Welcome to 360 online! To increase the type size for easier reading, change the percentage field in your toolbar or use the settings found under the “view” tab. To jump from one article to another, use the “table of contents” or “thumbnail” links under the tabs to the left. If no tabs appear, click on the navigation symbol in your toolbar to reveal them.
We at San Diego State are proud of our “Minds That Move the World,” the alumni, students, faculty and staff that make a difference in our neighborhoods and in the global community. This year, SDSU Month highlights the forces that move us to discovery, to invention and to action. It’s a reminder of the impetus that drives us to challenge ourselves in a quest for excellence.

The faculty within our seven colleges, our library and on our Imperial Valley campus take that challenge seriously. Their efforts in SDSU’s classrooms, labs and studios impel us to greater achievements each successive year.

For Mark Sussman, a biology professor and member of the SDSU Heart Institute, the driving force is a commitment to curing heart disease. Mark is the principal investigator for a $9.5 million National Institutes of Health grant funding three research projects at SDSU and one at UCSD. The five-year projects will investigate how protecting mitochondria – the cell’s energy center – can preserve heart cells during a heart attack.

Wendy Maruyama’s life work revolves around moving people’s minds. Her prize-winning woodwork and furniture are part of museum collections throughout the country and her national reputation has attracted millions in funding to develop SDSU’s School of Art, Design, and Art History. Wendy brings numerous international study experiences to bear on her work and her teaching.

Greg Talavera and his team in the Graduate School of Public Health have been funded by the National Institutes of Health to lead a $9.7-million study of health risks in the South Bay Latino community. They hope to gain a deeper understanding of the risk factors for a number of health conditions that affect Latinos, including diabetes, heart disease and lung disorders.

These are examples of what moves the faculty at San Diego State University. The SDSU Month theme – What Moves You? – is also an invitation to you, our alumni and friends.

Think about the motivations that stir you to action. Consider how your contributions – and those of other SDSU alumni – make San Diego a better, more vibrant place to live. Then plan to visit campus on March 17 for Explore SDSU: Open House 2007 to learn how SDSU students, faculty and alumni are helping to propel our community forward into the future.

Stephen L. Weber, president
San Diego State University
Features

14

Raising the Roof
Friendship and loyalty inspired three Aztecs to jump-start the SDSU Alumni Center campaign. Now, they’re challenging other alumni to match their $2.7 million gift.
By Coleen L. Geraghty

18

Lessons in Leading
As Associated Students celebrates its 75th birthday, former student leaders remember the crucial life lessons they learned in office.
By Gina R. Speciale

24

Fathoming Big History
SDSU professor David Christian looks at human history through the broadest possible lens. His view wasn’t always fashionable, but increasingly, others want to take a peek.
By Coleen L. Geraghty

28

What Moves You?
Find out what motivates three talented SDSU students. Then, get motivated to take advantage of the events and promotions on offer during SDSU Month in March.
By Jason Foster
Say Si to V-me

KPBS, San Diego’s public broadcast service based on the SDSU campus, is in the vanguard of a national Spanish-language public television service scheduled to debut in March.

Offering a unique mix of traditional and innovative programming designed for American Latinos, V-me (pronounced vay-may) will premiere on KPBS-HD and on cable channel 111 in San Diego, as well as in 20 other U.S. cities.

The new public television platform will carry translated versions of popular English-language public television shows like “Sesame Street” and “Nature,” as well as exclusive original programming created for and by Latinos living in the U.S.

“V-me reflects, respects, entertains and gives voice to Latino viewers while bringing a new level of quality to mainstream Spanish-language TV,” said Myrian Solis Coronel, manager of Latino education and outreach for KPBS.

KPBS is mounting a related education and outreach initiative called KPBS Ahora! with activities to strengthen and support Latino families. These will include: public screenings of new television programs followed by audience discussions; and issue-based outreach related to program content on immigration, health care workforce skills and other topics.

Look for more information about V-me and upcoming KPBS Ahora! events at kpbs.org/v-me.

SDSU Growth Plan

With increasing demand for higher education in California, SDSU is again revising its Campus Master Plan. In September 2005, SDSU received unanimous approval from the California State University Board of Trustees for the most recent version of the Campus Master Plan. However, a California Supreme Court decision in City of Marina v. CSU Monterey Bay has resulted in the need for SDSU to update its plan.

A blueprint for SDSU’s growth over the next 20 years, the Campus Master Plan revision is critical to SDSU’s ability to provide access to a high quality university education for future generations of Aztecs. SDSU received a record 57,000 applications for 8,800 undergraduate openings for the fall 2007 semester – 9 percent more than the previous year.

The Campus Master Plan will increase SDSU’s enrollment capacity from 25,000 full-time-equivalent students to 35,000, and will provide additional student housing, a new student union, classroom and support space and affordable, high quality housing for faculty and staff.

SDSU will conduct several meetings and provide opportunities for comment from campus stakeholders, neighboring residents and others interested in SDSU’s future. The plan is expected to go to the CSU Board of Trustees for approval in September 2007.

Knowledge is not knowledge until put into context.

Emeritus Professor Henry L. Jensen. From the “Last” Lecture Series, 2006
The Golden Section

John Dirks graduated from San Diego State College in 1937 with a degree in art. Ten years later, he returned to teach at his alma mater and never left until his retirement in 1976. SDSU acknowledged Dirks’ contributions in 1972 with a Distinguished Teaching Award, which gave him the status of emeritus professor.

Now, Dirks is being recognized by the Mingei International Museum in San Diego’s Balboa Park. A retrospective of his sculpture spans four decades and includes more than 40 pieces of art. In a conversation with the Mingei’s Karen Seo, Dirks, now 92, spoke about working with wood:

“As a boy, I started making things with just a jackknife, whittling. My father and I made a whole lot of tiny model ships, with sails made of paper. We used to sail those in Wabash Pond (in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where Dirks grew up). (Later), I did a lot of sculptures, large and small, mostly from rare wood.

“The wood is sensitive to inside space, all the narrow sticks in the center. The next space is a golden section of the previous one and those negative spaces are exactly the same… the builders of the Parthenon (used) the golden section. Diego Rivera, Gauguin, van Gogh, Rembrandt, all used it for basic measurements.”

