Discover ‘What Moves You’ during SDSU Month, March 2007

Mark your calendars for Explore SDSU on March 17, 2007. The fifth annual SDSU Month celebration honoring San Diego State University’s “Minds that Move the World” is returning in March 2007.

Join students, faculty and staff to celebrate the contributions the university has made to the San Diego community. From teaching and research, to community service, discover what moves today’s SDSU students.

SDSU Month is filled with activity, featuring dozens of arts, academic and athletic events, including the Explore SDSU open house Saturday, March 17. Explore SDSU is a great opportunity to learn all about what SDSU has to offer. This year’s open house will feature a Family Zone with activities for kids and families, including KPBS character readings from some of public television’s most popular characters. There will be “villages” around campus with free exhibits, tours, live entertainment and more.

The Tony Gwynn Hall of Fame Classic will take place on March 10 at Petco Park as part of SDSU Month. Watch Aztec Baseball take on the University of Michigan at 7 pm, and U.S.D. vs. Oklahoma immediately before at 3 pm. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased online at www.sdsumonth.com.

Throughout SDSU Month, several local businesses and organizations will have special offers. Several of these will help raise funds for the SDSU Month Scholarship Challenge, which will provide financial assistance to some of SDSU’s outstanding students.

More information on SDSU Month 2007, including detailed lists of all events and special offers, will be available starting in January at www.sdsumonth.com.

SDSU Month sponsors and media partners include Associated Students, Aztec Shops, Cox Communications, Cox Business Series, The Daily Aztec, Geary Interactive, KPBS, Mi San Diego TV 43, NBC 7/39, Rubio’s Fresh Mexican Grill, San Diego Magazine, The San Diego Union-Tribune, the SDSU Alumni Association, the SDSU Research Foundation, STA Travel, Time Warner Cable, Univision Radio and U.S. Bank.

It’s appropriate that this year’s Summer Reading Program book author spoke to families during Family Weekend. Her book, Another Way Home: The Tangled Roots of Race in One Chicago Family, is, after all, a family memoir. Even though it is particular to her own family, the story portrays the closeness and commitment that resonates with many of the families at SDSU.

Hartfield’s book chronicles the life of her mother and discusses the racial mixing in her family over several generations. The underlying themes of the book turn out to be strength, humility, warmth and humor, all against the backdrop of racism in twentieth-century America.

“I chose to write my mother’s story quite simply because she was the most admirable woman I had known. My publisher said it’s rare to find a book by someone who actually loved her mother,” she joked. “But seriously, I found a lack of stories that celebrated the joyful life of mixed-race people and my goal was to show the dignity, courage and fullness of a life well lived as a mixed-race woman.”

Hartfield begins her chronicle with the early life of her mother, Day Shepherd. Born to a wealthy British plantation owner and the mixed-race daughter of a former slave, Day negotiates the complicated circumstances of plantation life in the border country of Louisiana and Mississippi, and, as she enters womanhood, in the societies of New Orleans. Another Way Home traces Day’s journey to Bronzeville, the epicenter of black Chicago during the first half of the twentieth century at the time of the Great Migration. Ultimately, Another Way Home is an intimate and compelling encounter with one family’s response to a racially charged culture.

“A memoir like this has the special capability for engaging a wide audience even though it is about one individual family,” said Hartfield. “It actually speaks to people with radically different backgrounds, as many people could relate to it and say ‘I know what that is like.’”

Hartfield said her biggest joy in coming to campus was meeting and talking with students.

“I was impressed on how open, honest and candid the students were in their questioning,” she said. “They really took a very thoughtful approach in the way they read my book.”

Hartfield spent her time on campus meeting with students over lunch before her open reception and lecture.

The Division of Student Affairs and a grant by the Aztec Parents Association sponsored Hartfield’s appearance.
The good news is that both our son and daughter are now in college, and both are at SDSU. We’re very happy about that. The bad news is that we now have to pay for two college educations. Even though SDSU is one of the most affordable four-year universities in the country, it’s still very hard for those of us living on a middle income. Can you give us some advice on financial options that can help ease our burden?

You are absolutely right that funding college expenses for low- to middle-income families has become harder in recent years. According to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, Margaret Spellings, “funds for college are at historic highs.” But you ask an excellent question, because there are options out there.

SDSU’s Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (OFAS) is where your student should start his or her research. Their Web site has a link full of information especially for parents http://startedsdsu.edu/faq/Parents/P-TOC.html

Basically, there are four options available:

- Loans: Borrowed money you and your student must repay with interest.
- Grants: Money that does not have to be repaid.
- Work Study: Money your student earns while enrolled in school to help pay for educational expenses.
- Scholarships: Money awarded to students who demonstrate certain qualities such as academic or athletic accomplishments, musical or artistic ability, or specialized fields of study. Scholarships do not need to be repaid.

The first three, loans, grants and work study, all require that you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) www.fafsa.ed.gov The FAFSA is the federal application for financial aid, but it may also be used to apply for aid from the state of California and from SDSU.

Help Your Student Develop a Credit Card Conscience

At a time when many college students are learning about financial independence and accountability, parents play a crucial role in helping their student to develop credit-wise habits.

According to a research study conducted by Nellie Mae, www.nelliemae.org, a national student loan financing organization, students are the ideal credit borrowers because they tend to stay loyal to their first credit card. The study found that 83 percent of college undergraduates have at least one credit card, and carry an average credit card balance of $2,327.

Norma Fields, manager of SDSU’s University Collections Office, advises parents to supervise their students when they first get a credit card and to inform them about the purpose of credit cards in order to avoid debt.

“Since students face many temptations when it comes to spending money, they need to be supervised and monitored when they first obtain a credit card, until it is clear that they are being responsible,” Fields said. “Fields recommends that parents discuss the proper use of credit cards with their student. “It’s important to teach students that credit cards should not be used in place of money. Instead, they should be used for emergencies such as car repairs or medical needs.”

Parents should also be aware of indicators that their student is having trouble maintaining his/her finances. “If a student is asking his or her parents for extra money – over the set allowance – parents should check with their student monthly to keep the spending from getting out of hand,” Fields said.

It can be a stressful and even embarrassing situation when a student finds himself or herself in debt for the first time. He or she may not want to readily share this information with his or her parents.

To ease a student’s concerns and help get to the bottom of the problem, Fields recommends parents approach their student “by communicating their love and concern for them, and by letting them know they are not the first to have problems managing their finances.” She advises parents to sit down with their student and work out a budget plan together on how to solve the problem.

Tips for students about establishing good credit, money management, debt counseling and how to create a budget can be found on SDSU’s Student Financial Services Web site, http://sfs.sdsu.edu/financialaid

FEDERAL DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN
• Discusses Parent PLUS Loan interest rates, repayment options, eligibility requirements, disbursement of checks, and provides the downloadable Parent PLUS Loan Request form.

PARENT’S CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM
• Parent PLUS Loan check is mailed to the address on file with the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
• Parent PLUS check is disbursed.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PIN REGISTRATION INFORMATION
• Explanation of why parents need a PIN and provides the link to the PIN Web page.

The Department of Education will make or guarantee more than $60 billion in low-cost student loans this year, which is $4 billion more than in 2005. According to Spellings, this money will assist a total of 10 million students – 413,000 more than last year.

