

**ALL UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION
Cox Arena
September 9, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

SDSU President Stephen L. Weber:

Welcome to the San Diego State's 111th academic year. It is good to be together again, engaged in our important work of human growth and development. I hope you had a productive, refreshing summer and that, like me, you are excited about the upcoming year.

Let me first express my thanks to Edee Benkov and her colleagues in the University Senate for hosting this Convocation. We have departed from our tradition to underscore the

importance of the University Senate and of shared governance.

Universities are extraordinary places. They are creative environments in which dedicated and talented people can focus on their work. These marketplaces of ideas, incubators of talent, and nurturers of dreams do not just happen. It takes cooperation, judgment, and wisdom to create such environments. And these elements emanate from our University Senate.

Shared governance is an important principle that has guided the growth and development of universities since our guild-like infancy in the Middle Ages. It requires that there be colleagues who are willing—(in addition to their other responsibilities)—to serve the collective good by representing us all in university-wide deliberations.

I am proud to say that San Diego State has a particularly constructive tradition of shared governance, going back at least to 1960. Your Senate is not a debating society; it oversees our collective judgment and the

course of our University. Consider the following: In the twelve years it has been my privilege to serve as your president, the Senate has forwarded to me more than 230 resolutions covering matters from curriculum, to new graduate degrees, free speech policies, naming of facilities, to policies on diversity and equity. I have accepted over [97%] of those recommendations.

Your Senate not only focuses on matters of policy. It also plays a fundamental role in developing budgets for San Diego State

**through its Committee on Academic
Resource Planning.**

**CARP's chair, the chair of the Senate, and an
additional Senate-appointee, sit on the
Presidential Budget Advisory Council.**

**You can gain some sense of their good judgment
and influence when you consider that in the
last 12 years they have recommended
expenditures of approximately \$3.3 billion,
and I modified their judgment by less than
five one-hundredths of one percent.**

**We owe our faculty, staff, student, and
administrative colleagues who serve on our
University Senate a huge debt of gratitude for
their wise counsel and collegial caring,
without which San Diego State could not have
become the great university it is today.
Would members of the University Senate
please stand so that we can express our
appreciation.**

[APPLAUSE]

This afternoon, I want to talk with you about the benefits of two initiatives endorsed through our shared governance process. In 2001, we agreed, (through shared governance), to increase SDSU's investment in philanthropy. As that investment became increasingly productive, we then determined, in 2005, to fund San Diego State's first-ever Comprehensive Campaign.

In this time of dwindling public support for higher education, no great university can succeed without increased reliance on philanthropy. Twenty-five years ago, 49 percent of our

operating budget came from the state of California; ten years ago it was 34 percent; today, only 29 percent comes from the state.

While we will continue to do everything we can to impress upon the citizens of California the importance of their investment in higher education, it would be foolhardy not to seek private monies to shore up dwindling public support.

Deans, faculty, and advancement professionals are working hard to cultivate support for our important work. Indeed, many of you have

been pivotal in our efforts to build that philanthropic support. Twelve years ago, San Diego State was attracting less than \$20 million dollars a year in philanthropic support; now we are attracting more than \$70 million.

My purpose is not to recite numbers, but rather to point out that the increased philanthropic support for San Diego State is already providing much-needed resources for our work. While it is easiest to "keep score" by citing numbers and trends, the reason we are engaged in philanthropy is to support the

men and women of San Diego State.

Ultimately, like any university worthy of the name, San Diego State is a community of people. It is those people, be they students, faculty, or staff, whose work we support through philanthropy.

Already, the generosity of contributors is enhancing our university and accelerating its climb towards excellence. Let me cite some examples:

- **Several years ago, The Campanile Foundation, the philanthropic arm of SDSU,**

established a “President’s Leadership Fund” to provide greater flexibility, spontaneity, and entrepreneurship for SDSU. Since then we have invested nearly \$4 million in over 110 projects.

