As Black History Month Local Hero

James R. Kitchen, Vice President for Student Affairs, was honored at the prestigious 2006 Black History Month Local Hero Awards banquet in February. Surrounding many prominent San Diego community members, SDSU President Stephen L. Weber, the President's Cabinet, as well as Kitchen's wife, four children and one of his four grandchildren, was visibly humbled. I've attended this event every year since arriving in San Diego, but never once thought I would be one of the recipients, said Kitchen. To be recognized with such esteemed colleagues and pioneers is an honor in itself.

Kitchen said his philosophy is that by helping others succeed, one leads a life of fulfillment.

It's a universal law — we have to give before we get, he said. We must plant the seeds before we reap the harvest. The more we sow, the more we reap. And in giving to others, we find ourselves blessed. Tonight, my harvest is full, and I am truly blessed.

The Black History Month Local Heroes are chosen for demonstrating a high level of commitment and community participation. The awards recognize their collective contributions of courage and humanity, and they encourage others in San Diego to continue this legacy.

This is the eighth year for the program in San Diego. The program is part of a statewide initiative sponsored by Union Bank of California to honor the contributions of many ethnic heroes. KPBS co-sponsored the San Diego event.

A broadcast of this special event was shown on KPBS-TV on Sunday, February 12. The broadcast can be viewed online at http://kpbs.org/bhm.axx. Congratulations to Kitchen on this very special and well-deserved honor.

Correction to Winter issue of News for Aztec Parents:

News for Aztec Parents had two errors in its winter issue:

1. Commencement dates for the College of Business Administration and the College of Education/Division of Undergraduate Studies were mistakenly transposed. Business Administration commencement will be on Saturday, May 20; Education/Division Undergraduate Studies will be on Sunday, May 21. Both are at 8 am in Cox Arena, www.sdsu.edu/commencement

2. The "Cut for Student Loan Programs Proposed" said Congress was proposing a $15 million dollar cut in the federal student-loan program. The actual number should have been $15 billion. (Final cuts are now at $12 billion, see related article on page 2.)

We regret any errors.

Get Ready for Commencement 2006

Parents, family and friends of SDSU's graduating class of 2006 are cordially invited to attend commencement exercises at San Diego State University in mid-May. As we reported in the winter issue of News for Aztec Parents, all individual college commencement ceremonies will be held in Cox Arena; and all ceremonies will require admission tickets. (The Imperial Valley Campus ceremony will be held separately in Calexico.)

Commencement is a fitting conclusion to your student's successful academic career. To learn more about the individual college ceremonies, log on to the SDSU home page www.sdsu.edu and click on "Commencement 2006." Students who applied for graduation were eligible to receive complimentary reserved-seat tickets for their family and guests during GradFest, April 4-6. If your son or daughter missed that opportunity, encourage him or her to pick up graduation tickets for you at the Aztec Center Ticket Office. They will need to present their SDSU Red ID card to obtain tickets.

Be sure to look at the Special Discounts page of the Aztec Parents Web site www.sa.sdsu.edu/parents/discounts.html if you will be traveling to San Diego for graduation weekend. You'll find information on discounts for parents, family and friends to help keep your costs to a minimum for shuttles and at various San Diego hotels. When you call, ask for the "SDSU friends and family rate." We recommend calling as early as possible since hotel offerings are based on availability.

For transportation to campus, we highly recommend using the new trolley line that comes directly to SDSU. It's fast, convenient, and you'll avoid parking hassles.

For more information and tips on how to get the most out of commencement, see the detailed brochure at www.sdsu.edu/commencement

You've spent the past several years contributing to your student's success. Now, it's time to attend Commencement 2006 and celebrate as he or she graduates. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of you!

COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE

(Please note: in the winter issue of News for Aztec Parents, we mistakenly transposed the dates of ceremonies for the College of Business Administration and the College of Education/Division of Undergraduate Studies. Below are the correct dates and times of the ceremonies.)

Thursday, May 18 (Imperial Valley Campus)

• 7 pm — Rollie Carrillo Quad, Imperial Valley Campus, Calexico

Friday, May 19

• 11 am — College of Health and Human Services (Cox Arena)
• 4 pm — College of Arts and Letters (Cox Arena)

Saturday, May 20

• 8 am — College of Business Administration (Cox Arena)
• 1 pm — College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts (Cox Arena)

Sunday, May 21

• 8 am — College of Education and Division of Undergraduate Studies (Cox Arena)
• 1 pm — College of Sciences and College of Engineering (Cox Arena)

For more information, visit www.sdsu.edu/commencement

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San Diego State University
Aztec Parents Association
New Student and Parent Programs
San Diego State University
San Diego, California 92182-7441
**Parents Pipeline**

**Items to Consider When Choosing a Housing Option**

My daughter is ending her freshman year soon. For those of us who are debating between returning to the residence halls next year to live, or renting an apartment with some friends, What is your advice?

As another school year comes to an end, now is the time when students begin thinking about where they are going to live next semester. Whether students decide to live on or off campus, there are a few things parents and students should consider. Location, cost, and choice of roommate(s) are crucial items to consider when deciding on a future residence.

"We encourage students to consider many different variables when deciding on their living environment. The most common question would be "What type of experience are you interested in?" said Communications Coordinator for the Office of Housing Administration (OHA), Kristina Maxwell. "Living on campus is very convenient and a big time-saver when considering all the time you save not commuting and preparing meals. For those looking for an off-campus experience, we provide tips on apartment hunting, preparing a budget and things to consider when picking a roommate." While attending college, time is especially valuable to students. Activities such as cooking, cleaning, and commuting to school can be time-consuming tasks for students who live off campus. Living on campus relieves students from those daily tasks, giving them more free time for studying and out-of-class activities.

Student Financial Aid Cuts May Go Into Effect July 1

On February 1, the United States House of Representatives voted to pass the largest cut in history for the federal student-loan programs. The vote was 214 to 214, and mostly split down party lines. The plan is to cut $12 billion from the federal student-loan programs over the next five years to help reduce the federal deficit and provide tax cuts. It was to become a law once President Bush signed it in early February. However, on February 14, Constitutional experts questioned the legality of the $39 billion deficit reduction package because the President received different versions of the legislation from the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Constitutional scholars have said that the House and Senate may have to close a loophole in which lenders were able to keep profits from what it closes. It appears that they will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the 6.8 percent fixed rate could actually be lower than the variable rate under current law either in 2006-2007 or in the following year. The effect of the bill seems worse than it really is because we are coming from a period of time when interest rates were at an historic, but ultimately unsustainable, low point.

