incentives

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**
- Enhance the EOP Computer Lab

**PROSPECTIVE STUDENT CENTER**
- Portable PA Systems to improve the audio quality of campus tours

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**Coming to a Phone Near You**

Expect a call soon from an SDSU student other than your own. Student callers will begin telephoning for the 2005 Aztec Parents Annual Fund Campaign in early October. The gap between state support and the level of funding needed to sustain the quality education for which SDSU is known is partially filled by the gifts given during the Aztec Parents Annual Fund Phonathon. Last year, our callers successfully raised nearly $200,000. These funds are going toward sustaining or implementing new student programs in the 2005/2006 academic year. Naturally, we’ve set this year’s goal even higher. We’re counting on you to support our vision for student success – one that needs more quality programs than state funded dollars can provide.

Please consider contributing to the 2005 Aztec Parents Annual Fund.
CSU Students See Decline in Binge-Drinking

The second biannual report on California State University (CSU) alcohol policies and prevention programs reported a decrease in alcohol consumption by students, and a decrease in alcohol-related accidents, according to a (CSU) news release. Over the last four years many CSU institutions have undergone intensive alcohol abuse training programs, have formed partnerships with local enforcement agencies, and have taken a scientific approach — studying the application and social norms of marketing strategies. San Diego State University has a comprehensive alcohol and other drug prevention program, led by Dr. James Lange.

“The most successful aspect of the program is that it encourages students to adopt responsible behavior and to influence each other to reduce drinking.”
— Charles B. Reed, CSU Chancellor

Due to the initiative many CSU campuses reported a decrease in alcohol abuse incidents, a decrease in alcohol-related activities, and a decrease in students drunk driving.

Many Thanks, Aztec Parents Advisory Board!
The Aztec Parents Association acknowledges, with appreciation, the contributions of the members of the Parents Advisory Board:

Bob Canter
Pat and Wendy Comey
Steve and Barbara Eklund
Ray Hoyt
Jon & Martha Karanopoulos
Ron and Leigh Martel
Bob and Mary Gene Ryan
Bob and Pat Silvas
Dan and Lori Steinberg
Larry Svetich
Saeed Tafreshi
Lavada Thompson
Jessica Thorp
Tonie Washington

SDSU One of the Leading Universities, Awarding Bachelor’s Degrees to Minority Students

According to an annual survey by the magazine, Black Issues in Higher Education, SDSU came in at No.12, nation-wide, for bachelor’s degrees awarded to minority students.

For the 2003-2004 academic year, SDSU awarded 2,151 bachelor’s degrees to minority students — totaling 36 percent of all degrees awarded by the university that year. According to the study, this is an eight percent increase in degrees awarded. In 2004, Black Issues in Higher Education ranked SDSU No.15.

“Diversity and excellence go hand in hand, and are the underpinnings of our achievements with respect to the recruitment and retention of students of color,” Fisher said. “Because of our programs and the commitment of the leadership of San Diego State, our goal is to increase the number of students of color attending and graduating from SDSU in the future.”

SDSU also ranked in the top 25 for bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanics (No.9), Asian-Americans (No. 21) and American Indians (No.24).
For many students and parents, studying abroad may seem out of reach. In actuality, the staff and faculty at SDSU take every step to ensure students the best, most innovative opportunities to take their studies abroad through a wide variety of different programs.

Regardless if students are gaining university credit or not, going abroad is a life-altering experience. Exchange programs, working/volunteering abroad, short-term programs, and language immersion programs are just a few of the many options from which students can choose.

For some students, a year or even a semester abroad is too much time to spend. Whether they’re on a prescheduled timeline for graduation, or they simply don’t want to be abroad for a long period, students have a variety of options.

Through SDSU’s College of Extended Studies (CES) students can choose travel/study and language immersion programs which are shorter in duration, including an array of summer programs. These offer students a great opportunity to go abroad without interfering with their semesters. These shorter programs are also a great way to test the waters to see if they would like to go abroad for a semester or even a year.

