Family Weekend is Almost Here! 
Mark your calendars for Oct. 20–21

DSU’s Family Weekend is a widely anticipated annual event that takes place 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 Athletics, Aztec Shops, faculty, the library, residence halls, Greek Life, Associated Students, and others. Parents are given the opportunity to dine with university administrators, attend class with their student, attend a football game, tour the campus, and much more.

Aztec Parents Jon and Martha Karanopoulos said of their Family Weekend experience, “Family Weekend provided our son, Chris, 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, or try their student’s favorite place to eat on campus, Family Weekend 2006 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.

This year, the Aztec Parents Association is proud to bring to campus the author of the 2006 Summer Reading Program book, Ronne Hartfield. Her book, Another Way Home: The Tangled Roots of Race in One Chicago Family, is a warm and touching memoir of a close-knit family as well as a record of the tumultuous history of race relations in the United States. Hartfield will appear at Family Weekend on Friday, October 20 at 3 pm in Montezuma Hall. She will present a lecture and a special book signing session.

Be sure to sign-up soon, as some events have already sold out! For more information about Family Weekend 2006, and to register online, visit www.sdsu.edu/aztecparents

New Student and Family Convocation

All new students and their families were invited to the fourth annual New Student and Family Convocation, which was held the Saturday before classes began this fall.

This year, more than 6,000 people filled Cox Arena for an event that signals the beginning of a student’s college career. Convocation brings new students and their families together with faculty and staff to mark this new beginning. It also serves to promote SDSU’s institutional values of scholarship, leadership and citizenship.

President Stephen L. Weber, Provost Nancy Marlin, Associated Students’ President Matt Kepper, Aztec Parents Advisory Board members, along with Vice President for Student Affairs James R. Kitchen, welcomed these bright new freshman and transfer students and their families to the SDSU community.

The event began with an early-morning band run, in which students and families met outside the residence halls and joined the SDSU marching band and cheerleaders in an exciting trek through the heart of campus.

One of the most poignant moments during the Convocation event in Cox Arena was the pinning ceremony, in which Aztec Parents Advisory Board members Jon and Martha Karanopoulos led all the new parents in the ritual making them official Aztec Parents.

After the event, a special reception was held for incoming transfer students and their families.
Long Distance Support for Your Student

My son is a new student. I want to be sure to give him his space and avoid frequent, lengthy telephone conservations, as he is busy with school and new friends. But what are some other ways I can show support for my son while he's miles away from home?

Students who go away to college are often eager and excited to fly the parental nest and embrace independence. Even if they don't show it or tell you, students need the support of family and friends tremendously during college. Your continued support will create a better college experience for your student and will continue to help him or her long after they graduate from SDSU.

Below are alternative ways to remain in contact and offer support to your student, regardless of the miles that separate you from him or her.

CARE PACKAGE — The items in a care package do not necessarily need to be expensive. Regardless of their monetary value, anything that you send to your student will be much appreciated. (See right for care package tips/ideas.) Pre-made care packages are also available for purchase through Aztec Shops' Dining Services, www.eatatsdsu.com

E-MAIL — E-mail is a great way to drop your student a line, and most students would agree that they check their e-mail daily.

MAIL — An occasional letter from home, informing your student about what's been going on at home or around town, will keep your student involved in their hometown community. When sending letters, please keep in mind that students may not write back, but that doesn't mean they don't appreciate, cherish and look forward to letters from home.

TEXT MESSAGE — While you physically may not be there to wish your student "Good luck!" before an exam, a simple text message from home will instantly remind your son or daughter of your love. Surprise your student by showing him or her that parents know how to send text messages, too.

CARE PACKAGE "THEME" IDEAS:

Day at the Beach:
- Beach bag
- Beach towel
- Frisbee or magazine
- Pre-packaged snacks (i.e. chips, cookies, trail mix)
- SPF lip balm
- Sunscreen

Health Matters:
- Cold & cough medicine
- Cough drops
- First-aid kit
- Pain reliever
- Pocket packs of tissues
- Vitamins

Home Sweet Home
- Homemade cookies, brownies
- Hot cocoa (marshmallows!) instant coffee, tea
- Notes to your student from family/friends
- Recent family photos

Tips for creating a care package...

Gift cards to the SDSU Bookstore, Target, Wal-Mart, or local grocery stores will allow students to purchase the necessities, such as toiletry items, that cannot be purchased on campus.

- Nonperishable food items are great to send. If sending homemade goods, make note of when your student will receive their care package so baked goods will remain fresh in time for enjoyment.
- Pack items in something students can use such as a new bath/beach towel, blanket or storage container before boxing and shipping.
- It's also nice to send enough treats for your student to share with their roommate(s) or friends.
- It's recommended that you ask for a return receipt and obtain a tracking number to know the whereabouts of your student's care package.
- Lastly, have fun creating a care package. Your student will love anything that you took the time and effort to create just for them.

Pre-made care packages are also available for purchase through Aztec Shops' Dining Services, www.eatatsdsu.com

Keeping SDSU Safe

According to Vice President for Student Affairs James R. Kitchen, the safety of four students is the university’s most important matter. ‘Education is, of course, why we are here, but we cannot educate without putting safety first,’ said Kitchen. Students, parents, faculty, and staff, are encouraged to exercise a proactive approach in keeping SDSU a safe learning community.

SDSU Police Sergeant Josh Mays said that it’s important for students to report any activity or persons that seem suspicious.