Students who live on campus have 24-hour access to the university’s library and computer lab, which makes studying very convenient and accessible. Typically, students who choose to live on campus have higher grade point averages, take more units, have a 10-15 percent better chance of doing well in college, and are more likely to graduate.

Despite the various living options and amenities found on campus, it’s common for students to choose off-campus housing. Living off campus and searching for an apartment for the first time is a lesson on its own. On the OHA Web site, www.sdsu.edu/housing, students and parents can find an off-campus listing service, apartment hunting tips, a guide for preparing a budget, information about finding the right roommate, as well as a list of communities where many students live, and their distance to SDSU.

"The OHA provides information about off-campus housing to help the students on campus. Like most CSUs, we are unable to provide housing for families or graduate students and feel we should do what we can to help those individuals moving to the area. The service also benefits current students who are seeking an apartment or room-share situation," Maxwell said.

The OHA also advises students to take their time when considering where to live, and to take careful consideration before signing a lease. Maxwell advises, "Be aware of what type of contract or lease students sign and how long it will obligate them. Many apartment leases are for a full 12 months and have consequences for terminating the lease early. On-campus License Agreements are for the academic year and have a detailed cancellation policy. Consider all of the terms, and the process for cancellation, before committing."

Interests are also encouraged to take a close look at the surrounding neighborhood. Try to talk to some of the current tenants to get their impression of the complex and community.

Another option that is becoming increasingly popular is for parents to invest in a purchased condominium in which their student can live and rent out extra bedrooms to roommates. See article on page 11. For more helpful tips and information, please visit www.sdsu.edu/housing/

**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
- Patrick & Wendy Comey
- Steve & Barbara Eklund
- Rosa Heckenberg
- Ray Hoyt
- Jon & Martha Karanopoulos
- Dee Dee Klunder
- Ron & Leigh Martel
- Ron & Terri Radney
- Bob & Mary Gene Ryan
- Fred Schuster
- Dan & Lori Steinberg
- Larry Sweitch
- Jane Vidal
- Tonie Washington

Parent Programs Coordinator: Michelle Dubord
Director, New Student and Parent Programs: Janet Castro
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Administration: Eric Rivera
Vice President for Student Affairs: Dr. James R. Kitchen

San Diego State University maintains and promotes a policy of non-discrimination and non-harassment 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 intercollegiate athletics.

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Production: Sharon Penny, Keith Parks, Carlton Chan, Jessica Gonsalves
Detecting Scholarship Scams

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ach year there seems to be a new scholarship scam aimed toward college students and their parents. Scholarship scams aren’t anything new, but there are always additional scams to look out for.

SDSU’s Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships has become aware of a recent potential fraud scheme involving persons who are contacting students and telling them that they have won a scholarship or grant. To get the money, the student is instructed to give their bank account number so that the money can be directly deposited. They also tell the student that there will be a one-time processing fee charged, as well as a membership fee, to remain eligible for the funds each year. Students and parents should never provide bank account or credit card information as a result of such a request.

Is it a scam?

• If you’re asked to pay a membership fee or application processing charge, it might be a scam.
• If they guarantee that you’ll win a scholarship, it might be a scam.
• If you’re suspicious and it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

If you have been a victim of this or a similar scam, you should take the following actions:

1. Contact your bank, explain the situation, and request that the bank monitor or close the compromised account.
3. Report the fraud to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357); teletype for the hearing impaired, 866-653-4261. The FTC will investigate if the fraud is deemed widespread. Therefore, it is important that every student contacted by the individual(s) in question lodge a complaint.

Always remember that applying for federal financial aid and university and private scholarships is free. Students and parents who need help to fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are always welcome to contact the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships for assistance.

For more information about how to apply for financial aid, visit the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships Web site at www.sdsu.edu/financialaid
New SDSU Police Chief in Town

In December, SDSU welcomed former Gardena Police Department captain John Browning as its new campus police chief.

Browning is the campus’ first new police chief in 30 years. He replaces John Carpenter, who retired after leading SDSU’s Department of Public Safety from the department’s inception in 1973.

Chief Carpenter has done a remarkable job developing the department,” Browning said. “His high standards are reflected in the talent and skill of the officers and staff. I am confident that we will continue to be a positive force in this community that addresses the necessary law enforcement issues and participates in other activities that enhance the campus and surrounding environment.”

Prior to joining SDSU, Browning worked for Gardena’s police force for almost 30 years. He joined Gardena’s department in 1976, entering as an officer, working his way up the ranks until his promotion to captain in 1999. Browning also served in the State of California Police Division from 1973-1976, where he performed protection detail for state officials, including the governor.

During his work in Gardena, Browning developed a Chief of Police Citizens Advisory Panel, designed and implemented the community’s Adopt-a-School Program, and created neighborhood police stations in local parks.

“I can’t thank Chief Carpenter enough for his long and dedicated service to this university,” said SDSU President Stephen L. Weber. “Captain Browning is an ideal successor — a seasoned law enforcement professional who is committed to the principles of community-oriented policing.”

Browning will lead SDSU’s Public Safety department which includes 27 sworn police officers and 57 non-sworn support employees. SDSU’s Public Safety department operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing campus security and other services to SDSU’s campus population of over 34,000 students as well as faculty and staff.

For more information about the Public Safety department, visit www.police.sdsu.edu.
Ray Hoyt

Ray Hoyt is a father who believes in the importance of staying connected with his children. In spite of the fact that he runs a busy dental practice, he makes being active in both their lives a top priority.

Hoyt said the beauty of his dental practice is that he can work his schedule around that of his son and daughter. "It has allowed me to have a flexible schedule and therefore I have been able to be very involved as a father," said Hoyt. "I have coached both of my children in sports, been involved in local theater with my daughter, and have been an active participant in PTA and other community organizations."

Hoyt’s oldest, Justin, is a senior at San Diego State, majoring in Philosophy. His daughter, Kiera, is a high school freshman.

Hoyt has been an active member of the Aztec Parents Association (APA) since Justin started his college career at SDSU. When asked why he thinks the APA is so valuable, he emphasized that it is an important connection to his son.