- To give you a sense of how we are investing these unrestricted dollars, let me cite San Diego State's first Student Research Symposium that took place last spring. The symposium was organized by Dr. Fred Kolkhorst and Camille Nebeker, with help from the entire university community. With the assistance of an investment from the PLF, they put together an extraordinary two-day**

event in which over 300 students participated. The student presentations were reviewed by more than 200 faculty, staff, and community members. The Research Symposium culminated in a luncheon with Irwin Jacobs of Qualcomm as the guest speaker and the announcement of 38 research awards.

- Begun only four years ago, our philanthropy-supported Diversity Gala has now raised over half a million dollars, to support full tuition, four-year scholarships for 34 local, high-ability, low-income students.**

- **Leonid Kandinov was one of the first students admitted to SDSU as a Diversity Scholar. Originally from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Leonid emigrated to San Diego with his father in 1996. His father is a cab driver. Not surprisingly, Leonid is fluent in both English and Russian. He finished his course work in three-and-a-half years with a GPA of 3.97. Leonid used the last semester of his scholarship to participate in our Study Abroad Program to Estonia and Russia. He graduated last December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a**

minor in Economics. This fall Leonid will attend law school at UC Davis.

We are all proud of SDSU's Bioscience Center, which opened in March 2006. It was built not with state funds, but by the research productivity of San Diego State faculty. It is philanthropists, however, who are helping us complete the facility and make it more productive.

- **We have a Bioscience Center director because a gift of \$3.2 million from Fred Henry**

which enabled us to steal Dr. Roberta Gottlieb away from The Scripps Research Institute.

- **The Gold Auditorium, funded through a half million dollar gift from Alan and Debbie Gold, provides a greatly-needed space for conferences and seminars.**
- **And the most recent \$1.25 million gift, from Doctors Donald and Darlene Shiley, will allow us to build out another floor (which should be completed by Spring of 2009).**

The BioScience Center has brought outstanding scientists to our campus, increased our external funding, and enhanced SDSU's scientific reputation.

Faculty in the Bioscience Center generate \$550,000 annually in indirect costs, some \$140,000 of which goes directly back to the university (mainly to principal investigators).

Philanthropy supported Dr. Risa Levitt Kohn of Religious Studies and Dr. Joseph Smith of Classics and Humanities in their work as guest curators of the highly successful Dead

Sea Scrolls and Pompeii exhibits at the San Diego Museum of Natural History. Their work brought history alive for almost 400,000 visitors.

A \$3 million gift from Leonard Lavin now supports a mentoring program in our Entrepreneurial Management Program giving "real world" experience to budding entrepreneurs.

A one and a half million dollar gift from Bill Cole has endowed the Director of the School of Accountancy and provided discretionary

funds to supplement salaries, research and travel of young accounting professors.

Students from low income families who aspire to become teachers have benefited from support provided by Jim Sinegal and his wife Janet . Jim is the CEO of Costco; both Sinegals are proud alums of San Diego State.

They have provided more than half a million dollars to support the Sinegal Scholars, enabling them to complete their credential experience. Most report that they could not

have secured a teaching credential without the scholarship.

Philanthropists contributed \$1.2 million to support expansion of the International Student Center, that, incidentally, will open in a few weeks.

The Joseph Fisch and Joyce Axelrod, String Quartet Residency has brought the renowned Cecilia Quartet to campus to pursue advanced degrees while continuing to build an international career. The Quartet recently

placed second in the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition.

SDSU is the second university in the world to acquire an Nu 1700, the next generation of inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer. The President's Leadership Fund will support a demonstration research project on the 1700. This valuable resource will propel SDSU's College of Sciences into the forefront of geo- and bio-chemistry.

President's Leadership Funds support the work of Camp Able. Developed in 1980 by Gene Lamke and his colleagues in our Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, Camp Able has provided challenging, recreational, and educational activities for more than 8,500 disabled children.

There are many good people and corporations who are eager to support our important work. You may have read about the recent \$10 million gift from Trudy Lamden and family to support the Lamden School of Accountancy. This is one of my favorite stories because it

shows the human dimension of philanthropy. Charles Lamden was a faculty member at San Diego State. It was Charles who worked almost single-handedly to gain AACSB accreditation, making SDSU the first accredited accounting program in California. Charles subsequently became dean of the School of Business Administration before he retired in 1991. As a beloved faculty member and dean, Charles influenced literally thousands of people and touched hundreds of careers. This gift will support existing faculty in their research and curriculum

development as well as facilitate recruiting new faculty.