“there are no repercussions for reporting a crime or a suspicious activity and/or person,” Mays said. “The main reason people say they don’t report a suspicious activity is because they don’t want to accuse someone of doing something wrong.”

Mays advised that if something or someone looks suspicious, one should take a proactive approach and call SDSU Police.

Please note: Confronting suspicious persons or activities is exclusively the job of SDSU Police, but reporting a suspicious person or activity is everyone’s job.

SDSU Police can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by dialing 9-1-1 from any campus telephone or campus payphone. Callers can also reach SDSU Police by simply lifting the receiver of one of the over 100 Emergency/Duress phones located across campus.

If dialing from a cell phone, SDSU Police can be reached at (619) 594-1991.

“If someone dials 9-1-1 on a cell phone, the phone call is directed to California Highway Patrol (CHP), which has to re-direct the call to us (SDSU Police). This creates a response delay time of about 11 minutes,” Mays said.

At SDSU everyone plays a key role in keeping the university safe. Visit SDSU’s Department of Public Safety Web site, www.dps.sdsu.edu, for more information.

Escort Service Program

The Department of Public Safety’s Escort Service program provides transportation for SDSU students, faculty, and staff who are concerned about their safety. The program offers transportation from one on-campus location to another from dusk until 11 pm, seven days a week. Callers can reach the Escort Service program at (619) 594-6659, or by dialing 5-1-1 from any campus telephone or campus payphone.

After 11 pm, anyone needing a safety escort will be transferred to SDSU Police.

Visit the Department of Public Safety Web site, www.dps.sdsu.edu, for more information.
Students are expected to adhere to the Student Conduct Code. They are expected to be good citizens and to engage in responsible behaviors that support the mission of the institution. The goal of these changes is to reduce behavior that threatens the health, safety, and well-being of students and employees, and to promote a safe and respectful learning environment.

The Student Conduct Code is addressed through an educational process designed to promote safety and good citizenship. This includes upholding all published university policies, rules, regulations, or presidential orders. Student behavior that is inconsistent with the Student Conduct Code is addressed through an educational process designed to promote safety and good citizenship. This includes upholding all published university policies, rules, regulations, or presidential orders.

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.

This law often takes many parents by surprise. 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 great opportunities. 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.

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.

The law oftentimes takes many parents by surprise. 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 electronically through the SDSU WebPortal.

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at Family Weekend in October. In the meantime, enjoy the fall semester and continue to let me know what’s on your mind.
President Stephen L. Weber celebrated his tenth anniversary as President of San Diego State University this summer. Weber began his tenure as leader of SDSU on July 6, 1996.

The campus has changed dramatically under Weber’s watch. There have been many physical changes at SDSU, including:

- New Chemical Sciences building
- New suspension bridge over College Avenue
- Tony Gwynn Stadium
- Cox Arena
- New women’s softball stadium
- New tennis courts
- Fraternity Row
- Calpulli, the new health and wellness center
- New College of Arts and Letters building
- New Athletics facilities
- Library dome
- Manchester Hall
- Expansion of the San Diego Trolley onto campus with a new underground trolley station

More importantly, in addition to all the physical changes, are the changes in the caliber of education that Weber has ushered in. San Diego State University is truly a 21st century institution that serves the urban, diverse, high-tech, Pacific Rim and Latin American synergy of San Diego. SDSU is equated in the community with learning and service.

Examples of the intellectual changes that Weber helped to oversee at SDSU include:

- Hospitality and Tourism Management program
- The country’s first master’s degree in Regulatory Affairs
- Construction Engineering and Management program
- Nurses Now program
- Compact for Success
- City Heights Educational Collaborative
- Increased research
- One billion dollars in sponsored programs and research
- $400 million in private support
- Improved student retention and graduation rates
- Internationalization of the campus
- Numerous improved student services

All of these are remarkable achievements in their own right, but Weber was able to accomplish these great transformations with less and less state support.


Ten Excellent Years at SDSU

Me First! SDSU Professor Examines “Generation Me”

They’re self-assured, determined, and they aspire for the best in life. So why is Generation Me so miserable?

After conducting six decades worth of cross-generational research on more than 1.3 million young adults, SDSU Psychology Professor Jean M. Twenge has published the culmination of her studies in her book, Generation Me: Why Today’s Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled – and More Miserable Than Ever Before.

In her study, Twenge examined how young people responded to socially desirable or socially undesirable items through surveys. Participants who tended to agree with socially desirable items (“I am always careful in my manner of dress,” “I am always courteous, even to people who are disagreeable,” “I never forget to say ‘please’ or ‘thank you.’”) are typically polite and concerned with following cultural norms. Twenge said, “Participants who tended to agree with socially undesirable items (“At times I have really insisted on having my own way,” “There have been times I have felt like rebelling against people in authority even though I know they are right,” etc.) tend to think following norms is not very important.

Generation Me includes people who were born during the 70s, 80s and 90s. Unlike previous generations, they were taught to take care of their own interests and themselves, first and foremost.

“Generation Me has grown up believing it’s more important to do your own thing than conform to the group,” Twenge said. “Unfortunately that also means people of this generation are more likely to be inconsiderate of other people.”

On college and high school campuses, it’s not uncommon to see students dressed out of comfort and convenience, walking to class in their pajamas. The casual dress of Generation Me surprised the nation in 2005, when photos of the flip-flop wearing Northwestern University women’s lacrosse team, shaking hands with the President of the United States, were published.