This past year, the federal government created New Academic Competitiveness grants and SMART grants specifically for students majoring in math, science and foreign languages.

For complete details, visit www.sdsu.edu/financialaid

NEWS BRIEFS

SDSU Graduation Rates Reach New High

SDSU’s six-year graduation rate rose to 57.3 percent, up from 38.3 percent four years ago. The improved graduation rate equals to a difference of about 500 additional graduates this year compared with the number of students who graduated four years prior.

According to the most current available national data, SDSU’s six-year graduation rate is above the national average for large, public universities.

Four-year graduation rates also improved. Twenty-four percent of full-time freshmen who enrolled in fall 2002 completed their degree in 2006—a increase of 14.2 percent from just four years prior.

SDSU awarded 6,476 bachelor’s degrees during the 2005-2006 academic year.

The FAFSA may be submitted anytime after January 1, so now is the time to start filling it out and gathering your documents. First-time CAL Grant applicants must submit the FAFSA before March 2, 2007. Your best bet is to apply as early as possible.

Scholarships have a different application process and deadlines (see related story on page 3). There are three scholarship application filing periods at SDSU:

- Fall: mid-August through mid-October
- Spring 1: mid-November through mid-February
- Spring 2: mid-March through April

The SDSU Web site provides detailed steps and information that will help guide your student through this process. Specifically, it has the following information:

STEPS TO FINANCIAL AID

- Provides you assistance to help your student understand the financial aid process.

Step 1: Apply for Financial Aid
- Step 2: Request for Additional Documents
- Step 3: Application Review
- Step 4: How Financial Aid is Awarded
- Step 5: Disbursement: Receiving Financial Aid Funds

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Help your student calculate educational expenses for a 9-month period.
Scholarships Web site, For more information, visit the SDSU Office of Financial Aid and basis. First-time Cal Grant applicants must apply on or before March 2. Students should submit their FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible, Department of Education.

Scholarships Today! Students can Apply for SDSU Scholarships Today! Your student may be eligible for one of the many scholarships offered through SDSU.


Emotional Well-Being

The lives of most college students are filled with emotional highs and lows. Students often encounter times when they need a little extra help. If you are concerned about your son or daughter, SDSU’s Counseling and Psychological Services (C&PS) is the place to go. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from counseling services, C&PS therapists want to talk directly with your student by phone for a brief 10 to 15 minute consultation. This conversation will allow the therapist to hear his or her concerns and help identify the best way for him or her to get the help needed. You are also welcome to call and discuss your concerns and how you might best be able to help your son or daughter. Call C&PS at (619) 594-5220 between the hours of 9:30 am and 4 pm to ask for a consultation with one of the therapists. Please remember that if, at any time, your son or daughter is struggling with a psychological emergency, a counselor will be made available to speak with him or her immediately.

Examples of emergencies can include, but are not limited to, the following issues your son or daughter might be going through:

- Grieving the recent death of a family member or friend
- The survivor of a rape or physical assault
- Considering harming him or herself or someone else

C&PS also encourages students to use San Diego’s free 24-hour counseling access line at 1-800-479-3339. The well-trained professional staff are not only available 24 hours a day for immediate assistance regarding a psychological emergency, but are also very skilled in locating the additional counseling resources in our San Diego community.

Time to Reapply for Financial Aid

ow is the time for students to reapply for financial aid for the 2007-2008 academic year. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed for each academic year, online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students who applied for financial aid through the FAFSA last year can complete a Renewal FAFSA by simply updating their information, along with that of their parents. If parents have not yet completed their federal tax returns, they may use estimated income tax information to complete the FAFSA. Students can update and correct the income tax information on the FAFSA Web site at a later date.

In November and December, students received two e-mail messages reminding them to reapply for financial aid. One message was from the SDSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and the other from the U.S. Department of Education.

The spring semester is almost here, and now is a good time to discuss some important issues with your son or daughter to make sure they get off to a good start in 2007.

SDSU Citizenship

What does it mean to be a good citizen in a college setting? In short, there are a few modes of conduct that the university expects of all students:

- Academic conduct that reflects the highest level of honesty and integrity.
- Actions that are civil, courteous and respectful of all members of the campus community, their property, and the property of the university.
- Social behavior that encourages responsibility, and discourages the unlawful use of alcohol, illicit drugs and weapons.
- Group behavior that promotes mutual respect, equality and safety of its members, and opposes those acts that harass, intimidate or haze its members.

A useful resource for both students and parents is the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities found at www.sdsu.edu/err.

Health

With the New Year come resolutions, often for healthier habits to improve or maintain one’s physical well being. SDSU’s Student Health Services (SHS), which last year moved into a much larger home on campus, provides comprehensive health care options for your student. Services include: a nurse clinic, pharmacy; urgent care, radiology, laboratory, immunizations, clinical research trials, optometry, and health promotion, which includes peer health educators and the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) initiatives.

The AOD Initiatives office serves as a resource to the SDSU community for AOD-related programming. Services include AOD education presentations, policy and program coordination, community outreach, resource development and research.

Students who applied for financial aid through the FAFSA last year can complete a Renewal FAFSA by simply updating their information, along with that of their parents. If parents have not yet completed their federal tax returns, they may use estimated income tax information to complete the FAFSA. Students can update and correct the income tax information on the FAFSA Web site at a later date. Another application cycle begins March 5 and continues through May 7.

Scholarships for a particular course of study, scholarships that are available regardless of major, or a list by application deadline.

By visiting the Web site, students can take advantage of the free SDSU scholarships search. The free search results can produce a list of scholarships for a particular course of study, scholarships that are available regardless of major, or a list by application deadline.

All SDSU scholarships require an application, an essay and an academic transcript. Other requirements may apply, depending on the scholarship. The Web site also features application and essay writing tips.

Scholarship applications for the 2007-2008 academic year were made available November 6, 2006, and will continue through February 5. Another application cycle begins March 5 and continues through May 7.

Don’t let a potential scholarship pass by your student. Take advantage of SDSU’s free scholarship search, and encourage your student to apply today!
Plan Early for Commencement 2007

Commencement 2007: Thursday, May 17 – Sunday, May 20

Commencement 2007 is only a few months away. The first graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 17, will be for Imperial Valley Campus graduates. On Friday, services will be held on the main SDSU campus for graduates in the colleges of Health and Human Services and Arts and Letters; on Saturday, for Business Administration, and for Professional Studies and Fine Arts; and finally, on Sunday, for Education/Undergraduate Studies, and the colleges of Sciences and Engineering.

Separate, smaller ceremonies will be hosted for individual majors, with specific times and locations to be finalized in February. Check the Commencement Web site for details, which will be linked from the SDSU main Web page in early spring.

If your son or daughter will be graduating, we know you’ll be planning a trip to San Diego for that special weekend. The Aztec Parents Association arranges special discounts for parents, family and friends, for car rental and lodging at various San Diego hotels to help keep your costs to a minimum. See below for complete details or visit www.sdsu.edu/aztecparents, and click on “Special Travel Discounts.”

Note: Be sure to reserve your hotel accommodations well in advance, as thousands of families will be staying in San Diego for Commencement weekend. It is also a good idea to make any restaurant reservations in advance, as they also fill up quickly.