A popular program offered through CES is the 3-week language immersion program in Alajuela, Costa Rica. This program provides students with the opportunity to satisfy their foreign language requirement, earn 4 units, and travel abroad in a relatively short time. The program takes place over SDSU’s winter break.

Parents who may be apprehensive about their student traveling abroad on their own, or who may be even be interested in traveling with their son or daughter, can accompany their student – as long as they meet the prerequisites, according to Dr. William E. Byxbee, dean of the College of Extended Studies.

“Since programs are open to the public, students have an opportunity to network with professionals in their field,” says Byxbee. “For example, the Moscow program attracts many people already working in the criminal justice field, offering a great opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with people in their field of study.”

In addition to the alternative ways of going abroad offered by the CES, students are encouraged to stop by SDSU’s International Student Center (ISC) to find the full array of study abroad opportunities. In addition, it’s a good idea for students to check out their college department’s Web site for any faculty-led study abroad opportunities. Several SDSU professors initiate and carry out education abroad opportunities every year within their specific college department.

Whether students utilize the search tools of SDSU’s ISC, enroll in a study abroad program through the CES, or seek out a professor-spearheaded program, going abroad is a realistic, tangible learning opportunity available to any SDSU student.

“Since programs are open to the public, students have an opportunity to network with professionals in their field,” says Byxbee. “For example, the Moscow program attracts many people already working in the criminal justice field, offering a great opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with people in their field of study.”

— Dr. William E. Byxbee
Dean of the College of Extended Studies
Gene Therapy Uses ‘Trojan Horse’ Stem Cells to Fight Heart Disease

A team of researchers, led by Roger Davis of the San Diego State University Heart Institute, has executed a war plan from Greek mythology to help grab the upper hand in the fight against heart disease.

In lab experiments using mice genetically altered to reflect a severe and sometimes fatal form of heart disease called homozygous hypercholesterolemia, Davis and his colleagues used bone marrow stem cells as “Trojan horses” to carry a synthetic, therapeutic gene into the liver. This enabled the synthetic gene to prevent narrowing of the arteries, known as atherosclerotic lesions, by 50 percent.

“All of the mice we tested appeared healthy and none showed any unwanted side effects,” Davis said of the results, which appeared in the journal Proceeding of the National Academy of Science.

“Additionally, it looks very promising that the technique can be further developed for use in humans to treat several deficiency diseases and to enhance the ability to vaccinate individuals for preventing and treating cancer and infectious diseases.”

Enthusiasm to apply gene therapy for treating human disease was common within the biomedical research community in the 1980s because of selectivity of specific genes to cure many types of diseases.

“People had great expectations for gene therapies, but the major barrier over the years has been to deliver a gene to a tissue target without causing unacceptable side effects,” Davis said. “Our novel gene therapy is likely to provide a major breakthrough in safely applying gene therapies for human use because we avoid the direct administration of virus to the patient by using easily obtained stem cells as a vehicle to deliver the therapeutic gene to the liver in the form of replaceable (liver) macrophages.”

The technique requires an intravenous injection of gadolinium chloride, the same non-toxic chemical used in medical tests to visualize human coronary arteries. The chemical triggers a reaction that causes existing liver macrophages to be removed and replaced by new ones derived from the “Trojan horse” stem cells bearing the therapeutic gene.

Supported by an eight-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, Davis brought together researchers from San Diego State, the Scripps Research Institute and the University of California, San Diego. While Davis planned and directed the research, Linda Curtis, a Scripps immunologist, characterized the stem cells and measured atherosclerosis lesions and Christopher Glass, a UCSD molecular geneticist, provided expertise for the construction of the synthetic therapeutic gene allowing selective macrophage expression. Additional team members from all three institutions included undergraduate and graduate students and junior faculty.

Davis indicated that the next step is to modify the experiment to test its ability in mice to treat genetic deficiencies such as Gaucher disease, Tay-Sachs disease and hemophilia, and to provide immune therapy against specific cancers.

“Our encouraging results both reflect the success of academic research funding by the NIH and are consistent with our goal to have safe and effective gene therapies available for testing in humans in two to three years;” he said.