"I think it is vital for a parent to be a supportive participant in their student’s educational experience," he said. "It is a major adjustment time for kids going off to college and for them to know their parents are available to them to offer encouragement. Support can only be helpful and comforting. The college years can present many challenges for students and parents. To be part of an organization like the Aztec Parents Association has allowed a connection to be maintained."

Hoyt went on to say that he strongly believes in the fundraising aspect of the APA. He has seen firsthand how it makes a direct impact to better students’ lives.

"Each year it seems there are more cuts in funding for education at all levels, which result in cuts to student programs. The Aztec Parents Annual Fund acts as a source of financial support for many important and necessary programs that can no longer be supported through the general fund. These can include programs for students in academic trouble, alcohol and drug awareness, mental health, and campus safety."

Like Justin, Hoyt himself has become a big fan of SDSU, in spite of his loyalty to his own alma mater, UCLA. He received his bachelor’s degree from UCLA in 1980, and then continued there in dental school.

Until 1984, he admits his Bruin blood runs deep, but he has developed a deep fondness for the Aztecs.

"I am a big sports fanatic and attended many sports events while at UCLA and in the past 20 years since graduating," said Hoyt. "However, I have also become a big Aztec fan in these last three years. When at SDSU I am an SDSU fan; when at UCLA a UCLA fan. When they play each other, I have been pulling for SDSU."

When asked how that support change came about, Hoyt said his involvement with SDSU and the APA has made a huge difference in his perspective.

"Being involved in the Parents Association and the Parents Advisory Board has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life," he said. "I have met wonderful people in the Student Affairs division and the Athletics Office who have become true friends. These people have a sincere interest in the life of the students at SDSU, and continually strive to improve the environment for students."

Now in his third year as the parent of a college student, Hoyt had some sage advice for parents of first-year students.

"It can be a very emotional and difficult time for parents when a child goes off to college," he said. "However, watching your child grow and mature from the freshman year to upper level is greatly rewarding and can only happen by letting him or her take on new challenges during these college years. I recommend being available to your student, but from a distance, and to be a regular source of encouragement and love."

Justin will be one of those rare students who will be graduating early from college – after only three and a half years. When he leaves to go to law school, Hoyt hopes to still play a role at SDSU. And he has hopes that his daughter may one day become an Aztec.

"Kiera is still a freshman in high school. But she has visited SDSU several times with me over the past three years and has become very familiar with the campus," he said. "She also likes San Diego and may very well attend SDSU in the future."

The Aztecs Welcome a New Head Football Coach

In December, SDSU Director of Athletics Jeff Schiemmel announced the hiring of former Oklahoma head football coach Chuck Long.

"I’m excited to be an Aztec," says Long. "This program is ready to break out and we are going to make it happen this year. We’re going to set lofty goals for this year and we are going to drive in the direction of those goals."

Long has spent the last six seasons on the coaching team at the University of Oklahoma, where he played a crucial role in the success of the Sooners. While he was on board, the Sooners held a 67-11 record, and participated in six consecutive bowl games.

"We are thrilled to land one of the top college football coaches in the country," Schiemmel said. "Chuck brings experience, success and energy to San Diego State."

Long’s accomplishments include winning a national championship ring, five top-six finishes in the national polls and his 11-season tenure as a collegiate assistant coach. His teams have participated in 10 bowl games.

Long’s football experiences span from his college days as a consensus All-American quarterback and a four-year starter at the University of Iowa. He played in four bowl games and won two Big Ten championships while at Iowa. During his senior year, Iowa was ranked No. 1 in national ranking. He then earned the Maxwell and Davey O’Brien Awards.

Long went on to be voted the Big Ten male athlete and football player of the year. He was also runner-up to Auburn’s Bo Jackson for the Heisman Trophy in 1985 — the closest finish in the Heisman’s history.


Long then retired his cleats and decided to go into coaching. He has coached alongside legends such as College Football Hall of Fame member Hayden Fry and national coach of the year Kirk Ferentz at Iowa, as well as two-time national coach of the year Bob Stoops.

Once a student-athlete himself, Long realizes the physical and academic demands that are placed on the players. Long says that he will also focus on the academic success of the team.

"Academically, I am a coach who believes what you do on the field is a direct relation of what you do off the field. I truly believe that and it starts with academics," says Long. "We will have stringent academic rules here. It’s important to me that players graduate and graduate on time."

As a coach, mentor and motivator, Long’s goals bring new light to SDSU’s football program.

"Long lives in San Diego with his wife Lisa, and their five children: Lindsay, Samantha, Nathan, Zachary and Katherine."

Orientation for Fall 2006

For those of you parents who have younger students coming to SDSU next fall, don't forget about New Student Orientation — a must for all new students.

Students and parents all learn valuable information that helps students succeed. New Student Orientation for first-time freshmen will take place in July and August. Transfer Student Orientation will take place in August. A concurrent Parent Orientation will take place each day as well.

For more information or to register online, visit www.sdsu.edu/orientation
Leonid Kandinov

In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.

— Bill Cosby, American actor, comedian, television producer and activist.

For SDSU freshman Leonid Kandinov, failure has never been an option. Language barriers and financial constraints could not deter his desire to succeed and fulfill his dream of going to college.

Leonid is one of 11 students who were awarded a President’s Diversity Scholarship in 2005. The scholarship is awarded to local low-income, high-achieving students, and funds their tuition at SDSU for up to four years.

“My dad told me that in America, if you were ambitious, anything was possible. Showing my parents that I could go to college has been my proudest moment,” said Leonid.

Leonid and his family moved to the United States from Tashkent, Uzbekistan when he was five years old. His family faced financial hardship and his father had to do odd jobs to make ends meet.

The first challenge Leonid faced in the United States was learning a new language. “When we came to America my mom told my teachers that I spoke perfect English because she didn’t want me to fall behind in school,” says Leonid. “It wasn’t long before my teachers realized that I didn’t speak one word of English.”

Showing no trace of an accent today, Leonid learned English by first grade, and was able to read and write at the same level as his peers by third grade.

At an early age, Leonid says he realized that “you can’t get anything if you don’t work for it.” Proof of Leonid’s hard work is evident: the Political Science major earned a 4.0 GPA during his first semester at SDSU while carrying a heavy course load of 17 units.

“I eventually want to become a corporate lawyer,” says Leonid, “I want to be part of exposing the unethical practices in the corporate world.” Leonid has witnessed firsthand the effects of communism in Uzbekistan, and capitalism in the United States. He says these experiences have helped shape his decision to practice corporate law.