2007 Commencement Schedule

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<th>TIME</th>
<th>THURSDAY, MAY 17</th>
<th>FRIDAY, MAY 18</th>
<th>SATURDAY, MAY 19</th>
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<td>Professional Studies and Fine Arts</td>
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<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Arts and Letters</td>
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<td>Sciences and Engineering</td>
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<td>Imperial Valley Campus</td>
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Travel Discounts Available for Aztec Parents

Special Discounts on Hotels and Airport Transportation for SDSU Aztec Parents, Family, and Friends. Just ask for the “SDSU Friends and Family Rate!”

To inquire about “SDSU Friends and Family Rate” and to check out hotel amenities, call or view the Web sites.

To ensure the special rates, ask for the “SDSU Friends and Family Rate” when you make your reservations. All special rates are based on availability.

**Hotel Information**

- **TOWN AND COUNTRY HOTEL**
  Phone: (800) 772-8527
  Web site: www.towncountry.com
  If you want to make hotel reservations online, go to their reservations page, click on "Corporate Rates" (middle of the page, in blue) and enter “SDSU” as the Corporate Account Rate Code.

- **BEST WESTERN LAMPLIGHTER INN & SUITES**
  Phone: (619) 582-3088 or (800) 545-0778
  Address: 6474 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92115
  Web site: www.bestwestern.com/prop_05601
  Distance to SDSU: less than one mile

**Airport Transportation Information**

- **THE DANA ON MISSION BAY**
  Phone: (800) Dana-Inn (800-326-3466)
  Address: 1710 W Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA 92108
  Web site: www.thedana.net

- **DAYS INN**
  Phone: (800) 227-4743
  Address: 543 Hotel Circle South, San Diego, CA 92108
  Web site: www.daysinnhc.com

- **HERTZ AT THE SAN DIEGO AIRPORT**
  Once you arrive in San Diego, reference the “SDSU Friends and Family Rate” at the Hertz counter and ask for a manager in order to receive the 20% discount rate.

- **CLOUD 9 SHUTTLE SERVICE**
  Price: Range ($8-$20) depending on the location the passenger is being dropped off. These rates apply to the Old Town area, Mission Valley area, and the College area west of SDSU.
  Phone: 1-800-9-SHUTTLE (800-974-8885)

For more information, visit www.sdsu.edu/aztecparents and click on "Special Travel Discounts.”
Aztect Parent Steve Eklund is happy that his son chose San Diego State in spite of the fact that it is more than 600 miles away from their home.

Steve and his wife Barbara are the proud parents of SDSU junior Todd Eklund and their high-school aged daughter, Allison. The family resides in Granite Bay, in Northern California near Sacramento. “We are very pleased with Todd’s decision to attend SDSU. He is doing well and maturing very nicely with the aid of all at the university,” said Steve.

Steve said Todd chose SDSU because of its location and its business school reputation. “First he wanted to get a little distance from home,” said Steve. “As an incoming freshman, I am sure that going to school in Southern California and somewhere near the beach had a much greater appeal to Todd than the academic program. Todd originally was a business major, but he has subsequently changed to economics. After some research he opted for SDSU over a number of other schools. It was pretty much his decision with a little bit of input from his parents.”

Steve admitted that he did have a few minor reservations about SDSU. “We are extremely pleased with the selection of SDSU, but my original concerns were the size of the school and the number of students and how that might affect Todd’s ability to get the necessary classes to graduate in four years,” said Steve. “Perhaps we have been fortunate, but getting the necessary classes has not been an issue. Todd is well on his way to graduating on time — I hope this statement doesn’t come back to haunt me!”

As Todd is the first of their offspring to leave the nest, Steve said he and Barbara were also concerned about Todd’s ability to adapt to living and learning in a new environment so far from home. “Todd has adapted very nicely to his new surroundings and actually wishes to come home every now and then,” said Steve. “I consider it more of a privilege and an honor to be a member of the Parents Board,” said Steve. “It is a way to stay in touch with Todd’s campus life while assisting the university with a very important program. It makes me very aware of the various life alternatives, activities, and challenges that the students face while attending college. Another aspect is that it allows us to communicate with other parents who are in similar circumstances. I have enjoyed meeting other parents at the various university programs.”

According to Michelle DuBord, SDSU’s parent programs coordinator, Steve participates in just about every event he can — from orientation to convocation to Family Weekend and regional meetings.

“Probably the most memorable event was last year’s move-in day, where I helped with the Parents Association tent outside the residence halls,” said Steve. “I helped answer questions, dispensed much needed bottled water in the 100-degree heat, and most importantly, I didn’t have to carry Todd’s stuff to his room that year. It was a very busy day but I enjoyed it very much.”

When asked what he thinks is the most important aspect of the Aztec Parents Advisory Board, he said helping to allocate the money raised by the Aztec Parents Association to those programs that make a meaningful difference to students. “When I review the various proposals, along with the other board members, I like to see the funds going to programs that have the greatest impact on as many students as possible,” said Steve. “In my opinion, programs that impact academics, campus safety, and student social/lifestyle choices are places that the Parents Fund can make a difference. With the current budget constraints, public universities cannot fund each and every program that they would like to offer, so the Parents Fund can assist with these programs that can have a big impact on the students’ lives.”

Both Steve and Barbara, who attended college in the Midwest, see a big difference in today’s college experiences for students. “Going to school in California, much less San Diego, offers so much more cultural diversity than what we had,” said Steve. “It is my impression that it is much more competitive today than when I attended college. The number of students, the impacted academic programs, the struggle to get the proper courses, and of course the expense of a college education are all considerably different in today’s world.”

“Social pressures are different, we had our issues then and Todd and other college students have theirs today. Consequences for choices are certainly different today than they were for us 25 to 30 years ago. As an example, underage drinking and driving under the influence can set your whole life back today. Then, it did not carry the same penalties. Also, the importance of getting a college degree today is more economically critical than in the past, and with that comes added competition.”

Steve owns his own business providing investment counseling and management to both individuals and companies, while Barbara works in the educational field.

“I spent many years working for large companies and traveled extensively,” said Steve. “A few years back, I decided it was time to cut back on the travel and established my own business. We cover the whole spectrum of financial services from retirement plans to individual portfolio services. I have recently merged my practice with an old friend who is retiring after doing the same type of work for 42 years. The name of the business is Auburn Tridea, located in the Sierra foothills, the heart of the gold country.”

When asked what advice he’d give to parents of new college students now that he’s had the experience for a couple of years, Steve had three things to say. “I probably was told these things but perhaps didn’t listen at the time,” said Steve. “The first thing would be that our son would be fine without us being there every day. Even if the road is a little bumpy, he would get to his destination.”

“Secondly, how fast the time goes. It seems like only yesterday when we were trying to help figure out the enrollment, curriculum, finances, and housing issues of an incoming freshman. Todd is well past the midpoint of getting his undergraduate degree and he will soon be making plans for his life beyond SDSU. How fast the time goes.”

“Last thing, nobody told me how much my grocery bill would decrease when he went away to school,” Steve said with a chuckle.
The Student Academic Success Center may be to the student’s benefit, and match students with a tutor best suited to beginning either of the programs. The application and interview process are support program, and an on-going, drop-in academic support program.

Taking place each weekend, Aztec Nights offers entertainment, fun and a chance for students to make new friends at SDSU. 