“When you’re less concerned with what other people think of you, you’re more likely to do things like blast your car stereo or talk loudly on your cell phone in a library or waiting room,” Twenge said. “It also helps explain some other trends, such as more casual attitudes toward sex, dress and cursing.”

While Generation Me may not be concerned with the social approval of others, they maintain high—some may say unrealistic—goals. Popular TV shows such as MTV’s “Sweet Sixteen,” and VH1’s “Fabulous Life of…” illustrate the frivolities of fame and fortune of affluent youths, and can often set the standard of “success,” for many young adults.

According to Twenge, Generation Me has been taught to expect more out of life at the very time when good jobs and nice houses are increasingly difficult to obtain. When unrealistic goals meet reality, the effects of rejection or denial can be detrimental to Generation Me.

Twenge’s book and research have been featured on the Today Show, National Public Radio; and in several newspapers across the country. Visit www.generationme.org, for more information about Twenge’s book and research.

Number of Students Studying Abroad Is Up and Rising

In 2006, SDSU ranked second in the nation for students studying abroad in its university classification, as reported in the “Open Doors” Institute for International Education report. The ranking looked at the 2003-2004 academic year in which 1,115 SDSU students studied abroad.

Last year, SDSU was also ranked second in the nation for students studying abroad. About 18 percent of the university’s 2006 graduates studied abroad while they attended SDSU.

Visit www.opendoors.iienetwork.org to view the “Open Doors” report.
Aztec Parents Advisory Board members Jon and Martha Karanopoulos, who are serving as this year's Family Weekend co-chairs, are very happy their son chose SDSU. Now going on their third year as Aztec Parents Advisory Board members, the Karanopoulos have found plenty of opportunities for their own involvement on campus. This past summer, they helped with Parent Orientation and officially welcomed the incoming students and their families at New Student and Family Convocation.

Jon and Martha have three sons. Their oldest, Christopher, just began his third year at SDSU as a business major. Chris is following in his dad's footsteps as a proud Aztec. Jon graduated from SDSU a few years back and now teaches business and industrial arts at San Diego High School, which is the oldest high school in the area.

“There are buildings and places on campus that seem as familiar as they did when I attended classes,” said Jon. “But the atmosphere is different in that SDSU is not the low-key college campus it was when I attended. Today, San Diego State is an international institution meeting today's global challenges.”

Although many people have the perception that a majority of college students live on campus, the truth is that almost 90 percent of San Diego State students do not. Chris is an example of one of the many SDSU commuter students who still live at home.

“Having Chris live at home while attending college has made the college experience different for all of us,” said Martha. “The transition is not necessarily easier, just different. Living with us, he still has some house rules to follow. We also are more aware of how he chooses to spend his time. The challenge for us is to stand back, let him make his own decisions, and learn to deal with the consequences. This has worked well and he is learning to make good decisions on his own.”

Both Jon and Martha agreed that the choice of where to go to college was up to Chris. “He did consider and was accepted to two other colleges in California,” said Jon. “When it came time for him to decide, he chose SDSU. While we believe there is great opportunity in going away to school, ultimately, we left the final decision up to him.”

They both agreed that there is one key thing that is even more important for commuter students, which is involvement.

“During Chris’ first year, he joined a club and became a member of the campus fitness center,” said Martha. “This gave him more opportunities as a commuter student to meet other students. He’s doing so well at State.”

Unlike some parents, both Jon and Martha encourage Chris to work, as they see a direct benefit in how it relates to his studies. “He has continued working at the job he had in high school while taking classes at State,” said Jon. “This has given him an opportunity to apply what he is learning in his business classes to his job. This direct application has really kept him motivated.”

Martha noted that their two younger sons, who are both in high school, watch Chris carefully as they are beginning to think about college. Both Andrew, a junior, and Josh, a sophomore, are considering SDSU.

Martha works as an administrator in a library for San Diego City Schools. Unlike her husband and son, she did not attend SDSU, but instead graduated with a bachelor's degree in literature from Point Loma College (now called Point Loma Nazarene University). However, over the course of Chris’ attendance at State, she has become a loyal Aztec. She and Jon’s deep involvement with the Aztec Parents Association give evidence to her loyalty.

“There are two reasons why we became involved in the Aztec Parents Association,” she said. “First, to demonstrate to Chris and his brothers how important higher education is; and the second is to set an example for our sons about the importance of community service. Being involved in the Aztec Parents Association has helped keep us informed as to what is going on around campus. Michelle DuBord, the parent liaison, has been a great resource when we have questions. And finally, meeting and talking with other parents has been a great encouragement as we compare our students’ struggles and experiences.”

Jon also expressed his commitment to the fundraising aspect of the Parent Programs as a needed alternative to less state support. “Our years on the board have shown how many excellent programs and initiatives there are to be funded at SDSU that fall outside the scope of the normal budget,” he said. “The Aztec Parents will award grant money to a department to start a new program or service and then that department is challenged to develop future funding to keep that program going. An example is the highly successful e-TOKE marijuana intervention program that is now being utilized by other colleges and universities.”

Martha echoed her support of the need for more such intervention programs. “SDSU has had great success with their innovative intervention programs. We would like to see more grants available to inform students of the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse,” she said.