Academics aside, Leonid says that a “golden balance” is key in life; something he says he learned from his grandma. “You can talk to him about anything,” says Leonid, “from girls and car rims, to the meaning of life. He’s taught me about values and morals.”

Calling life a test in which you must work hard to succeed, Leonid says that he has always challenged himself and grasped more than he thought he could handle.

“My biggest challenge was having the financial stress that I was unable to go to college,” says Leonid. “Winning the scholarship has met that challenge for me. Since winning the scholarship, I have been able to focus on my studies, rather than the financial burden of funding my college education.”

At 18 years old, Leonid maintains a level of maturity, perseverance, and determination that is far beyond his years. Throughout the rough times he’s encountered, it has been his “eye on the prize” ambitious outlook that has kept him moving forward on the road of life and in the direction of success.

New Aquaplex will offer Swimming, Relaxation and a New Home for Aztec Athletics Water Teams

Construction of the long-awaited SDSU swimming pool complex, Aztec Aquaplex, is officially underway.

As last semester ended, ground was broken for the Aztec Aquaplex, which will serve the SDSU community — including all students, faculty, staff and the university’s Aztec waterpolo, swimming and diving teams.

The $12 million pool complex will feature three heated pools; a 50 meter Olympic pool, which will be used for swimming laps, waterpolo and diving; a 7,200 square-foot pool that includes a shallow beach entry, which will be used for recreation; and a 20-person hydrotherapy spa.

The Aquaplex is expected to open in spring 2007.

According to Associated Students campus recreation director Eric Huth, “several dozen student jobs will be created at the new pool complex. There will be positions for receptionists, lifeguards, front desk assistants and maintenance/custodial staff.”

The Aquaplex will be located on the west end of campus, adjacent to the Tony Gwynn baseball stadium and the new Aztec softball and tennis facilities. Fully staffed with trained lifeguards, the Aquaplex will be within walking distance of the Aztec Recreation Center (ARC). Under management of the ARC, the Aquaplex will be available to all active ARC members, while non-ARC members may purchase a day pass or pool-only membership.

The Aquaplex will enable athletic teams to hold practices and host competitions on campus against teams in the Mountain West Conference. The Aquaplex will also host Exercise and Nutritional Science classes and intramural sports. It is designed to remain open to the public throughout the school year and during the winter and summer breaks.

The Aquaplex will have locker rooms, shower facilities, changing areas, bathrooms, and deck space for lounge chairs. Trained swimming instructors will be available for swim lessons.

Huth stated that the funding for the Aquaplex comes from a $16/semester increase in student union fees that was approved by 65 percent of SDSU students who voted in an April 2004 campus referendum.

For the latest updates on the Aztec Aquaplex and pictures of its construction, visit http://arc.sdsu.edu/pool/index.php or call (619) 594-SWIM.
"Quest for the Best" Celebrates 20 Years of Recognizing Student Success

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cholarship, one part of SDSU’s educational mission, goes hand-in-hand with the promotion and development of leadership skills and community service. Under the theme of “Quest for the Best,” the Vice Presidential Student Service Awards are given each spring to up to 10 outstanding students who typify and promote this broader mission of the university. This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the awards.

Applications for these prestigious awards are available from the Centers for Student Involvement during February each year. A panel of faculty, staff and former Quest winners interview the finalists and make their selections based on academic excellence, student involvement and commitment, community services outside the SDSU campus, and leadership qualities and development that reflect initiative, advancement of intercultural understanding, and evidence of positive, ethical decision-making styles.

Each student awarded the Quest for the Best honor nominates the SDSU professor or staff mentor who has made the most significant contribution to his/her personal growth. Both student and mentor are honored at an elegant banquet held each April.

This year’s Quest for the Best winners, selected from junior, senior and graduate applicants, have been involved in diverse activities on and off campus. From leadership roles in the Honor’s Council to volunteering in South Africa, these students give their time and talents to the campus and community.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the awards, all past student recipients and a guest are invited to attend.

This year’s Quest for the Best winners are:

 ERIN BALA  
Marketing major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Jung Min Choi

 ANGELA MARTEL  
Psychology major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Jung Min Choi

 CHRISTINA CAMPBELL  
Psychology major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Joseph Price

 R. ZACHARY MCDONALD  
Biology major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Maureen Paolini

 BRITTANY FENISON  
Theatre major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Peter Cirino

 JOANRAE MILLER  
Communications major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Maggie Shoya

 ERIN HOGEBOOM  
ISCOR major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Michael Minjares

 JOAQUIN ORTEGA  
Mechanical Engineering major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Jung Min Choi

 ALICE HSIEH  
Biology major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Barbara Huntington

 LINDA RANGEL  
Political Science and Finance major  
Faculty/Staff Mentor: Julie Sullivan
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The month of April brings warmer weather, the freshness of spring and probably a few cases of senioritis if you have a student about to graduate. However, unfortunately known as most, April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This month is nationally dedicated to making a concerted effort to raise awareness about and prevent sexual violence through special events. Across the nation, many organizations and universities collaborate to speak out against sexual violence with a goal of helping communities recognize that sexual violence is preventable.

San Diego State is one such university striving to make a difference. The Andrea (O’Donnell) Women’s Resource Center (WRC) at San Diego State University will host a variety of special events throughout the month of April in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The WRC is collaborating with a number of groups on campus to make sure the month is a success and raises awareness among SDSU students. The month-long campaign will culminate on April 27th with “Take Back the Night,” an international rally and march that is organized in local communities and on college campuses with the purpose of unifying women, men and children in an awareness of violence against women, children and families. The event is a collaboration of community and campus and other interested persons who are ready to take a stand against violence and make the night safe for everyone.

Frat MANers (Fraternity Men Against Negative Environments and Rape Situations) is one of the many organizations involved with Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This all-male Peer Health Education Program was started in January 2003 by 11 fraternity leaders and a health educator at San Diego State University. The program is run through Student Health Services and the Wellness Office at the Aztec Recreation Center, with funding coming from the Aztec Parents Association.

Frat MANers strives to increase awareness about rape, potential rape situations and sexually coercive behavior, while decreasing the acceptance of rape myths. Members of Frat MANers educate other men about sexual assault and rape, and the role they can play in stopping violence against women.

...Take Back the Night is an international rally and march that is organized in local communities and on college campuses with the purpose of unifying women, men and children in an awareness of violence against women, children and families.”