“We want students to be healthy, to be involved with their peers, and to be successful at SDSU,” said Hess. “Through the generosity of the Aztec Parents Association, we’ve been able to create a forum that supports the achievement of those goals. We are extremely grateful.”

Nearly 4,000 residents live on campus. Many residents are underage and/or do not have a car, and they may seek out nearby house parties for weekend entertainment.

“The majority of our students living in the residence halls are under 21 years old,” Hess said. “Of that majority, some are only 17.”

While the program is aimed toward students living on campus, Aztec Nights attracts and accommodates all SDSU students, said Hess. Recent Aztec Nights events included the Red & Black Welcome Back dance that more than 200 students attended; Battle of the Sexes trivia game, where men and women flexed their mental muscles; Oktoberfest, which included a live concert; Aztec Idol, modeled after the popular TV show; and a Halloween Monster Mash that featured a costume contest.

“We’re providing a valuable service to our students,” Hess said. “We’re helping students make their time at SDSU more memorable through safe and fun social involvement opportunities conveniently located on campus.”

For more information about Aztec Nights, contact the Residential Education Office at (619) 594-5742.

W
ith the opening of the Student Academic Success Center (SASC) in 2006, the Centers for Student Involvement introduced a new program that promotes campus involvement and provides academic assistance.

“The Student Academic Success Center is a place where students can find academic help from our student-tutors. It’s also a great place for students to help their peers, by becoming a tutor,” said Farzad Nikbakht, coordinator of the Student Academic Success Center.

The SASC has two program options: A comprehensive academic support program, and an on-going, drop-in academic support program.

Students fill out an application and undergo an interview process before beginning either of the programs. The application and interview process are implemented to help administrators determine which SASC program will most complement the student’s needs, identify other university programs that may be to the student’s benefit, and match students with a tutor best suited to meet their needs.

“While it helps if students come in early in the semester, or as soon as they begin having trouble in a class, students can seek out the services of the SASC anytime during the semester,” Nikbakht said.

The comprehensive program is aimed at helping students who are on Academic Probation, or who are receiving a grade of C- or lower in a math and/or English/writing class. Students are required to attend tutoring sessions twice a week, and will work with their assigned tutor to set academic goals and develop an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP). The ILP works to determine specific strengths and weaknesses the student is experiencing in his/her class(es), while enhancing a variety of general study skills such as time management and test taking.

The on-going, drop-in program is designed for students who do not require regular weekly meetings, but who would like extra support in a math and/or English/writing class. Students in this program can periodically stop by the SASC to visit a tutor.

Due to the newness of the program, the SASC has been able to accommodate students who do not meet all of the program’s admission requirements. As the SASC’s notoriety grows and space becomes limited, the admission requirements to the SASC will be more closely monitored.

“We don’t turn any student down. If we cannot provide them with academic assistance, then we’ll put them in contact with a campus resource that can,” Nikbakht said.

While students can pay up to $35 an hour for a private tutor, all services at the SASC are free.

Nikbakht reiterated the uniqueness of the SASC in comparison to off-campus tutoring centers. “We provide our tutors with the structure and training that is necessary to elicit learning. Part of our tutor training is showing them how to empower students.”

Students and tutors are paired up based on compatible personalities and learning/teaching styles. During the pairing process, the SASC staff looks for patterns that will benefit and facilitate the learning/teaching process.

“We foster dialogue and discussion at the SASC — it enables us to educate students at a higher level,” Nikbakht added. “Students always have a voice at the SASC. They always have an opportunity to express their concerns with the program and/or their tutor, for our review.”

Currently, the SASC offers tutoring services in two subject areas: math and English/writing.

“Ultimately, we’d like to become a resource where students can get help with subjects beyond math and English,” Nikbakht said. “Ideally, the SASC will be a place where students can get help in a variety of areas.”

For more information about the Student Academic Success Center, visit www.sa.sdsu.edu/studentinvolvement/sasc or call (619) 594-5221.
Conception Cuevas Finds Her Voice and a Purpose

I’ve always had a voice — that’s what got me into trouble as a kid,” said San Diego State University junior Conception Cuevas. “I grew up thinking that having a voice, being vocal was bad.”

Conception is now using her voice to speak on behalf of foster children.

As a child, she spent 12 years in the foster care system. She lived in 12 different home placements and attended 24 different schools, eight of which were high schools.

In her teens, Conception said she realized that education was a way to a better life. This revelation triggered something in Conception, motivating her to do well in high school and aspire for college.

“I was taking classes at an adult continuation school, a regular high school and enrolled in a learning center — just to graduate on time,” said Conception, who fell behind in her studies from being moved around so many times.

After successfully graduating from high school, Conception went on to earn her associate’s degree at Southwestern Community College.

“At one point I transferred to SDSU,” she said. “I’ve worked so hard to get here (SDSU). Now I’m going to enjoy it.”

Conception is determined to make the most of her time at SDSU. She has even cut back on some personal endeavors to become involved in campus organizations.

Outside of school, Conception works part-time at the YMCA as a youth advocate/job developer in a transitional program that helps homeless and/or former foster kids develop life skills necessary for employment. She teaches the young adults how to write a check or a résumé – skills she says “no one teaches you when you’re on your own.”

Aside from the full course load she’s taking at SDSU and her job at the YMCA, Conception makes time to volunteer in the community.

“Volunteering holds a very special place in Conception’s heart. It is something she ‘just does’ without hesitation, with much love,” Conception said she first realized the life changing impact of volunteers at 15 years old when she was assigned a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

“My sisters and I never lived in the same home placement. It was because of my CASA that the three of us were able to remain in contact throughout the years and develop that sister bond.”

Today, Conception lends her voice as a volunteer panel speaker for Voices for Children, San Diego; ANGELS Foster Family Agency; Infants in Crisis Project, San Diego; and CASA on the state and national levels.

She has also worked for the past several years at the Polinsky Children’s Center, a temporary emergency shelter for children who are removed from their parents as a safety measure.

In October, Conception spoke alongside SDSU alumni and New York Times best-selling author Cupcake Brown to an audience of more than 300 during a fundraising event for the Infants in Crisis Project.

“I volunteer for many reasons,” Conception said. “I want to make a difference. That’s why I do it.”

Conception is a source of inspiration and motivation to the many lives her story touches. An advocate and firm believer in second chances, Conception turned her life around and is now helping many others do the same.

She is able to reflect on her past and say that all things, good or bad, happen for a reason. “Yes, at times I lived through hell and wanted to just disappear, but I was able to turn those experiences around and say: ‘I want better for myself.’

“Through everything I went through, my sisters were always my motivation because they want to do everything their big sister does,” she said.

Last year all the Cuevas sisters reached legal age. The three young women were able to independently share the same home for the first time in 15 years. Conception’s sisters have since followed in her footsteps and enrolled in college.

Conception is studying Criminal Justice at SDSU. She hopes one day to become an effective member of the same system that she says failed her as a child.

“Law enforcement has been a part of my life since I was 6 years old. I’d like to work with the FBI or DEA, doing investigative undercover stuff.”

The message Conception continues to share: “Never give up. There’s always a way. Always, always a way!”

Conception Cuevas
SDSU student

“Never give up. There’s always a way. Always, always a way!”