Both Jon and Martha understand what first-time college parents are feeling as the new school year has begun. “Sending your son or daughter off to college is where all your training comes to fruition,” said Jon. “Whether it is in the same town or across the country, it can be a stressful time.”

Added Martha: “Our advice to parents would be to step back and let your student walk on their own. Just as it’s hard to watch your toddler try to take his or her first steps and fall down, this time also has its difficult moments. Step back, but be available for support and encouragement. Your student knows where to come when times get tough.”

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— Jon and Martha Karanopoulos, SDSU Aztec Parents Advisory Board members

Jon & Martha Karanopoulos
SDSU Aztec Parents Advisory Board members

The Aztec Parents Association acknowledges, with appreciation, the contributions of the members of the Parents Advisory Board:
Each year, Beloit College in Wisconsin releases its annual “Mindset List” for incoming freshmen. The list is popular among college faculty and staff, as it puts into perspective some of the cultural differences between today’s incoming students and the faculty who teach them. As a parent of a college student, you might also appreciate the generational differences that we sometimes overlook. Each year, according to Nief, “When Beloit releases the Mindset List, it is the birth year of the entering students that is the most disturbing fact for most readers. This year will come as no exception and, once again, the students missed out on the pleasures of being tossed in the back of a station wagon with a bunch of friends and told to keep the noise down, walking in the woods without fearing Lyme Disease, or setting out to try all of the 28 ice cream flavors at Howard Johnson’s.”

According to Beloit’s Ron Nief, this year’s college freshmen are, on average, 18 years old, which means they were born in 1988. For them: Billy Carter, Lucille Ball, Gilda Radner, Billy Martin, Andy Gibb, and Secretariat have always been dead. The Moral Majority has never needed an organization. Faux fur has always been a necessary element of style. Smoking has never been permitted on U.S. airlines. Thanks to pervasive headphones in the back seat, parents have always been able to speak freely in the front. A coffee has always taken longer to make than a milkshake. Smoking has never been permitted on U.S. airlines. Faux fur has always been a necessary element of style. The Moral Majority has never needed an organization.

According to Nief, “This is not serious in-depth research. It is meant to be thought-provoking and fun, yet accurate. It is as relevant as possible, given the broad social and geographic diversity of our students, who are drawn from every state and 50 countries. It is always open to challenge, which has an additional benefit in that it reminds us of students’ varied backgrounds. It is still a good reflection of the attitudes and experiences of the young people that we must be aware of from the first day of their college experience.”

According to McBride, “It is an important reminder, as faculty start to realize that we think about the touchstones and benchmarks of a generation that has grown up with CNN, home computers, AIDS awareness, digital cameras and the Bush political dynasty. We should also keep in mind that these students missed out on the pleasures of being tossed in the back of a station wagon with a bunch of friends and told to keep the noise down, walking in the woods without fearing Lyme Disease, or setting out to try all of the 28 ice cream flavors at Howard Johnson’s.”

Parents You Can Help Too! Contribute to the Aztec Parents Fund

Public Safety
• Establish a K-9 unit on campus

Residential Education
• Create Alternative to Alcohol Programs

20s/30s Young Alumni Association
• Sponsor the 20s/30s development series on preparing recent graduates for the real world

Student Rights & Responsibilities
• Schedule a campus speaking engagement by Brett Sokolow on the consequences of alcohol abuse

Undergraduate Studies
• Enable a campus visit by the author of the Summer Reading Program’s book

Coming to a Phone Near You

As state funds to California public schools continue to decline, they fall critically short of the level needed each year to maintain the quality student programs and services for which San Diego State is known. In October, you will receive a telephone call from an SDSU student regarding the Aztec Parents Annual Fund. You’ll hear about exciting developments on campus and be asked to join other Aztec Parents in enhancing the quality of student life on campus. We hope you will consider making a tax-deductible donation. Without your generosity, many valuable programs and services would be unavailable for SDSU students. We want to thank you in advance for your support and generosity. Aztec Parents, just like you, help SDSU maintain its reputation of excellence.

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is hobbies include working out at the gym, playing tennis, and spending time with family and friends. He has pulled an “all nighter” studying into the early hours of the morning, and is flustered with panic at the thought of a pop quiz.

In many ways Victor Ozuna is a typical college student; but before attending SDSU he lived a reality that most of his peers will never know. He was 17 when he enlisted in the Navy. His parents had to sign a waiver for him to enlist,” Victor said.

“One of the reasons I decided to join the Navy was to do construction as a Seabee. I’ve always enjoyed construction and I admired my father, who was a great handyman. I joined because my family is very patriotic. Plus, I always wanted to serve my country,”

Victor was trained as a combat engineer with the U.S. Navy Seabees, who was part of a construction battalion that provided engineering and construction support to U.S. troops during major combat operations. He was deployed to various destinations that spanned the globe.

In 2003, Victor was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. “I was one of the first (American troops) to cross the Kuwait-Iraqi border. And I was one of the first to come home,” he said.

Prior to his deployment to Iraq, Victor began thinking about attending college after a Navy superior suggested he consider a career in construction engineering. “I was stationed in Greece when I first visited the SDSU Web site,” Victor said. “I saw that they offered a construction engineering program and I wanted to experience something other than the military.”

At 23 years old, Victor went from walking the battlefields of Iraq to walking the campus of SDSU—in less than a month.

“In a matter of weeks, I went from conducting urban combat operations in Iraq to a classroom,” Victor said it was tough for him to relate to other students when he first arrived at the university. “I was ready to quit college after my first week.