Dirks described his best pieces as having “inner life.” The artist’s own inner life was on display every day in the classroom for students perceptive enough to recognize it.

Cary Bickler was one such student. He describes himself as a young man on the verge of a career as a professional golfer on the PGA tour, yet haunted by the instinct that he was an artist at heart.

“I began taking art and sculpting classes from Professor Dirks, and my confidence began to grow. When, after a few years, I became his assistant, I began to realize that Professor Dirks taught by simply expressing himself through his own unique, creative view of the world. I was compelled to do the same. I gained confidence in my own artistic expression.”

Today, Bickler designs magnificent, artistic golf courses. “I’m painting canvaes in my mind of green, rolling landscapes and planning how the light and shadows will dance across the contours of every golf course I design,” he said. “I call upon Mother Nature to guide my hand, but it all started with Professor Dirks and a small artist’s brush.”

The Mingei International Museum’s exhibit, “John Dirks, Sculptor – A Retrospective,” includes “Experimental Tall Building Concepts,” pictured at right. It was sculpted of walnut and Alaskan white cedar.
Meet me Poolside
Starting this month, San Diego State will offer the community another option for fun in the sun.

The $10 million Aztec Aquaplex features three heated pools: an Olympic 50-meter pool with a maximum depth of 18 feet for lap swimming and diving; a 7,200-square-foot recreation pool with beach entry for recreational swimming, aqua aerobics swim classes and water volleyball/basketball; and a 20-person hydrotherapy spa for soaking and relaxing.

Open year-round, the new student-financed facility is located on the west side of campus. It is adjacent to Tony Gwynn Stadium and the SDSU tennis courts and softball field, and close to Parking Structures 4 and 5. Members of the Aztec Recreation Center (ARC) can use the facilities free of charge. Fees will apply to other users; community members are welcome.

The Olympic pool will be the home venue for Aztec swimming, diving and water polo competitions. During athletic team practices and meets, the other pools will remain open for use.

On the Right Track
San Diego State athletes are hitting the books with resolve these days. In compliance with the National Collegiate Athletic Association, SDSU and other Division I schools have begun measuring the academic progress rate (APR) of their athletic teams.

San Diego State’s 18 athletic teams are submitting APRs for the third time this 2006-2007 academic year. Last year, only the football and baseball teams fell below the NCAA goal of 925 and subsequently paid penalties.

Each player can earn up to two points toward the APR score per semester. One point is awarded for the athlete’s academic and academic eligibility. The other is for retention; it’s earned if the student returns each semester to the same university.

Colleen Evans, director of student-athlete academic support services, joined SDSU a year ago. She created new student-advisor staff positions and night-study programs to motivate SDSU’s 527 student-athletes to stay focused on academic and athletic goals.

“Colleen has hired a new staff, established strong relations with campus academic leaders and brought new energy, ideas and programs to student-athlete academics,” said Athletics Director Jeff Schmemmel.

Although SDSU’s scores aren’t perfect, student-athletes on the mesa have a better graduation rate and higher average GPAs than non-athletes, Evans noted. A 2005 NCAA report shows an 81 percent graduation rate for SDSU student-athletes who completed their eligibility. About half of SDSU’s student-athletes consistently earn GPAs of 3.2 or better.

Evans said SDSU’s APR scores are near the midpoint in a list of schools of comparable size. Florida State and Utah have higher scores and no penalties, while Arizona State and Fresno State have penalties because of their low basketball and baseball team scores.

A furniture designer, Aguiniga displays her work at www.aguinigadesign.com.

Kyoto Laureate Medalist
San Diego State will host a presentation by Kyoto Laureate Dr. Leonard Arthur Herzenberg, who revolutionized the science of sorting cells.

Japan’s Inamori Foundation awarded Herzenberg the 2006 Kyoto Medal in the category of advanced technology for his pioneering research in the sorting of viable cells and his development of a flow cytometer. Herzenberg, an immunologist, geneticist and professor at Stanford University’s School of Medicine, will speak March 15 at 9:30 a.m. in Montezuma Hall.

Herzenberg became the first person to sort cells by property, namely fluorescence intensity, to determine which are “viable,” or living. In the early 1970s, he used this discovery to successfully build a mass-producible flow cytometer called the Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorter (FACS).

The ability to effectively sort cells has a broad range of applications. Many life-threatening diseases, including HIV and leukemia, progress through the death or proliferation of certain cells. FACS technology allows researchers to accurately gauge the cell count, and thus the extent of the disease, helping them prescribe more effective treatments. The technology is also crucial to the field of regenerative medicine.

The Inamori Foundation awards the Kyoto Prize annually to outstanding scholars in the fields of advanced technology, basic sciences, and art and philosophy. SDSU has been a host for the Kyoto Laureate Symposium since 2004. For more information or to reserve a seat, visit www.kyotoprize.org.
Getting It: The public warms to Walt Oechel’s pioneering climate change research.

By Lauren Coartney

The world is just now catching up with Walt Oechel.

Having studied the scientific effects of human activity on our planet for more than two decades, the San Diego State alumus, biology professor and internationally renowned ecologist, was one of the first researchers to sound the alarm about global warming.

“Being in the forefront of discovery is great,” Oechel said, “but the message that comes from this research is overpowering. It is so dire it swamps, it supersedes, it overates the good feelings.”

Finally, the general public is taking heed of Oechel’s work as director of SDSU’s Global Change Research Group. From policy makers who visit his labs in Alaska, Mexico, California, the Mediterranean basin and the Far East; to national media outlets like ABC and PBS who cover his work; the world is coming around to Oechel’s stance that global warming is not an opinion. It’s a fact.

In his research, Oechel has found that atmospheric greenhouse gases, byproducts of forest clearing and burning fossil fuels, have risen almost 25 percent. Additionally, the planet’s average temperature has risen 1.1 degrees and is getting hotter.

“What we know and there’s no doubt about is that greenhouse gases – like CO2 (carbon dioxide), methane and nitrous oxide – trap heat in the atmosphere and cause warming,” he said.