Student Profile:

SDSU Researchers Discover How to Avoid Liver Injury Caused by Certain Cholesterol-Fighting Drugs — Discovery Opens Door to Improved Treatments

Last semester, San Diego State University researchers discovered that blocking the activity of two genes that control the production of lipoproteins reduces blood levels of “bad cholesterol” without causing fat retention in the liver.

This discovery provides new opportunities to develop drugs shown to be effective in reducing bad cholesterol and heart disease, but without the side effect of fatty deposits on the liver.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health, SDSU Heart Institute researchers Roger Davis, Nathan Spann and other team members found that by inhibiting two proteins, microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTP) and liver fatty acid-binding protein (L-FABP), liver production of lipoproteins, or the protein-coated packages that carry fat and cholesterol through the bloodstream, can be blocked without causing triglycerides to build up on the liver.

Normally, these two complementary proteins work together to produce fat and package it into lipoproteins.

Prior to this discovery, pharmaceutical company researchers proved that MTP controlled liver production of lipoproteins. In the 1990s, several drug companies developed MTP inhibitors that were effective in reducing blood levels of bad cholesterol in animals and in humans. Initially, the discovery of MTP inhibitors was seen as a “magic bullet” to reduce heart disease characterized by hardening of the arteries. However, it was discovered that MTP inhibitors also caused fatty liver and could not be used safely in humans. Their further development was discontinued.

“This discovery will resurrect the drug development of MTP inhibitors, so they can be used safely and effectively to lower cholesterol in combination with L-FABP inhibitors,” said Davis, who has been working toward this discovery for 30 years. “Additionally, MTP inhibitors appear to be more effective and more easily tolerated than statins.”

Statins are the most commonly used drugs for reducing bad cholesterol in blood. They work by removing bad cholesterol from the blood, whereas MTP inhibitors work by blocking its production by the liver. There are some individuals who cannot tolerate statins or do not respond to treatment.

Currently, Davis and Spann are conducting experiments on developing dual MTP-L-FABP inhibitors. Additionally, the San Diego State University Research Foundation has already filed a patent for their discovery.

“Being part of a discovery that someday might help human disease is one of the most rewarding aspects of completing my Ph.D. thesis,” Spann said.

The American Heart Association estimates more than 1.2 million Americans will have their first or a recurrent heart attack this year. Approximately 790,000 of them will die.

In 2006, the Centers for Disease Control project that heart disease will cost the U.S. economy an estimated $142.5 billion, including costs incurred due to health care services, medicines and loss of productivity.

The SDSU Heart Institute is sponsored by SDSU’s College of Sciences and Health and Human Services.
Changes to On-Campus Housing Application Process

The Office of Housing Administration has implemented a new process for determining priority of on-campus housing assignments. Beginning this fall, on-campus housing will be assigned to students based on the date they made their Intent to Enroll payment upon admission to the university.

Like last year, the change in the housing application process will give priority for on-campus housing to residents who currently live in SDSU’s residence halls and current SDSU students.

Returning residents will receive priority for both space reservation and residence hall preference. As more than 70 percent of the on-campus population are first-year students, returning residents will more than likely receive their first or second choice in residence hall selection.

In past years, on-campus housing was assigned on a first come, first-served basis, with returning residents completing License Agreement contracts in March. Then in May all new students were assigned depending on the date students submitted their License Agreement contract and initial on-campus housing payment.

License Agreements will be made available online in the WebPortal early spring to all current and newly admitted students who have requested on-campus housing for the fall 2007 semester. Students are able to request on-campus housing through their WebPortal account.

Information packets explaining the new process will be distributed spring semester to current on-campus residents.

The Office of Housing Administration can be reached at (619) 594-5742, or online at www.sa.sdsu.edu/housing

*Note: Priority for on-campus housing will be based on the Intent to Enroll payment date as long as all License Agreement materials — including the $800 initial on-campus housing payment — are received by the university no later than June 1, 2007.

HELPING STUDENTS DEAL WITH STRESS THROUGH UNIQUE COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

DSU’s Counseling and Psychological Services (C&PS) should be viewed as a partner with parents to help students manage emotional stressors as they arise. C&PS promotes well-being and personal growth, and with the support of a grant from the Arctic Parents, has developed a Center for Well Being for SDSU students. As a parent, you are in an excellent position to recognize when your son or daughter is overly stressed, and to then encourage him or her to take good care of their emotional health by visiting our Center for Well Being.

Here are some of the relaxing and rejuvenating activities available at the Center for Well Being:

- Hands-on Exploration – interactive, hands-on activities with relaxation tips, art therapy, aromatherapy, and a Zen rock garden.
- Alpha Chamber – consists of an egg-shaped chair with built-in speakers and a television screen playing a video of your student’s choice. The video choices consist of varying topics to promote personal growth and relaxation by increasing alpha waves in the brain.
- Mental Stimulation – a wide selection of books and pamphlets and a quiet reading area.
- Meditation Station – contains a screen for privacy, a meditation mat and pillows. This station also includes a CD player with headphones with a variety of meditation CDs.
- Hear the Difference Station – an opportunity for students to manage the sounds in their environment. Varied selection of tapes and CDs that will help create a listening experience in a calm environment. A soothing water fountain flows in the background.
- Computerized Discovery – computers are equipped with programs specialized in self-discovery and relaxation. Online surveys and more information on the services provided by C&PS are also available.
- Nurtured by Nature – students will soon be able to relax outside in comfortable patio furniture, clearing their minds and sitting in tranquility.

Generally, with a little help, most students successfully negotiate the stressful challenges that are a natural part of college life. Sometimes, encouraging your son or daughter to seek professional counseling is also important. Therapists at C&PS want to talk directly with students in order to hear their concerns and identify the best way to get them the help they need. If your son or daughter is interested in talking with a therapist, please encourage him/ her to call at (619) 594-5220, Monday to Friday, 9:30 am to 4 pm to request a consultation.

For more information, visit the Counseling and Psychological Services Web site at www.sa.sdsu.edu/cps

NEWS BRIEFS

SDSU completed a comprehensive athletics self-study report as part of the certification process in the fall of 2005. President Stephen L. Weber appointed Vice President for Student Affairs James R. Kitchen to lead the steering committee that compiled the report. The committee included faculty, staff, administrators, student-athletes, members of the University Senate, and members of the community. Kitchen said, “We did a thorough and thoughtful self-analysis, and also sought public input. The certification is a tribute to the hard work we are doing at SDSU to put forth a quality athletic program and to comply with NCAA regulations.”

An external team of reviewers — peers from other universities, colleges, or conference offices — also conducted an on-campus evaluation visit last spring.

NCAA legislation mandating athletics certification was adopted in 1993. The purpose of athletics certification is to ensure integrity in an institution’s athletics program and to assist institutions in improving their athletics department. Visit www.goaztecs.com to learn more about SDSU athletics.
Bonnie Zimmerman Receives Student Affairs Partnership Award

During the Family Weekend breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 20, the Division of Student Affairs and the Aztec Parents Association presented its first Partnership Award to Bonnie Zimmerman, associate vice president for Faculty Affairs.

According to Vice President James R. Kitchen, the Partnership Award was conceived to formally recognize faculty or staff across campus who go the extra mile to promote student success at San Diego State University.