Last year, the Filanc’s daughter, Julia, died at the age of 50 after a battle with cancer. The Filanc family hopes this gift will also serve to honor their daughter, an SDSU alumna.

“On behalf of SDSU, I’d like to thank the Filanc family for their continuing support of the Construction Engineering and Management program,” said SDSU President Stephen L. Weber. “Their generosity will enable our university to produce the highly trained professionals needed to meet the growing needs of the construction industry.”

In 2002, the hands-on abilities of SDSU’s engineering graduates impressed company president and CEO Pete Filanc so much that he spearheaded an industry fund-raising campaign to endow the construction engineering and management chair. Last year, Pete, his brother Mark, and family patriarch Jack, each established endowed scholarships for prospective students.

For more information about the Construction Engineering & Management program, visit the College of Engineering Web site at www.engineering.sdsu.edu

The Filanc’s business interests, it also comes from the heart. This donation not only supports a program near and dear to the Filanc family’s business interests, it also comes from the heart.

“A new transition is hard for everyone. I went through a lot of them,” he said. “They’re unavoidable in life; but the better you handle them, the more successful you will be overall.”

— Victor Ozuna, SDSU student

Victor has witnessed tragedy, lived fear, and experienced what the majority of his 18-to-23-year-old classmates have only read about in textbooks or seen in video games. Although he described his transition from soldier to student as “difficult,” he found the strength to persevere.

Victor is among the first seven students pre-enrolled in SDSU’s new Construction Engineering and Management program. He is earning his undergraduate degree in only three years and will graduate in 2007.

Victor has also become involved with campus organizations. He is a member of SDSU’s Civil Engineering Honor Society, Chi Epsilon, and another 15 intend to join them spring semester.

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Victor has also become involved with campus organizations. He is a member of SDSU’s Civil Engineering Honor Society, Chi Epsilon, and another 15 intend to join them spring semester.
41. They have always had to distinguish between the St. Louis Cardinals baseball and football teams.

16. DNA fingerprinting has always been admissible evidence in court.

17. They grew up pushing their own miniature shopping carts in the supermarket.

18. They grew up with and have outgrown faxing as a means of communication.

19. Google has always been a verb.

20. Text messaging is their email.

21. Millennials have never had anything to say.

22. Mr. Rogers, not Walter Cronkite, has always been the most trusted man in America.

23. Bar codes have always been on everything, from library cards and snail mail to retail items.

24. Madden has always been a game, not a Superbowl-winning coach.

25. Phantom of the Opera has always been on Broadway.

26. "Booger" candy has always been a favorite for grossing out parents.

27. There has never been a "skyhook" in the NBA.

28. Carbon copies are oddities found in their grandparents' attics.

29. Computerized player pianos have always been tinkling in the lobby.

30. Non-denominational mega-churches have always been the fastest growing religious organizations in the U.S.

31. They grew up in mini-vans.

32. Reality shows have always been on television.

33. They have no idea why we needed to ask "...can we all get along?"

34. They have always known that "In the criminal justice system the people have to work to enforce drunk driving laws around the country.

35. Young women's fashions have never been concerned with where the waist is.

36. They have rarely mailed anything using a stamp.

37. Brides have always worn white for a first, second, or third wedding.

38. Being techne-savvy has always been inversely proportional to age.

39. "Se" as in "Sooooo New York," has always been a draw-out adjective modifying a proper noun, which in turn modifies something else.

40. Affluent troubled teens in Southern California have always been the subjects of television series.

41. They have always been able to watch wars and revolutions live on television.

42. Ken Burns has always been producing very long documentaries on PBS.

43. They are not aware that "flock of seagulls hair" has nothing to do with birds flying into it.

44. Retin-A has always made America look less wrinkled.

45. Green tea has always been marketed for health purposes.

46. Public school officials have always had the right to censor school newspapers.

47. Small white holiday lights have always been in style.

48. They have never had the chance to eat bad airline food.

49. They have always been searching for "Waldo."

50. The really rich have regularly expressed exuberance with outlandish birthday parties.

51. Michael Moore has always been showing up uninvited.

52. They never played the game of state license plates in the car.

53. They have always preferred going out in groups as opposed to dating.

54. They have always been live organ donors.

55. They have always had access to their own credit cards.

56. They have never put their money in a “Savings & Loan."

57. They are typically aware that they can lose their license if caught. Drivers under 21 may lose their license with any measurable alcohol level. But the continuing death toll, and an apparent stall in the impressive declines of the past decades, temper this good news.

58. Bad behavior has always been getting captured on amateur videos.

59. Television stations have never concluded the broadcast day with the national anthem.

60. They never saw Bernard Shaw on CNN.

61. They are not aware that "fl  ock of seagulls hair" has nothing to do with birds flying into it.

62. Acura, Lexus, and Infiniti have always been luxury cars of choice.

63. Professional athletes have always competed in the Olympics.

64. Dolphin-free canned tuna has always been on sale.

65. Richard M. Daley has always been the Mayor of Chicago.

66. Ringo Starr has always been clean and sober.

67. They have always "dissed" what they don't like.

68. "Outing" has always been a threat.

69. Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss has always been the perfect graduation gift.

70. They have always been producing very long documentaries on PBS.

71. National statistics are frightening: more than 1,700 college students die from alcohol related accidents, and more than 500,000 are injured each year. But while alcohol poisoning and hazarding draw headlines, the fact is that over three-quarters of these tragedies are the result of drunk driving.