Extreme weather events like Hurricane Katrina and a series of hotter-than-normal years give traction to Oechel’s exhaustive research.

He has served as principal investigator on 70 grants, currently holds $4 million in ongoing funding, and has 195 published scientific articles to his name. The National Science Foundation awarded Oechel its prestigious Director’s Award, and the Institute for Scientific Information names him on its list of “Highly Cited Researchers.”

This year, Oechel has been chosen as SDSU’s Albert W. Johnson University Research Lecturer.

Oechel may still be well ahead of the world, but you can catch him standing still when he delivers the Albert W. Johnson lecture on Wednesday, March 21, at 3 p.m. in the Aztec Athletic Center Auditorium.

Sightings

The Doctor Will See You Now

Four thousand Mexican-Americans in San Diego’s South Bay community will be getting their check-up, thanks to a $9.7 million contract awarded to San Diego State University’s Center for Behavioral and Community Health Studies.

SDSU is one of four field centers selected by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a national Hispanic Community Health Study. According to the NIH, Latinos are experiencing a spike in cases of obesity, heart disease, asthma and diabetes as a result of working conditions, changes in diet and activity and access to health care.

“This is one of the largest, longest and most comprehensive multi-site studies of Latino health,” said Greg Talavera, Graduate School of Public Health professor and principal investigator on the grant.

Between them, Talavera and John Elder, also a professor at SDSU’s Graduate School of Public Health, have 50 years of community-based clinical research experience. They will work with colleagues at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine and the San Ysidro Health Center to determine the risk factors for health conditions in the Latino community.

Said Talavera: “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.”
In the past decade, universities all across the country have raised money to build, enlarge or renovate campus homes for their growing alumni populations.

Down the street, the University of San Diego built the Dephris Alumni Center, a three-story structure of 28,000 square feet. Penn State’s Hintz Family Alumni Center is a 43,000-square-foot renovation of the former university president’s house. The 50,000-square-foot Alice Campbell Alumni Center at the University of Illinois was completed in 2006 for more than $16 million. Construction is underway at the University of California, Santa Barbara on a $12-million, 24,000-square-foot alumni center scheduled to open this year.

In each case, alumni from different eras joined forces to create a permanent presence on the campus where they had once been students.

Now, a similar story is unfolding on Montezuma Mesa. SDSU alumni and friends have raised more than $8 million, or about 75 percent of the $11 million needed to erect a world-class campus gathering place for the 200,000-plus SDSU alumni in San Diego County and beyond.

A grand slam
Alumni centers grow kinship from the seeds sown on campus and nurtured at reunions and football games. Or baseball games in the case of Jack Goodall, Robert Payne and Leon Parma.

The three San Diego State alumni, featured on our front cover, never met during their student days. But later, as co-owners of the San Diego Padres, they discovered a shared loyalty to SDSU and a common gratitude for their education on the mesa.

“At some point, you recognize that you’re very fortunate to have achieved the success you’ve had,” said Payne, ’55, president and CEO of Multi-Ventures Inc. and owner of the Hanalei Hotel. “It’s payback time.”

Last year, the trio’s gratitude became a conduit for action. With a joint $2.7 million naming gift in October, they galvanized the SDSU Alumni Center campaign, lifting total contributions to within striking distance of the $11 million needed for construction.

Along with this pledge, the trio has issued a “matching gift challenge” to the alumni community. They are challenging Aztecs and SDSU friends to complete the alumni center campaign by contributing another $2.7 million — the amount needed to raise the roof on a 35,000-square-foot hub for meeting, celebrating, networking and professional development.

“It’s critically important to have an alumni center on campus as a drawing card to get people re-energized about the school,” said Goodall, ’60, former president, CEO and retired board chairman of Jack in the Box Inc. Added Parma, ’51, chairman of the board of Parma Management Co., “The alumni center is going to be a gathering place that helps people broaden their sphere of interest and their circle of acquaintances.”

Prime location
The SDSU Alumni Center — yet to be officially named — has been designed by Tucker Sadler Architects as a two-story facility with 22,000 square feet of meeting space. Across from Cox Arena on 55th Street, and adjacent to a large parking facility, the center will anchor the western end of Aztec Walk.

“Raising the bar, raising expectations”

What defines an alumni center?
What elevates it from bricks and mortar to a lightning rod for community pride and spirit?

One simple dynamic: the stakeholders.

By Coleen L. Geraghty
Guests will enter through a dramatic rotunda to reach the Great Hall Ballroom, a state-of-the-art, technologically “smart” boardroom, a multi-purpose outdoor entertaining pavilion, guest offices and display areas for Aztec memorabilia. The hallway leading to the ballroom will feature a “biography wall” on which donors can inscribe personal messages about themselves and their families.

“The alumni center will host a year-round offering of professional, social and educational events and activities,” said Jim Herrick, SDSU Alumni Association director. “It will be a place where our ‘minds that move the world’ gather for professional development, networking, lifelong education and Aztec celebrations.”

Raising the roof on a campus alumni center, Herrick said, will add another dimension to SDSU’s role as a resource for the San Diego community.

**Cycle of growth**

The timing of the alumni center campaign is no coincidence. It comes after a decade of raising the bar on the value of a degree from San Diego State University. One indicator of SDSU’s growing prestige is the stiff competition for admission. The university received a record 57,167 undergraduate applications during the fall 2007 open enrollment period, more than any other California State University campus. The figure is 9.3 percent higher than last fall and 85 percent higher than a decade ago.

**Building camaraderie**

Backed by a strong reputation, SDSU is able to compete for the finest faculty. Those faculty, in turn, serve as superior mentors for graduate students and provide challenging environments for undergraduates to enrich their educational experiences. And alumni benefit as their degrees carry growing prestige in the real world.

Each year, more than 9,500 undergraduate and graduate students receive degrees from San Diego State University. The new alumni center will become a magnet drawing a new generation of graduates back to campus and reinforcing their ties with SDSU.

**Reconnecting**

The construction of an alumni center also raises expectations about Aztec involvement in San Diego State’s future. In the last two years, the SDSU Alumni Association reached two milestones – its life endowment surpassed the $1 million mark and the number of lifetime members rose by one third to 4,000.