“Student Affairs’ main mission is student success,” said Kitchen. “Of course, I believe that everyone at the university hopes for this outcome; but we wanted to formally recognize an individual who works in tandem with Student Affairs to improve the quality of life for our students. There are many people at SDSU who do that, but Bonnie’s collaboration with us on projects that allows us to use resources wisely while ensuring student success across divisions.”

Provost Nancy Marlin agreed that Zimmerman was the ideal recipient of this year’s award.

“The award is a wonderful recognition of the good type of working relationships between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs,” said Marlin. “It is certainly well deserved by Bonnie. She is passionate about students.”

Zimmerman was instrumental in collaborating with Student Affairs on the new transfer student receptions; the new lecturer orientation; and implementation of the CSU Executive Order 970, which relates to better coordination and tracking of instances of academic dishonesty. All three of these initiatives have made a difference in the lives of students.

“We had a lot of feedback from both parents and students about the reception held in August,” said Janet Castro, director of new student and parent programs. “The overwhelming comment was that the reception made the university feel like a small private college instead of the large public university that it is. Students said that engaging with their faculty and deans prior to the start of classes was crucial to them. By carrying out the vision of Provost Marlin and Vice President Kitchen, Bonnie is the one who made that happen.”

Zimmerman worked closely with ombudsman D. A. Graham to develop the new lecturer orientation. This program helps part-time faculty and lecturers gain an understanding of SDSU’s policies and procedures and informs them about the culture of the campus, thus better serving students.

Implementing Executive Order 970, which addresses academic dishonesty, would not have been possible without faculty involvement, according to Rivera. He credits Zimmerman with enlisting faculty support.

“Working with Bonnie on these initiatives was very satisfying,” said Rivera. “She is an ideal example of someone who brings the kind of synergy to projects that allows us to use resources wisely while ensuring student success across divisions.”

Family Weekend 2006: A Great Time Had by All!

The ninth annual Family Weekend was a big hit with parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and the SDSU students who participated. Even faculty and staff who attended Family Weekend raved about the special times.

Families were everywhere—in the Bookstore, the Aztec Recreation Center (ARC), Aztec Center, the Library, and even in the classrooms. Students had the opportunity to pre-arrange with their professor to bring family members to their regular classrooms, and many parents jumped at the chance. More than 2,000 people attended Family Weekend—a record breaking number.

Friday, October 20 was the official start of Family Weekend. In keeping with tradition, the author of SDSU’s Summer Reading Program, attended the event with a special presentation and book signing. Ronnie Hartfield, author of Another Way Home: The Tangled Roots of Race in One Chicago Family, engaged the crowd in Montezuma Hall with the background of her family memoir (see related article on page 1).

The weather was beautiful for the Picnic and Serenade on Friday night. Families in attendance enjoyed dinner and dancing under the stars. The Picnic and Serenade is one of the most popular events of Family Weekend.

“Without a doubt, the picnic and serenade was my favorite aspect of Family Weekend,” said parent Judy Rose. “What fun!”

Families arrived at Montezuma Hall on Saturday morning for a special breakfast with many of SDSU’s key administrators, including President Stephen L. Weber, Provost Nancy Marlin, Vice President for Student Affairs James R. Kitchen, and Aztec Parents Board members Jon and Martha Karanopoulos.

“I really enjoyed hearing Dr. Marlin talk about the transition parents experience when they realize that yesterday they had a child, but today they have a college student—because that’s exactly how I’ve been feeling about my son Travis,” said parent Lisa McClane. “Her talk at the breakfast was warm and touching and it brought tears to my eyes.”

Marlin emphasized that parental involvement in the academic side of life does not end with high school, but she offered some advice to the parents of college students.

“I encourage regular communication but not overbearing communication,” said Marlin. “Remember that the communication you have with your college student may be fraught with frustration and difficulty. They are changing—and your relationship is changing as well. Sometimes the communication may seem one-sided.

Students said that interacting with their professors and deans prior to the start of classes was crucial to them. By carrying out the vision of Provost Marlin and Vice President Kitchen, Bonnie is the one who made that happen.”

Zimmerman worked closely with ombudsman D. A. Graham to develop the new lecturer orientation. This program helps part-time faculty and lecturers gain an understanding of SDSU’s policies and procedures and informs them about the culture of the campus, thus better serving students.

Implementing Executive Order 970, which addresses academic dishonesty, would not have been possible without faculty involvement, according to Rivera. He credits Zimmerman with enlisting faculty support.

“Working with Bonnie on these initiatives was very satisfying,” said Rivera. “She is an ideal example of someone who brings the kind of synergy to projects that allows us to use resources wisely while ensuring student success across divisions.”

“But the most important thing you can do is to resist the parental urge to fix problems, make everything right,” she continued. “Doing so is not respecting your son or daughter’s independence. It’s critical to their development and your actions could actually hinder their growth.”

Another highlight of the breakfast was awarding the first Student Affairs/Aztec Parents Association Partnership Award to Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs Bonnie Zimmerman (see related story above). Saturday’s breakfast concluded with a scholarship drawing.

A large contingent met up again at Qualcomm Stadium for a pre-game reception. School spirit was very high as families cheered on the Aztec football team against Air Force. San Diego State’s Garrett Palmer kicked a 30-yard field goal with two seconds left to lift the Aztecs to a 19-12 victory over their rival, giving San Diego State its first win of the season.
Homecoming 2006: Pirate’s Life for Me

Homecoming is an annual event where students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff can all take pride in celebrating the spirit of SDSU. SDSU brought in another lively Homecoming Week in 2006 with this year’s theme: Pirate’s Life for Me.

Homecoming Week 2006 kicked off on October 23 with the Associated Students’ Cultural Arts & Special Events (CASE) student organization competitions. Students took part in a banner-making competition, a talent show, a dance contest, a pep rally and a karaoke contest. As participation from student organizations increases, so does school spirit," said Jerome Budomo, interim coordinator of the Center for Community Based Service-Learning, who coordinated the homecoming activities. “We saw this at the pep rally. The more involvement we have from different organizations, the more people will remember how eventful and successful Homecoming was. We want students to have lasting memories of their time here at SDSU, and this is an opportunity to create them.”

The collaboration of students, parents, faculty, staff, the Alumni Association, Associated Students, Athletics, Aztec Shops Ltd., CASE, and numerous other organizations, is crucial to make Homecoming such a success each year. “Without the support of the SDSU Community, we would not be able to officially recognize the outstanding contributions of our students,” said Budomo. “Homecoming Court is not a popularity contest, but a showcase of the types of student leaders we have. The Aztec Parents Association plays an integral role in the development of many student programs in Student Affairs. We are fortunate to have their support.”

This year, 38 Homecoming Court hopefuls were nominated by their respective student organizations. After submitting an application and an essay, the nominees underwent a group interview administered by a selection committee comprised of SDSU faculty and staff. “We’d also like to extend a special thank you to the Homecoming Court Selection Committee: Lesley Fong, Juan Garcia, Patricia Gray, Bill Mackey, Richard Reed and Selma Reed, who contributed their time to our student leaders and the tradition of Homecoming Court,” Budomo said. “We’re honored to be members of the Homecoming Court based upon academic history, student involvement and community service.”

Traditionally, the evening before the Homecoming game a Parent Reception is held for the Homecoming Court, their family and friends. The Aztec Parents Association sponsored the 2006 reception.

“The Parent Reception is a time to celebrate the people who helped the Homecoming Court members get to that point, which for most, is their parents,” said Michelle DuBord, coordinator for parent programs.