Later this year, Davis will be the first researcher to move into the SDSU Bioscience Center, a new 38,000-square-foot laboratory and classroom facility dedicated to investigating the links between and treatments for cardiovascular and infectious diseases.

The Aztecs Kick-Off Another Football Season in 2005

The Aztecs will start their season on September 3, when they play long-time opponent UCLA.

Placing eighth in the 2005 Mountain West Conference Preseason Poll, the Aztecs remain positive after emerging from a 4-7 season in 2004.

“We are still a pretty young football team, but I think we have some experience now because of those injuries last year,” said Aztecs Head Football Coach Tom Craft. “Offensively, this team will be more of a major breakthrough to the overall level of balance we had in mind when we got here in regards to balance. Our defense is inexperienced but very fast and enthusiastic.”

Sophomore running back Lynell Hamilton will join his teammates this season, after finishing last season early due to an injury. Hamilton ended the 2003 season as a first-team all-Mountain West Conference selection and a freshman All-American, and this year, he received his second-straight selection to the preseason all-MWC team.

The first game of the season, against UCLA on September 3, will be the first of four televised games. For locally based fans, the Aztecs will play six home games this season.

For more information and a complete listing of games, visit www.goaztecs.com.
IMPORTANT SDSU DATES

SEPTEMBER
12-16 Meal Plan changes available (Contact Aztec Shops at www.aztecsops.com)
15 Informational Caucus, A.S. Government Promotion, 11 am – 1:30 pm, Aztec Center
16 International Student Center Coffee Hour; held every Friday Noon – 1:30 pm
21 Last day to add, drop, or change the grading basis of a class.
No schedule adjustments are allowed after 6 pm on this date.
22 Career Fair, 9:30 am – 2 pm, Centennial Mall.
30 SDSU Summer Reading Program: Nickel and Dimes Lecture, with Joan Holden, Montezuma Hall, 3 pm – 5 pm, Joan Holden, the playwright who adapted Nickel and Dimes for the stage, will give a free lecture.

30-Oct. 1 Family Weekend**

OCTOBER
1 Family Weekend Football Game! SDSU vs BYU, Qualcomm Stadium
11 Coming Out Fair. Speakers, events and festivities will be held to celebrate National Coming Out Day.
19 Disability Awareness Day. A day of interactive events and activities, designed to promote disability awareness.
19 ‘Experiencing Dyslexia and Success in Culturally Blended Communities,’ 4 pm, Montezuma Hall. Speaker Victor Villaseñor shares his cultural struggles, and battle with dyslexia.
20 Graduate & Professional School Fair, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm, Centennial Mall.
24 Study Abroad Fair, Centennial Walkway, 10 am – 3 pm
24-29 Homecoming Spirit Week**
29 Homecoming Football Game! SDSU vs. TCU, Qualcomm Stadium

NOVEMBER
3 SDSU Summer Reading Program: Nickel and Dimes Lecture with the book’s author, Barbara Ehrenreich, 8 am
7-9 Tunnel of Oppression, Tula Community Center, 4 pm. A student production, created and performed by students and staff, visitors move through a series of different kinds of oppression. After traveling through the tunnel in silence, a group discussion is held.
7-11 Meal Plan changes available
9 Café de Color, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm, Cross-Cultural Center located in Aztec Center. A monthly community building and discussion group for students, faculty and staff of color.
11 International Peace Village, Montezuma Hall, Noon – 3 pm, Montezuma Hall
24-25 Thanksgiving Break. All residence halls, except Villa Alvarado, University Towers, will close at 4 pm on 11/23, and will re-open on 11/27 at 4 pm.
29 The president of the San Diego chapter of AIM (American Indian Movement), Joseph Red Bear (Lakota), will speak on “American Indian Spirituality: Yesterday and Today” at 6 pm – 8 pm, 4 pm, Montezuma Hall. Speaker Victor Villaseñor shares his cultural struggles, and battle with dyslexia.