As more alumni reconnect with SDSU, the need for a physical hub becomes paramount, said Art Flaming, a former president of the SDSU Alumni Association.

“The alumni need a place to gather, to connect with students and professors and to keep up with what’s going on at SDSU,” Flaming said. “There is a camaraderie and synergism at work when we get together. It’s the way a university should be.”

To date, hundreds of alumni and friends have helped the university prepare to raise the roof on the SDSU alumni center, including the Alumni Association Past Presidents, who collectively pledged more than $800,000.

As San Diego State grows in size and stature to become a premier urban research university, it’s important for Aztecs to stake their claim in SDSU’s future by accepting the challenge pitched by Goudall, Payne and Parma.

“We made this gift for a purpose larger than the recognition we’ll receive,” Payne said. “We want to see this dream transformed into reality.”

“The alumni need a place to gather, to connect with students and professors and to keep up with what’s going on at SDSU. There is a camaraderie and synergism at work when we get together. It’s the way a university should be.”
Just beneath the academic surface of San Diego State University is an organization whose influence has been a constant.

It is so significant to the student experience that for 75 years it has been a catalyst to some of the biggest changes on campus. A governing body elected by students and led by students, yet independent from the university itself. That organization is Associated Students.

Over the past three-quarters of a century, the organization has not only led SDSU students through decades of success and turmoil, but has also produced an impressive group of student leaders who became civic leaders, corporate executives and entrepreneurs.

“Restaurateur Norman Brinker, former Escondido Mayor Jerry Harmon and current San Diego City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, just to name a few, all used Associated Students as a springboard to success,” said Dan Corrithwaite, executive director of Associated Students since 1985. “All of them will say their experience leading this organization was instrumental to their success.”

Who knew when the original student governing body was established in 1921 that the organization would become the multimillion dollar corporation it is today?

At the time, State Normal School had just merged with the Junior College to create San Diego State College, and because of each school’s separate beginnings, each had its own student organizations and officers. The two groups merged in late 1922, and the first officers of the San Diego State College Student Body were elected, led by President Wilbert Anderson.

From the beginning

As the first student body organization in the California State University system, the
vision for the newly incorporated Associated Students was hazy. During its first decade, A.S. helped students adjust to the new, larger campus by helping establish new student organizations and develop a greater sense of school spirit. As the campus grew and the country changed, so did A.S.

In 1944, while most college-aged men were fighting in World War II, the first female president of A.S. was elected. Pat Fritzenkotter led an all-female executive board during 1944-45. After her term, it would be another 25 years before a woman would serve as A.S. president.

“It was very different then because it was wartime,” remembers Fritzenkotter. “Women were the majority, so instead of hosting gala dances, we sold war bonds and stamps, held scrap drives and wrote Christmas letters to all the servicemen we could.”

A turning point

The following decade was one of tremendous change and growth for A.S. Under the leadership of President Norman Brinker in 1956, the first mandatory student activity fee was passed.

“Up to that point, we never knew how much money we were going to have so we couldn’t plan for the future,” said Brinker, chairman of the board of the successful restaurant group Brinker International, which owns chains like Chili’s, Macaroni Grill and On the Border.

Harvey Goodfriend, who ran against Brinker in the ’56 election and lost, said the mandatory fee became the basis for the way A.S. runs business to this day.

“When student activity fees were purely voluntary, we had to stand in line when students were registering for classes to persuade them to pay the extra dollar or two,” said Goodfriend, who served as the senior class representative during that pivotal year, and later returned to manage A.S. for 18 years.

With the mandatory fees in place and Brinker at the helm, the board worked as a team to plan ahead and expand; something they could never do before.

“Leading that organization taught me the importance of listening and including other people in the decision-making process,” Brinker said. “To this day, I never make an arbitrary decision because of what I learned as president of A.S.”

Building for the future

Because of Brinker and the board’s forward thinking, A.S. had established a new way of doing business.

In 1963, a second mandatory fee was approved by students to fund the building of the student union, now known as Aztec Center. Former Escondido Mayor Jerry Harmon was on the board at that time and said the campaign to win approval from the student body was one of the greatest lessons he learned in college.

“I learned that getting people to vote for something that would be in their best interest, even with little or no opposition, was a difficult task when their pocketbook was affected,” Harmon said. “It was a better lesson than any class or textbook could have ever taught me.”

Aztec Center, completed in 1968, opened as the first permanent student union facility on any CSU campus.

Susan Heiser, who has been with A.S. since 1971, talked about the excitement of seeing students grow to become dynamic leaders, responding to the needs of their constituents and dedicating their time to the university.

“A.S. makes hard decisions based on the needs and demands of the students.”

In response to a changing student body and more non-traditional students returning to school, A.S. created the SDSU Children’s Center. It allows students with children to attend classes during the day, Heiser said.

“A.S. makes decisions based on the needs and demands of the students,” Heiser said. “When a need for childcare was determined, A.S. found a solution.”

A.S. 75th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

Join Associated Students in celebrating 75 years of success! The SDSU student government’s programs and services will be highlighted during this two-day extravaganza. On Friday, March 2, attend a gala reception and reunion in Cox Arena with live entertainment and a special multimedia retrospective of A.S. achievements since the 1930s. On Saturday, March 3, join behind-the-scenes tours of A.S. facilities, including the SDSU Children’s Center and the new Aztec Aquaplex, or bring the whole family to the Mission Bay Aquatic Center. For more information, call the A.S. government affairs office at (619) 594-6555.
Throughout its 75-year history, A.S. has produced dozens of leaders in politics, education and business. The first and only person to serve two terms as A.S. president, Tom D’Agostino, who now serves as executive vice president of the University of California, Berkeley, said it was a complex problem that needed a creative solution.

“There was a culture of activism at that time and we were heavily engaged in serious debates that extended beyond the campus,” D’Agostino said. “We dealt with issues like Title IX and collective bargaining for faculty. I learned a lot about Sacramento, where I later made my career.”

Among them is San Diego City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, who says his experience as president of A.S. in 1989 gave him the political itch to run for public office. “There was a culture of activism and we engaged in serious debates that extended beyond the campus,” Faulconer said. “When I was A.S. president, I learned to cherish two valuable tools: listening and compromise,” he added.