At the reception, Aztec Parents Advisory Board Members Jon and Martha Karanopolous welcomed the Homecoming Court and their guests, and encouraged attendees to revel in the moment.

Budomo says that parents are often unable to witness their student being recognized for their outstanding contributions to the university. The Parent Reception provides this priceless opportunity.

During the October 28 Homecoming Game, the Aztecs played Cal Poly at Qualcomm Stadium; during halftime, the Homecoming King and Queen were unveiled. Integrated Marketing and Communications senior Andrew Ly was named Homecoming King. Ly’s nomination came from the Associated Students Council. Nursing senior Rebecca Wylie was named Homecoming Queen. The Alpha Chi Omega Sorority nominated Wylie. Following the coronation of Ly and Wylie, there were fraternity and sorority chariot races. Additionally, student organizations were recognized with Spirit Trophies and Greek organizations were recognized with the Standards of Excellence Awards.

Currently, Ly and Wylie are coordinating an event to take place during the spring semester that will unify students and enhance campus pride.

SDSU Awarded $9.7 Million Contract for National Hispanic Community Health Study

In October, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), awarded a $9.7 million contract to San Diego State University’s Center for Behavioral and Community Health Studies to conduct a six-year study of Latino health. According to the NHLBI, Latinos are experiencing an increase in obesity, a higher risk of diabetes, and changes in social and behavioral factors with large potential impact on many major chronic diseases. Factors that have a particular effect on Latino health include diet changes, activity, health care access, community support and working conditions, especially in relation to immigration from different cultural settings and environments.

SDSU’s team of researchers, including Graduate School of Public Health professors Greg Talavera and John Elder, will work with the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and the San Ysidro Health Center to study approximately 4,000 Mexican-Americans in San Diego County’s South Bay region. Talavera and Elder have conducted several other health studies in the San Diego Latino community. They have more than 50 years of combined experience in community-based clinical research.

“This award is a testament to the outstanding research conducted by San Diego State’s Graduate School of Public Health,” said Marilyn Newhoff, dean of the College of Health and Human Services. “Both Greg and John have vast experience in working with multi-center studies and in the Latino community. They will provide the valuable insight and guidance necessary for the success of this large-scale study.”

SDSU’s portion of the national study is to collaborate with other research sites in understanding the prevalence and risk factors for a number of health conditions in the South Bay Latino population, including diabetes, heart disease, and asthma and other lung disorders. As part of the larger national study, the team will explore the influence of psychological and sociological factors on the development and progression of health conditions in Latinos, following participants for up to six years.

“This is one of the largest, longest and most comprehensive multi-site studies of Latino health,” Talavera said. “We hope the findings of this research will lead to a number of breakthroughs and insights that will help maintain the health of this population in the coming decades.”

SDSU has worked with UCSD and the San Ysidro Health Center in previous health studies. “San Ysidro Health Center will play a key role in outreach and in identifying and tracking study participants,” Talavera said.

Dr. Michael Orza, UCSD School of Medicine professor of family and preventive medicine and professor of medicine, will lead the UCSD sub-contract. “Our faculty will provide clinical and epidemiological expertise, studying the risk factors and causes for a wide range of diseases—from heart disease and stroke to asthma and other lung disorders, sleep disorders, and liver and kidney diseases,” Orza said.

While the NHLBI will oversee the contract with SDSU, the study’s $9.7 million has been provided by several NIH institutes, including the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Other Communication Disorders, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements. All NIH institutes receive funding directly from the federal government and SDSU will not provide any additional funds. For more information about SDSU’s Graduate School of Public Health, visit http://publichealth.sdsu.edu
SDSU Campaign:
Planning for the Future

In an effort to shape the direction of San Diego State’s future, the university is planning its first comprehensive campaign. “What is a comprehensive campaign?” you may wonder. A campaign is a highly coordinated, multi-year effort to raise significant sums of money for pre-determined initiatives. The term capital campaign usually refers to fund raising for new construction, while a comprehensive campaign raises money for programs and projects, which might include new facilities.

SDSU’s first campaign will focus on key strategic initiatives that will transform the university. The goal is to further distinguish SDSU from other universities in California, the Western United States or even the nation through the creation of new academic or research programs or by dramatically increasing the university’s capacity to improve certain conditions, again on a local, regional or national basis. These changes will prepare SDSU to serve the needs of the next generation and beyond by enhancing academics, student life, faculty, athletics, the physical campus and the community.

Another question you may ask is “why embark on a comprehensive campaign?” The campus leadership determined that it is time to elevate private support to a much higher level than otherwise would be possible and to sustain that higher level once the campaign ends. SDSU, as with other public universities, can no longer rely on state support to pursue excellence.

A comprehensive campaign is a long-term endeavor, typically three to seven years, depending on the fund-raising goal. Currently, SDSU is nearing completion of the planning phase, which is where a campaign lifecycle begins.

“A clearly defined purpose is essential to successful fund raising, especially when significant change – the kind that transforms an organization – is sought,” said Mary Ruth Carleton, vice president for development. “That is why planning for SDSU’s first comprehensive campaign has now spanned nearly three years. Intensive preparation is necessary for this long-term, far-reaching effort.”

According to Carleton, strategic objectives have been defined that will be tested in a market feasibility study early next year.

“It was important to narrow down our proposals to those that are best aligned with the campaign’s vision of transforming SDSU over the next 10 to 15 years,” said Carleton.

The proposed strategic objectives include:
- Advancing personal health and well-being
- Bridging communities through arts and culture
- Enriching the regional economy through business and industry
- Student enrichment
- Transforming urban education
- Water sustainability

What is the role of the Aztec Parents Association in the comprehensive campaign?

Parents will play an important role in the comprehensive campaign. Some may be contacted to participate in the market feasibility study, either through a personal interview or via an Internet survey. SDSU President Weber and other campus leaders will visit communities throughout California and beyond to tell SDSU’s story and engage parents and alumni in support of the university. Parents can help by offering their homes or place of business as a location for these small gatherings. And, of course, we hope all parents will make a meaningful gift to support the campaign.

For ongoing updates on the status of SDSU’s first comprehensive campaign, periodically check SDSU’s online newsletter, SDSUuniverse at www.sdsuniverse.info

50th Annual International Peace Village

In November, more than 1,200 students, faculty and staff were able to travel the world passport free at the 50th annual International Peace Village.

The most anticipated International Student Association event of the year, the International Peace Village provides SDSU international students the opportunity to teach their U.S. peers about their countries of origin.