A remarkable gentleman named Phil Claud recently left his entire \$1 million estate to support our Astronomy Program. The gift is being used to construct a 1.25 meter telescope that will have a major impact on the international astronomy community.

An endowment of \$3 million for the Construction Engineering and Management program from Jack and Jane Filanc is providing

discretionary support for faculty and students.

Sharp Healthcare's commitment of \$1m has supported our Nursing Simulation Lab where 850 student learning experiences take place each semester.

Through the generosity of Bosa Development Corporation, San Diego State is about to open a new Community Art Gallery in the heart of downtown San Diego. This gallery will be directed by professional staff and operated by students involved in SDSU's Center for

Museum Studies, as well as Art, Design and Art History degree programs.

This year, we implemented the President's Leadership Fund Awards for Faculty and Staff Excellence. We honored five outstanding colleagues whose efforts at San Diego State embody the spirit of excellence and entrepreneurialism. These honorees each received \$5,000 to use in their work.

**Twelve years ago we had eight endowed chairs;
today we have twice that number, enabling
San Diego State to recruit and retain some of
the world's finest scholars.**

**To put the growing role of philanthropy in
perspective, last year San Diego State
distributed \$5.4 million dollars in philanthropy
supported scholarships for our students--a 15
percent increase from the prior year.**

**Thanks to philanthropists, we were able to spend
another \$5.6 million in support of faculty/staff
and their initiatives.**

These are encouraging numbers, but they need to grow substantially if we are to realize the excellence to which we aspire. Ten years ago SDSU's endowment was \$46.6 million; now it is two-and-a-half times that. However, this number must increase significantly if we are to actualize SDSU's potential to be one of America's top urban research universities.

San Diego State is still learning about philanthropy: we all have a long way to go. But the encouraging fact is that there is a great deal of support for our work. The

challenge ahead for all of us, (but particularly for me), is to tell your story effectively and to harness that philanthropic support in ways that continue to move our university forward. To accomplish that, we must create a culture of philanthropy that reaches out to and involves alumni and friends. Your work inspires that philanthropy. You are builders of the road on which our university's reputation travels.

You can help to create an environment that welcomes private support:

- **Listen to our donors; understand what they are trying to accomplish through their gifts**
- **Thank them for their support**
- **Demonstrate that we are using that support as they intended**
- **Keep them informed of our progress.**

Building such relationships make subsequent gifts more likely.

In addition, it is important that you keep apprised of the campaign:

- **If a stranger approached you and asked questions about our fundraising . . . would you**

know the priorities in your division or department?

- **Would you know to whom you should refer that person for more information?**

Remember that San Diego State has a rich history of private support:

- **Our campus sits on donated land**
- **Scripps Cottage was built with donor funds**
- **Our KPBS studios, that do so much to keep San Diego informed, were the product of gifts from the Copley Foundation, from Donald and Darlene Shiley, from the Jacobs family, the Viterbi family, and the Kroc family.**

- **And the beautiful chimes that ring from Hardy tower as classes change were also a gift.**

You too can be a part of our philanthropic tradition:

- **More than 300 faculty and staff have donated to SDSU this year.**
- **These gifts demonstrate pride in our work, and in our university.**
- **And confidence in our ability to improve the lives of our students and our society.**

As Betsy mentioned, Susan and I have made a gift to SDSU. I encourage all of you to do the same. Your support will have a tremendous impact on our campus and on our external audience who are watching to see if we “walk the walk.”

2007, the initial year of our first comprehensive campaign – was a banner year. We raised over \$70 million -- an all-time record for SDSU fundraising!

Excellence is within our reach. An increasing number of friends and supporters know of your work and want to support it.

I thank you for the privilege of telling this story – and most of all, for making it such an impressive story to tell.

Have another great year at San Diego State.