Another alumnus who first spread his political wings leading SDSU’s student body is Tom D’Agostino. A.S. president in 1974 and 1975, Agostino has made a career beyond the campus.”

Leading the Way: Throughout its 75-year history, A.S. has helped physically transform the SDSU campus, revolutionized the way students influence decision-making on CSU campuses and produced dozens of leaders in politics, education and business. Among them is San Diego City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, who says his experience as president of A.S. in 1989 gave him the political itch to run for public office. “When I was A.S. president, I learned to cherish two valuable tools: listening and compromise,” Faulconer said. “Today, as a city council member, those qualities have taken on even more value. My first priority, on any issue, is to gain feedback from the community, appreciate the different perspectives they hold and assure them that their input is valued. SDSU continues to teach young, aspiring leaders these same tools. Their success at producing dynamic leaders remains unmatched.”

Another alumnus who first spread his political wings leading SDSU’s student body is Tom D’Agostino. A.S. president in 1974 and 1975, Agostino has made a career representing organizations in the state’s capital, SD showdown." "As students, we tried to be part of the process and solve the question, instead of being part of the problem,” said D’Agostino, who now serves as an Alumni Ambassador for Higher Education, engaging in public policy to support higher education.

Another former A.S. president, Larry Emond, now chief marketing officer for The Gallup Organization, also got a crash course in leadership during his term. It took three student body votes to get approval for the construction of the Aztec Recreation Center and Cox Arena, certainly the most prominent venues in the organization’s business profile. "That issue put us in a position of having to balance the values of the majority with those of the minority opinion," Williams said. "It was frustrating because people did not understand that although they accounted for less than one percent of the student population, the Native American community had valid concerns that needed to be addressed."

The controversy died down after the university redesigned ‘Monty Montezuma’ to become the ‘Aztec Warrior’; it remains one of the most memorable debates in recent years. Williams, now a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Berkeley, said it was a complex problem that needed a creative solution. "That issue put us in a position of having to balance the values of the majority with those of the minority opinion," Williams said. "It was frustrating because people did not understand that although they accounted for less than one percent of the student population, the Native American community had valid concerns that needed to be addressed."

Some of the thornier issues place A.S. in a mediator’s role. Ronald C. Williams, served as executive vice president in 2000 when the Native American Student Association brought forward a resolution to get rid of the SDSU mascot. It took three student body votes to get approval for the construction of the Aztec Recreation Center and Cox Arena, certainly the most prominent venues in the organization’s business profile. "That issue put us in a position of having to balance the values of the majority with those of the minority opinion," Williams said. "It was frustrating because people did not understand that although they accounted for less than one percent of the student population, the Native American community had valid concerns that needed to be addressed."

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On the drawing board and already approved by students is a student-funded project, to renovate the 40-year-old Aztec Cancer and build a new student union. Modern Space, a $44 million project, has already generated its own controversy, once again challenging A.S. to balance growth with respect for tradition.

At the core of the debate is the original sycamore tree planted during the construction of Aztec Student Union. With the renovation, the tree and its ever expanding roots might have to go. Goodfriend, still on staff at SDSU, wants to keep the revered tree right where it is. "We built Aztec Center around the tree and it would be criminal to remove it," said Goodfriend.

Seventy five years after its birth, A.S. continues to strive for the perfect balance between growth and tradition as another generation of spirited Aztec leaders guides the campus toward its future.
Anyone who has lived in Australia for as long as David Christian did understands the power of the Aboriginal creation story. It describes a “dreamtime” when ancestor spirits roamed the earth forming mountains, rivers, plants and animals, even stars, before resting within their creations. To this day, the fierce identity of indigenous Australians finds definition in the contours of the landscape and the canvas of the night sky.

“Creation myths are powerful because they speak to our deep, spiritual, psychic and social need for a sense of place and a sense of belonging,” said Christian, a San Diego State professor of history. “They provide a fundamental sense of orientation.”

From the beginning
In 2004, Christian published his own creation story, which won the World History Association’s annual book prize. “Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History” makes the case for humanity’s connection with the physical universe.

The book contends that world history is more than the chronicle of individual cultures and races; and to understand humanity’s place in the larger context of the cosmos, a historian must begin at the beginning – the very beginning – as in the creation of the universe. Christian said he called his work “Maps of Time” because it is “the equivalent of a world map of knowledge of the past.”

At SDSU, the big history course covers 13 billion years, weaving strands of modern biology, geology, cosmology, anthropology and other natural sciences into a tapestry of human history. The topic for week one is “Finding Your Place in the Scheme of Things.” Week two examines “The Beginnings of Everything.” Humans don’t make an appearance until week five.

When Christian first developed the course nearly 20 years ago at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, he invited experts to lecture on the scientific content; gradually, he began teaching the entire course himself. In 1991, while still at Macquarie, Christian went public with the concept of big history in the Journal of World History.

His article rocked the academic community with its startlingly original, scientifically-based interpretation of humanity’s journey through time. Not all the reaction was positive. Some historians resisted Christian’s alignment of history with the sciences. Culture as science

“Big history defines human culture as science,” Christian observed. “Lots of creatures exchange information, but the volume and precision of human communication makes us different. If enough information is exchanged, there comes a point at which individuals relate to the environment more on the basis of what they’ve learned from others than from their direct experience. Historians call that culture, and culture, as seen like this, can be a scientific concept. It’s not going to generate equations, but it does account for our astonishing collective inventiveness.”

From the start, many historians also criticized Christian for working on a scale so large that major events and figures never materialize. The golden age of Greece is not mentioned in “Maps of Time,” nor is Mao Zedong.

Christian counters that historians working at smaller scales fail to consider sweeping changes and broad shifts in society. Metaphorically, big history is the view from the jumbo jet at its highest altitude. As the plane rises, smaller markers vanish but new ones appear. Think of it not as a loss, but as an intellectual tradeoff.

“I’m not arguing that the accomplishments of societies and individuals should be ignored,” Christian defended his perspective. “I also teach 19th century Russian
history. What I contend is that one cannot make sense of the role of the individual in history without knowing the larger context. In the sciences, it’s understood that high theory and detailed research inform each other. Historians have lost sight of that.”