“It’s the students who really do the work, coordinate and execute this event,” said Sarah Clinton, programs coordinator for the International Student Center.
**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 BASKETBALL**

1/26 Air Force  
Cox Arena  
7 pm / CSTV*

1/20 Colorado State  
Fort Collins, CO  
1 pm (MT) / the mtn.*

2/13 UNLV  
Cox Arena  
8 pm / the mtn.*

2/17 Wyoming  
Laramie, WY  
1 pm (MT)/ the mtn.*

2/20 New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM  
7 pm (MT) / the mtn.*

2/24 Brigham Young  
Cox Arena  
3 pm / CSTV*

2/27 Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT  
7 pm (MT) / the mtn.*

3/3 TCU  
Cox Arena  
3 pm / the mtn.*

3/6, 8–10 MWC Championships  
Las Vegas  
TBA (the mtn.)*

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

1/14 Air Force  
Cox Arena  
2 pm / the mtn.*

1/17 Wyoming  
Laramie, WY  
6 pm (MT)

1/20 Colorado State  
Cox Arena  
2 pm

1/25 BYU  
Cox Arena  
7 pm

1/28 TCU  
Fort Worth, TX  
12 pm (CT)

1/31 New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM  
6 pm (CT)

2/3 Utah  
Cox Arena  
2 pm

2/8 UNLV  
Cox Arena  
7 pm

2/15 Air Force  
USAF Academy, CO  
6 pm (MT) / the mtn.*

2/18 Wyoming  
Cox Arena  
2 pm

2/22 Colorado State  
Fort Collins, CO  
6 pm (MT)

2/24 BYU  
Provo, Utah  
1 pm (MT)

2/28 TCU  
Cox Arena  
7 pm

3/3 New Mexico  
Cox Arena  
12 pm

3/6 MWC Championships  
Las Vegas  
TBA

**WOMEN'S CREW**

2/17 USD/Orange Coast  
College (Scrimmage)  
Mission Bay, San Diego  
All Day

2/24 USD/USC (Scrimmage)  
Mission Bay, San Diego  
All Day

3/3 Parker Cup Regatta  
La Bonita Creek – Marina del Rey  
All Day

3/10 UC Davis  
Sacramento  
All Day

3/11 Cal State Sacramento  
San Diego  
All Day

3/17 UCLA  
La Bonita Creek – Marina del Rey  
All Day

3/31–4/1 San Diego Crew Classic  
Mission Bay, San Diego  
All Day

4/14 San Diego City  
Mission Bay, San Diego  
All Day

4/21 Miller Cup Regatta  
La Bonita Creek – Marina del Rey  
All Day

4/28–29 WIRA Championships  
Lake Natoma, Sacramento  
All Day

5/13 Pac-10 Championships  
Lake Natoma, Sacramento  
All Day

**WOMEN'S SWIMMING**

1/19 Howard  
Kroc Center  
1 pm

1/27 Cal Poly, Pepperdine  
Malibu  
12 pm

2/1 San Diego  
San Diego  
12 pm

2/21 – 24 MWC Championships  
Oklahoma City, OK  
All Day

**WOMEN'S WATER POLO**

2/8 Hartwick  
Aztec Aquaplex  
3 pm

2/10 – 11 UCSD Invitational  
La Jolla  
All Day

2/16 Hawaii  
Honolulu  
4 pm (HT)

2/24 – 25 UC Irvine Invitational  
Irvine  
All Day

3/2 Stanford  
Aztec Aquaplex  
3 pm

3/5 San Jose State  
Aztec Aquaplex  
12 pm

3/9 Alumni  
Aztec Aquaplex  
2 pm

3/10 UC Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara  
10 am

3/10 Marist  
Santa Barbara  
2 pm

3/17 California  
Berkeley  
12 pm

3/18 Pacific  
Stockton  
10 am

3/18 Princeton  
Stockton  
2 pm

3/22 Long Beach State  
Long Beach  
3 pm

3/24 Brown  
Aztec Aquaplex  
11 am

3/24 Claremont College  
Aztec Aquaplex  
2 pm

3/25 Pomona College  
Aztec Aquaplex  
3 pm

3/25 Cal State Bakersfield  
Aztec Aquaplex  
5 pm

3/31 – 4/1 ASU Tournament  
Tempe, AZ  
All Day

4/6 Cal State Northridge  
Aztec Aquaplex  
1 pm

4/7 UC San Diego  
Aztec Aquaplex  
12 pm

4/13 UC Irvine  
Aztec Aquaplex  
3 pm

4/14 USC  
Los Angeles  
12 pm

4/20 UCLA  
Aztec Aquaplex  
3 pm

4/21 Arizona State  
Aztec Aquaplex  
12 pm

4/26 – 29 MPSF Championships  
Aztec Aquaplex  
All Day

5/11 – 13 NCCA Championships  
Long Beach  
All Day

*Television game

**IMPORTANT SDSU DATES**

**JANUARY**

11 Financial Aid – Disbursement begins the week before classes each semester and continues throughout the semester as new awards are processed and changes to awards occur.*

12 27th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade (RSVP by January 8, 2007)**

15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed. Campus closed.

16 Residence halls reopen at 4 pm (3 pm for new residents)****

18 First day of classes, meal plans begin.

22 – 26 Poster Sale, 9 am – 5 pm, Backdoor at Aztec Center

International Student Center (ISC) Coffee Hours are held every Friday at the ISC, 12 – 1:30 pm.

**FEBRUARY**

5 – 9 Last opportunity to change meal plan (effective Feb. 19)**

7 Last day to add classes, drop classes, or change grading basis of a class. No schedule adjustments allowed after 6 pm on this date.

15 Spring Career Fair, 10 am – 3:30 pm, Aztec Center*****

16 – 24 Theatrical production: In the Beginning, Experimental Theatre******

21 Open Mic Night, 7 pm, Backdoor at Aztec Center

26 – Mar. 1 French Film Festival, 5 and 7 pm, Montezuma Hall

**MARCH**

9 – 18 Theatrical production: Elektra, Experimental Theatre******

14 Open Mic Night, 7 pm, Backdoor at Aztec Center

15 Part-Time Jobs Fair, 10 am – 2:30 pm, Campanile Walkway******

17 Explore SDSU Open House 2007, 8 am – 3 pm, SDSU Campus.

An open house showcasing what makes SDSU such a powerhouse university.

20 – 22 “Asfist: a multicultural on-campus gathering of students collaborating together through activities, special events, food, games and info booths! Last day of classes before spring recess.

23 Last day of classes before spring recess.

23 – Apr. 1 Residence halls close for spring recess.

26 – 31 Spring Break

Border Voices Poetry Fair, 9 am – 5 pm, Aztec Center

30 Cesar Chavez Day observed. Campus closed.

**APRIL**

2 Classes resume.

5 Teacher Career Fair, 11 am – 4 pm, Montezuma Hall*****

18 Open Mic Night, 7 pm, Backdoor at Aztec Center

26 “Just in Time” Career Fair, 10 am – 2:30 pm, Campanile Walkway*****

27 – May 6 Theatrical production: The Grapes of Wrath, Don Powell Theatre******

**MAY**

1 – 4 Spring Hand Craft Fair, 9 am – 5 pm, Campanile Walkway

9 – 16 Final Exams! Send cookies!

16 All residence halls close for the academic year. Licensee should leave by 8 pm on the day of his/her last final exam, but in no case later than 4 pm on May 16th.****

17 – 20 Commencement 2007

* For more information visit the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships Web site at http://starter.sdsu.edu/foao

** To RSVP or for more information, go to the Cross-Cultural Center Web site at www.sa.sdsu.edu or call (619) 594-7057.

*** For residence hall closure and reopening information call the Office of Housing Administration at (619) 594-5742.

**** To inquire about meal plans call Aztec Shops Dining Services at (619) 594-7640.

***** Visit the Career Services Web site at http://career.sdsu.edu, for more upcoming events.

****** Visit the School of Theatre, Television, and Film Web site, http://theatre.sdsu.edu, for ticket information.

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