72. The U.S. has always been studying global warming to confirm its existence.

73. They grew up with virtual pets to feed, water, and play games with, lest they die.

74. Professional athletes have always competed in the Olympics.

75. Acura, Lexus, and Infiniti have always been luxury cars of choice.

76. Television stations have never concluded the broadcast day with the national anthem.

77. They have never had to distinguish between the St. Louis Cardinals baseball and football teams.

78. They have never understood that "fl  ock of seagulls hair" has nothing to do with birds flying into it.

79. They are not aware that "fl  ock of seagulls hair" has nothing to do with birds flying into it.

80. They have always been producing very long documentaries on PBS.
I'd have students come to my office telling me afternoons to find out they were living in the residence halls, they could pay their electric bill, “he said. “Come me that they needed an emergency loan, so that his office was particularly busy on Friday as the Emergency Loan Officer. Graham said that he's always loved helping people and takes great pride in his role as the SDSU Ombudsman. “I love making sure fairness is achieved... being able to right a wrong,” he said. “I help to ensure that the students and the university are treated fairly.”

As the Ombudsman, he works to build bridges between students and the university that will increase understanding and effective communication.

Besides facilitating conflict resolution, the Ombudsman embodies "a voice for the voiceless," and provides a place for students to openly and freely discuss their concerns.

“I had a student tell me: ‘I just wanted somebody to hear me. It’s not the fact you settled or resolved the issue, I just wanted someone to listen.’”

Prior to joining SDSU, Graham was a U.S. Navy Chaplain for nine years and was a hospital corpsman for the preceding 11. He participated in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For the last 20 years, Graham has traveled all over the world and has met a number of notable people, but one accomplishment stands out for him.

“What I’m most proud of is graduating from high school with twelve years of perfect attendance,” Graham said. “School was a refuge for me as a kid... a place where I could flourish and be myself.”

As a graduate student at the University of Alabama, he was the Student Ombudsman and the Emergency Loan Officer. Graham said that his office was particularly busy on Friday afternoons.

“I'd have students come to my office telling me that they needed an emergency loan, so that they could pay their electric bill,” he said. “Come to find out they were living in the residence halls, and they just wanted some money to go out that weekend.”

Calling school a “hobby” is an understatement for a man who holds multiple degrees: a bachelor’s degree in Speech Communication; three master’s degrees (Master of Divinity in Pastoral Counseling, Human Relations, Communication); and is considering going back to school to earn his doctorate. “Some people have hobbies such as golf, but my hobby is school,” said Graham.

“I love making sure fairness is achieved... being able to right a wrong, I help to ensure that the students and the university are treated fairly.”

— D.A. Graham, SDSU Ombudsman

As a child growing up in Mobile, Alabama, Graham said he always knew he wanted to work in an educational setting. At five years old, Graham began teaching Sunday school classes to children at his local church, and aspired to be a teacher.

“I never would’ve guessed that I’d be working at such a large university—much less San Diego State.”

Laughing, Graham added, “My mother always warned me not to come to California because she said it was going to fall off into the ocean. Now I can’t get her to visit!”

Outside of his role as the Ombudsman, he teaches communication courses at a local community college where he brings a healthy dose of laughter and engagement to each lecture. “I love entertaining my students. I like to call it ‘edutainment,’” he said. “If I can make someone else smile and feel better, then I know they can leave my classroom or office and make someone else feel better, too.”

In his free time, Graham is quite occupied with the newest addition to his family: a four-month-old miniature schnauzer named Harlan.

The Office of the Ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman provides information, advice, intervention and referrals to try to solve problems at the most informal level possible. As stated on the office’s Web site: No person shall suffer any penalty because they seek the assistance of the Office of the Ombudsman. All communications are confidential, and will not be disclosed to any other party without first receiving the student’s permission.

As a parent, it is natural to be concerned if your student is experiencing conflict with a university employee or office. However, SDSU’s Ombudsman, D.A. Graham, said that the majority of parents who call his office are skeptical that their student is capable of wrongdoing and may overlook both sides of the story.

“It's most challenging for parents to be neutral during this time. As a parent, your first instinct is to jump to the aid of your student,” he said. “As the Ombudsman I must remain neutral, and it’s helpful if the parent remains impartial as well.”

Graham recommends that parents be an adviser and source of emotional support to their student during the conflict resolution process. He also advises parents to keep the lines of communication open and be aware of what’s going on in their student’s life. “It’s important for parents to stay connected to their son or daughter on a regular basis — this helps with account- ability,” he said. “I’ve found that parents who remain connected with their student have a better overall experience.”

The following are examples of situations brought to the Ombudsman’s attention:

- Faculty/staff conflict
- Financial aid
- Fee disputes
- Campus housing
- Late withdrawals/adds/drops
- Fear of retaliation
- Grade appeal
- Discrimination/harassment
- Judicial affairs
- Enrollment

For more information, visit the Office of the Ombudsman Web site, www.su.sdsu.edu/ombuds or call (619) 594-6578.
What's in the Neighborhood

For many new SDSU students, the start of a new fall semester not only marks a time for settling into the university, but also a time for getting settled into a new city.

To help students and their families become more familiar with San Diego, below is a list of just a few favorite attractions, restaurants, and services that this diverse city has to offer. Many of the following listings are in close proximity to campus, or only a short trip away. For Internet search purposes, use the 92115 zip code.