The scale of big history overwhelms some students, while its content challenges the religious beliefs of others. Most, however, relish grappling with the questions Christian poses in his classes. “They find it incredibly exhilarating to be asking these huge, grand questions that smart university kids ought to be asking. What does it mean to be human, and to be human in this particular society? What is my place in the universe?”

Big history gets bigger

Big history is still outside the mainstream, but its influence is spreading in world history circles. Variations on Christian’s themes are taught in universities in Canberra, Perth and Melbourne, Australia; in Amsterdam; and in two of the UC colleges, Berkeley and Santa Cruz. Big history’s cohesiveness also appeals to high school teachers frustrated by the disjointed state of world history curricula.

Ross Dunn, emeritus professor of history at SDSU, said teachers in grades 6 through 12 need a “humanocentric” framework that examines change in place of a syllabus featuring “one damn civilization after another.” He is project director of World History for Us All, a Web-based model curriculum for teaching world history in middle and high schools.

Dunn, a past president of the World History Association, encouraged SDSU to bring David Christian from Sydney to San Diego, and has hired him as associate director for World History for Us All. Using many of Christian’s concepts, the evolving project presents the human past as a single story – the story of the earth, whose inhabitants have a shared history.

As World History for Us All makes inroads into the nation’s public schools, odds are that Christian’s large scale multidisciplinary view of world history will reach students at an earlier, more impressionable, age. Never too early for him.

The problems facing humanity in this century – complex issues like global warming and nuclear proliferation – can be solved only through global efforts, Christian insists. What’s needed to unite humanity behind these issues is a powerful human history, a history more relevant and more scientifically valid than the classification of American or Russian or Australian.

“The claim I would make about big history,” Christian said, “which is different from saying it’s true, is that it is the story that oozes from the 21st century. If you live in this century, in this society, you need to know the story.”

For young people, preparing to live and work in a global community, big history may be the preface to a new universal creation story.

David Christian is currently on leave from SDSU at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. He was awarded a $30,000 Donnelly Family Fellowship from the center to research and write about the history of inner Eurasia, comprising Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia.

“Many students find it incredibly exhilarating to be asking these huge, grand questions: What does it mean to be human? What is my place in the universe?”
For Monica Alnes, it’s coming through in the clutch. For Tim Nunnink, it’s playing the perfect musical vibe. For Karla Blanco, it’s finding the patterns. There are countless impulses that “move” San Diego State University’s students, faculty, staff and alumni. They want to perform, to create, to discover, to learn, to succeed.

The fifth annual SDSU Month celebration this March honors the diverse forces that “move” the SDSU community into action.

Loving the pressure
What excites Monica Alnes about playing softball is the pressure. “I love the pressure situations,” said the social work major from Palos Verdes, Calif. “I want to be the pitcher in the circle with the bases loaded and we need to put a zero on the scoreboard. Or I like to be at bat when we need a hit to win the game. I like the pressure to be on me to come through.”

That’s not just empty bravado. Alnes earned All-Mountain West Conference honors last year in part for batting .379 and leading the team with nine game-winning plays. And that was as a freshman.

Now, the sophomore hopes to help move the Aztecs into the top echelon of collegiate softball programs. “I get fired up at the thought of taking on teams that are national powerhouses and beating them,” she said. “SDSU is moving up in the softball ranks; I came here because I liked that and wanted to be a part of it. We’ve had some success, and now a lot of the top schools and experts know us.”

Totally in sync
Tim Nunnink fell in love with jazz soon after he joined a junior high jazz ensemble. “What excites me is the spontaneity of the music – you can perform the same song with the same musicians in the same room, and it can be infinitely different each time.”

His talent and passion for performing led to earn a bachelor’s degree from the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston. Nunnink, now a second-year master’s student in the SDSU School of Music and Dance, wants a career as a professional musician. He currently plays tenor saxophone for the SDSU Jazz Orchestra, which performed in Mexico in fall 2006 and will record a CD this spring.

What moves him most? “There’s a point in a performance when all the practice and all the hard work leads you to a euphoric moment where you’re totally in sync with your music, your band mates, the environment, and the whole world slips away,” he said.

Finding patterns
Karla Blanco immigrated to the United States from Mexico at age 14. Despite support from family members, adjusting to her new country wasn’t easy. “I didn’t know how huge the differences were in language and culture until I came here,” she recalled. “Learning and adapting to those differences was very difficult at first.”

Blanco has come a long way since then. Now the psychology major, supported by the federally funded McNair Scholars and Minority Biomedical Research Support programs, is tackling her fourth research project related to multicultural learning and cultural adaptation.

“If I wanted to research these differences, how we learn about them and adapt to them, so that I could help other people have an easier transition than I did,” said Blanco, who is applying to Ph.D. programs and aspires to be a university professor and psychologist. “It’s so exciting to come up with an idea and investigate it. I love running the sessions and analyzing the data. Sometimes the results aren’t what you expect, but it’s thrilling when you start to see patterns or relationships emerge that no one knew about before.”

No matter what moves you, you’ll find it in the excitement of SDSU Month. Imagine 31 days of artistic, academic and athletic events, special offers from local businesses and a partner-supported media campaign to raise awareness of SDSU’s outstanding people and programs.

SDSU Month also offers the chance to support outstanding students via the SDSU Month Scholarship Challenge. You can participate with an individual donation or by patronizing businesses that donate proceeds from special SDSU Month promotions.

And you can get yourself moving to faraway places with a free European vacation package. Move your body with a trek through Bavaria, move your fork with a culinary sample of Tuscany. STA Travel will take the winner and one guest to multiple destinations with free airfare. First Class Eurail passes and hotel accommodations.

Visit www.sdsumonth.com before March 31, 2007 and tell us (in 75 words or less) what moves you to be an SDSU “Mind That Moves the World”.

WHAT Moves YOU?

SDSU Month 2007
By Jason Foster
March 3, in Cox Arena. The Aztec women play the Fisher’s team against TCU at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Mohamed Abukar as they lead Coach Steve SDSU men’s basketball team has been playing March 3, 3 p.m.