DECEMBER
1 World AIDS Day. Events will be held across campus to promote AIDS awareness.
6-9 Craft Fare, 8 am – 4 pm, Campanile Walkway
9 Westminster Carolers, Holiday Vocal Quartet, Noon – 1 pm, Aztec Center
13 Last day of classes, before final exams begin.
14-21 Final exams. Send cookies!
21 All residence halls, except Villa Alvarado and University Towers, close at 4 pm for the winter break.
Dec. 22- Jan. 14 Winter Break (Halls re-open 4 pm)
Jan 18 Classes and Meal Plans resume.

* For a complete schedule of events, for Family Weekend visit www.sdsu.edu/parents/familyweekend/schedule.html
** For a complete list of Homecoming Spirit Week activities, visit http://as.sdsu.edu/ent/case/homecoming/

FALL 2005 SPORTS SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL

9/10 Air Force Colorado Springs TBA
9/17 Ohio State Columbus, Ohio – TV ABC 3:36 pm EDT
9/24 San Jose State San Diego 5 pm PDT
10/1 BYU/Family Weekend San Diego – ESPSN Plus 7 pm PDT
10/8 UNLV Las Vegas – ESPN2 Plus Noon PDT
10/15 Utah Salt Lake City TBA
10/22 New Mexico San Diego TBA
10/29 TCU/Homecoming San Diego TBA
11/12 Colorado State Fort Collins, CO TBA
11/19 Wyoming San Diego TBA
12/3 Hawaii Honolulu TBA

WOMEN’S SOCCER

9/9 UC Riverside Irvine, CA 5:30 pm
9/11 UC Irvine Irvine, CA 1 pm
9/16 George Washington SDSU Sports Deck 3 pm
9/19 Cal State Northridge SDSU Sports Deck 3 pm
9/23 Pacific SDSU Sports Deck 3 pm
9/25 Long Beach State Long Beach, CA 1 pm
9/28 San Diego SDSU Sports Deck 3 pm
10/1 Hawaii SDSU Sports Deck Noon
10/7 Wyoming Laramie, WY 3 pm MDT
10/9 Air Force Colorado Springs 1 pm MDT
10/16 Texas Christian Univ. Fort Worth, Texas 1 pm CDT
10/20 Utah SDSU Sports Deck 3 pm
10/22 BYU SDSU Sports Deck 1 pm
10/29 UNLV Las Vegas 2:30 pm
11/2 MWC Quarterfinals Las Vegas TBA
11/3 MWC Semifinals Las Vegas TBA
11/5 MWC Finals Las Vegas TBA

MEN’S SOCCER

9/10 UC Riverside SDSU Sports Deck 4 pm
9/15 Point Loma Nazaarine SDSU Sports Deck 4 pm
9/18 Univ of Missouri, KC SDSU Sports Deck 2 pm
9/22 Alabama A&M SDSU Sports Deck 4 pm
9/25 Diuquesne SDSU Sports Deck 1 pm
9/30 Stanford SDSU Sports Deck 4 pm
10/2 Cal SDSU Sports Deck 2:30 pm
10/7 Oregon State Corvallis, OR 2 pm
10/9 Washington Seattle 1 pm
10/16 UCLA Los Angeles 1 pm
10/24 San Diego San Diego 7 pm
10/28 Washington SDSU Sports Deck 3 pm
10/30 Oregon State SDSU Sports Deck 1 pm
11/4 Cal Berkeley 2 pm
11/6 Stanford Palo Alto, CA 1 pm
11/13 UCLA SDSU Sports Deck 1 pm
11/18 NCAA Tournament Time & Location TBD

CROSS COUNTRY

9/17 Aztec Invitational San Diego 8 am
9/24 Stanford Invitational Palo Alto, CA 4 pm
10/1 Williamette Invitational Salem, OR 9 am
10/8 UCSD Invitational San Diego 10 am
10/15 Cal Poly Invitational San Luis Obispo 9 am
10/29 MWC Championship Fort Collins, CO 10 am MT
11/12 NCAA Regional Championships Palo Alto, CA 10 am
11/21 NCAA Championships Terre Haute, IN 12:15 pm CT

For more Athletics’ information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.goaztecs.com