Attractions & Parks
- Balboa Park
- Belmont Amusement Park
- Cabrillo National Monument
- Gaslamp Quarter
- Little Italy
- Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala
- Mission Trails Park
- Old Town
- Petco Park
- Presidio Park, Serra Museum
- Qualcomm Stadium
- San Diego Zoo and Safari Park
- San Diego Wild Animal Park
- Sea World
- Scripps Birch Aquarium

Local Grocer Stores
- Ralph’s
- Trader Joe’s
- VONS
- Whole Foods Market
- Windmill Farms

Movie Theatres
- AMC
- Pacific Theatres
- Regal Cinemas

Restaurants
- Bread & Cie
- Café Zia Tropical Grill
- Corvette Diner
- Da Kine’s Hawaiian Restaurant
- DZ Akins Deli
- Extraordinary Desserts
- Kono’s Café
- Mona Lisa Italian Restaurant
- Moo Time Creamery
- Oshi’s Kitchen
- Phi’s Bar-B-Q
- Pita Pit
- Rojelio’s Taco Shop
- Sears Essentials
- IKEA
- Bed, Bath, & Beyond
- Horton Plaza
- Grossmont Center
- Fashion Valley
- 4.0 Deli
- Woodstock Pizza
- Trujillo Taco Shop
- The Mission
- Sushi Deli
- Seau’s
- Rojelio’s Taco Shop
- Pita Pit
- Phil’s Bar-B-Q
- Oshi’s Kitchen
- Moo Time Creamery
- Mona Lisa Italian Restaurant
- Da Kine’s Hawaiian Restaurant
- Corvette Diner
- Café Zia Tropical Grill
- Bread & Cie

Shopping Malls
- Fashion Valley
- Grossmont Center
- Horton Plaza
- Mission Valley
- UTC – La Jolla

Shops, Other Services
- Bed, Bath, & Beyond
- IKEA
- Sears Essentials
- Target
- Wal-Mart
- Postal Office
- Rental/Living Community Locations

Taxi Services, City Transportation Services
- Bus & Trolley Services
- Cloud 9 Shuttle
- American Cab
- Orange Cab
- Yellow Cab
- Express Shuttle
- Torrey Pines Transportation

Travel Services
- STA Travel

Out-of-town guests are encouraged to visit the SDSU Aztec Parent Programs Web site, www.sa.sdsu.edu/parents, for hotel and travel discount information. Visit www.signonsandiego.com, for a better overview of San Diego’s attractions, restaurants, and services.
Is Now The Time To Invest In San Diego Real Estate?

By Andrew Rosenberg

With today's low interest rates, increasing home values and a large supply of available properties, purchasing a property in San Diego is still a great investment. Savvy parents realize that they can build substantial equity in San Diego's attractive real estate market while providing a nice home for their son or daughter during college. By purchasing a home for their college student, parents can forego the monthly rental bills and instead opt for monthly mortgage payments, which provide tax benefits and build equity.

Consider that current rents around the SDSU area average about $1,400 a month for a two-bedroom/two-bath home. After paying four years of rent, with conservative yearly increases of $50 a month, the total comes to $70,800. After graduation, the student gives up the home with nothing to show for the $70,800 investment. And, keep in mind that the $70,800 spent was all after-tax dollars. Assuming a 32 percent tax bracket, that $70,800 required pre-tax earnings of over $104,000.

Instead, suppose that the student's parents buy a condominium. Courtyard at College, an actual condominium complex near SDSU, has a required pre-tax earnings of over $104,000, the after-tax monthly cost down to approximately $1,415 a month. As evidenced, over the four-year period, total after-tax dollars spent is $67,920, a savings of $2,880 over paying rent for that same period.

And that savings doesn't take into account the appreciation realized over that four-year period. Assuming a very modest 3 percent yearly gain in value, after four years, that home will be worth $360,151, producing equity of over $40,000.

There has been speculation about the real estate market softening, but the reality is that San Diego's housing market remains strong. According to a recent State of the Nation's Housing report, conducted by Harvard University, housing prices in San Diego will continue to climb, and the current market softness seen by some is just a temporary bump in the road. Savvy investors know that they can take advantage of that bump in the road. Supply is up, and developers are offering discounts and incentives more aggressively than we've seen in many years. The limited land in San Diego that is available for development is extremely expensive, prohibiting widespread apartment construction. Additionally, during the most recent wave of apartment conversions, much of the city's rental supply has been converted into owner-occupied housing.

These factors mean that San Diego's supply of rental housing is likely to remain limited for some time. In fact, a recent article in The San Diego Union Tribune quotes the executive director of the San Diego County Apartment Association as saying…"we may see an increase in rents of 5 percent to 6 percent."

High demand, low supply, limited construction availability — these factors add up to San Diego's supply of rental housing remaining limited for the foreseeable future, giving more reason to believe that owning property in an area with high demand for rental homes, like the area surrounding SDSU, remains a smart choice.

Andrew Rosenberg is the Director of Marketing for Premier Coastal Development, one of San Diego's largest condominium developers. He can be reached by visiting the Premier Coastal Web site at www.premiercoastal.com and clicking on the “Contact Us” icon.