Men in this program make a year-long commitment, and spend one semester learning about various topics that pertain to preventing violence against women. Over the course of the training semester, the men hear from a variety of experts in the field to get a well-rounded perspective on the issue at hand. Guest speakers include health educators, psychologists and law enforcement.

After successfully completing the training semester, the men become “active” members. They spend the following semester presenting to all-male groups on campus and take part in various on-campus events. The men follow a set lesson plan that addresses sex, communication and sexual assault. Issues such as consent and rape myths are also addressed. This dynamic presentation includes a video on what SDSU students think about rape and many activities designed to get men involved and thinking critically.

Throughout the month of April, Frat MANers will host presentations, informational tables in Aztec Center, and an event called “Denim Day.” The men will also play an active role in “Take Back the Night.”

If you are interested in learning more about the Women’s Resource Center at San Diego State, call 619-594-5430. To learn more about the Frat MANers program, call 619-594-1800.

DataDots: The Microscopic Anti-Theft Device

Each school year, families purchase thousands of dollars worth of school supplies and personal equipment for their students. SDSU’s campus bookstore is now selling DataDots®, a new anti-theft device. DataDots are microscopic technology that works to deter theft and keep personal property in the hands of its rightful owner.

Regional manager for MicroID Technologies Ken Walton says that DataDots are the size of a grain of sand — virtually indiscernible to the naked eye. They can safely be applied to any personal item such as iPods, laptops, cell phones and textbooks — even automobiles.

For less than $20, students can purchase a DataDots Anti-Theft Kit. Each kit includes DataDots supplied in a container of clear drying liquid with an ultra violet (UV) trace for easy identification; one foam applicator brush; four DataDot decals to warn thieves that the item has been protected; and application and registration instructions.

“DataDots are bound by a permanent adhesive,” says Walton, “they do not fall off.”

DataDots are suspended in a water-soluble, ultra-violet, light-sensitive adhesive that becomes tack free in approximately 30 minutes and fully cured in 24 hours. Once the adhesive is cured, it is clear and water resistant.

Each DataDots Anti-Theft Kit has a unique DNA code; all 400-500 dots that come in a package possess the same coding. After purchasing a kit, owners will need to log on to the MicroID Technologies Web site to supply their contact information, which will be used to return lost or stolen property, if found.

“Whoever you’re reporting to will find the DataDots’ UV traces by using a black light. The DataDot is then lifted like a fingerprint, and police officials can look up the DataDot's DNA code in the MicroID Technologies Web site,” Walton said. “Instantly the contact information of the owner pops up.”

Owners’ contact information can only be accessed by law enforcement officials, and is solely used for returning lost or stolen property to its rightful owner.

Although DataDots do not stop theft, their purpose is to deter thieves with the DataDots warning decal, and to return valuable items back to their owner.

Sadly enough, the opportunity for theft is everywhere. But it can be prevented by taking necessary precautions.

To contact the Electronics Department of SDSU’s Bookstore, call (619) 594-7522.
The Online Social Phenomenon that Has Everyone’s Attention

Through popular online social networks such as Facebook, Friendster, LiveJournal, MySpace, and Xanga, students are exchanging information with dozens, if not hundreds, of online users — some of whom they may not even know.

Director of Residential Education Cynthia Avery explains that while students feel that only their friends view their personal Web pages, they often forget that their Web pages are public domain that can be viewed by anyone — even college administrators and potential employers.

“Our administrators do not look at students’ Web pages on a regular basis,” says Avery. “If something is brought to our attention, then we will view the student’s Web page.”

Avery says that college administrators find evidence (i.e. pictures on the student’s Web page) of students engaging in activity that is either illegal, or against university or Residence Hall policies, such as drinking alcohol in one of the university’s residence halls, students are held accountable and the university will take judicial action.

“My office often gets calls from parents who say ‘My student is drinking and I don’t know why.’ A college administrator may view the student’s Web page to find ‘getting drunk’ listed as one of their hobbies. Or they find some other evidence as to why the student isn’t getting better grades. While we don’t share this information with the parents, it allows us the opportunity to have a conversation with the student.”

Students often view these online social networks as a way to fully express themselves to their peers, but there’s a good chance that it’s not just their peers who are viewing their online expressions.

“Students should be aware that future employers may also visit their Web pages. If they find questionable material on the Web page, it might cost them a potential job. Companies invest a significant amount of resources in training their employees. They are not going to want to spend that on a candidate whose behavior they might find a concern.”

Anyone can browse through online profiles by a person’s name, e-mail address, school name, as well as several other search criteria. SDSU freshman Justin Gaspar says that he created a MySpace profile so that he could browse through the Web pages of his friends.

“I don’t really put a lot of time into the design of my Web page,” says Gaspar. “I just go online to check out my friends’ pages…see what’s going on, and what they’re up to.”

Gaspar says that he logs on to his account about every other day, and spends anywhere from one-to-two hours browsing profiles. Parents browsing through their student’s Web page may find out information about their student, of which they may or may not necessarily approve. Nonetheless, it’s still valuable information about their student, and what’s going on in their life.

“If parents find something on their student’s Web page with which they don’t agree, they can take the opportunity to have a conversation with their student,” said Avery. “Despite what many parents think, they are still extremely influential in their student’s life and decision making throughout college. A discussion about expectations, the student’s reputation, and safety issues are great ways to start the conversation. Parents should also remind students to limit the personal identification they place on their Web site to avoid being contacted by someone who may not have the best of intentions.”

Of online social networks, MySpace is the most popular. According to MySpace.com, they have more than 43 million members and up to 160,000 new members join every day. Currently their Web site is the third-most-viewed Web site — exceeding the popular Web sites of Google and eBay.

On MySpace and comparable Web sites, users can create a free profile that includes any information they choose to disclose. As a safety precaution, users are warned not to list the name of their school, the name of their place of work, cell phone numbers, and any other location or contact-specific information.

After creating their profile, users can personalize their Web page with photos, Web links to their favorite Web sites, blog (online diary) entries, video clips, and music clips.

Now that users have personalized their Web page, it’s time to communicate. For example, Jenn browses through user profiles and comes across Joe, who has some of the same interests that she does. Jenn then asks Joe (via MySpace) if she can be his friend. If he accepts, then they’re able to leave comments on each other’s Web pages and have access to one another’s friends, who are also MySpace users.

