When Ramon Ryan Tolentino remembers his years at San Diego State University, he recalls proposing marriage in the gardens of Scripps Cottage. Barbara Huntington’s memories include watching a hawk raise her young in the towering eucalyptus outside Hardy Tower. For most Aztecs, recollections of their college years conjure up images of certain places on campus. While the mind’s eye watches, a sound track replays youthful voices, chiming bells and palm fronds rustling in the breeze.

We asked SDSU alumni to tell us about their favorite places on Montezuma Mesa. Their choices and the associated memories evoke certain moments in time that will resonate with many Aztecs. If there is a common memory among SDSU alumni, it must be the delight of spending long, sunny days on a truly beautiful campus.
Being There

“I have fond memories of the Quad between the old library and the archway to the “main” campus. At noon, the area was lively with students. I remember, in particular, a goldfish-eating contest!”
Patricia Carone Bender, ’57

“An early memory – walking through the Quad and seeing a game of volleyball on the sand court. As a guy who loves the beach, I knew I was in the right place.”
Ralph Rubio, ’78

“Sitting in the windows of Hepner Hall, the supports brace your back and the ledges are wide enough to hold you. The breeze blows softly. You can see friends and colleagues walking by.”
Sharon Swanke, ’84

“The free speech steps at Aztec Center is my favorite stage for everything from political assemblies to pep rallies. I remember my fraternity performing step shows there.”
Reggie Blaylock, ’88
“Scripps Cottage was a beautiful spot to relax, study or take a quick nap. It’s the place where I first met my wife and also the spot where I proposed to her.”

Ramon Ryan Tolentino, ’03

“A favorite place – the big eucalyptus tree in front of Hardy Tower.
One year I watched a hawk raise her young there. Another time, it was home to a family of owls.”

Barbara Weeks Huntington, ’68

“My very first concert at the Open Air Theatre was in 1992. Seeing the Indigo Girls there will always be a favorite memory. Even on chilly nights, it’s fun to be outside listening to great music.”

Gina Spidel, ’07

“Be a part of SDSU history. Your story is waiting to be written!”