Pink-and-gray? Visit the Aztec Store in Fashion Valley or the 9510 or visit www.hikebikekayak.com. package over $499 for the month of March. Cannot be com-

You can save 15% on SDSU clothing at the SDSU ticket window. Visit http://goaztecs.com.

One of a daughter seeking revenge for the death of her father and the consequences her vengeance brings. Catch this exciting production March 9-18 at the Experimental Theatre. For dates, times and tickets, call (619) 594-6550 or visit www.landmarktheatres.com. For show time information, visit www.landmarktheatres.com.

K-Pop, popularly known as K-pop, is a music genre that originated in South Korea and has become widely popular internationally since the 2000s.

The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego is a contemporary art museum in downtown San Diego, California. It was founded in 1969 as the La Jolla Fine Arts Association's Gallery, and has since expanded to become one of the premier museums of its kind in the southwestern United States. The museum's collection includes works by contemporary artists from around the world, as well as a significant collection of American art from the 18th to the 21st centuries. The museum is known for its commitment to presenting diverse and innovative exhibitions, and for its programs that engage visitors of all ages, including educational programs for students, families, and adults, as well as community events and performances. The museum's architectural campus is designed by the renowned architect Renzo Piano, and features a number of buildings and gardens that provide a beautiful setting for the artworks on display.
Devotion to their Alma Mater: The Golds Support SDSU’s BioScience Center

When Alan and Debbie Gold first met, among the things they had in common was a love of San Diego and their alma mater, San Diego State University. Fast-forward 20 years. The couple believes their education provided the foundation for Alan’s business success as founder of BioMed Realty Trust, a New York Stock Exchange-traded Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) that leases real estate to the life sciences industry. That’s why the Golds decided to deepen their connection with SDSU by making a gift to name the BioScience Center auditorium.

“Alan and I are committed to supporting higher education and our community, said Debbie Gold. “We believe the BioScience Center is a critical resource for San Diego, especially given the increasing competition in the biotechnology market. The work being done there also has worldwide implications. We view this gift, and our support of Aztec athletics, as doing our small part to help SDSU realize its potential.”

The SDSU BioScience Center merges research and scholarship to find solutions for critical human health issues. Undergraduate and graduate students work alongside professors, exploring how chronic infections contribute to heart problems, such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer. The center features state-of-the-art research laboratories and serves as an incubator for emerging technologies, developing the resources necessary for biotech startups to succeed.

BioScience Center Director, Dr. Roberta Gottlieb, applauds the Gold’s commitment to enhancing research and training opportunities for students. “Their generous gift provides SDSU faculty and students with a state-of-the-art auditorium and an extraordinary learning environment,” Gottlieb said.

She worked with fellow SDSU faculty members Christopher Glembronski and Mark Susman to secure a $9.5 million program project grant from the National Institutes of Health. With this funding, the three will lead a five-year study examining how protecting mitochondria, the cell’s energy center, can minimize damage to heart cells during heart attacks. Research like this will take place in the BioScience Center.

The Alan and Debbie Gold Auditorium for the Life Sciences will be used to host lectures, seminars, distinguished speaker series and symposia on life sciences-related research. As a focal point for activities within the BioScience Center, it will also be used to educate the community about key public health concerns including heart disease prevention, drug-resistant bacterial infections and therapeutic responses to potential acts of bioterrorism.

—Nicole K. Millatt

Class Notes

1940s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

When I was at State...

“I remember my first year there was a rare rainout the opening game of the season in San Diego. But Coach (Jim) Dietz wanted to get that game in. We drove out to the desert to play Cal Poly Pomona so he wouldn’t miss a game. That showed me the determination and passion Coach Dietz had for the game. His energy rubbed off on all of us.”

—Wallace Fingerett

Coach Jim Dietz with his Aztec players.

Do you have a favorite memory from your days at San Diego State? Log on to http://www.sdsu360mag.com and send your story to our scrapbook.

Please send your news to the SDSU Alumni Association, 5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA 92182-1690 or aluminfo@mail.sdsu.edu.

Alumni Angles

Class Notes

1940s

Bob Menke (’30, M.A., both in education) received the meritorious achievement award for community service and was inducted into the Legends Hall of Fame at the San Diego Hall of Champions.

1960s

The Honorable Edward (Ned) Huntington (accounting; business administration) received the San Diego Family Law Judicial Officer of the Year award from the Southern California Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He is a judge in the Family Law Court.

1970s

Patrick A. Long (English) was named president of DRI, the Voice of the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) that leases real estate to the life sciences industry. He is a founding partner of the Santa Ana-based Long Williamson & Delos.

Richard Diittbenner (political science) was appointed director of public information and government relations for the San Diego Community College District. Previously at Southwestern College, he was chair of the Department of Administration of Justice. Patricia Ennis (home economics; ’74, M.A., education) is the author of “Precious in His Sight: The Fine Art of Becoming a Godly Woman.”

Stephen Drew (chemistry) and Sandra Taylor Drew (’87, M.A., education) have retired from the San Marcos Unified School District. For 34 years, Stephen Drew taught chemistry, physics and mathematics. Sandra Drew was an English teacher and school administrator for 20 years.

Grover Trask (political science), formerly Riverside County district attorney, joined Best Best & Krieger LLP heading a new government and policy working group to advise clients on ethics, state election laws and the California Political Reform Act.

Wallace Fingerett (business), associate at the Los Angeles law firm of Feibelberg, Minkel, Brundt, Klein & Kline LLP, has become a certified family law specialist after meeting the California State Bar standards in education, experience and knowledge of the field.


Ray Aragon (political science), a San Diego County deputy public defender, has been appointed to the California Judicial Council by the State Bar Board of Governors. Chaired by the chief justice, the council is the constitutional policymaking body of the California courts.

“I have vivid memories of working on the 1964, a five-year study examining how chronic infections contribute to heart problems, such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer. The center features state-of-the-art research laboratories and serves as an incubator for emerging technologies, developing the resources necessary for biotech startups to succeed.