MySpace advertises itself as “the online community that lets you meet your friends’ friends.” Users may feel that it is only their friends who are looking at their Web page, which often contains personal information that they wouldn’t readily share with the public. Users are given the option of reserving their Web page for the viewing of only pre-approved friends. Many of these online social networks have “Privacy Settings,” where users can keep their personalized Web pages just that: personal.

While online social networks advise in their disclaimers that they cannot guarantee the security of member account information, the more popular Web sites of Facebook, Friendster, LiveJournal, MySpace, and Xanga all contain safety information and precautions for users, and even tips for parents.

“Students should be aware that future employers may also visit their Web pages. If they find questionable material on the Web page, it might cost them a potential job.” — Cynthia Avery, Director of Residential Education

CSU System and Parents Team Up to Prepare Children for College

In February, the California State University (CSU) and the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) announced the inception of a collaborative effort, designed to strengthen parent involvement in the education of elementary and middle school students in order to better prepare them for higher education.

“The CSU partnership with PIQE is significant since it adds to many other efforts to help improve the public school system,” said CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed. “Improving the state’s public K-12 schools is critical to the future of California and quality of the Cal State system, since we expect that many of those students ultimately enroll at a CSU campus.”

The mission of the project is to bring schools, parents, and the community together as equal partners in the education of targeted and under-served California children.

Funding for the program comes from Chancellor Reed, who will provide CSU campuses with $575,000 to partner with local schools and to bring the PIQE program to their areas. PIQE will raise funds to match those funds provided by Chancellor Reed. Participating parents will undergo a nine-week PIQE training program, where they will learn how to improve their child’s performance in the classroom, enhance the parent/child relationship, motivate their child to stay in school, and realize necessary steps that will help their child further their education and attend a college or university. PIQE class sessions will be offered mornings and evenings, and will be taught in English, Spanish, and twelve other languages to facilitate communication with as many parents as possible. Professional facilitators, who must first graduate from PIQE’s nine-week program and then go through extensive facilitation training, will teach the classes. The CSU campuses will provide every child of a PIQE graduate a college specific identity type. This ID card will identify the children of parents who completed the PIQE program.

Dr. Yulac Mardinosian, PIQE founder, said that the Parent Institute has its genesis in the Los Angeles student walkouts of 1968 and in more than 30 years of dedicated work by many individuals in the community committed to a quality education for all students.

“PIQE has developed and widely implemented a model for increasing parent involvement in K-12 where parent participation has been difficult to achieve. The barriers that discourage immigrant parents from participating in schools are not insurmountable,” Mardinosian said.

David Valladolid, president and chief executive officer of PIQE, said that the offer of a CSU college ID card will enhance the success of PIQE’s recruitment of parents and will send families the profound message that a spot in college awaits their children if they study hard and meet the admission requirements. “PIQE will fully inform parents of these admission requirements,” Valladolid said.

PIQE has graduated more than 100,000 parents and guardians since its inception in 1987.

“Students should be aware that future employers may also visit their Web pages. If they find questionable material on the Web page, it might cost them a potential job.” — Cynthia Avery, Director of Residential Education

“Our administrators do not look at students’ Web pages on a regular basis. If something is brought to our attention, then we will view the student’s Web page.” — Cynthia Avery, Director of Residential Education

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Studying Abroad: A Group Effort

Studying abroad is a successful collaboration that is made by the student, the student’s family, and the university, to ensure their abroad experience is a safe, education-enriching, and memorable one. SDSU’s International Student Center (ISC) is an excellent resource for students and their families to learn about study abroad opportunities.

It’s not unusual for parents to be apprehensive about their student studying abroad. Robert Carolin, Assistant Director for Education Abroad, says that parents are always welcome to meet with an ISC study abroad advisor. The ISC staff can put parents in contact with other parents whose student has already studied abroad.

The ISC Web site has a special link for family and friends of students abroad, www.sa.sdsu.edu/isc/study_abroad/faf.html There, they can learn about various issues related to study abroad such as cultural adjustment, and view photos from past study abroad experiences.

“The ISC encourages students and parents to research abroad programs together,” Carolin said.

The ISC advises that finding the right program for each student is the first step to an amazing study abroad experience. Students and parents can search through more than 190 abroad programs on the ISC Web site. To make navigating simple, the Web site’s program finder tool enables users to search abroad programs on the basis of a particular country, or even by the language of the program’s instruction.

The ISC also holds Study Abroad Workshops where students can learn more about specific major-related, or country-specific abroad opportunities. Study Abroad Workshops are also an excellent opportunity for students to meet other students who may be interested in the same abroad program.

Study abroad opportunities vary in cost, but students should not be deterred by the cost of a program. By visiting SDSU’s Financial Aid & Scholarships Web site, www.sa.sdsu.edu/fao/special_programs/study_abroad.html, students can find information about using financial aid toward a study abroad program. Carolin advises parents and students to visit the ISC Web site for additional information on scholarship and financial aid opportunities that allow aid to “travel” with approved study abroad programs.

After students find the right program, and before they pack their bags, the ISC requires them to attend a Pre-Departure Orientation. “Parents are also invited to attend our Pre-Departure Orientations that are held each semester,” said Carolin.

During the Pre-Departure Orientation, students learn what to expect during their time studying abroad, information on health and safety, monetary issues and visa requirements. Students are also able to meet with alumni and former study abroad students to hear and ask questions about their experiences abroad.

“We provide parents with a special packet of materials regarding issues such as cultural adjustment, and how parents can further support their student when they are experiencing culture shock,” said Carolin. A common concern of parents is “in an emergency how can I get in touch with my son/daughter while they’re studying abroad?”

“Students are provided host university contacts,” says Carolin. “Many students purchase or use cell phones abroad, and SDSU campus police have the home and cell phone numbers of the ISC staff.”

Carolin encourages students studying abroad to first seek out their university host in the event they have a problem.

The ISC staff makes every effort available to ensure that students get the most out of their abroad experience. Many ISC staff members were once students who studied abroad themselves; their expertise comes from firsthand experience.

For more information, visit the International Student Center Web site at www.sa.sdsu.edu/isc/prospective.htm, or call (619) 594-1982 to speak with a Study Abroad Advisor.

An Anything-but-Average Spring Break

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An ordinary spring break activities include lounging in the sun, catching some waves, and letting loose with friends. For those students looking for something out of the ordinary, there are options to be had.

One of the better-known alternative spring breaks offered through SDSU is Alternative Spring Break South Africa. Coordinated through the Department of Africana Studies, and led by department faculty, this spring break immersed students in an entirely different culture, and provided them with the opportunity to promote service on local, regional, national and international levels.