The Calpulli Center

Over summer, the new Calpulli Center opened. In Aztec tradition, "Calpulli" is the name for a neighborhood structured to carry out a common purpose. At SDSU, the Calpulli Center is comprised of three Student Affairs offices: Counseling & Psychological Services, Student Disability Services, and Student Health Services—all of which are dedicated to serving the health needs of SDSU's student body.

The new center encompasses 70,000 square feet of building space, creating a larger, more accommodating Student Health Services, as well as expanding the offices of Counseling and Psychological Services and Student Disability Services.

The Calpulli Center is located southeast of Cox Arena, across from the College of Extended Studies on Hardy Avenue.

Inside the Calpulli Center, visitors will find:

- **First Floor:** Urgent Care, Imaging, Accommodated Testing and Pharmacy
- **Second Floor:** General Medicine
- **Third Floor:** Student Disability Services, Optometry, Dentistry, Health Promotion, Medical Records and Information Systems
- **Fourth Floor:** Health Services Administration, Counseling & Psychological Services, and conference rooms

Assuming a 10 percent down payment, and interest-only loan at 6.5 percent, total monthly payment, including mortgage, homeowners association dues and property tax for this property would come to approximately $2,080 a month. Again, assuming the same 32 percent tax bracket, tax savings would be approximately $665 a month, bringing the after-tax monthly cost down to approximately $1,415 a month. As evidenced, over the four-year period, total after-tax dollars spent is $67,920, a savings of $2,880 over paying rent for that same period.

The College of Arts and Letters Building

This fall, the new College of Arts and Letters Building opened its doors to students, faculty and staff.

The six-story, 109,000-square-foot building is the largest building on campus, and houses the university's largest college.

The building houses the College of Arts and Letters' 20 academic departments and 15 centers/institutes, and features high-tech classrooms and laboratories along with five auditoriums with capabilities ranging from 60 to 500 seats.

The College of Arts and Letters Building is located on the northwest corner of campus and is visible to motorists traveling on Interstate 8.

The $33 million building was funded by California State grants, as well as philanthropic gifts.

An official grand opening is scheduled for this fall. Visit the College of Arts and Letters Web site, http://cal.sdsu.edu, for more information.
IMPORTANT SDSU DATES

SEPTEMBER
18 Last day to add, drop, or change the grading basis of a class.
No schedule adjustments allowed after 6 pm on this date.
20 Open Mic Night, 7 pm, Backdoor at Aztec Center
21 Fiesta de Colores, 12–1 pm, Aztec Center Patio
22 International Student Center Coffee Hour, held every Friday, 12–1:30 pm
26 San Diego Speaker Series: Randolph Gulliani, 7:30 pm, Cox Arena*
28 Career Fair, 9:30 am–2 pm, Centennial Mall

OCTOBER
5 All Howard and the K23 Orchestra: Spoken Word / Hip Hop, 12–1 pm, Aztec Center
19 Graduate & Professional School Fair, 9:30 am–1:30 pm, Centennial Mall
20–21 Family Weekend**
21 Family Weekend Football Game: SDSU vs. Air Force, 5 pm, Qualcomm Stadium
23–28 Homecoming 2006: “Pray for Life for Me” theme***
24 Study and Work Abroad Fair, 10 am–3 pm, Centennial Walkway
24 San Diego Speaker Series: James Canvile and Ann Coale, 7:30 pm, Cox Arena*
28 Homecoming Football Game: SDSU vs. Cal Poly, 5 pm, Qualcomm Stadium

NOVEMBER
4 Blue Man Group performs, 8–11 pm, Cox Arena*
5 San Diego Speaker Series: Bob Dole and Wesley Clark, 7:30 pm, Cox Arena*
6–8 Tunnel of Oppression, 4:30–9 pm, Tula Community Center. A student production, created and performed by students and staff, moves through a series of different kinds of oppression. After traveling through the tunnel in silence, a group discussion is held.
6–10 Meal plan changes available****
10 Veterans’ Day – Campus closed
16 50th Annual International Peace Village, 12–4 pm, Montezuma Hall
22–26 All residence halls, except Villa Alvarado and University Towers close during winter recess.
23–25 Thanksgiving recess
30 Westminster Carolers Holiday Show, 12–1 pm, Aztec Center

DECEMBER
1 World AIDS Day. Events will be held across campus to promote AIDS awareness.
5–8 Hand Craft Fair, 8 am–4 pm, Campanile Walkway
9–16 Final exams: Send cookies!
16 All residence halls, except Villa Alvarado and University Towers, close during winter recess. Licensee should leave by 8 pm on the day of his/her last final exam, but in no case later than December 16th at 4 pm.
23-Jan. 17 Winter recess

JANUARY
Jan. 16 Residence halls re-open
Jan. 18 Classes and meal plans resume

For a complete listing of SDSU sports schedules, or for more information, visit the Athletics Web site at www.goaztecs.com

SPORTS SCHEDULE

For a complete listing of SDSU sports schedules, or for more information, visit the Athletics Web site at www.goaztecs.com

FOOTBALL

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MEN’S SOCCER

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<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/02</td>
<td>Colorado State</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* To purchase tickets, call the Cox Arena Box Office at (619) 594-6947, or Ticketmaster at (619) 220-TIXS.
** Visit www.sdsu.edu/aztecparents, for more information on Family Weekend.
*** Visit http://as.sdsu.edu/ent/case/homecoming, for more information on Homecoming Spirit Week.
**** Visit www.eatatsdsu.com, for all meal plan inquiries.