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Alumni Angles
2007 Monty Award Winners

The Montys is the annual premier event sponsored by the SDSU Alumni Association. This year’s gala dinner and awards presentation honors 11 distinguished alumni and friends of the university. Join us in celebrating these minds that move the world on Saturday, April 21, 2007, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in downtown San Diego. For tickets and additional information, visit http://alumni.sdsu.edu/montys.htm or contact Cheryl Trtan at 619-594-ALUM (2586) or ctrtan@mail.sdsu.edu

College of Arts and Letters

Jeffrey Lipinsky

Lindas Lang

College of Business Administration

Linda Lang

Catherine Kennedy

College of Education

Margaret Gaston

André Creese, M.D., FACEP

College of Engineering

Ivan Fox, P.E.

College of Health and Human Services

Pamela J. Wayne, RN, M.P.H.

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College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

Katherine Kennedy

College of Social Sciences and Public Policy

Marcia Dodson

College of Letters and Sciences

Jeffrey Lipinsky

College of Music and Dance

Linda Lang

College of Applied Health and Science

Katherine Kennedy
Daniel Cross

LAPD officer who writes about the streets he patrols in his book.

Kara L. Gervais


Ernie Barrera

San Diego-based writer, won three San Diego Press-Enquirer awards.

Kimberly Hulbert

Retired elementary school principal, received Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Kate Gergurich

Author of "Diary of a Social Worker: Inside Child Protective Services," her work on children in foster care.

Brent A. Evans

Appointed by President Ronald Reagan, served on numerous community boards and committees.

Lindsay Toczylowski

Musician, flute player, assistant principal flute with the celebrated Cleveland Orchestra.

Dwayne Crosshow

Editor of San Diego Alphaprints magazine.

Will Beall

LAPD officer who writes about the streets he patrols in his book.

Ash Hayes

President of the Alumni Association and member of the Ambassadors for Higher Education.

Kara L. Gervais

Elected a partner in the firm Ross, Dixon & Bell LLP.

To learn more about the topics covered in this document, please refer to the Class Notes section at the end of the page.
Erin Bala • Hometown: San Diego, California • SDSU degree: political science/marketing

Bala is immediate past president of the University Honors Program Student Council and a member of Mortar Board, the national honor society that recognizes college students for achievement in scholarship, leadership and service.

What brought you to San Diego State? I came to campus as a high school student to finish my senior class requirements. Meanwhile, I was accepted by Georgetown (University) and UC Berkeley. But I discovered the University Honors Program at SDSU and that clinched it for me. I felt I could make a difference here.

And are you making a difference? We are trying. We want to change the perception of the honors community on campus and to bring more of SDSU’s amazing students together. We have an idea for an interdisciplinary honors class that would find links between seemingly unrelated fields and present viewpoints that students might not encounter in their major fields of study.

Who on campus has influenced you most? Professor Jung Choi, former director of the honors program, has been a mentor. He has a way of making you realize things about yourself. He helped me examine my basic values and think about what I want my life to mean.

Talk about your work with Aztec P.R.I.D.E. Aztec P.R.I.D.E. is a student organization. We convey the student story to alumni, donors, volunteers and friends of SDSU who attend the President’s Breakfasts, the 360 Tours and other events.

You’re involved in community service too, aren’t you? I’m a junior advisor with the La Mesa Youth Advisory Commission, working with students and with seniors. It’s a way for me to give back to my community.

By Degrees

SDSU Alumna Dr. Clare Crane:

A Friend of the Classics

When Clare Crane looks back on her time as a history major at San Diego State College in the late 1950s, her fondest recollections are of the intellectual engagement with professors. One in particular, Kramer Rohlfisich, taught ancient Greek history with a focus on the golden age of Pericles. He instilled in his young student an appreciation for the classics that has endured. Last year, at age 81, Crane decided to create a Charitable Gift Annuity supporting an endowed professorship in the classics at San Diego State.

“As a student and also a former instructor at SDSU, I believe the faculty are its most precious asset. Their devotion to academic research and their willingness to reach out to students in a personal way is inspirational and rewarding,” Crane said.

By establishing a gift annuity, Crane will contribute to a cause close to her heart while securing herself a fixed income for life. “We turned a mutual fund that wasn’t making us money into an annual income stream,” she said. “At the same time, we’re benefiting from capital gains and estate tax advantages. And when I am gone, the university will put my investment to good use.”

Crane currently serves as vice president of the Friends of Classics, a group of 200 committed to ensuring the survival of the discipline at SDSU. As one of only two classics departments in the California State University system, SDSU’s Department of Classics & Humanities embraces all of ancient Greek and Roman civilization and culture.

Friends of Classics began gathering 25 years ago in the home of former SDSU professor Gail Burnett. “Every week during the academic year we met to share our love of the classics,” Crane said. “The works of this historical period are the bedrock of the disciplines and values underlying western civilization. While Dr. Burnett is no longer with us, I know she’d love the fact that we still meet in her home to read together.”

For more information on creating a gift annuity at SDSU, contact Patricia Moulton, director of planned giving, at (619) 594-7090 or pmoulton@mail.sdsu.edu, or visit our comprehensive Web site at www.sdsugift.org.

By Degrees
Congratulations Tony!
2007 National Baseball Hall of Fame

Tony’s Keys to Cooperstown

Eight Batting Titles
15 National League All-Star Games
Ranked 17th - MLB All-Time Batting Avg
20 Seasons with One Team
2,900 Bases on Balls
2,018 Career Hits
1,002 Plate Appearances
SDSU Alumni
SDSU Alumni Lifetime Member

As a Special Tribute to Tony Gwynn and Aztec Loyalists...

When you become a Lifetime Member of the SDSU Alumni Association, you will receive a 2007 National Baseball Hall of Fame Tony Gwynn autographed baseball and two complimentary tickets to the Tony Gwynn National Baseball Hall of Fame Classic. (Classic details at goaztecs.com). If you are currently a Lifetime Member visit our website, www.sdsualumni.org, or call (619) 594-ALUM (2586) for details on how you can receive this one-of-a-kind baseball and tickets to the Classic.

Congratulations T ony! 2007 National Baseball Hall of Fame As a Special Tribute to Tony Gwynn and Aztec Loyalists... ... National Baseball Hall of Fame inscription. Case and stand included.

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