During their time in South Africa, students learned about poverty, educational and cultural literacy, racism, hunger, the environment, homeliness and health-related issues. Students lived in communities where they performed short-term projects. During past trips, students took part in non-governmental efforts to promote HIV/AIDS awareness, helped build small cultural houses, painted buildings, read to children, gave presentations at a youth conference, and provided services at an orphanage. Visit www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/afras/index.html for more information.

Students are encouraged to visit their major department’s office or visit their department’s Web site to learn about additional alternative spring break opportunities.


In 2006, its student volunteers visited New Orleans, where they aided in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. SDSU’s Center for Community Based Service-Learning (CCBSL) was just one group that participated in helping to rebuild New Orleans.

“Our students helped to gut, clean and rebuild a house and a church,” said CCBSL Director Tanis Starck. “They had the opportunity to tour the devastation in the Ninth Ward and other areas. Seeing the severity of it, and being able to do something tangible to help out, no matter how small, had a tremendous impact on our students.”

While many students decide to use their spring break as way to unwind, Alternative Spring Break is a great chance for students looking to make a difference during their time away from SDSU.
**Real Estate 101 – It’s Always Better To Own Than Rent**

By Andrew Rosenberg

With today’s low interest rates and home values continuing to rise, more and more parents of college-aged students are choosing to make the wise investment and purchase a condominium for their student to live in rather than rent. Investment savvy parents are realizing that they can build substantial equity in San Diego’s attractive real estate market while providing a nice home for their son or daughter to live in during their college years.

San Diego home values have increased steadily since 1996 due to San Diego’s diverse economy and attractive lifestyle, which attracts people to the region. Economists expect San Diego real estate to continue to perform well in the future. By purchasing a condominium for their college student, parents can forgo the monthly rental bills and instead opt for monthly mortgage payments, which provide tax benefits, and at the same time, build equity. After their student graduates, many of these parents either sell the property, rent it out to other students or faculty, or give it to their students to start them on the path of home ownership.

Consider that current rents around the SDSU area average around $1,350/month for a two bedroom/two bath home. After paying four years of rent, the conservative yearly increases of $50 per month, the total comes to $68,400. After graduation, the student gives up the home with nothing to show for that $68,400 investment.

Instead, suppose that the student’s parents buy him or her a condominium complex a mile from SDSU, has a two bedroom/two bath home available for $319,990. A 20 percent down payment would cost $64,000. Using a very conservative appreciation rate of 5 percent a year, that condo could be worth $388,950 in four years, an increase in worth of 21.6 percent. That profit of $68,960 reflects a 10.8 percent return on the initial $64,000 investment. And, the tax savings realized through property ownership would mean even more money back in the parents’ pockets.

Based on the scenario outlined above, the monthly mortgage payment would be approximately $1,334*. Adding in homeowners’ association dues and property taxes would bring the monthly payments to $1,958. However, in the 28 percent federal tax bracket and 9.3 percent state tax bracket can expect to realize a tax savings of approximately $579 a month*. Deducting the tax savings from the monthly payment amount leaves a net payment of $1,379 a month, almost exactly the same amount as the rent payment on a similar home.

Factor in the added benefit of realizing income from the sale of the property, and purchasing the condo becomes extremely attractive. After four years, renters will have expended $68,400 with a zero return, while buyers will have expended a $64,992 after tax savings with the ability to sell the home with a potential $68,960 profit. And by purchasing a condominium rather than a single family home, parents need not worry about hiring someone to maintain the property, since homeowner association fees cover the cost of maintenance. And, the concentration of homes within a condominium complex provides security and a built-in social network.

Now you see why purchasing is becoming more and more popular among the parents of college-aged students in the San Diego area.

Andrew Rosenberg is the Director of Marketing for Premier Coastal Development, one of San Diego County’s largest condominium developers. He can be reached via email at www.PremierCoastal.com, or clicking on the “contact us” icon.

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Students Drive DUI P.A.C.E. Car

According to SDPD Community Relations Officer Mark McCullough, the P.A.C.E. Car Program offers students a visual representation of a heighten alcohol level. Under controlled conditions, students were able to drive the obstacle course set up near Aztec Center, and were even allowed to take a friend along for the ride.

"First, students drive the course," says McCullough, "then students drive the course a second time wearing the Fatal Vision goggles, also known as ‘beer goggles.’"

Susan Henry, AOD health educator in SDSU’s Student Health Services, calls the P.A.C.E. Car Program an opportunity to teach students the consequences of harmful decisions without actually driving under the influence.

"This is an interactive program to show students how little control they actually have when they are under the influence of alcohol," said Henry.

McCullough elaborates that often times high school and college-aged students have a bulletproof mentality: the feeling of invincibility.

"So many students think, ‘it won’t happen to me,’" says McCullough. "They think they can drive with a few drinks in their system, and they’ll be fine."

Second-year SDSU student Scott Crane participated in the program.

"When I put the goggles on I felt like I was entering a whole new world," says Crane. "It was amazing!"

The goggles are designed to simulate a Blood Alcohol Level (BAL) of 0.17. This alcohol level translates to about seven drinks for a male weighing 160 lbs, and about four drinks for a female weighing 120 lbs.

McCullough warns that a BAL of 0.17 will vary for people depending on their body size, if they have recently eaten, and if they’re physically active (i.e. dancing) or inactive during the time they’re drinking.

"People who are physically active while drinking could consume six to seven drinks before reaching a BAL of 0.17. For those who are just drinking, it could take as few as three to five drinks to reach that same level," McCullough says the goggles make a person feel woozy — as if they’re under the influence. "When people are wearing the goggles they realize that they are vulnerable, and don’t always have control."

After driving the obstacle course, students were able to take off the goggles and view the cones they knocked over.

According to Henry and McCullough, SDSU is the first university in the region to have the P.A.C.E. Car visit its campus. Over 800 students had an opportunity to drive, ride as a passenger in, or observe the driving behaviors of others in a simulated interactive driving environment.

"Hopefully the DUI P.A.C.E. Car will be able to visit SDSU every semester," said Henry.

For more information about the DUI P.A.C.E. Car Program, contact Mark McCullough at safecop@yahoo.com, or call (858) 495-7822.
IMPORTANT SDSU DATES

APRIL
19 Saba, Live-music performance, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
19 Open-Mic Night, 7 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
24 Tyler Richardson, Live-music performance, 4:30 – 6 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
25 Diversity Career Fair, 9:30 am – 2 pm, Centennial Mall. Discuss traditional and non-traditional careers with employers. Open to all majors.
26 Will Edwards, Live-music performance, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
27 Greek Life, Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC)/Panhellenic Banquet
27 “Take Back the Night,” 6 – 9 pm, Aztec Center. An evening of events designed to raise awareness of violence against women.*

MAY
1 Woodworks Clarinet Quartet performs, 4:30 – 6 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
2 – 5 Hand Craft Faire, 9 am – 5 pm, Campanile Walk
3 Josh Halls, Live-music performance, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
3 Study Abroad Workshop, Pertains to All Countries, 4:30 pm, International Student Center
4 Greek Life, United Fraternity & Sorority Council (USFC) Banquet
8 Sax Culture, Live-music performance, 4:30 – 6 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
11 – 14 FINALS! Send Cookies!
18 All residence halls close for the academic year. Licensee should leave by 8 pm on the day of his/her last final, but in no case later than 4 pm on this date.**
19 Saba, Live-music performance, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
24 Tyler Richardson, Live-music performance, 4:30 – 6 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
25 Diversity Career Fair, 9:30 am – 2 pm, Centennial Mall. Discuss traditional and non-traditional careers with employers. Open to all majors.
26 Will Edwards, Live-music performance, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Aztec Center Starbucks
27 Greek Life, Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC)/Panhellenic Banquet
27 “Take Back the Night,” 6 – 9 pm, Aztec Center. An evening of events designed to raise awareness of violence against women.*

* For more information contact the Women’s Resource Center at (619) 594-5430.
** For more information call the Office of Housing Administration at (619) 594-5742.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

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

MEN’S BASEBALL
4/21 UNLV Las Vegas 6:30 pm
4/22 UNLV Las Vegas 2 pm
4/23 UNLV Las Vegas 1 pm
4/25 Long Beach State Long Beach 6:30 pm
4/28 TCU Tony Gwynn Stadium 6 pm
4/29 – 30 TCU Tony Gwynn Stadium 1 pm
5/2 San Diego Tony Gwynn Stadium 6 pm
5/5 Air Force Colorado Springs, CO 2 pm MDT
5/6 – 7 Air Force Colorado Springs, CO 12 pm MDT
5/9 UC Irvine Tony Gwynn Stadium 6 pm
5/11 – 12 BYU Provo, UT 7 pm MDT
5/13 BYU Provo, UT 1 pm MDT

WOMEN’S SOFTBALL
4/21 Colorado State (Games 1 & 2) Fort Collins, CO 1 & 3 pm MDT
4/23 New Mexico (Games 1 & 2) Albuquerque 12 & 2 pm MDT
4/29 UNLV (Games 1 & 2) Las Vegas 6 & 7 pm
5/4 BYU (Games 1 & 2) SDSU Stadium 6 & 7 pm
5/7 Utah (Games 1 & 2) SDSU Stadium 1 & 3 pm
5/11 – 13 MWC Championships Las Vegas All Day

MEN’S GOLF
4/27 – 29 MWC Championships Sunriver, OR All Day

WOMEN’S GOLF
4/20 – 22 MWC Championships St. George, UT All Day
5/11 – 13 NCAA Regionals Location TBD All Day
5/23 – 26 NCAA Championships Columbus, OH All Day

MEN’S TENNIS
4/16 TCU Salt Lake City, UT 1 pm MDT
4/27 – 29 MWC Championships San Diego Barnes Tennis Center All Day
5/13 – 14 NCAA Regionals San Diego Location TBA All Day
5/20 – 29 NCAA Finals Stanford, CA All Day

WOMEN’S TENNIS
4/19 San Diego Aztec Tennis Center 2 pm
4/27 – 29 MWC Championships San Diego Barnes Tennis Center All Day
5/12 – 13 NCAA Regionals Location TBA Time TBA
5/17 – 5/22 NCAA Finals Location TBA Time TBA

WOMEN’S CREW
4/23 Miller Cup Regatta La Balonia Creek Marina Del Rey, CA All Day
4/29 – 30 WIRA Championship Rancho Cordova, CA Lake Natoma All day
5/14 Pac-10 Rowing Championships Rancho Cordova, CA Lake Natoma All Day

WOMEN’S TRACK
4/21 – 22 UCSD Invitational San Diego 9 am
4/27 – 29 Penn Relays Philadelphia, PA 10 am EDT
5/6 Oxy Invitational Los Angeles 5 pm
5/10 – 13 MWC Outdoor Championship Provo, UT 10 am MDT
5/26 – 27 NCAA Regional Championships Provo, UT 4 pm MDT
6/7 – 10 NCAA Outdoor Championship Sacramento Time TBA

WOMEN’S WATER POLO
4/20 UC San Diego (Harper Cup) La Jolla, CA 6 pm
4/22 Arizona State Tempe, AZ 12 pm
4/28 – 30 MPSF Championships Irvine, CA All Day
5/12 – 14 NCAA Championships Davis, CA All Day

WOMEN’S WATER POLO
4/20 UC San Diego (Harper Cup) La Jolla, CA 6 pm
4/22 Arizona State Tempe, AZ 12 pm
4/28 – 30 MPSF Championships Irvine, CA All Day
5/12 – 14 NCAA Championships Davis, CA All Day

San Diego State Aztecs
Make it to the NCAA Playoffs

Aztec men’s basketball clinched the Mountain West Conference (MWC) tournament to win a spot in the NCAA tournament, the first time since 2002. The Aztecs beat Wyoming 69-64 in overtime in the MWC tournament on March 11. That earned them a first round game in the NCAA tournament against Indiana. Unfortunately, the Hoosiers beat the Aztecs 87-83 in a gut-wrenching game where the Aztecs had maintained the lead until the final seconds. The game was played in Salt Lake City on March 16.

Forward Mohamed Abukar scored 24 points to lead SDSU. According to the Associated Press, SDSU shot 56 percent and “outlasted, outsmarted and outplayed” the Hoosiers for most of the evening. The Aztecs maintained a lead by one point up until the last 40 seconds of the game.

A great deal of school spirit was felt on Montezuma Mesa during the first week of March Madness. A large group rallied to support coach Steve Fisher and his men’s basketball team. The university has high hopes that they will do even better next year. Go Aztecs!